trillion, the interest savings is $260 billion a year. I think it is reasonable to say, start using that $260 billion a year saving to apply to the shortfall in Social Security. The blue line at the bottom represents the $260 billion a year. But what is left of the shortfall even if we have the guts, if we have the intestinal fortitude to use all that interest savings and apply it to Social Security, there is still a shortfall of $35 trillion.

It is fuzzy math. It does not work. It is a tremendous disappointment to me. I have been chairman of the bipartisan task force on Social Security in this Chamber. It is a disappointment that in the last 8 years we have not moved ahead to solve Social Security. Because the longer we wait, the longer we put off a decision to fix Social Security more drastic the solution is going to have to be.

We failed in the last 8 years to move ahead on that proposal because of the lack of leadership coming out of the White House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

God of mercy and compassion, You oppose the proud-hearted and are attentive to the lowly.

It is better for us to humble ourselves before You than for us to be humiliated by others, or by events, or even by our own weakness. With all humility we place ourselves and our destiny in Your almighty hands.

May this proud and powerful Nation stand before You today in truth. May reflection on our history lead us to gratitude and repentance. May the present restlessness of the world, the issues placed before this Nation, and the responsibilities of this Congress bring us to honest dependence upon You, our Source of Wisdom, Patience and Judgment now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELP KEEP THE CAPITOL OF THE UNITED STATES FUNCTIONING

(Mr. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am retiring from the House after 21 years of service, and I want to take this opportunity to do something that I and all of us should do, and that is to thank the other people that make this House, this great institution, work.

We thank our staffs and we thank the people who work here in the Chamber, but I want to talk about the people who run the elevators; about Bonnie and Andre, and Shelly and Wendy, and John and Sheila and Sylvia, and so many more that put up with us day after day. The people who run the restaurant, the House restaurant, Sally and John and Miss Vickie, and many more. The Capitol police, who protect us with their lives. The people who run the trains, the people who clean the offices in the Capitol and keep it beautiful for ourselves and for all of the visitors. The people who repair and maintain the Capitol complex, the people from the office of the Architect of the Capitol. The people who run the congressional Federal Credit Union, our cloakroom and the floor people, Tim and Joelle, and Jim and Jay, and others. Helen and Pat in our cloakroom. Helen has been an institution, a fixture in the House. Since 1939 she has been serving Republican Members. People who run the take-outs and the restaurants and the office buildings in the Capitol complex, the barber Joe Q. The people who run the service offices, the Member services, Caroline and Juanita. The doorkeepers, the parliamentarians, the TV and radio and press people, our chaplain, the Congressional Research Service people, the legislative counsel, the people who run the House garages and there are so many others who I have not named.

There are so many who work so hard for this institution and for its Members. All of us can never thank them enough for their wonderful service to us and to this institution and to our country.

TAX PACKAGE MUST INCLUDE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE AND HELP FOR EMPLOYERS TO BE SUCCESSFUL

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last March I passed an amendment to raise the minimum wage $1 over 2 years, from $5.15 to $6.15. The minimum wage increase was then rolled in with a tax cut.

I voted for that tax cut because I believe if the boss cannot afford the wage increase, the boss will end up laying off some of the people on the bottom end of the ladder that are the very people we want to help the most. The bottom line is, what good is a pay increase if someone loses their job? Beam me up.

But let me say this: Any final agreement that does not both raise the minimum wage $1 over 2 years and also give help to the companies and employers who hire our people will be a failure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back all the politics of class warfare at the White House.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER DISTRICT DIRECTOR AND FRIEND, JOHN J. MCGUIRE

(Mr. WALSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 16, John J. McGuire, my former district director in Syracuse, New York, and close personal friend, died after a long battle with brain cancer. John served as an integral part of my staff since my election to Congress in 1988. Prior to that time, he served as a compliance officer for 11 years with the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor in Syracuse.

John McGuire, a former Marine, was a highly decorated disabled American veteran. He is a past recipient of the Veterans Service Award from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, four Special Achievement Awards and the Federal Distinguished Career Award. After serving as a sergeant in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, John taught English both here in the United States and in the Balkans.

With John's death earlier this week, his wife and children lost a terrific husband and father; and I lost a neighbor, a close adviser, and a loyal friend. The Central New York community lost a tireless worker and community advocate, and the entire nation lost a dedicated public servant and true American patriot. He will certainly be missed but never forgotten.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 835, ESTUARIES AND CLEAN WATERS ACT OF 2000

Mr. BOEHLERT submitted the following conference report and statement on the Senate bill (S. 835) to encourage the restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient project financing and enhanced coordination of Federal and non-Federal restoration programs, and for other purposes: