

they trying to muddy it up with Medicare? Medicare? Medicare is not an appropriation bill.

The reality is, before the session ends, we need to deal with Medicare, but we do not need to adopt their extreme agenda of \$270 billion of cuts in Medicare, either to stabilize Medicare or to balance the budget. We do not have to increase the premiums on millions of poor elderly in the fashion that they are trying to do today, for either purpose of stabilizing Medicare or balancing the budget.

But we should not be arguing that today, on a continuing appropriation bill. Why do they try and put it on? Just to make sure the President will veto it. They can pretend they have done something. They know it is not going to happen. It is phony. But why are they even dealing with Medicare? Because they have not been able to deal with the budget, 1½ months after the fiscal year ended.

You should have been doing that, what you are doing now, in July, but you were off chasing butterflies or something, not doing your work, not getting it organized, so now you come with this dumb bill, crazy provisions in it, trying to stick it to the seniors in this country. We should vote no.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, although I do not plan to use much of it.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are obviously unhappy with the 537 Federal elected officials, the 435 of us in this House, 100 Members in the U.S. Senate, and the two people elected in the executive branch. They are unhappy as they watch this bickering that is going on over this battle that we have.

Today is a Federal holiday. Tomorrow is actually Veterans Day, but we are marking it today. The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] and many of our colleagues hope very much to be able to participate in events. That is one of the reasons we have tried to limit this debate, which is simply on the rule, so we can allow Members to have a chance to vote for or against this continuing resolution.

But as we proceed with this, it seems to me that it is very important to recognize what it is that got us to this point. Between 1977 and 1987, there were 63 continuing resolutions. We hear this criticism of this process but we are, right now, struggling to move toward a balanced budget. While people are unhappy with the bickering that is going on today, I am convinced that they are much more unhappy with the prospect of perpetuating that business as usual. That business as usual has been a pattern which has led to doing nothing more than passing onto the shoulders of future generations the responsibility of continuing profligate spending.

So what is it that we are saying? We are saying that as we move ahead with this continuing resolution, we should put into place the kinds of things that

the American people want, that will reduce the size and scope of government, recognize that we must save the Medicare system, rather than allowing it to go bankrupt, as the President's Commission on Medicare said in their April 3 study that came out.

So it seems to me we have a responsibility to do the right thing. Everyone is unhappy with the fact that we are bickering. I am unhappy with the fact that we are here today. The fact of the matter is that we are doing the people's business. We want to do that right now by passing out this rule, so we can proceed with the debate on the continuing resolution. Then let us get the two people who were elected by all the American people at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue to sit down and come to an agreement, so that we can ensure that by the year 2002 we are able to pass on to the children of the gentleman from California [Mr. BILBRAY], who will at that point be graduating from high school, a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed until after debate on House Resolution 262.

□ 1100

REQUEST TO DISCHARGE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 118, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of House Joint Resolution 118, a clean CR, and ask its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, and recorded on page 534 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leadership.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, in the interest of seeing to it that the Government

does not come to a halt, when is the next point at which I might offer that motion to have a simple, clean, 1-month CR?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not be able to entertain such request until such time as it is cleared.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTION TO DISPOSE OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2586, TEMPORARY INCREASE IN THE STATUTORY DEBT LIMIT

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 262 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 262

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2586) to provide for a temporary increase in the public debt limit, and for other purposes, with any Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House a motion offered by the majority leader or his designee to dispose of all Senate amendments. Any Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled between the majority leader and minority leader or their designees. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except any such demand made by the majority leader or his designee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 262 is a very simple, but very necessary, resolution providing for the further consideration of H.R. 2586, legislation which temporarily increases the statutory limit on the public debt.

Specifically, the resolution provides for the consideration in the House, without any intervening point of order, of a motion if offered by the majority leader or his designee to dispose of any Senate amendments to H.R. 2586, the debt ceiling extension bill.

The rule also provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled between the majority leader and the minority leader, or their designees.

The rule further provides that the previous question is ordered to final adoption without intervening motion or a demand for a division of the question unless such a demand is made by the majority leader or his designee.

Mr. Speaker, those of us on this side of the aisle cannot overstate the importance of passing this legislation and ensuring the continued confidence in