

to yield any more time, but I do agree at least in that respect.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to talk about this morning for the probably 3 minutes that I have remaining is football, good, old National Football League football.

I think it is particularly appropriate, since the Superbowl was just on Sunday, to remind my colleagues that it was in 1961 that Mr. Pete Rozelle came to the U.S. Congress and he asked this Congress to give a specific benefit not only to the NFL but also to the NBA, to the NHL, and to major league baseball, with an exemption from antitrust laws that would allow them to bundle all of their broadcasting rights and take them from each city and put them in one package and sell them.

This resulted in a bill called the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961. It was passed in the House, it was passed in the Senate, it was signed into law by the President. I can assure you this was not something instigated by the House and Senate, I can assure you it was instigated by the NFL and other pro leagues.

What did they ask for? What was it they were asking for? What would they get in return? They said if they got this, it would allow them to be financially stable. What they would do in return is they would protect communities and they would protect fans.

I would ask the question, Mr. Speaker, do you think that fans and communities have, in fact, been protected over the past 35 years by the NFL, or in fact, have they taken this market power that came as the result of the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 and have they used it as a bludgeon to exploit, extort, and legally blackmail cities to compete against each other in order to not lose their franchise?

The 1961 act, by the way, Mr. Speaker, was followed by the 1966 act, and the 1966 act is the act of Congress that specifically, and Mr. Speaker, I see I am out of time, but I want to take more time later to explain the problem we have here to my colleagues, and then to ask for their support for the Fan Freedom and Community Protection Act that now has 40 cosponsors in the House, and to support that.

SUBSTITUTION OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to substitute my name for that of the next Democrat who is up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

URGING REPUBLICAN MEMBERS TO SIGN DISCHARGE PETITION TO AVOID GOVERNMENTAL DEFAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, before my colleague, the gentleman from Cleveland, OH [Mr. HOKE] leaves, I appreciate his comments about governmental default. I would just offer the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] the opportunity to come down here in the well and join over 150 Members.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOGGETT. No, I will not yield. Mr. Speaker, we do not need any more of this crybaby nonsense around here. The question that I was asking the gentleman from Ohio is, that in the event that he feels, and I do commend him for his comments on default, he feels as strongly about it as he said, then I would ask him to come down and join the over 150 Members of this House who have already signed on a discharge petition so that today, if we could get a few more signatures, we could vote to avoid this problem of default and go ahead and resolve the debt limit right now.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman wishes to respond to that, I would be glad to yield to him briefly to do that.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, no, I will not join. I will tell him why I will not. Because that particular piece of legislation gives another \$500 billion of additional extension on the debt ceiling, a half a trillion dollars. I think that is absolutely dead wrong. It is the kind of license that he and the other lovers of big government in this Congress on the other side that are now in the minority want. I refuse it. I reject it.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, that is interesting to hear, since it was a limit that was already in the Republican reconciliation bill. You have already voted to do that two or three times here. But now you feel a need to have a crowbar to hijack the Government, to pressure the President, to threaten the future of this country by waiting until a few days before we enter the first default in the 200-plus-year history of this country. It is that kind of political shenanigans that the people of this country are rejecting.

Mr. Speaker, I heard on the way over here this morning that there was another low in the temperature in Embarrassment, MN. They had gotten down to minus 40 or minus 50. That may be a low in terms of the temperature, but you know, I have not seen a low like we have here in this House this morning.

Just look around. You will not find many Members on the floor. Why is that? Because after a 5- or 6-day weekend that we just celebrated, the Republican leadership does not have one piece of legislation on this floor for the Congress to act on today. They think work is not only a four-letter word, but a dirty four-letter word. What is this

Congress doing, if here, even before the lunch hour, we cannot get about working and dealing with the critical problems that this country faces?

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, all the news from the north end of this country is not cold news, because I see a report here from the State of Oregon. Our distinguished colleague here in the House, the gentleman from Oregon, Congressman RON WYDEN, is now Senator RON WYDEN, because the people of Oregon had an opportunity to consider this proposal to let Medicare wither on the vine, to consider the proposal to have unilateral disarmament on our environment, to consider the mistaken priorities of this House Republican leadership, and they voted "no," and in favor of sending a Democrat to the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Senate came within one vote, one vote, of passing the very kind of adjustment in the debt limit to protect the full faith and credit of this country, the same type that I asked the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] to come down here and sign, along with over 150 Democrats, to not threaten the creditworthiness of our country. One vote. And now Senator RON WYDEN will be over there to cast a vote for fiscal responsibility.

I commend and congratulate him, Mr. Speaker, but I particularly commend the people of Oregon for speaking out against this extremist agenda and doing what they have the power to do, and that is hold their public officials accountable, and replace a Republican with a Democrat, and a very progressive and responsible Democrat, to do something about the tragic circumstances which this extremist agenda has placed the country in.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that some Members on the Republican side of the aisle would not walk those 45 feet it would take to sign a discharge petition so we would not default on our debt, so that on March 1 we could pay Social Security recipients their checks, and veterans, and even soldiers serving in Bosnia now will not get paid if we do not do something about this debt problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman a question. If he and I were in business and we were within 30 days of our company going bankrupt, and we took a 26-day vacation and went to Hawaii and got a paid vacation and said, "We will come back 4 days before our company goes bankrupt," what do you think the stockholders of that company would do to you and me?

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I think they would throw out the management of the company. That is exactly what the people of the United States are going to do if we continue to have the kind of shenanigans that have been