

House of Representatives was tied up in a massive debate over the first 100 days of the new Gingrich Republican leadership and the so-called Contract With America. They were so proud of this contract, we literally spent over 3 months on the floor dealing with 31 separate bills in the Contract With America, and 3 of them became law, 3 out of 31, a colossal waste of time.

As a result, we fell behind in passing spending bills, saw the Government shut down for the longest periods in our Nation's history, and now the Republicans suggest America may just default on its national debt for the very first time in our history. The problem is that the Republicans in the House have become irrelevant to working families across America. They are concerned about the security of their pensions, their health insurance, making certain that they have a job, that their kids can get a good college education.

It is time for Congress to get down to work, put aside the bad year that we just finished, and on a bipartisan basis address the problems that working families really care about.

IT IS TIME TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, we are back now from a 3-week district work period, and I think it is really important that we get down to business.

My constituents that I visited at town meetings and forums over the last 3 weeks all indicated to me they were tired of the Government shut-downs, they were tired of the possibility of the Government going into default. They felt it was really incumbent upon the Republican leadership and Speaker GINGRICH to get down to business, forget about the extremist agenda, and the effort to try to inculcate this extremist ideology, and instead we should be working in the House of Representatives to try to deal with the economic problems the average American has.

There is still a lot of job instability out there. There is downsizing taking place in the corporate world in New Jersey and throughout this country. These are issues that we must be dealing with.

We cannot continue to hold the Government hostage with possible Government shutdowns or with the possibility of getting into default. We simply have to get down to business. That is the message that must get across to the Republican leadership here in the House of Representatives. The time is now to get the job done.

MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS—GET YOUR GREEN CARDS HERE, QUICK AND EASY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues an advertisement in the January issue of the Orlando "TV and Visitors Guide." This is in all the motel rooms in Orlando.

It claims that green cards are being issued on a first come, first served basis by making just one phone call. Anyone can get one. The truth is that it is not that easy, and private companies are charging money for a free service. Workers are exploited by these misleading and often illegitimate companies.

This is just another example of the problems of the immigration system and how badly the broken system needs to be fixed.

All too often, immigrants bring in their so-called extended family who become dependent upon the welfare state. I am continually asked by my constituents, why is it so easy for noncitizens to receive SSI, food stamps and Medicaid, while they are having problems obtaining their benefits?

The system, Mr. Speaker, is being abused, with the burden placed on our hard-working citizens. Immigration laws must be reformed to ensure noncitizens are self-reliant, instead of dependent upon the American taxpayers.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV. Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2196) to amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 with respect to inventions made under cooperative research and development agreements, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 3, line 24, before "field" insert "pre-negotiated".

Page 5, line 4, strike out all after "only" down to and including "finds" in line 5 and insert "in exceptional circumstances and only if the Government determines".

Page 5, after line 15 insert: "This determination is subject to administrative appeal and judicial review under section 203(2) of title 35, United States Code."

Page 13, strike out lines 10 through 17 and insert:

"Section 11(i) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710(i)) is amended by inserting 'loan, lease, or' before 'give'."

Page 21, strike out all after line 22 over to and including line 3 on page 22 and insert:

"(13) to coordinate Federal, State, and local technical standards activities and conformity assessment activities, with private sector technical standards activities and conformity assessment activities, with the goal of eliminating unnecessary duplication and complexity in the development and promulgation of conformity assessment requirements and measures."

Page 22, lines 5 and 6, strike out "by January 1, 1996," and insert "within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act."

Page 22, strike out all after line 7, over to and including line 5 on page 23 and insert:

"(d) UTILIZATION OF CONSENSUS TECHNICAL STANDARDS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES; REPORTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, all Federal agencies and departments shall use technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, using such technical standards as a means to carry out policy objectives or activities determined by the agencies and departments.

"(2) CONSULTATION; PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1) of this subsection, Federal agencies and departments shall consult with voluntary, private sector, consensus standards bodies and shall, when such participation is in the public interest and is compatible with agency and departmental missions, authorities, priorities, and budget resources, participate with such bodies in the development of technical standards.

"(3) EXCEPTION.—If compliance with paragraph (1) of this subsection is inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical, a Federal agency or department may elect to use technical standards that are not developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies if the head of each such agency or department transmits to the Office of Management and Budget an explanation of the reasons for using such standards. Each year, beginning with fiscal year 1997, the Office of Management and Budget shall transmit to Congress and its committees a report summarizing all explanations received in the preceding year under this paragraph.

"(4) DEFINITION OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS.—As used in this subsection, the term 'technical standards' means performance-based or design-specific technical specifications and related management systems practices."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA] and the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. TANNER] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA].

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the House passed H.R. 2196 on December 12, 1995, by voice vote. Subsequently, on February 7, 1996, the Senate passed H.R. 2196 with an amendment. Today, we are prepared to enact H.R. 2196, as amended, into law.

The Senate-passed amendment was negotiated in conjunction with this body and has the support of the sponsors of the bill. The Senate amendment is technical in nature, serves to clarify