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No. 24

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of Isaac Watts:

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.
Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.
O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home! Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas 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.

INTRODUCING THE VETERANS' TOBACCO TRUST FUND ACT

(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, the recent State of the Union Address recognizes the Nation's obligation to our men and women in uniform, but the

President was silent about the debt we owe them as veterans. Nevertheless, he disclosed a plan in his speech which could affect them. Specifically, he announced an intention to bring suit against tobacco product manufacturers to recover costs incurred by government health care programs.

Members may not be aware that the VA health care system is spending more than \$3 billion annually caring for veterans' smoking-related illnesses. The administration is certainly aware of that fact, but it has yet to commit to providing any recoveries from this lawsuit for veterans' health care. Surely any recovery under a suit based at least in part on the veterans' medical system should be used to strengthen that system and improve veterans' care.

For that reason I am introducing the Veterans Tobacco Trust Fund Act of 1999, and I urge all my colleagues to be cosponsors. This bill would set in place a requirement that any tobacco settlement from the lawsuit also include an allocation of funds for veterans' health care. I hope the executive branch will support my bill.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET OUT OF STEP WITH AMERICA'S NEEDS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, once again the Republicans are pushing a budget plan that is out of step with what the American people want. The President's budget calls for using the budget surplus to protect Social Security now that times are good. The Republican budget, on the other hand, includes yet another stale proposal to spend the surplus on tax cuts for the wealthy instead of on Social Security.

The New York Times recently noted, and I quote, "Every poll shows that

Americans would rather preserve Social Security and Medicare than enjoy a big new tax cut, as Republican leaders want. It is also questionable how much political support there will be for a tax cut that disproportionately benefits the wealthiest Americans."

The Washington Post made a similar observation of the competing budget plans. "On balance," the Post noted, "the President's budget pushes in the right direction, but," the Post added, "the broad alternative, which is to consume in the form of a tax cut that ought to be saved for Social Security and Medicare and other public purposes, is wrong."

Let us use the surplus in a manner that will benefit all Americans, not just the wealthy. Support the Democrats' plan.

KOSOVO

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the President's plan calls for spending more money and raising taxes. Do Members remember when President Clinton sent U.S. troops to Bosnia? He promised, he promised they would have a well-defined mission with a clear exit strategy. Three years later and more than \$20 billion later, about 6,000 U.S. troops are still in Bosnia. Our own Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, has called it a mess.

Now the President intends to further scatter U.S. troops into Kosovo as part of another peacekeeping mission. It is absolutely imperative that the President give Congress and the Nation a clear mission and a clear exit strategy before committing our troops. Mr. Speaker, our military forces are ready and willing to defend the interests of this great Nation. We cannot undermine their oaths. We must define the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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mission, the goal, and an exit strategy before sending our troops into yet another mess.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY). The Members are reminded to address the Chair and not the President.

GUN SHOWS

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

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, there is no evidence that Timothy McVeigh and cult leader David Koresh ever actually met. But if they had, it is a good bet it might have been at a gun show.

McVeigh financed some of his terrorist activities by selling at gun shows firearms he stole from an Arkansas gun collector. It was at gun shows that Koresh purchased many of the weapons he later stockpiled at his Branch Dividian compound.

The Brady bill has stopped over a quarter of a million handgun sales to criminals, but there is a gaping loophole. Background checks are not required at gun shows. Last year there were nearly 5,000 gun shows in America where anyone can buy as many firearms as they want with no questions asked. That is how a criminal in Florida with 16 felony convictions purchased firearms and killed four people in a one-day shooting spree.

Last weekend in his national radio address, President Clinton announced a report confirming that gun shows are becoming a buyer's mecca for criminals, with over 56,000 illegal firearms transfers.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to act. There should not be a place anywhere in America where criminals can buy guns with no questions asked.

CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last year the Child Online Protection Act passed the House and Senate and was enacted into law. Without diminishing free speech, the Act set up a screening process so that children could not access obscene material on the Web. This sent a strong message that Congress is united in protecting our children from pornography over the World Wide Web.

Now, unbelievably, on February 1, a Federal judge in Pennsylvania has blocked enforcement of the Child Online Protection Act. It is appalling that our children can easily access these pornographic sites and pollute their minds with sexually explicit material.

In response to the judge's ruling, we must urge the Justice Department to appeal this decision.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the House to join me in standing with American families to protect our children from pornography. Please contact my office if Members want to sign the letter to Attorney General Janet Reno. We owe this to our children.

JAPAN ILLEGALLY DUMPS STEEL
IN AMERICA

(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, after World War II Japanese officials were given tours of our steel mills. They were allowed to take photographs. They were further given blueprints of our machinery and technology. Then America gave Japan loans to build steel mills. When Japan could not repay the loans, they were forgiven from the goodness of our hearts.

Now, if that is not enough to massage your subdural hematoma, check this out. Japan today is illegally, let me say this again, is illegally dumping steel in America, destroying our companies, destroying American jobs. Unbelievable.

Japan has steel mills, we have photographs. Japan has surplus, we have deficits. Beam me up. Free trade is one thing. Illegal trade is illegal trade, Mr. Speaker.

ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE PENALTY AND BRING TAX EQUITY TO WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I believe one would have to be totally out of touch to defend the current tax code. No sane individual, if asked to start from scratch, would come up with the current tax code in a million years. The tax code is baffling even to the experts. In short, it is indefensible.

One of the aspects of the tax code that is particularly indefensible is the marriage tax penalty. Many people do not learn about the marriage tax penalty until they get married. Then they discover all of a sudden that the government wants to make sure young couples starting out have a little bit tougher time than they had planned.

Perhaps the most surprising of all is the fact that the marriage tax penalty can be the stiffest for those who can afford it the least, the working poor, who are trying to keep home and family together. This unfairness in the tax code should have been done away with years ago, but the liberals in Congress have fought against any tax relief, even for the working poor.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to eliminate the marriage tax penalty and bring tax equity for working families.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION HONORING OUR NATION'S FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to honor our Nation's fallen police officers. My bill, Mr. Speaker, would honor police officers who have been killed in the line of duty by lowering to half staff a flag over the Capitol which will then be given to the family of the officer.

The Capitol Police Board would designate the flagpole upon which the United States flag shall be flown at half mast for one day whenever a Federal, State, local, or territorial law enforcement officer is slain in the line of duty.

Currently, the United States flag is flown at half staff to honor police officers one time a year, on Police Officers Memorial Day. This bill provides for an additional and fitting tribute to our Nation's fallen police officers and their families. The legislation was originally sponsored by our former colleague, Thomas Foglietta, currently the Ambassador to Italy, and reintroduced by former Congressman Jay Johnson in the last Congress.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that my colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. JOHN LARSON) will be speaking in support of this bill and about a former member of his hometown police force in East Hartford, Connecticut, who was recently killed in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join together with me in honoring our Nation's fallen police officers.

IMPROVING EDUCATION IRA'S

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, education is critically important to the future of our Nation. I venture to say every Democrat and Republican who is in Congress would agree with that statement.

In order to assist parents in financing their children's education, this Congress passed into law education IRAs. In a nutshell, they allow parents to set aside some of their hard-earned money for their kids' education and get some tax relief for doing so.

But a constituent of mine, John Michael, who happens to be a tax accountant, says there is a glitch in the law that needs to be fixed. I agree with him. With most IRAs, the taxpayer has until April 15 to make a contribution for the previous tax year, but under current law the education IRA's contribution must be made by December 31.

I would ask my Democratic and Republican colleagues to support my Education IRA Fairness Act which I introduced last week. It brings the education IRAs into line with all other IRAs, and it will improve education in this country.

HONORING POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) in the introduction of a bill to honor police officers killed in the line of duty.

On January 23, Brian Aselton of East Hartford's police force gave his life on behalf of his fellow citizens whom he so valiantly protected. The community stood in shock and grief. It was a day dampened by sorrow and chilled by the passing of this young hero. Ten thousand police officers formed an endless sea of blue that marched into the cemetery to pay tribute to Brian's memory.

Nations and communities reveal an awful lot about themselves in the memorials they create, in the people they honor. Flying the flag at half mast will not bring back Brian or the near 150 officers killed in the line of duty each year, but it will serve as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that those who wear the badge make on our behalf.

□ 1015

STOP THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people ask me why the government penalizes couples for being married, and the only answer that can I come up with is that the government does some dumb things, and this is one of them.

Who is willing to defend this bizarre monstrosity in the tax code? Who will step forward and explain to the American couples in my district why Uncle Sam thinks they should pay more to the government for being married than if they were shackled up? What kind of cruel genius came up with the idea of penalizing people for being married?

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to join me in doing away with the marriage tax penalty, a penalty which hits especially hard on those who are just getting by. Enough of this travesty. We have it within our power this year to stop at least one dumb thing this government is doing.

SUPPORT THE PRESCRIPTION FAIRNESS ACT FOR SENIORS

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today first in strong support of the President's proposals to place the majority of the budget surplus into the Social Security Trust Fund and protecting Medicare.

Social Security and Medicare are cornerstones of our trust, our protection of seniors for their future, making sure that they have in their retirement the kind of quality of life that they deserve; and it is important for the future for our children.

Today, also as part of the Medicare benefit for our seniors, I am rising as a cosponsor of a bill we are introducing today, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) and myself and other Members of our caucus, called the Prescription Drug Fairness Act for Seniors. This will allow seniors to purchase prescription drugs at a lower cost than they currently are able to do.

Right now, if the Federal Government bulk purchases prescription drugs and then allows seniors to buy at a lower cost, this will guarantee that seniors are not having to choose between purchasing food or their prescription drugs. I would urge my colleagues to support the bill.

HIGH TAXES AND LOW MORALS

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, high taxes and low morals, that seems to be the winning formula these days for the leader of the free world.

Not long ago, one of the leaders of the Democrat Party said on the House floor, and I quote, that "Democrats are not in favor of tax cuts." I think average middle-class Americans do deserve better. When Uncle Sam takes one-third of a middle-class family's income, it just plain is not fair.

Mr. Speaker, I find it rather absurd for liberals to assert that the government cannot get by on a little less so middle-class families can have a little more. We read almost daily about government programs that do not work, bureaucracies accountable to no one, and misguided social programs that actually make people worse off than if nothing had been done at all.

Government is too big and taxes are too high. It is time to reverse course, change our priorities, and make a moral commitment to reduce the tax burden on middle-class families.

DEMOCRATS FOR TAX CUTS THAT TARGET MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, we are faced with an historic opportunity. For the first time in three decades, we have a Federal surplus with which we can save America's twin pillars of retire-

ment security: Social Security and Medicare.

This surplus, and our opportunity to do what is right, is a result of Democratic fiscal discipline and sound economic policy. But instead of acting in the best interest of America's future, Republicans want to use the surplus to give a one-time tax break that benefits mostly the wealthy. It is a bad idea.

Democrats are for tax cuts, tax cuts that are targeted to middle-class families, not the wealthiest 10 percent of Americans.

Let me just tell my colleagues that the Republican tax scheme gives back the average family less than \$100. It gives wealthy families earning more than \$300,000 a tax break of \$20,000. For that kind of money, wealthy folks can buy a brand-new car. With \$100, middle-class families cannot even buy a new set of tires.

A FAIR AND SIMPLE PLAN TO CUT TAXES

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, we have heard about the surplus. Over the next 15 years, the Federal Government is projected to run a surplus of \$4.4 trillion. As the debate over how to use this money heats up, the protectors of big government will scream bloody murder about any plan to provide the American people with any tax relief.

To them I ask: If we cannot cut taxes when the economy is strong, the Federal Government is in the black, and taxes are at an all-time high, when can we do it?

Mr. Speaker, the American people are sending too much money to Washington, and it is time for Congress to send some of it back home.

I have introduced a fair and simple plan that cuts taxes across the board, 10 percent across the board. It gets into every household of all those who pay taxes. This proposal ends the practice of picking winners and losers among overtaxed Americans and benefits, again, everyone who pays Federal income taxes. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

RURAL AMERICA DEPENDS ON QUALITY HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, Lord Chesterfield once said that health is the first and greatest of all blessings, and how true it is. This year health care will be a hot topic here in Congress. But the one thing we should not do is forget our roots, that America began from rural areas and that many citizens, from the small coastal communities to the mountain hamlets to country crossroads, depend on quality health care.

How can the administration talk about saving Medicare and, on the other hand, have \$9 million in cuts that would be taken away from Medicare. We cannot have this kind of double-talk. I urge my colleagues to consider the citizens of rural America. Do not allow the \$9 million in cuts from Medicare. We realize that rural hospitals depend on Medicare and that our citizens' needs will not be met if they are not able to survive.

Now is the time to have the debate on Social Security, but now is also the time to make sure we do right by our citizens in rural America on Medicare.

Let there be no discrimination among any of our citizens. Let us stand up and do right for quality health care for all Americans.

THE MONEY BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE WHO EARNED IT

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, what a surprise. Republican proposals to cut taxes have already been met with speech after speech by my liberal democratic friends denouncing them as tax cuts for the rich.

Well, we will celebrate this April 15th a \$400 child tax cut for families, a tax cut for all families and one that the President approved.

Has anyone else noticed that no matter what tax cuts Republicans propose, it will automatically, 100 percent guaranteed, be called tax cuts for the wealthy by the party that not only does everything in its power to discourage wealth creation but apparently feels intense hatred for anyone who has realized the American dream.

Of course, we all remember what the Democrats called rich in the last Congress: Anyone who is middle class. But I will ask that middle class farmer in Illinois if he is rich, and I will ask that security guard trying to earn extra money if eliminating the marriage penalty, or if the \$500 tax credit will benefit him, and if he is the wealthy? And of course my liberal friends on the other side, many of whom themselves are quite rich indeed, might never have considered the simple fact that rich or not the money belongs to the people who earned it anyway.

H.R. 350, THE MANDATES INFORMATION ACT

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Mandates Information Act, H.R. 350. H.R. 350 would provide Congress the means of assessing proposed programs and their potential impact on jobs and workers before enacting significant Federal mandates on the private sector.

Over the years, a well-intentioned Congress has imposed its will on American business operators, large and small, requiring them to enforce public laws at private expense.

We have achieved a balanced budget in part because we have ended the era of undisciplined legislators working outside the constraints of common sense budgeting. We must remain accountable to the American people by passing the Mandates Information Act.

This is a common sense way to legislation. If we are going to require private business to enforce our laws, we should at least give them the chance to know how much it will cost them to do our work and allow them to plan accordingly. It is only fair.

TAX D-DAY, A DARK DAY FOR REPUBLICANS AND A DAY TO REJOICE FOR DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, in just 64 days, the dreaded April 15 will be here.

Well, I should clarify that. April 15 is not a dreaded day at all by some Americans. In fact, April 15 is the single most glorious day of the year for our liberal friends in the Democrat Party. The Democrat Party believes in an activist government and believes that if the government just took a little more money out of your paycheck the politicians will make life better for people.

How truly ironic it is that the party of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson has categorically rejected the vision of those early American heroes who believed in the strength of the common man to manage his own affairs without the interference from Washington, D.C.

It is now the Republican Party that represents the interests of common people, of average middle class families that work hard, play by the rules and who will believe in the right to pursue the American dream without the Federal Government standing in the way.

Sixty-four days until Tax D-day, a dark day for Republicans, a day to rejoice for Democrats.

SOCIAL SECURITY SUMMIT IN THE NINTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to announce that I will host a Social Security summit in the Ninth District of Texas. Why? Because hundreds of senior citizens and their families have called and written letters to my office concerned about the future of Social Security.

Americans from all walks of life recognize that this sacred contract be-

tween the public and their government must be addressed and must be addressed now. I congratulate the President for having the foresight to set aside the vast majority of our budget surplus for this critical issue.

As we look toward the 21st Century, we cannot afford to risk losing this opportunity to save Social Security by allowing ourselves to become mired in partisan rhetoric or by failing to use creative approaches to problem solving.

It has been said that opportunity only knocks once. Mr. Speaker, Congress must answer the door. We owe that to the American people.

A \$500 PER CHILD TAX CREDIT, NOT SOME BOONDOGGLE FOR THE RICH

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, so often we hear about tax cuts for the rich, and here is an example of one of the taxes that the opponents said was for the rich, and this is a \$400 this year, \$500 next year per child tax credit for families that make under \$110,000 a year. Seventy-eight percent of the families who will benefit from this tax credit have a household income of less than \$75,000 a year.

Take the case of Mr. and Mrs. William Franklin of Brooklyn, Georgia. They just had a new son named Sean. They have to go out and buy a car seat, which the kid will immediately throw up on. They have to go out and buy shoes, which he will immediately lose one of. They have to go out and buy a walker, which he will try to roll down the steps so they will have to put a block in front of that little accordion door. They have to buy a Johnny Jump-Up to develop his legs. They have to go out and buy a blender to smash peas with, or they can pay for the more expensive; just get Gerber to do it for them.

You have to do all of this if you have a child because raising children is very, very expensive. I know. I have four kids. They are wonderful, but it is proper for the government to give a \$500 per child tax credit. It was passed by the Republicans last year. It is not some boondoggle for the rich, as the Democrats would have us believe.

FIRESAFE CIGARETTE ACT

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, last Friday a huge fire broke out in a high-rise apartment in Baltimore, Maryland. Like most fires in the United States, this fire was caused by a carelessly disposed of lighted cigarette.

Mr. Speaker, because of that fire, one woman died and nine people were injured, and the most tragic part of that

is that that fire could have been prevented.

That is right, Mr. Speaker, that fire could have been prevented. Each year, cigarette-related fires kill over 1,000 people, and those are not just the smokers. We are talking about that little baby in the crib upstairs. We are talking about that elderly lady next door or that poor fellow downstairs and, yes, Mr. Speaker, even the firemen who go into the fire to save those people.

On March 1, I will introduce the Firesafe Cigarette Act to require cigarette companies to make cigarettes less likely to burn people's houses down. Mr. Speaker, there are cigarettes on the market that will extinguish after 5 minutes and the tobacco companies should use these.

REDUCE TAXES ON HARD- WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, the question before us is faith. Do we place our total faith in the Federal Government or do we place our faith in the American people?

Not too long ago here in Washington we were faced with huge budget deficits. And because of a responsible Republican Congress, we now are on the path to prosperity because of the hard work of the American people. We were told then we could not cut taxes, and we did. And today we are facing a huge budget surplus here in Washington, and if left alone it will be spent here in Washington. Now we are told again today from those same people, we cannot cut taxes.

Well, let us lay down the line right now. If we believe in the American people, if we believe that this is still the country of hope and opportunity and that anybody, given the right set of incentives and hard work and notions of personal responsibility, can go out there and succeed, let us reduce the taxes on the hard-working American people, let them keep more of their hard-earned money, and let us send the promise back to them. Let us promise them that if we give them the tools to succeed, we believe in them, not the people here in Washington, who all they will do is spend that money and too often unwisely.

NATIONAL DEFENSE IS IN CRISIS

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, national defense is in crisis. We are going to be 18,000 sailors short this year in the U.S. Navy. We are going to be 700 pilots short in the Air Force. We are short on basic ammunition in the Army and the Marine Corps. Our equipment is aging.

And we have an inadequate budget. We have a budget which is \$150 billion less on an annual basis than the Reagan budgets of the mid-1980s.

Now, we do not have to go back up to the Reagan budgets because the Cold War is over, but we do have to add an additional \$20 billion this year. The President has only offered \$4 billion of that \$20 billion that the services request.

Now is the time to rebuild national defense and this is the House to do it.

AMERICANS NEED TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans are not taxed too much? Look at how we spend our day.

We get up in the morning, get our first cup of coffee on which we pay a sales tax. Jump in the shower and we pay a water tax. Get in our car to drive to work and pay a fuel tax. At work we pay an income tax and a payroll tax. Drive home to the house on which we pay a property tax. Flip on the lights and pay an electricity tax. Turn on the TV, pay a cable tax. Pick up the telephone, pay a telephone tax. Kiss our spouse good night and pay a marriage penalty tax. And on and on and on until, at the end of our lives, we pay a death tax.

Well, no wonder families and the elderly in this country have such a tough time making ends meet. They need relief, and the Republican plan provides it.

MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). Pursuant to House Resolution 36 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 350.

□ 1035

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 350) to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes, with Mr. BRADY of Texas (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, February 4, 1999, all time for general debate had expired.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered by sections as an original bill for the purpose of amendment, and pursuant to the rule, each section is considered read.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord pri-

ority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he or she has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone a request for a recorded vote on any amendment and may reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the time for voting on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote, provided that the time for voting on the first question shall be a minimum of 15 minutes.

The Clerk will designate section 1.

The text of section 1 is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mandates Information Act of 1999".

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Are there any amendments to section 1?

If not, the Clerk will designate section 2.

The text of section 2 is as follows:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) *Before acting on proposed private sector mandates, the Congress should carefully consider the effects on consumers, workers, and small businesses.*

(2) *The Congress has often acted without adequate information concerning the costs of private sector mandates, instead focusing only on the benefits.*

(3) *The implementation of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 has resulted in increased awareness of intergovernmental mandates without impacting existing environmental, public health, or safety laws or regulations.*

(4) *The implementation of this Act will enhance the awareness of prospective mandates on the private sector without adversely affecting existing environmental, public health, or safety laws or regulations.*

(5) *The costs of private sector mandates are often borne in part by consumers, in the form of higher prices and reduced availability of goods and services.*

(6) *The costs of private sector mandates are often borne in part by workers, in the form of lower wages, reduced benefits, and fewer job opportunities.*

(7) *The costs of private sector mandates are often borne in part by small businesses, in the form of hiring disincentives and stunted growth.*

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Are there any amendments to section 2?

If not, the Clerk will designate section 3.

The text of section 3 is as follows:

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) *To improve the quality of the Congress' deliberation with respect to proposed mandates on the private sector, by—*

(A) *providing the Congress with more complete information about the effects of such mandates; and*

(B) *ensuring that the Congress acts on such mandates only after focused deliberation on the effects.*

(2) *To enhance the ability of the Congress to distinguish between private sector mandates that harm consumers, workers, and small businesses, and mandates that help those groups.*

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Are there any amendments to section 3?

If not, the Clerk will designate section 4.

The text of section 4 is as follows:

SEC. 4. FEDERAL PRIVATE SECTOR MANDATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ESTIMATES.—Section 424(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658c(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C), and inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) when applicable, the impact (including any disproportionate impact in particular regions or industries) on consumers, workers, and small businesses, of the Federal private sector mandates in the bill or joint resolution, including—

“(i) an analysis of the effect of the Federal private sector mandates in the bill or joint resolution on consumer prices and on the actual supply of goods and services in consumer markets;

“(ii) an analysis of the effect of the Federal private sector mandates in the bill or joint resolution on worker wages, worker benefits, and employment opportunities; and

“(iii) an analysis of the effect of the Federal private sector mandates in the bill or joint resolution on the hiring practices, expansion, and profitability of businesses with 100 or fewer employees; and”.

(2) POINT OF ORDER.—Section 424(b)(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658c(b)(3)) is amended by adding after the period the following: “If such determination is made by the Director, a point of order under this part shall lie only under section 425(a)(1) and as if the requirement of section 425(a)(1) had not been met.”.

(3) THRESHOLD AMOUNTS.—Section 425(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658d(a)) is amended by—

(A) striking “and” after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(B) inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that would increase the direct costs of Federal private sector mandates (excluding any direct costs that are attributable to revenue resulting from tax or tariff provisions of any such measure if it does not raise net tax and tariff revenues over the 5-fiscal-year period beginning with the first fiscal year such measure affects such revenues) by an amount that causes the thresholds specified in section 424(b)(1) to be exceeded; and”.

(4) APPLICATION RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES.—(A) Section 425(c)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658d(c)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “except”.

(B) Section 425(c)(1)(B) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658d(c)(1)(B)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i) by striking “intergovernmental”;

(ii) in clause (ii) by striking “intergovernmental”;

(iii) in clause (iii) by striking “intergovernmental”; and

(iv) in clause (iv) by striking “intergovernmental”.

(5) THRESHOLD BURDEN.—(A) Section 426(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658e(b)(2)) is amended by inserting “legislative” before “language”.

(B) Section 426(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658e(b)(2)) is amended by striking “section 425 or subsection (a) of this section” and inserting “part B”.

(6) QUESTION OF CONSIDERATION.—(A) Section 426(b)(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658e(b)(3)) is amended by striking “section 425 or subsection (a) of this section” and inserting “part B”.

(B) Section 426(b)(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658e(b)(3)) is

amended by inserting “, except that not more than one point of order shall be recognized by the Chair under section 425(a)(1) or (a)(2)” before the period.

(7) APPLICATION RELATING TO CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—Section 427 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658f) is amended by striking “intergovernmental”.

(b) RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Clause 11(b) of rule XVIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by striking “intergovernmental” and by striking “section 424(a)(1)” and inserting “section 424(a)(1) or (b)(1)”.

(c) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.—This section is enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such it shall be considered as part of the rules of such House, respectively, and shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of each House.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Are there any amendments to section 4?

AMENDMENT NUMBERED 1 OFFERED BY MR.

BOEHLERT

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Chair notices that the amendment goes beyond section 4.

Is there objection to consideration of the amendment at this point?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. BOEHLERT:

Page 5, lines 16 and 17, strike “425(a)(1)” each place it appears and insert “425(a)(1)(B)”.

Page 5, after line 20, insert the following new subparagraphs:

(A) inserting in paragraph (1) “intergovernmental” after “Federal”;

(B) inserting in paragraph (1) “(A)” before “any” and by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(B) any bill or joint resolution that is reported by a committee, unless—

“(i) the committee has published a statement of the Director on the direct costs of Federal private sector mandates in accordance with section 423(f) before such consideration, except that this clause shall not apply to any supplemental statement prepared by the Director under section 424(d); or

“(ii) all debate has been completed under section 427(b)(4); and

“(C) any amendment, motion, or conference report, unless—

“(i) the Director has estimated, in writing, the direct costs of Federal private sector mandates before such consideration; or

“(ii) all debate has been completed under section 427(b)(4); and”.

Page 5, line 21, strike “(A)” and insert “(C)” and on line 24, strike “(B)” and insert “(D)”.

Page 6, line 2, insert “, according to the estimate prepared by the Director under section 424(b)(1),” before “would”.

Page 6, line 10, insert “unless all debate has been completed under section 427(b)(4),” after “exceeded”.

Page 7, line 1, strike “(A)” and strike lines 5 through 8.

Page 7, strike lines 9 through 18.

Page 7, line 19, strike “(7)” and insert “(8)” and after line 18, insert the following new paragraphs:

(6) TECHNICAL CHANGES.—(A) The centerheading of section 426 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding before the period the following: “**REGARDING FEDERAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANDATES**”.

(B) Section 426 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by inserting “regarding Federal intergovernmental mandates” after “section 425” each place it appears.

(C) The item relating to section 426 in the table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by inserting “regarding Federal intergovernmental mandates” before the period.

(7) FEDERAL PRIVATE SECTOR MANDATES.—(A) Part B of title IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by redesignating sections 427 and 428 as sections 428 and 429, respectively, and by inserting after section 426 the following new section:

“SEC. 427. PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING FEDERAL PRIVATE SECTOR MANDATES.

“(a) ENFORCEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives to consider a rule or order that waives the application of section 425 regarding Federal private sector mandates. A point of order under this subsection shall be disposed of as if it were a point of order under section 426(a).

“(b) DISPOSITION OF POINTS OF ORDER.—

“(1) APPLICATION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—This subsection shall apply only to the House of Representatives.

“(2) THRESHOLD BURDEN.—In order to be cognizable by the Chair, a point of order under section 425 regarding Federal private sector mandates or subsection (a) of this section must specify the precise legislative language on which it is premised.

“(3) RULING OF THE CHAIR.—The Chair shall rule on points of order under section 425 regarding Federal private sector mandates or subsection (a) of this section. The Chair shall sustain the point of order only if the Chair determines that the criteria in section 425(a)(1)(B), 425(a)(1)(C), or 425(a)(2) have been met. Not more than one point of order with respect to the proposition that is the subject of the point of order shall be recognized by the Chair under section 425(a)(1)(B), 425(a)(1)(C), or 425(a)(2) regarding Federal private sector mandates.

“(4) DEBATE AND INTERVENING MOTIONS.—If the point of order is sustained, the costs and benefits of the measure that is subject to the point of order shall be debatable (in addition to any other debate time provided by the rule providing for consideration of the measure) for 10 minutes by each Member initiating a point of order and for 10 minutes by an opponent on each point of order. Debate shall commence without intervening motion except one that the House adjourn or that the Committee of the Whole rise, as the case may be.

“(5) EFFECT ON AMENDMENT IN ORDER AS ORIGINAL TEXT.—The disposition of the point of order under this subsection with respect to a bill or joint resolution shall be considered also to determine the disposition of the point of order under this subsection with respect to an amendment made in order as original text.”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by redesignating sections 427 and 428 as sections 428 and 429, respectively, and by inserting after the item

relating to section 426 the following new item:

"Sec. 427. Provisions relating to the house of representatives regarding federal private sector mandates."

Page 7, line 20, strike "Section 427" and insert "Section 428 (as redesignated)".

Page 9, after line 5, add the following new section:

SEC. 6. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 425(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by striking "subsection (a)(2)(B)(iii)" and inserting "subsection (a)(3)(B)(iii)".

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, let me begin by explaining what this amendment would actually do because I think there has been a lot of confusion.

Under my amendment, Members could still raise a point of order against bills, resolutions, amendments, and conference reports if they would cost the private sector more than \$100 million, which is the threshold in current law.

Under my amendment, the Chair would rule on the point of order. Just as with most points of order in the House, there would be an objective ruling. The point of order would be sustained if the Congressional Budget Office had scored the measure as costing more than \$100 million or if CBO had not scored the measure.

That eliminates one flaw in the bill, which allows someone to claim that a measure would cost more than \$100 million even if CBO has scored it otherwise, because the bill requires no evidence at all to raise the point of order.

Under my amendment, if the point of order is sustained, 20 additional minutes to debate on the bill or amendment themselves is added to whatever debate would have occurred under the rule. This is the crux of the matter.

Under my amendment the point of order is used to provide for additional debate, while under the bill the purpose of the point of order is to cut off debate. I fail to see how having less debate will lead to better-informed decisions.

So again, here is what my amendment would do. First, it would accomplish every stated goal of the bill. Section 3 of the bill says its purposes are to provide Congress with more complete information on mandates, ensure more focused deliberation on mandates, and to help distinguish between helpful and harmful mandates. All are most worthy objectives.

By allowing a point of order that focuses debate on private-sector cost and adds debate time to discuss those costs, my amendment does exactly what the bill and its supporters have been calling for.

But unlike the bill, my amendment does not allow debate to be short-circuited. Unlike the bill, my amendment will not mean the end of truly open rules. Unlike the bill, my amendment does not give industry a procedural trump denied to its consumers, its communities, and its employees. And unlike the bill, my amendment

does not change the rules of the House to unfairly favor one side of an argument. Openness and fairness, that is what my amendment is all about.

Now, I already know all too well what kind of arguments we are going to hear in response to this amendment, so let me deal with them one by one.

First, we are going to hear that this amendment would gut the bill. That is an old saw trotted out every time.

Again, the bill still has a point of order against private mandates on all types of measures and it provides for more focused, better-informed debate. Every stated goal of the bill has been addressed. What those who charge us with gutting the bill really mean is that the bill will no longer bias the rules of the House, a goal they have not exactly been trumpeting.

Second, we are going to hear that our amendment somehow does not require the House to be accountable for its actions. This is an odd one.

Under my amendment, we still will vote on each and every bill and amendment that comes before the House, and will do so after having had fuller debate than provided for in H.R. 350.

Look at the bills that are at stake in this debate: Minimum wage. Health protections. Environmental protections. Does any Member feel they have not been accountable for their vote on these issues?

When they make this accountability argument, the proponents are claiming, in effect, that somehow the House has escaped accountability for the past 210 years because we have lacked this new point of order. Does anyone really accept that?

What proponents really mean when they say we have not been accountable is that they do not always like the way the votes have turned out. If Members oppose measures that impose costs on industry, they ought to vote against them. If Members oppose individual provisions in bills, they ought to offer amendments and force votes on those provisions. That is how the Constitution makes us accountable.

What we ought not to do is change the rules of the House to favor one side of a debate that has not been able to prevail every time they wanted to under normal procedures. This is also what proponents mean when they say that our amendment does not have any teeth. I always say, when someone tells us their bill has teeth, who are they trying to bite?

The teeth in H.R. 350 are a vote that is designed to do one thing and only one thing, shut down debate on any measure that someone claims will cost industry money.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. BOEHLERT was allowed to proceed for 2 additional minutes.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, the teeth in H.R. 350 are a vote that is designed to do one thing and only one

thing, and that is to shut down debate on any measure that someone claims will cost industry money, regardless of the evidence on cost, regardless of the benefits, regardless of the public purpose to be served, regardless of whether some companies support the measure.

Our amendment has teeth in the sense that it will accomplish its intended goal: creating more debate, creating more debate on alleged private-sector mandates. But our amendment will not try to injure those who support protections for the environment, for public health and public safety.

Again, I urge Members to read the bill. The vote in the bill is needed because there are no objective criteria for determining the validity of their point of order and because, without the vote, one side will not be able to intimidate the other.

Mr. Chairman, the details of this debate are complex but the basic questions it raises are simple. First, does the House want to have more debate and better-informed debate and better-focused debate on private mandates? If the answer to that is yes, and I think it is, then Members should support the Boehlert amendment because that is exactly what we provide.

□ 1045

Second, does the House want to change the fundamental rules of the House so that in every case there is a presumption that laws to protect the environment, and health, and public safety are a bad idea? I think the answer to that is no, and that is why my amendment is needed. H.R. 350, Mr. Chairman, would quite simply change the rules of the House so that any law that might cost any industry more than \$100 million would face extra hurdles to passage and would get less debate regardless of any other consideration.

Finally, H.R. 350 is a bill that biases House procedures to an extent that would even have made gilded age legislators blush. I think the House ought to have free, fair and open debate, and that is what the Boehlert amendment would ensure, and I urge its passage.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Chairman, I rise reluctantly to oppose the amendment of my friend from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, the Boehlert amendment, by removing the vote which would give this House an opportunity to decide whether it wanted to proceed on a bill, takes all of the enforcement measures out of the bill and returns us to the status quo ante that is anti 1996. In 1996, my colleagues will recall, we passed unfunded mandates on the public sector. We said if we are going to impose costs on other government entities, we ought to know what it was, and if it exceeded \$50 million across the country, we would have a debate on that and then vote as to whether to proceed. We did not shut down anything. Since January 1 of 1996 there have been seven times when the

point of order has been raised, and all seven times this House listened to both sides determined to move forward with the bill and pass the bill. The language that the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) would like to insist on would leave us right where we are right now. Since 1983, according to the CBO director in testimony before the Committee on Rules, the CBO has been doing analysis on how Federal legislation would affect State and local governments and the private sector. But as they told us in the hearing, nobody paid attention to it because there are no teeth in the measure, and indeed at the CBO these estimates became a low priority because they knew no one was paying attention to it. To argue that this would unfairly bias the debate in favor of one side or the other is also a silly argument, looking back at the seven times when the point of order has been imposed or asserted in the past 3 years.

We will also hear throughout this debate that while we will be discussing the cost to the private sector, which is under the bill if it imposes \$100 million in costs on the private sector, it is then amenable to a point of order. We will hear them say we will be discussing the costs, but not the benefits. That presumes arguments occur in vacuums, and this has not happened in this House in the past 3 years. The reason we will have these arguments is because there will be a huge argument on behalf of the benefits, on behalf of the need to move forward, while others will just be saying but be aware of what costs we are imposing on the private sector.

In my view this is only fair. For too many years, for far too many years, this Congress has voted for warm and fuzzy good things and chose not to tax the American people for it, to pass those burdens on to other levels of government or the private sector. We think that it is only fair if we are going to pursue good things, whether they are warm and fuzzy or not, that we ought to know how much it costs. A simple example of this is not the private sector, but it was discussed this morning in a meeting, was that years ago this House decided that we would impose mandates for special education on the local school systems. Good idea, probably necessary idea, but the bill also said that the Federal Government would pay 40 percent of the costs for that. We have never ever funded that. We just passed that on to my colleagues' communities throughout their districts, and their school systems are paying that. We would have had a point of order against that, had it occurred in the last 3 years under the Portman-Condit legislation that we passed. We also think it is fair that we have that same point of order and the opportunity to vote on it if we impose burdens on the private sector.

I am curious to know why the gentleman from New York is so worried about an open discussion and the need

to be taking a stand on these issues with respect to a vote to move forward. It has not stopped any other legislation in the past, but it has done a couple of things. Committees now are aware of costs they are imposing and think through the legislation that they are writing. In the past they were not doing that even under the testimony from the Congressional Budget Office director. We think that is good because a lot of things do happen in this town that are unknown in terms of its impact on both the private sector and the public sector. We ought to know that. We ought to discuss it.

All of this, all this bill is going to do, is to say it is just as important not to burden the private sector with our wishes as it is the public sector, and if we are going to burden them, at least know that we are doing it, move to vote to move forward. The Boehlert amendment would eliminate that vote which, of course, he knows is to take away the teeth from the bill, and I urge opposition to the amendment.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. Mr. BOEHLERT's amendment takes away the very thing that makes this bill successful, and that is accountability. This bill is about accountability, about making the House accountable for the legislation that we pass. The bill is real simple.

Mr. Chairman, if there is an unfunded mandate of \$100 million, one can raise a point of order and have a debate, a debate about the mandate. Does not mean that stops the mandate; we have the prerogative to stop it or proceed. But what Mr. BOEHLERT does today is take away the real meat behind this thing, the hammer behind the thing, the thing that makes it work, and that is accountability.

This is about accountability. We, as Members of the House, should not have any fear to have a debate about the cost of a mandate and then have the responsibility to make a decision whether or not the mandate is worthwhile, whether or not we should proceed, and if it is worthy of our vote, Mr. Chairman, then we vote for it, and then we proceed with the bill.

In 1995, we passed the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995. It has been successful. As the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) alluded to, when we had Mr. Blum, the director of CBO, in before us, and Mr. LINDER asked a few questions, Mr. Blum said that the real reason this works is because of the point of order because we have accountability, and let me just encourage the Members to not be fearful of that. The more information that we have, the better decisions we make, and we are all accountable one way or the other so we ought to at least demonstrate that by allowing us to have this point of order and a vote if it is required.

It is a real simple bill, simply lets us have a debate, lets us have account-

ability for the actions that we take, and I would encourage all Members to oppose this amendment. The gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) offered a similar amendment last year, a little different. Last year he did not want to have any debate on amendments. This year he wants to have full open debate, so I am not real sure where he really is on this issue, but I would encourage my colleagues to defeat this amendment so that we can proceed ahead and enact this unfunded mandate legislation.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Chairman I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Boehlert amendment today, and I got to say as one of the co-authors of the bill, this is the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT's) legislation, but as one of the co-authors, this amendment is not consistent with the purposes or intent of the legislation, it is just not because the purpose, as Mr. CONDIT just said, is to have true accountability.

Now the author of the amendment talks a lot about the fact that we would still have focused and informed debate, but we need to look at the record. Three and a half years ago this House passed the Unfunded Mandates Relief Act. The gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) just talked about it. It puts this same procedure in place, although frankly this one is not as onerous for the House; same procedure in place with regard to having a debate and a vote. That, according to the Congressional Budget Office, according to all the outside observers, many of whom frankly were not in support of the original legislation, has been the necessary teeth; yes, the teeth, in the legislation that forced the committees to do what we are all trying to get at here, which is to send better, more responsible legislation to the floor that takes into account the costs of unfunded mandates. Without having a debate and a vote on the floor of the House, Mr. Chairman, we are simply not going to have the kind of discipline we are looking for and the kind of, again, better informed debate and, in the end, more responsible legislation.

Let me quote from the CBO testimony just a couple of weeks ago before the Committee on Rules. They said that before proposed legislation is marked up, committee staffs and individual Members are increasingly requesting our analysis about whether the legislation would create any new federal mandates and, if so, whether their costs would exceed the thresholds established by the Unfunded Mandates Relief Act. So that is with regard to the public sector. In many instances, I continue, CBO is able to inform the sponsor about the existence of a mandate and provide informal guidance about how the proposal might be restructured to eliminate the mandate or reduce the cost of the mandate. That use of the Unfunded Mandate Relief

Act early in the legislative process, early in the legislative process, Mr. Chairman, appears to have had an effect on the number and burden of inter-governmental mandates in enacted legislation.

That is the whole point. Yes, if we take out the debate and the vote, we do take away the teeth that makes this legislation so important in terms of getting to better legislation on the floor of the House in a more informed debate by the Members.

Let me also respond to something else that the sponsor of the legislation, the proposed amendment, said. He said that if the Chair ruled that it was all right, then we would have 20 minutes of debate but no vote and indicated that the Chair, rather than the Members, should make that decision. Again, this is not the intent of the legislation, nor is it consistent with what the parliamentarian, what the Committee on Rules, what others who have on run this place day to day believe is the right way to go. We do not want to put the Chair in that position. We want to put the Members in that position.

Let us recall that in the end after a 20-minute debate it is the will of that House that prevails. If the will of the House is to go ahead, notwithstanding the mandate with the legislation, which has happened seven out of seven times with the Unfunded Mandates Relief Act over the last few years, and again we have a record here, my colleagues, then the House simply proceeds. But let us not put that responsibility, which is a weighty responsibility, with the Chair. Let us keep it with the Members of this houses. All this says in the end is that, yes, the House should have better information on substantial new mandates on the private sector, and, yes, we ought to be held accountable for how we feel about those substantial new mandates. It does not mean we are not going to mandate; we are, and we have, and we even have on the public sector, and we will continue to, I am sure. But we have better legislation on the floor, we have a better, more informed debate on the floor, and we have accountability to our constituents, both those who do not want additional mandates and those who think that the benefits of the legislation outweigh the mandate. That is the point of this legislation; it is good government.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the Members to look carefully at this amendment and the fact that indeed it does gut the legislation, it is not consistent with the intended purpose of the bill, and with all due respect to my good friend from New York who I know is sincere about his interests in making this House work better, it does, in fact, lead us to the point where we would not have the informed debate and we would not have the accountability measure that is so important in this legislation.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, about 25 years ago I read a fascinating book called *The Ascent of Man*, and the book fundamentally was about the evolution of man's relationship to the advancement of science, and there was the chapter in that book called:

Knowledge or Certainty: Which Do You Strive For; Knowledge or Certainty?

In this floor, in this democratic process that we have here in the U.S. House of Representatives, we have fundamentally in the democratic process an exchange of information with a sense of tolerance for someone else's opinion and then we vote. We do not have an exchange of certainty, and then cut off debate and then we vote. We have an exchange of information.

With the underlying legislation here, with the bill of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) it is my judgment that we have a very short debate on the mandate, on the cost to the private sector, and then we stop debate on the underlying legislation. We stop debate on that particular issue, and I want to talk about that in just a second.

□ 1100

Under the amendment of the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), we have an opportunity to not only debate the legislation, whether it deals with the important aspects of clean air, clean water, health or a whole range of issues, but we also can talk about the issue of the cost to the private sector. We have both included in the amendment of the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), which I think is vital.

Yes, we do not want to overburden the private sector with excessive, unnecessary costs, but we want to make sure that the private sector is part of the Nation's policy of preserving our economic structure and preserving the Nation's health and safety and the quality of life to its citizens.

The underlying bill of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) takes the legislation that might deal with clean air and it cuts that legislation off, cuts the debate off on that legislation, and then simply talks about the mandate to the private sector.

What the amendment of the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) does is carry on the debate of the unfunded mandate and the expense to the private sector, but also includes the important debate, the exchange of information, the acquisition of knowledge about the importance of that particular legislation.

Let me give an example, the Chesapeake Bay: Forty percent of the pollution of the Chesapeake Bay is from air deposition. What does that mean? Forty percent of the pollution from the Chesapeake Bay comes from the Midwest and comes from places like Baltimore City, but comes from industry and comes from automobiles.

Now, if you want to clean up the smokestacks to the factories, which we are trying to do with the Clean Air Act, and try to eliminate much of the emissions from automobiles, which we are trying to do with the Clean Air Act, of course, that is expensive, and I would dare say costs the Nation over \$100 million.

But what are we going to do about the nutrient overload from the Chesapeake Bay? What do we get from the Chesapeake Bay as far as economic rebound and economic vitality? We get a huge fishing industry, we get a huge recreational industry, we get enormous sums as a result of the clean water in the Chesapeake Bay. That should also be included in the debate.

How about discussions on sewage treatment plants, outflows from all kinds of commercial activities? In 1898, if you compared oyster production in the Chesapeake Bay to 1998, 99 percent of it is gone. Ninety-nine percent of the oyster production in the Chesapeake Bay. We get 1 percent of what we used to get 100 years ago, and much of that is because the oysters are gone, but the most important factor in that statement is that many of the oysters in the Chesapeake Bay cannot be eaten because of the problems from outflows from all kinds of sources.

The amendment of the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) does not cut off debate on the problem of the cost to the private sector. That debate can flourish and continue.

The amendment of gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) cuts off debate on how we can understand the need to acquire knowledge for us to reduce the pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, for us to make sure about the air we breathe, because of the increasing numbers of people in this country that are coming down with asthma.

I do not want to sound like an alarmist up here or that this is the most important thing that we have to do immediately, but I want to go back to the first statement that I made: The fundamentals of democracy are an exchange of information, the acquisition of knowledge, tolerance for other people's opinions.

I urge an "aye" vote for the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I am very interested in the comments of the previous speaker, and I wanted to pursue his thinking on this matter.

As I understand the bill before us, it would provide for an opportunity to debate the question of whether there is a mandate and then have a separate vote on whether we are going to proceed with the issue that would result in the mandate.

Is it the gentleman's concern that forcing a vote on whether to proceed on the mandate would stop the debate on

the underlying, let's say, environmental provision that might require private businesses to do something?

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WAXMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Chairman, that is exactly right. That is my concern. I think we can have both. I would like to have a discussion on the cost to the private sector, but certainly on the need for the legislation. That debate should continue as well.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the concern that is being expressed that we do not want to clutter up the legislative process with votes, although I will be offering an amendment shortly, if there is an opportunity for it, that would require another vote if we are going to have an amendment that would weaken existing environmental legislation, so we can give the focus of attention on that issue and understand the consequences and then have a separate vote on it.

I understand what is being said on this question of whether the debate would be cut off. I do not think that was the intention, but I have heard what the gentleman from Maryland has to say and what the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) has to say, and I am really concerned that we end up in that kind of situation where we do not get to the debate of the underlying proposal. It need not work that way. But I think the Boehlert amendment does prevent us from getting into that kind of a situation. I will support the amendment for that reason. I think if it allows a greater debate, that is so important to this body.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WAXMAN. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BOEHLERT. That is exactly the purpose of my amendment. The base bill would limit debate; my amendment would expand debate. The base bill would terminate discussion; my amendment would continue discussion.

Of course we have to factor in the cost to industry, but we also have to factor in the benefits to public health, to the environment, to all these very important things. That is why organizations like the American Lung Association are so much in support of my amendment, because they want this open discussion on what the implications are of our actions on the public's health. Every family wants to know how it is going to affect that family.

Of course we have to consider the cost to industry, but we also have to consider the benefit to public health for the American families.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for that clarification of what he are trying to accomplish.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by recognizing the very thoughtful and eloquent gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD).

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak on behalf of the small businessmen and women throughout America. Small businesses are responsible for two out of three new jobs created in America today. The underlying legislation, the Mandates Information Act, among its other attributes, provides additional protection for small businesses of America that have borne the brunt of unreasonable and costly Federal mandates for far too long.

This legislation would simply give Members the right to raise a point of order to any legislation that would result in costs of more than \$100 million for private entities, so it is important that we move forward with this legislation to protect small businesses.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank my friend for his contribution. I would like to begin by expressing my special commendation to my very dear friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), and to thank the gentleman for the fact that over the last several weeks he has worked with us to try and address his needs to this bipartisan measure that is before us. But it saddens me that despite the gentleman's efforts, I am compelled to oppose the amendment as we have discussed.

I do so for two reasons: One, because it attempts to fix a problem that really does not exist; and, two, because, quite frankly, if it is adopted, it would kill a very carefully balanced and, as I said, bipartisan measure. It has been put together really over the last several years through efforts of our colleagues, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT).

H.R. 350 is nearly identical to the bipartisan legislation that passed the House of Representatives last year by a vote of 279 to 132. At the core of H.R. 350 are two mutually dependent objectives. The first requires committees and the Congressional Budget Office to provide more complete information about the cost of proposed mandates on the private sector.

The second ensures accountability by permitting a separate debate and vote on the consideration of legislation containing private sector mandates exceeding \$100 million annually. Any amendments that weaken one of these objectives effectively undermines the other.

I would say to my friend that one of the important things that needs to be pointed out here is that the amendment does not in any way expand debate time. That is something that we in the Committee on Rules will be doing, and I am sure that when debate

needs to be made in order, we in the Committee on Rules want to do everything we can to ensure that Members have a chance to do that.

For example, without permitting a separate debate and vote on a costly mandate, little incentive exists for committees to avoid the point of order by working with the affected groups to develop cost effective alternatives.

This point was made by the Acting Director of the Congressional Budget Office in testimony before our Committee on Rules last week. He said, "Before proposed legislation is marked up, committee staff and individual Members are increasingly requesting our analysis about whether the legislation would create any new Federal mandates, and, if so, whether their costs would exceed the threshold set by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. In many instances, CBO is able to inform the sponsor about the existence of a mandate and provide informal guidance on how the proposal might be restructured to eliminate the mandate or reduce its cost. That use of UMRA early in the legislative process appears to have had an effect on the number and burden of intergovernmental mandates in enacted legislation."

I think that states it very clearly, Mr. Chairman. The procedures of the House provide sufficient protection against dilatory efforts to thwart debate on legislation that the majority of Members have agreed to debate by virtue of adopting a special rule.

Moreover, the Committee on Rules spent two years developing, as I said, a bipartisan plan which was adopted as the opening day rules package to streamline and simplify the rules of the House, to make them easier to understand and more user friendly.

The Boehlert amendment will simply recomplicate the rules of the House in a well-meaning attempt to fix, as I said in my opening, a problem that does not exist.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). The time of the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. DREIER was allowed to proceed for 1½ additional minutes.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 350 is carefully balanced to guarantee that the House is able to work its will, while providing a meaningful way to ensure that we here in the House can work our will while meaningfully providing a way to ensure that Congress acknowledges and fully debates the consequences of new mandates on consumers, workers and small businesses.

Such mandates cost businesses, as has been pointed out, consumers and workers, about \$700 billion annually, or about \$7,000 per household. That is about a third the size of the entire Federal budget.

It is important to note that H.R. 350 does nothing to roll back existing mandates, nor does it prevent the enactment of additional mandates. As written in section 2 of the bill, "The implementation of this act will enhance the awareness of prospective mandates on the private sector without adversely affecting existing environmental, public health or safety laws or regulations."

Let me say that one more time, as I did during the rules debate. "The implementation of this act will enhance the awareness of prospective mandates on the private sector without adversely affecting existing environmental, public health or safety laws or regulations."

In other words, Mr. Chairman, H.R. 350 is a straightforward, common sense, bipartisan bill that will make Congress more accountable by requiring more deliberation and more information when Federal mandates are proposed.

I urge my colleagues not to undermine this very sound, bipartisan legislation. So I am compelled to urge a "no" vote on the amendment offered by my friend from New York.

Mr. COOK. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Boehlert amendment to H.R. 350, the Mandates Reform Act. I believe the Boehlert amendment makes a good bill even better. This amendment accomplishes the bill's goals of adding more focused, better informed debate on measures that would cost industry money.

I support free, fair open and informed debate on the costs and benefits of all legislation. The Boehlert amendment ensures this will happen. It also leaves entirely intact the provisions of concerned states and local governments about unfunded Federal mandates.

□ 1115

If the Chair rules that the CBO has determined that the measure will cost the private sector more than \$100 million, we will debate the costs and the benefits. Without this amendment, no evidence of cost is needed to raise a point of order. Anyone who opposes protecting the health of our children could stop legislation with no evidence of the costs.

With the Boehlert amendment, we could continue to protect local government from unfunded Federal mandates by eliminating unnecessary and hidden costs. This will be done by fair and open debate on the issues, and without unduly slowing down the legislative process.

The Boehlert amendment protects taxpayers, the economy, and the environment, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COOK. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, the very distinguished chairman of the

Committee on Rules just said from the well that this bill will enhance the awareness of the cost of the bill without in any way compromising or adversely affecting environmental, public health or safety considerations.

Let me suggest that I share his goal in enhancing awareness of the cost of the bill, but the bill is sadly deficient in terms of the potential benefits, and that is why every environmental public health and safety organization is strongly endorsing my amendment. They want more debate, not less. They want to continue discussion, not terminate it. That is what this is all about: full, open, and fair debate.

I thank my distinguished colleague for yielding.

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York for this important amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 216, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 15]

AYES—210

Abercrombie	Ehlers	Kind (WI)
Ackerman	Engel	Klecicka
Allen	Eshoo	Klink
Andrews	Etheridge	Kucinich
Baird	Evans	LaFalce
Baldacci	Farr	LaHood
Baldwin	Fattah	Lampson
Barcia	Filner	Lantos
Barrett (WI)	Forbes	Larson
Becerra	Ford	LaTourette
Bentsen	Frank (MA)	Leach
Bereuter	Franks (NJ)	Lee
Berkley	Frelinghuysen	Levin
Berman	Frost	Lewis (GA)
Bilbray	Ganske	Lipinski
Blagojevich	Gephardt	Lowe
Blumenauer	Gilchrist	Luther
Boehlert	Gilman	Maloney (CT)
Bonior	Gonzalez	Markey
Borski	Green (TX)	Martinez
Boswell	Greenwood	Mascara
Boucher	Gutierrez	Matsui
Brady (PA)	Hall (OH)	McCarthy (MO)
Brown (CA)	Hastings (FL)	McCarthy (NY)
Brown (FL)	Hilliard	McDermott
Brown (OH)	Hinchev	McGovern
Capps	Hinojosa	McKinney
Capuano	Hoefel	McNulty
Cardin	Holden	Meehan
Castle	Holt	Meek (FL)
Clay	Hooley	Meeks (NY)
Clayton	Horn	Menendez
Clyburn	Houghton	Millender-
Cook	Hoyer	McDonald
Costello	Inslee	Miller, George
Coyne	Jackson (IL)	Minge
Crowley	Jackson-Lee	Mink
Cummings	(TX)	Moakley
Davis (IL)	Jefferson	Moore
DeFazio	Johnson (CT)	Moran (VA)
DeGette	Johnson, E. B.	Morella
Delahunt	Jones (OH)	Nadler
DeLauro	Kanjorski	Napolitano
Deutsch	Kaptur	Neal
Dicks	Kelly	Oberstar
Dingell	Kennedy	Obey
Dixon	Kildee	Olver
Doggett	Kilpatrick	Ortiz
Doyle		Owens

Pallone	Sawyer	Tierney
Pascrell	Saxton	Towns
Pastor	Scarborough	Udall (CO)
Payne	Schakowsky	Udall (NM)
Pelosi	Scott	Upton
Phelps	Serrano	Velazquez
Pomeroy	Shays	Vento
Porter	Sherman	Visclosky
Price (NC)	Slaughter	Walsh
Quinn	Smith (MI)	Waters
Rahall	Smith (NJ)	Watt (NC)
Ramstad	Smith (WA)	Waxman
Rangel	Snyder	Weiner
Reyes	Stabenow	Weldon (PA)
Rivers	Stark	Wexler
Rodriguez	Strickland	Weygand
Rothman	Stupak	Wise
Roukema	Tauscher	Wolf
Roybal-Allard	Taylor (MS)	Woolsey
Sabo	Thompson (CA)	Wu
Sanchez	Thompson (MS)	Wynn
Sanders	Thurman	

NOES—216

Aderholt	Gibbons	Packard
Archer	Gillmor	Paul
Armey	Goode	Pease
Bachus	Goodlatte	Peterson (MN)
Baker	Goodling	Peterson (PA)
Ballenger	Gordon	Petri
Barr	Goss	Pickering
Barrett (NE)	Graham	Pickett
Bartlett	Granger	Pitts
Barton	Green (WI)	Pombo
Bass	Gutknecht	Portman
Bateman	Hall (TX)	Pryce (OH)
Berry	Hansen	Radanovich
Biggett	Hastert	Regula
Bilirakis	Hastings (WA)	Reynolds
Bishop	Hayes	Riley
Bliley	Hayworth	Roemer
Blunt	Hefley	Rogan
Boehner	Herger	Rogers
Bonilla	Hill (IN)	Rohrabacher
Bono	Hill (MT)	Ros-Lehtinen
Boyd	Hilleary	Royce
Brady (TX)	Hobson	Ryan (WI)
Bryant	Hoekstra	Ryun (KS)
Burr	Hostettler	Salmon
Burton	Hulshof	Sandlin
Buyer	Hunter	Sanford
Callahan	Hutchinson	Schaffer
Calvert	Hyde	Sensenbrenner
Camp	Istook	Sessions
Campbell	Jenkins	Shadegg
Canady	John	Shaw
Cannon	Johnson, Sam	Sherwood
Chabot	Jones (NC)	Shimkus
Chambliss	Kasich	Shows
Chenoweth	King (NY)	Shuster
Clement	Kingston	Simpson
Coble	Knollenberg	Sisisky
Coburn	Kolbe	Skeen
Collins	Kuykendall	Skelton
Combest	Largent	Smith (TX)
Condit	Latham	Souder
Cooksey	Lazio	Spence
Cox	Lewis (CA)	Stearns
Cramer	Lewis (KY)	Stenholm
Crane	Linder	Stump
Cubin	Livingston	Sununu
Cunningham	LoBiondo	Sweeney
Danner	Lucas (KY)	Talent
Davis (FL)	Lucas (OK)	Tancredo
Davis (VA)	Manzullo	Tanner
Deal	McCollum	Tauzin
DeLay	McCrery	Taylor (NC)
DeMint	McHugh	Terry
Diaz-Balart	McInnis	Thomas
Dickey	McIntosh	Thornberry
Dooley	McIntyre	Thune
Doolittle	McKeon	Tiahrt
Dreier	Metcalf	Toomey
Duncan	Mica	Traficant
Dunn	Miller (FL)	Turner
Edwards	Miller, Gary	Walden
Ehrlich	Moran (KS)	Wamp
Emerson	Murtha	Watkins
English	Myrick	Watts (OK)
Everett	Nethercutt	Weldon (FL)
Fletcher	Ney	Weller
Foley	Northup	Whitfield
Fossella	Norwood	Wicker
Fowler	Nussle	Wilson
Gallegly	Ose	Young (AK)
Gekas	Oxley	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—8

Carson	Lofgren	Rush
Conyers	Maloney (NY)	Spratt
Ewing	Mollohan	

□ 1139

Messrs. LIVINGSTON, HANSEN, and REYNOLDS changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. KLECZKA and Mr. SCARBOROUGH changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

□ 1145

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. WAXMAN:

Page 6, line 10, after "exceeded" insert "or that would remove, prevent the imposition of, prohibit the use of appropriated funds to implement, or make less stringent any such mandate established to protect human health, safety, or the environment".

Page 6, after line 10, insert the following new paragraph and renumber the succeeding paragraphs accordingly:

(4) MODIFICATION OR REMOVAL OF CERTAIN MANDATES.—(A) Section 424(b)(1) of such Act is amended by inserting "or if the Director finds the bill or joint resolution removes, prevents the imposition of, prohibits the use of appropriated funds to implement, or makes less stringent any Federal private sector mandate established to protect human health, safety, or the environment" after "such fiscal year" and by inserting "or identify any provision which removes, prevents the imposition of, prohibits the use of appropriated funds to implement, or makes less stringent any Federal private sector mandate established to protect human health, safety, or the environment" after "the estimate".

Page 6, lines 18, 20, 22, and 24, after "inter-governmental" insert "mandate" and after the closing quotation marks insert "and by inserting 'mandate or removing, preventing the imposition of, prohibiting the use of appropriated funds to implement, or making less stringent any such mandate established to protect human health, safety, or the environment'".

Page 6, line 23, strike "and".

Page 6, line 25, strike the period and insert "and".

Page 6, after line 25, insert the following:

(v) by striking "and" at the end of clause (iii), by striking the period at the end of clause (iv) and inserting "and" and by adding the following new clause after clause (iv):

"(v) any provision in a bill or resolution, amendment, conference report, or amendments in disagreement referred to in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) that prohibits the use of appropriated funds to implement any Federal private sector mandate established to protect human health, safety, or the environment."

Page 7, line 16, strike "one point" and insert "two points" and on line 18, insert after "(a)(2)" the following: "with only one point of order permitted for provisions which impose new Federal private sector mandates and only one point of order permitted for provisions which remove, prevent imposition of, prohibit the use of appropriated funds to implement, or make less stringent Federal private sector mandates."

Mr. WAXMAN (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, this bill that we are considering today would set the procedural hurdles in the way of legislation that would mandate requirements on private businesses, what are called unfunded mandates.

The underlying rationale of the legislation is that the Congress ought to be sure of all the impacts of legislation before a vote is taken, especially if we are going to have an unfunded mandate.

The amendment that I am offering in no way changes the underlying legislation. My amendment does not weaken H.R. 350 in any way. I want to repeat that so that there is no confusion about what we are doing in offering what we call the defense of the environment amendment. We do not change any of the procedural provisions in the Condit-Portman bill. We do not affect how the bill would work for any new private-sector mandates.

Instead, what my amendment would do would merely extend the same protections to other issues that are of great importance to the American people, requirements that had been established under existing law to protect the public health, safety, and the environment.

This amendment is based on legislation that is called the Defense of the Environment Act, which is supported by every major environmental group and the AFL-CIO and other outside organizations as well. Because if we are going to consider repealing current environmental or public health protections or safety protections or worker protections, we ought to do so with full information and adequate consideration.

It is the same rationale for the underlying bill. It is just common sense. It addresses a serious problem with the way environmental policy has been determined over the last 4 years.

During the last two Congresses, when we looked at environmental legislation, we did not get a chance to consider it separately, to debate it on its merits, and then to vote on anti-environmental riders. What we had were provisions attached to appropriations bills or other must-pass pieces of legislation.

What resulted often was absolutely no debate or consideration by the committee of jurisdiction. What also happened was that we did not get a chance to have a debate or vote on the House floor.

Just as the authors of this bill do not want us to pass mandates on the private sector without a chance for consideration and a vote, we feel the same procedural assurances ought to be

given to those who are concerned about repealing existing laws that affect environment, safety, and public health.

Let me talk about some of the examples that have happened in the last couple of Congresses. We had anti-environmental riders that increased clear-cut logging in our national forests. We had riders that would have crippled protection of the endangered species and stall the Superfund program. We had provisions that would have hindered our ability to ensure the groundwater protection from contamination from old nuclear facilities. We have blocked the regulation of radioactive contaminants in drinking water and delayed our efforts to clean up air pollution in the national parks.

The defense of the environment amendment would not prohibit the House from taking any of these steps or passing any of these measures, but it would guarantee that we at least have the option of having an informed debate and a separate vote on these proposals. It would at least give us an opportunity to protect our clean air laws, our clean water laws, our toxic waste laws, and all of our laws that protect health and safety of workers and our families.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. WAXMAN was allowed to proceed for 2 additional minutes.)

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I was surprised when this amendment was narrowly defeated last year because it would take the same philosophy for unfunded mandates, for economic considerations, and apply it to other equally important values.

I want to emphasize again this amendment would not prohibit Congress from repealing or amending any environmental law. It places no new burdens on any business, State, individual, or federal agency. It would simply bring an informed debate and accountability to the process.

Mr. Chairman, there is no question the American people want Congress to protect public health and environment. The environment and our Nation's public health is just as important to them as unfunded mandates.

Over the years, we have seen that, when Congress legislates in a deliberate, collegial, and bipartisan fashion, we are able to enact public health and environmental protections that work well and are supported by both environmental groups and by business.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this amendment and guarantee that Congress does not unknowingly jeopardize America's public health and the environment. I urge support for this legislation.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Waxman amendment because it creates a hurdle in this legislation that need not be. He argues that when benefits arise from an action of Congress it

does not have the same debate as the cost, and that is simply just not a fair or honest argument, simply because nobody brings a bill to the floor for benefits without making that the base of the entire bill.

The basis of the entire bill for bringing benefits to our constituents or the consumer is the basis of the argument and the debate. All we are saying in this bill is if that benefit one wants to give to the consumers or to the constituents in their district imposes costs on the private sector, that we are unwilling to tax our constituents to pay, that ought to be subject to a point of order for debate. That is all, subjected to a point of order for debate.

We are interested, as the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) said, in putting hurdles in the way of imposing costs on the private sector; hurdles, not roadblocks, not stoppages but hurdles.

As I said in the debate over the previous amendment, the 1995 legislation that enacted unfunded mandates legislation with respect to \$50 million of cost on the private sector went into effect on the 1st of January 1996.

We have had 3 years to see the benefits of that provision. On seven occasions, I think it is four by one party and three by another party, the point of order has been raised. In all seven cases, this House voted. After listening to the debate in terms of the cost imposed on the public sector or local or state governments on the one hand and the benefits of the legislation on the other hand, this House moved on seven occasions to move forward with the debate and voted indeed on those mandates.

An argument has been made that we have imposed burdens and restrictions on environmental issues through riders on bills, but those riders are already subject to a point of order. That is legislating on an appropriations measure.

There is in the rule book of this House a provision that says any legislating in an appropriations bill is subject to a point of order. That has already been handled.

There is no question in some instances there has been a waiver of those points. That is a debate for the Committee on Rules and that debate is carried out between the two parties and between the opposing views in the Committee on Rules before those riders or those points of order are waived.

Lastly, let me just deal with an argument that has come up over and over in both the Committee on Rules hearings and the Committee on Rules debate and on this floor. We are told that this is an effort to repeal current environmental health and safety measures. That is simply not the case.

I am reminded of a comment made by, I believe it was Aldous Huxley, who, in responding to an argument, he said, your argument is not right. It is not even wrong. It is irrelevant.

Those points are simply irrelevant to this bill. What we are only saying is,

legislation that is good for the safety, the health or the environment of our constituents will get to this floor. It will have a broad debate on the benefits but if it imposes costs on the private sector, costs that we are unwilling to step up to the plate on this floor and vote for in terms of taxes on our constituents, we ought to have the debate on that, too.

We ought to have an informed debate. We ought to make a vote on the floor of this House to move forward with that debate on the benefits of the bill so that not only this House but the rest of the world will know that we know we are imposing those costs; we think that the benefits outweigh costs and we are willing to move ahead anyway.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this amendment is an effort to slow down progress; to do for the private sector what we have already done for the public sector. I urge a no vote on the Waxman amendment.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, as I said before, I support the idea behind requiring full disclosure of unfunded mandates in the private sector. Giving Members more information about votes they are preparing to cast only can improve our legislative process.

Mr. Chairman, the bill before us is a one-sided bill. It creates a hurdle for bills which impose new requirements on private industry but it does nothing to bills which remove existing requirements.

By doing so, it takes the side of the industry over the American public. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment of the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

The Waxman amendment gives the same protection to the welfare of the American public as it does to the wallets of American industry. It requires Members to stop and think before eliminating laws that protect health and safety; just as the bill before us requires Members to stop and think before adding laws to protect public health and safety.

Mr. Chairman, if one has to slow down before adding a law, one should have to slow down before removing one.

The idea of the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) is a very good one, which is supported by the Center of Marine Conservation, the Environmental Defense Fund, the League of Conservation Voters, the National Resource Defense Council, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Sierra Club, the United States Public Interest Group, the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers of America, Consumers Union, Public Citizens and the American Public Health Association, just to name a few.

My colleagues may wonder how an amendment could have garnered the support of such an impressive list of

public interest groups. The answer is very simple. This is a good amendment.

□ 1200

Over the last four years, my Republican colleagues have engaged in a very dangerous policy of attaching what are known as environmental riders to bills that must be passed. And my colleague and my friend from the Committee on Rules said that "Of course, but the rules already stop that," but I can show the Members many Committee on Rules debates where they are replete with waivers of these so-called environmental additions.

These bad pieces of legislation, which normally would die if left to stand alone, hitch a ride on a very important piece of legislation. And by riding on this very important piece of legislation, these bills manage to slip by nearly unnoticed. That is, Mr. Chairman, until it is too late.

Some of the riders which have particularly devastating effects on the people of Massachusetts include riders to stop the regulation of radioactive contaminants in drinking water, riders to stall the Superfund program, riders to lessen energy-efficient standards, and riders to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from making sure old nuclear facilities do not contaminate groundwater.

In short, Mr. Chairman, these environmental riders are so dangerous to public health and public safety that no American citizen without a personal financial interest in increasing pollution would support them.

The Waxman amendment says Congress should stop and think before dismantling our environmental protections and our workers' protections. His amendment does not create any new burdens on businesses, it does not prevent Congress from repealing any laws, and it does not impose any new costs. If a majority of the Congress still wants to pass bills to lessen requirements on businesses, it can do so. This amendment just gives the American people a fighting chance.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, as a result of the action on the last amendment, which passed by the narrowest of margins, we are now confronted with a bill that will indeed create new points of order. I do not think it is a very good idea. But I strongly believe that if we are going to create new points of order, they should be balanced. It is that fundamental sense of fairness that lies behind the Waxman amendment.

H.R. 350 would make it more difficult to pass laws that protect health and safety and the environment. If we are going to do that, we ought to create an additional point of order that will make it harder to pass bills that would weaken health and safety and environmental protections. The Waxman amendment would accomplish precisely that.

For that reason, I rise in support of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment.

To be frank, I preferred my approach to remedying this bill. Ideally, the House should not use points of order as a substitute for substantive debate. But my amendment was defeated. And so now we are confronted with a bill that will indeed create new points of order.

And the Waxman amendment would have an additional benefit. The amendment would put an end to the use of riders to weaken environmental protections. Under the Waxman amendment, legislative provisions that weaken existing law would be subject to a vote—even if they were stuck in an appropriations bill or conference report. No longer would anti-environmental riders be used to slip through legislation that could not possibly pass if it were considered as a free-standing bill.

Now, the House in recent years has kept its riders to a minimum, and I know that that restraint will continue under the Speaker HASTERT. But the other body has not always felt so reluctant, and riders have continued to appear in conference reports.

I think the new point of order provided by the Waxman amendment will help leadership achieve its goals of keeping riders off spending bills.

I urge my colleagues to support this "Defense of the Environment" amendment. It will correct the imbalance in H.R. 350. It will end the use of riders to weaken environmental protections. It will ensure that the House has open and thorough debate on measures that would weaken laws and rules that protect the public.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me today in supporting the Waxman "Defense of the Environment Act" amendment to H.R. 350. It is about time we pass this amendment. Democrats and moderate Republicans are sick of the stealth attacks on environmental protection that continue to delay consideration of one appropriations bill after another, year in and year out.

The Waxman amendment would begin to reverse these stealth tactics by requiring any bill reported out of committee that might reduce environmental protection to identify and assess these provisions. The amendment will also allow for open debate and votes on legislation that removes or weakens environmental health and safety laws.

Mr. Chairman, in previous years the Republican majority has attempted to quietly attach a number of anti-environmental riders to the annual appropriations bill, often at the last minute. Not only is no one supposed to be able to legislate on an appropriations bill, but such riders prevent an open and honest debate on measures that would have great impacts on environmental natural resources, resources that most people in this country value greatly.

As I am sure we all remember from years past, similar efforts by the majority to gut the environment came to

no good, eventually resulting in a governmental shutdown in 1995. Last year, again, so much time was wasted trying to search out these bad riders, bring them to the public's attention, face presidential veto threats, and reexamine these bills that the Congress only finished its business after introducing several continuing resolutions.

But the majority has been found out. Citizens of this country realize that these special-interest riders would never pass as freestanding legislation because the measures would, at best, result in wasteful spending and unnecessary delays in addressing critical environmental problems and, at worst, result in substantial devastation to natural resources by permitting logging in national forests, allowing helicopters to fly over natural wilderness areas, or approving construction of roads through national parks and other delicate ecosystems, just to mention a few.

That is why the Republican majority continues to take a back-door approach to rolling back environmental protections, that is, by trying to sneak in special-interest riders as provisions of other more overarching bills. Last year they tried to insert a record number of over 40 stealth riders, some of which would have had devastating effects on the environment.

We have to stop wasting taxpayer dollars and end these stealth attempts to destroy the environment. Appropriations bills should be addressed in an open, honest debate. The Waxman amendment would force an open debate and an independent vote on every rider that attempts to weaken 25 years of environmental protection in this country. It would not necessarily prevent such riders from passing, but it would ensure that the public was made aware of these issues that otherwise are literally added into multi-billion dollar appropriations packages at the eleventh hour. It also would ensure that the public knew how Members voted on each one of these riders.

Mr. Chairman, we must safeguard our natural resources for ourselves and our children and expose the Republican majority's efforts to derail our appropriations process. We must begin now by voting "yes" on this important amendment before us. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Waxman amendment.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PALLONE. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to just point out that the use of riders on an appropriations bill is hardly a new invention of the last four years. The Vietnam War funding was ended by a Democrat rider on an appropriations bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, if I could take back my time and point out that now is the time to stop the process, and I think the Waxman amendment will go far towards making sure

that there is an open debate on these issues and not having this stealth process continue.

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment that is before us really has very little to do with the legislation that is on the floor. In fact, I came and asked staff why this amendment was even germane to the legislation that is before us. And evidently there is a tangential germaneness because of the tie-in to CBO, but that very tie-in is the reason we ought to oppose this amendment, CBO.

The amendment of the gentleman would require the Congressional Budget Office to make a subjective determination of whether a bill or provision in a bill weakens or strengthens any environmental or public health law. Mr. Chairman, the CBO is not equipped to make that kind of subjective determination. That is a matter for debate on this floor, debate in the committees of jurisdiction, not a matter for the CBO to determine and provide some subjective analysis that will be tacked onto a bill that somebody can read on the floor. CBO is there to provide objective economic analysis, which is what the underlying bill asked them to do with respect to any bill that might affect in an economic way the private sector.

So this amendment, while we are not going to object to the germaneness, really has nothing to do with the underlying bill and it ought to be rejected because it asks the CBO to do something that CBO is not designed or equipped to do.

Any debate on whether a bill affects adversely an existing public health policy or piece of legislation concerning the environment ought to be debated among the Members of the House here on the floor and in committee.

So I would ask the Members to reject the Waxman amendment, A, because it has nothing to do with the underlying legislation; B, it adds nothing to the legislation; C, it is bad policy to ask the CBO to do something that they are not supposed to do, they are not designed to do.

So please, Mr. Chairman, allow me to urge our colleagues to come to the floor, vote for common sense, let this underlying legislation pass, and reject the Waxman amendment because it simply has no place on this floor.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the "Defense of the Environment" amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN). I want to begin by responding to the analysis just made by the gentleman on the other side.

His argument is that this analysis, this legislation, this amendment requires an analysis by CBO that is too complex for CBO to undertake. The truth is that the analysis is very simple because all that is required of CBO

is to identify, that is the word in the amendment, to "identify" any provision which removes, prevents the imposition of, or prohibits the use of appropriated funds to implement or makes less stringent any Federal private-sector mandate established to protect human health, safety, or the environment.

That is all we are talking about. So that what CBO is being asked to do is simply to identify a provision, and that I suggest is well within its competence.

This amendment, the Waxman amendment, takes common-sense steps to ensure that no legislation to weaken environmental protections can be approved unless it is specifically considered and approved by the House.

Despite a public outcry over the last four years, the majority has tried to roll back environmental regulations. The 105th Congress saw too many harmful riders tacked onto must-pass appropriations bills. These hidden attempts to weaken our environmental laws only work against the public interest.

I would like to cite one example that is very important to my home State of Maine, and that is mercury pollution. Maine suffers some of the worst mercury pollution in the United States, but Maine is not alone. Thirty-nine states have already issued health advisories warning the public about consuming fish containing mercury. In some States, including Maine, every single lake, pond, stream, or river is under a mercury advisory.

Now, why is this important? Last year's VA-HUD appropriations bill contained language to prevent the EPA from taking steps, from taking regulatory action to limit pollution. The EPA had already concluded that there are serious health risks involved with mercury exposure and that contamination is on the rise, but this language handcuffed the agency from curbing harmful emissions.

We voted last year on that amendment, on an amendment that would have removed this particular language. But the vast majority of these anti-environmental riders do not receive adequate debate or a separate vote. All environmentally harmful riders deserve our most careful scrutiny. At the very least, we should ensure that the public knows where this Congress stands on the important environmental issues that affect our nation.

Now, I come from a State where George Mitchell and Ed Muskie helped to write the clean air and clean water laws that now govern this country, and I am not going to stand by and watch an attempt, under cover of procedural laws, to try to unravel those protections. I think that we need to ensure that the debate over environmental policy is open and direct.

I urge Members to support the Waxman amendment.

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ALLEN. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) for yielding.

The gentleman tried to make the case that CBO could make some sort of objective analysis. The gentleman's last phrase in his description of the requirements of the amendment were "less stringent," any provision that makes "less stringent" the environmental or public health laws.

I would submit to the gentleman that that phrase "less stringent" can be in the eyes of the beholder. As testified to, in fact, by CBO in hearings before the Committee on Rules on this amendment, CBO, the witness, said whether the benefits exceed the cost. But in many instances the benefits are in the eye of the beholder and are very difficult to pin down in any kind of a quantitative means.

So CBO has testified that they are not equipped to do this, it is a subjective analysis, and that ought to be left to the Members of the House.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I would simply point out that the matter of identifying the effect of a regulation is a lot easier than determining what the effect of the cost may be, trying to evaluate the cost of particular legislation in the private sector. I still believe this is the kind of relatively simple task that CBO can perform.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very interesting amendment. And my point is simply, it does not fit here. The gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) just talked about how CBO could do this. Talk to CBO and they will tell him, what CBO does is objectively look at cost information. They objectively look at economic information. This legislation is all about relying on the Congressional Budget Office to do that so that we can, for the first time, have better information and then have accountability as to how we deal with that information. The Waxman amendment is a whole other topic.

I just want to raise an alternative. When appropriations bills are on the floor of the House and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Allen) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and all the speakers who have supported this have said this is really about appropriations bills, they have focused, as I understand them, on the VA-HUD and other agency appropriations bill, which is where EPA is.

Those are always taken up under open rules. There is certainly no history that I am aware of since I have been here where it has not been an open rule. It has never been restricted. We have restricted some appropriations bills, and they have been the legislative branch bill and the foreign ops bill, period. The others are open.

Any Member can offer a motion to strike. If there is an environmental rider, which seems to be the focus of

this amendment to legislation that really does not relate to Mr. WAXMAN's concern, then any Member can offer a motion to strike and knock that rider out and have a full debate on it, and we do it regularly.

When we legislate on appropriations bills, even if the point of order is waived, and of course we know there is a point of order on legislating on appropriations bills, but even when it is waived by the rule and even when rule passes, which would be two other opportunities to have that happen, you still have that motion to strike.

□ 1215

That is where we ought to be addressing these problems. We ought not to be doing it in the context of the private sector or the public sector mandates bill. It is an entirely different analysis. CBO will tell us they cannot do it. They will ask these questions:

Okay, who is going to determine whether a mandate is actually weakened?

Is that driven by a reduction in direct or indirect cost to the private sector?

What if the private sector has become more efficient in implementing the mandate? We all want to encourage that; do we not?

What if that has happened? How do we analyze that?

Are those costs netted out from the Congressional Budget Office statement?

Is there some credit given to the private sector for doing that?

Cost reductions always mean benefits to healthy environment are weakened? I thought the goal was to get the greatest benefit for the least cost. That is what we say we encourage we want to do around here.

This process that the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) sets up indicates a direct relationship always between cost reductions and weakened benefits, and that may or may not exist. It just does not fit with this legislation. There are other ways to deal with it. We do so in the House all the time through appropriation bills by offering a motion to strike.

I would just say that again it is a very interesting debate we are having, it is a topic that is worthy of debate. I know the gentleman is sincere about his concern about riders on appropriation bills. This is not the right place to bring up this legislation. We have worked with CBO over the last 4 or 5 years on the public sector, now the private sector legislation. We have worked with the parliamentarian. We have done the hard work to come up with a balanced product. We have worked with the Committee on Rules. A substantial majority of the Committee on Rules has supported us in our efforts and refined this legislation. To come to the floor with this amendment that changes the whole direction of the bill and takes us off in another direction when it is not even necessary because we can already do it under our

rules seems to me to make no sense at all.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the Members of this House to look very carefully at what is being done here and to ask themselves cannot this be done through existing procedures, number one; and, number two, do we really want to add this burden that cannot be done by the Congressional Budget Office to this legislation making the legislation ultimately unworkable?

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Waxman amendment to the Mandates Information Act and echo the sentiments of those who believe that some of the greatest legislative efforts of this Nation, some of our finest moments and hours of promoting social and economic progress, have come from this body and, oftentimes, right off the floor of this House. We have legislated in the public interest cleaner air, cleaner water, enforced civil rights, protected public health and safety. We have come a long way, and obviously we have made some progress in these areas. But we still have a long way to go. It is my hope that during this session of Congress we will debate issues like the Patients' Bill of Rights, an increase in the minimum wage, defense of the environment and other important measures. However this bill, this bill provides a legislative vehicle, a opportunity for Members to maneuver around, kill or delay important health and safety protections without directly voting against them and without a full and fair debate. Mr. Chairman, this bill inappropriately raises expense concerns above health and safety in the public interest.

So I ask my colleagues: At what expense are we talking when we talk about the cost of gambling away the health and safety of our Nation's children, our Nation's workers, our families who rely upon basic protections? We cannot put a cost on improving living and working conditions. How high is high? How low is low?

Finally, this bill concentrates on the hardships placed on businesses, but it completely ignores the benefits of feeding the hungry, or looking after the needs of those who must have their health and safety preserved, or improving the environment and our Nation's precious natural resources, protecting public health and safety and enforcing the rights of all of our citizens. Yes, we need to make sure that we provide opportunity for businesses to grow and develop and thrive, but we also need to make sure that we have the tools to vote on these basic proposals on the basis of merit rather than hiding behind a procedural vote or dealing with the process which oftentimes does not let the public know exactly what it is we have done or what positions we have taken.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would urge support of the Waxman amendment.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN). As a former mayor, I can tell my colleagues that the unfunded mandates law was one of the most important reforms that Congress has ever passed. It was important because it forced Congress to vote on new mandates that would be imposed on our State and our local governments, and by forcing Congress to vote on these mandates Congress would think before it mandated.

Some predicted that the effect of this law would be to undermine health, safety and environmental laws. They were wrong. All that this law did was to make Congress think before it mandates. Today this bipartisan mandate reform legislation does the same thing. It makes Congress stop and think before it imposes private sector mandates. It will not stop us from imposing new laws to protect health, safety or the environment. It will not stop any new laws. But what it will do is require the Congress to vote on new private sector mandates that are imposed on our small businessmen and women.

Like the unfunded mandates law, it requires us to think before we mandate. The Waxman amendment removes the most important part of this legislation, the requirement that Congress thinks before it mandates. It eliminates the accountability provision, and this is wrong.

Mr. Chairman, as a mayor, a small business person and as a mother, I strongly support a safer, healthier America. I will always support laws that keep our air clean and our rivers healthy and our environment safe. But today I stand before my colleagues because I have another role. I am a representative, and I believe that all of us owe it to our constituents to think before we impose new mandates on them.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Mandate Information Act and against the Waxman amendment, and I will remind my colleagues the following groups are scoring this amendment and this final vote:

- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce,
- The National Federation of Independent Business,
- The American Farm Bureau,
- The Small Business Legislative Council,
- Citizens for a Sound Economy,
- The National Restaurant Association,
- The National Retail Federation,
- The Associated Builders and Contractors,
- The American Subcontractors Association,
- The National Association of the Self-employed,
- The National Association of Manufacturers,
- and the National Roofing Contractors Association.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Waxman amendment. It is an important amendment, and I think it is very consistent with the underlying debate before us concerning unfunded mandates. Congress should be required to pay close attention to the effect of legislation on the environment and on public health just as it should be required to pay close attention to the impacts of its decisions on the private sector or the public sector as required in the previous legislation and the legislation before us today.

This amendment is here because time and again we have seen matters of the environment and public health come before the Congress with little or no debate, in some instances with no underlying hearings. Legislative riders that deal with the fundamental and basic underlying environmental laws of this country are sneaked into the appropriations bill. With no debate at all attempt is made to weaken these laws concerning clean water, clean air, toxic waste, brown fields, forests, safeguards and food safety. Time and again these matters have been brought to the floor with no provisions in their rules for debate. Very often we find that they are hidden away in the report language so we cannot get to them when we debate them on the floor of the House of Representatives and we cannot vote on these matters directly. We very often find that we are limited in the time in which we can discuss them, and they have huge impacts on our natural environment and our public health and on taxpayers.

That is why we need the Waxman amendment, so we will have the opportunity to discuss these critical issues in the light of day.

There are two reasons why these changes in environmental laws are often not brought before the Congress in freestanding bills under the legislative rules that would allow free and open debate on the provisions. One is that the anti-environmental legislation would fail if it stood on its own in the light of day as a freestanding legislation. Yet it is that the majority party does not want to openly be seen as trying to repeal Environmental Health Protection Act, so rather than put up with the debate, put up with that characterization, put up with the facts of the debate, they put this into appropriations bill where the opportunities to debate are sometimes none and sometimes very limited. Instead the majority party tucks these into the largest bill, with the must-pass appropriation bills, into bills at the end of the session, with total disregard for the impact on the environment, and those are colleagues here in the House of Representatives. Very often again these legislative riders are sent over to us in legislation that comes from the Senate where again the opportunity is not debated. We may have debated

these riders openly here on the floor of the House, we may have knocked out a number of these riders in the various appropriation bills, and then in the omnibus bill at the end of the year these riders are reinserted into that legislation, we are not given an opportunity to debate them, and the legislation is passed because it is an up-or-down vote.

This is not a contest between unfunded mandates and the environment. In many instances these two situations rise separate of one another. But this is about whether or not, as we do the people's business here, we will have the opportunity to raise these environmental and public health issues and have fair and debate on those issues. Over the last several years this has simply not been the case. Last year the omnibus appropriation bill was riddled with anti-environmental riders, preventing the tightening of the fuel economy standards, opening the coastal barriers to development, increasing logging and enabling oil and gas industries to escape paying what they owe the government. The Waxman amendment is also critical because many of times in the committee in which I serve, the Committee on Resources, legislation is passed regarding the actions to be taken by the Federal Government or private party, and the committee simply declares that those acts are sufficient under the Endangered Species Act or sufficient under the National Environmental Protection Act. The majority party in that case has made no showing that they are in fact sufficient under either of those acts. They simply declare without any debate, without discussion, without any vote that those actions are sufficient, and that is why we need the Waxman amendment.

Historically, when we have taken these kinds of actions, when we added these kinds of riders, we usually have gone back and had to spend millions of dollars to try to make up for those mistakes and the errors that were caused because those riders were offered with no ability to debate them. The Waxman amendment is an opportunity to give the environment the kind of priority that the American people attach to the subject, to give it the same kind of priority that the proponents of this legislation wish to give to unfunded mandates, another very important consideration when this Congress legislates. These are not inconsistent, they are not at odds with one another. We are simply saying that the same kind of opportunity should be given for this kind of debate. In poll after poll we see that the American people self identify themselves as strong environmentalists deeply concerned about the environment. Even when we pit them against a tradeoff for jobs in a local area, they want the environment protected, they do not want national laws weakened. And yet we see contrary to those actions and those desires by the American people the ef-

forts to slide in riders that are not open to the debate, and that is why I would encourage my colleagues to support the Waxman amendment.

□ 1230

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, this body expresses its fundamental values and its priorities in a number of ways. I feel privileged today as a new Member to have an opportunity to speak for the first time on an issue that so clearly gets to the question of what is really important to us, what are the priorities, what is most important?

Without a doubt, the cost to business is an important consideration when we look at legislation, but H.R. 350 raises the cost to business as the most important. It raises it above all other considerations. It makes it a top priority, the only separate hurdle that we create.

I rise to support the defense of the environment amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) because it establishes that in addition to cost to business, that we as a Nation are concerned about the cost to the safety of the workers in those businesses, the impact on the air that we breathe, the health of our citizens.

The amendment would allow Members the same opportunity to raise a point of order to block legislation that would take away existing public protections. We can demonstrate our balanced view on what is most important to this country, what is most important to our families and to our children, by supporting the Waxman amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 203, noes 216, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 16]

AYES—203

Abercrombie	Boyd	DeGette
Ackerman	Brady (PA)	Delahunt
Allen	Brown (CA)	DeLauro
Andrews	Brown (FL)	Deutsch
Baird	Brown (OH)	Dicks
Baldacci	Campbell	Dingell
Baldwin	Capps	Dixon
Barcia	Capuano	Doggett
Barrett (WI)	Cardin	Dooley
Becerra	Castle	Doyle
Bentsen	Clay	Edwards
Berman	Clayton	Engel
Bilbray	Clyburn	Eshoo
Bishop	Cohners	Etheridge
Blagojevich	Costello	Evans
Blumenauer	Coyne	Farr
Boehler	Crowley	Fattah
Bonior	Cummings	Filner
Borski	Davis (FL)	Forbes
Boswell	Davis (IL)	Ford
Boucher	DeFazio	Frank (MA)

Frost	Markey	Roukema
Gejdenson	Martinez	Roybal-Allard
Gephardt	Mascara	Sabo
Gilchrest	Matsui	Sanchez
Gonzalez	McCarthy (MO)	Sanders
Green (TX)	McCarthy (NY)	Sawyer
Gutierrez	McDermott	Saxton
Hall (OH)	McGovern	Scarborough
Hastings (FL)	McKinney	Schakowsky
Hill (IN)	McNulty	Scott
Hilliard	Meehan	Serrano
Hinchee	Meek (FL)	Shays
Hinojosa	Meeks (NY)	Sherman
Hoefel	Menendez	Shows
Holden	Millender-	Skelton
Holt	McDonald	Slaughter
Hooley	Miller, George	Smith (NJ)
Horn	Minge	Smith (WA)
Hoyer	Mink	Snyder
Inslee	Moakley	Stabenow
Jackson (IL)	Moore	Stark
Jackson-Lee	Moran (VA)	Strickland
(TX)	Morella	Stupak
Jefferson	Nadler	Tauscher
Johnson (CT)	Napolitano	Taylor (MS)
Johnson, E. B.	Neal	Thompson (CA)
Kanjorski	Oberstar	Thompson (MS)
Kaptur	Obey	Thurman
Kelly	Olver	Tierney
Kennedy	Ortiz	Towns
Kildee	Owens	Udall (CO)
Kilpatrick	Pallone	Udall (NM)
Kind (WI)	Pascrell	Velazquez
Klecza	Pastor	Vento
Kucinich	Payne	Visclosky
LaFalce	Pelosi	Waters
Lampson	Peterson (MN)	Watt (NC)
Lantos	Phelps	Waxman
Larson	Pomeroy	Weiner
Lazio	Price (NC)	Weldon (PA)
Leach	Rahall	Wexler
Lee	Ramstad	Weygand
Levin	Rangel	Wise
Lewis (GA)	Reyes	Woolsey
Lipinski	Rivers	Wu
Lowey	Rodriguez	Wynn
Luther	Roemer	
Maloney (CT)	Rothman	

NOES—216

Aderholt	Diaz-Balart	Hutchinson
Archer	Dickey	Hyde
Armey	Doolittle	Istook
Baker	Dreier	Jenkins
Ballenger	Duncan	John
Barr	Dunn	Johnson, Sam
Barrett (NE)	Ehlers	Kasich
Bartlett	Ehrlich	King (NY)
Barton	Emerson	Kingston
Bass	English	Knollenberg
Bateman	Everett	Kolbe
Bereuter	Ewing	Kuykendall
Berry	Fletcher	LaHood
Biggert	Foley	Largent
Bilirakis	Fossella	Latham
Bliley	Fowler	LaTourette
Blunt	Franks (NJ)	Lewis (CA)
Boehner	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (KY)
Bonilla	Galleghy	Linder
Bono	Ganske	Livingston
Bryant	Gekas	LoBiondo
Burr	Gibbons	Lucas (KY)
Burton	Gillmor	Lucas (OK)
Buyer	Gilman	Manzullo
Callahan	Goode	McCollum
Calvert	Goodlatte	McCrery
Camp	Goodling	McHugh
Canady	Gordon	McInnis
Cannon	Goss	McIntosh
Chabot	Graham	McIntyre
Chambliss	Granger	McKeon
Chenoweth	Green (WI)	Metcalf
Clement	Greenwood	Mica
Coble	Gutknecht	Miller (FL)
Coburn	Hall (TX)	Miller, Gary
Collins	Hansen	Mollohan
Combest	Hastings (WA)	Moran (KS)
Condit	Hayes	Murtha
Cook	Hayworth	Myrick
Cooksey	Hefley	Nethercutt
Cox	Herger	Ney
Cramer	Hill (MT)	Northup
Crane	Hilleary	Norwood
Cubin	Hobson	Nussle
Cunningham	Hoekstra	Ose
Danner	Hostettler	Oxley
Deal	Houghton	Packard
DeLay	Hulshof	Paul
DeMint	Hunter	Pease

Peterson (PA)	Schaffer	Tauzin
Petri	Sensenbrenner	Taylor (NC)
Pickering	Sessions	Terry
Pickett	Shadegg	Thomas
Pombo	Shaw	Thornberry
Porter	Sherwood	Thune
Portman	Shinkus	Tiahrt
Pryce (OH)	Shuster	Toomey
Quinn	Simpson	Trafficant
Radanovich	Sisisky	Turner
Regula	Skeen	Upton
Reynolds	Smith (MI)	Walden
Riley	Smith (TX)	Walsh
Rogan	Souder	Wamp
Rogers	Spence	Watkins
Rohrabacher	Stearns	Weldon (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen	Stenholm	Weller
Royce	Stump	Whitfield
Ryan (WI)	Sununu	Wicker
Ryun (KS)	Sweeney	Wilson
Salmon	Talent	Wolf
Sandlin	Tancredo	Young (AK)
Sanford	Tanner	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—14

Bachus	Jones (NC)	Pitts
Berkley	Jones (OH)	Rush
Brady (TX)	Klink	Spratt
Carson	Lofgren	Watts (OK)
Davis (VA)	Maloney (NY)	

□ 1249

Mr. EWING changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 16, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 16, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Stated against:

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 16, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Are there any other amendments?

If not, the Clerk will designate section 5.

The text of section 5 is as follows:

SEC. 5. FEDERAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANDATE.

Section 421(5)(B) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658(5)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking "the provision" after "if";

(2) in clause (i)(I) by inserting "the provision" before "would";

(3) in clause (i)(II) by inserting "the provision" before "would"; and

(4) in clause (ii)—

(A) by inserting "that legislation, statute, or regulation does not provide" before "the State"; and

(B) by striking "lack" and inserting "new or expanded".

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. If there are no other amendments, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 350, the Mandates Information Act of 1999. This legislation is the result of a bipartisan effort between my fellow Blue Dog, Representative GARY CONDIT, and Representative ROB PORTMAN.

In 1995, Congress passed the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). This bill, eventually signed into law, has successfully limited

the imposition of unfunded Federal mandates on state and local governments. This legislation was uniformly hailed by elected officials in my District and across the country who, for too long, had to bear the brunt of unfunded mandates.

H.R. 350 builds on the success of UMRA by requiring Congress to deal honestly with Federal mandates imposed on the private sector. The bill directs the Congressional Budget Office and congressional committees to assess the impact of private sector mandates contained in legislation reported to the House and Senate for consideration. For mandates that exceed \$100 million, it allows any Member of Congress to force a separate debate and vote specifically on whether to consider legislation to impose such a mandate on the private sector. This legislation ensures that Members of Congress will have the most factual information possible on the effects of private sector mandates.

Opponents of this legislation claim it will undermine important public safety and environmental laws. This is simply not true. This bill will, however, cause this body to carefully review the costs of legislation on employers, employees, and consumers. The intent of this bill is to promote compromise and to mitigate the effects of unintended costs on the private sector, not to undermine our important public safety laws.

I commend my colleague from California and my colleague from Ohio for crafting this important piece of legislation and I look forward to supporting its passage.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 350 is misguided legislation that could delay and handcuff this Body to prevent the passage of sound policy and laws. H.R. 350 ignores history and dooms Congressional ability to respond to a crisis. Many of my Colleagues have only served during the good economic times of the Clinton recovery and were not here for the tough periods of the Reagan recession. If more of you had been here during those times, perhaps this ill-conceived legislation would not be scheduled to accelerated consideration.

While some tout the virtues of private profits over government regulations, I urge the members to consider the S&L crisis and the impact that this legislation would have had on such matter. As Members may recall, this too was an era that placed profits ahead of sound regulation. In an atmosphere of anything goes, risky investments and profit driven decisions led high flying thrifts across the country to risk everything at the altar of profit. That philosophy led to inevitable failures that cost the American taxpayer over \$150 billion to maintain the promise of savings deposit insurance. Only through the passage of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA) was Congress and the banking regulators able to respond and to stem the flow of taxpayer dollars.

FIRREA was controversial and only passed with strong bipartisan support and the active support of the Bush Administration. It was tough medicine for the thrift industry but the remedial steps in this crucial law had to be taken. Only through this legislation were federal regulators given the authority that they needed to bring rogue thrifts under control. However, if H.R. 350 had been the law of the land, the strong FIERRA measure in all probability would not have been enacted into law.

Instead of enacting an effective law, Congress would have gotten entwined in a debate on a procedural motion. Accountability of individual members would have been replaced with parliamentary hair splitting, rendering this Congress incapable of action in the face of crisis having the life sucked out through needless procedural votes leaving a hollow shell instead of a tough law and action.

H.R. 350 implies a rigid standard that does not recognize the need for prompt legislative action in times of a fiscal crisis. On such a serious flaw alone this measure should be rejected out of hand. Furthermore no sound criteria are established to serve as a reference of information upon which to base such cost numbers.

Its inherent flaws may still be remedied to bring some semblance of merit and balance to this process. Sound criteria and addressing a real problem in the congressional process. That is why I strongly supported the Boehlert amendment and especially the Waxman amendment. The Waxman amendment's purpose is clear—to extend the procedural safeguards of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act to preserve the environment and protect the public's health and safety. It is time to bring the focus of debate back to the American people, the people who vote for you and I with the logical expectation to be represented in this chamber, and to reject the interest groups that want to trump public policy and legislative action with a procedural gauntlet. During my tenure in the House, I have become keenly aware of the American public's passion to preserve and protect the environment and welfare of our fellow citizens, and time after time I have helplessly watched anti-environmental riders especially in the past four years quietly slip into important but unrelated spending measures without deliberations, discussion, debate without a vote, or input from those who seek to fulfill their role and promise as representatives of the American people and their will.

The premise behind H.R. 350 is simple, but its consequences will be dire. Any member who believes that a piece of legislation will directly cost the private sector \$100 million or more, whether the Congressional Budget Office concurs or not, may raise a point of order, debate this point, and then a simple majority vote could halt any further consideration of this legislation. The Boehlert amendment was intended to rectify this flaw. This is, for all intents and purposes, a simple, yet effective stall tactic—the House's answer to the Senate's filibuster. Now some of this maybe changed, but placing the House in a straight jacket of procedures such as this simply frustrates the role of the House to write laws.

H.R. 350 can and will prevent the enactment of very important social and environmental legislation including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, nursing home standards, and transportation projects. It would provide those who continue to fight for the social and environmental welfare of the people and their land another procedural obstacle with which to contend.

The passage of H.R. 350, without Mr. WAXMAN's amendment would leave us powerless to debate anti-environmental riders inserted in appropriations measures. The passage of this amendment is essential. It provides for an informed debate and accountable vote on legislation that repeals private sector mandates that protect the public's health and safety and

the environment. In 1998 alone, the League of Conservation Voters reported more than 40 riders that would have weakened public health and public land protection were attached to appropriations bills ranging from stalling Superfund reform to increasing the clear cutting of our national forests. No one under current House rules was allowed the opportunity to debate and have a separate vote on these measures. If enacted, Mr. WAXMAN's amendment will allow us to debate and vote on a rider that neither the committee of jurisdiction nor the full House has been allowed to review. It costs no money, burdens no business, and takes no authority or power away from Congress. It simply provides an avenue for members to discuss, debate, and vote on questionable riders. Some opponents argue it would delay action because of the need to have substantive information. In other words, don't look before you jump; this argument flies in the face of the common sense Waxman amendment result.

The Framers of the Constitution realized the necessity of incorporating a system of checks and balances between the three branches of government to allow our Nation to remain balanced, steady, and constant.

We need to restore this balance to the House of Representatives and bring the chance for fair debate back to all of us today, not tomorrow. Don't hide your actions and policy acts in the by-lines of a multi-volume appropriations measure. Stand at the podium and debate your ideas in a fair and democratic way, the way the framers of our constitution envisioned. You can do that by voting in favor of the Waxman amendment and not disabling measures by attempting to catch in a web of process.

This Congress doesn't need more ways to frustrate the writing of law and action on the floor. Rather what should be the order of the day is deliberate action, fair debate, and rules to let the body work its will. But this GOP majority continues down the road dreaming up ways to sidestep issues, avoid facing questions, and voting on the merits of issues all in the name of process. The "majority" in this House is aiding and abetting the special interests. This measure is just another attempt to sidestep a straight vote for fair consideration of a bill. Between the closed rules, riders, and out right obfuscation cementing in place super majorities, one would think the GOP was not just planning to be in the minority, but practicing such a rule today. The public sees through this conduct and hopefully will be happy to accommodate such behavior in the next general polling.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Boehlert amendment to H.R. 350. It perfects the important goal of this legislation to require Congress to focus even more closely on the costs that would be imposed on an industry or small business sector if a particular legislative proposal is enacted into law.

I strongly support the goal of H.R. 350 and I applaud Mr. PORTMAN and Mr. CONDIT's hard work on this issue. I voted for the Mandates Information Act in the 105th Congress and I would like to do so again. However, I am not convinced that the bill's provision to allow major legislation to be pulled from the floor after 20 minutes debate on a point of order is needed to protect private industry. I believe the Boehlert amendment would address this problem.

First, the Boehlert amendment will allow 20 minutes of additional debate on the cost issue beyond the time for general debate. This is consistent with the stated purpose of the Mandates Information Act.

Section 3 of the bill states that its purpose is to provide more complete information about the effects of private mandates and ensure focused deliberation on those effects. It seeks to distinguish between mandates that harm consumers, workers, and small businesses, and mandates that help those groups.

Second, there is more accountability with the Boehlert amendment. H.R. 350 would allow any Member to claim the proposed bill would impose \$100 million in expense without any independent verification. In contrast, the Boehlert amendment would require CBO, in most cases, to verify that the bill or amendment indeed imposes \$100 million in private sector costs. This is something CBO already does and would not gut the bill.

Third, the Boehlert amendment prevents the rules of debate in the people's House from being tilted in one direction or the other. It keeps the playing field level. It keeps the debate going.

I have heard many assert that the private sector needs this bill to level the playing field with the public sector. After all, we have a law which allows a Member to raise a point of order when Congress is debating legislation that would impose a \$50 million mandate on the public sector. Why not give the private sector the same privilege when twice that amount will be imposed on them?

Like Mr. PORTMAN and Mr. CONDIT, I was a strong advocate of limiting the Federal Government's ability to pass on unfunded mandates to State and local governments. Congress and the executive branch too often set standards for Federal programs and then simply passed on their implementation to the States, resulting in a distortion of our Federal system of government.

The Federal Government does sometimes place unfair costs on the private sector. This is often done in an effort to correct a problem such as pollution or to protect other aspects of the public's health and safety. The Federal Government can and must do a better job of balancing public health and safety concerns with the costs we impose on business, particularly small business. The Federal Government still finds ways to add multiple layers of bureaucracy and paperwork burdens that no businessman, especially a small businessman, should have to suffer.

However, any Member of Congress who has sat through a committee markup on any important business issue knows that virtually every industry and business sector makes its views known forcefully to Congress. Legislation often stalls, sometimes with good reason, because a particular business sector makes the case it is unfair to them. I am not convinced that we need an automatic vote on the floor after only 20 minutes of debate if a business or industry simply asserts it will cost over \$100 million, without any demonstrable proof.

Congress and Federal agencies must focus their attention on reforming these outdated regulatory schemes and replacing them with "market based" regulatory systems—ones that will provide the same public benefit for half the cost.

Rather than limiting the process of debate on laws which impact the private sector, Con-

gress must find ways to change industry incentives from avoiding regulation to rewarding companies that are innovative in their control of waste streams. It should start with reforming one of the most costly, slow, and unnecessarily expensive laws on the books—superfund. Tackling specific problems like superfund is how we can best help give our constituents relief from the unintended consequences of Federal laws, not by forcing legislation to be pulled from the floor after only 20 minutes of debate.

In closing, if you believe in more debate, more accountability, a level playing field of debate vote for the Boehlert amendments and then support H.R. 350.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE) having assumed the chair, Mr. LAHOOD, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 350) to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 36, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 274, noes 149, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No 17]

AYES—274

Aderholt	Blunt	Chenoweth
Archer	Boehner	Clement
Armey	Bonilla	Coble
Bachus	Bono	Coburn
Baker	Boswell	Collins
Ballenger	Boyd	Combest
Barcia	Bryant	Condit
Barr	Burr	Cook
Barrett (NE)	Burton	Cooksey
Bartlett	Buyer	Costello
Barton	Callahan	Cramer
Bass	Calvert	Crane
Bateman	Camp	Cubin
Bentsen	Campbell	Cunningham
Bereuter	Canady	Danner
Berry	Cannon	Davis (FL)
Biggart	Capps	Davis (VA)
Bilirakis	Castle	Deal
Bishop	Chabot	DeLay
Bliley	Chambliss	DeMint

Deutch	Knollenberg	Rogers
Dickey	Kolbe	Rohrabacher
Dooley	Kuykendall	Roukema
Doolittle	LaHood	Royce
Doyle	Largent	Ryan (WI)
Dreier	Latham	Ryun (KS)
Duncan	LaTourette	Salmon
Dunn	Lazio	Sanchez
Ehlers	Leach	Sandlin
Ehrlich	Lewis (CA)	Sanford
Emerson	Lewis (KY)	Scarborough
English	Linder	Schaffer
Etheridge	Lipinski	Sensenbrenner
Everett	Livingston	Sessions
Ewing	LoBiondo	Shadegg
Fletcher	Lucas (KY)	Shaw
Foley	Lucas (OK)	Sherwood
Ford	Luther	Shimkus
Fossella	Maloney (CT)	Shows
Fowler	Manzullo	Shuster
Franks (NJ)	McCarthy (MO)	Simpson
Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (NY)	Sisisky
Galleghy	McCollum	Skeen
Ganske	McCreery	Skelton
Gekas	McHugh	Smith (NJ)
Gibbons	McInnis	Smith (TX)
Gillmor	McIntosh	Smith (WA)
Gilman	McIntyre	Snyder
Goode	McKeon	Souder
Goodlatte	Metcalf	Spence
Goodling	Mica	Stabenow
Gordon	Miller (FL)	Stearns
Goss	Miller, Gary	Stenholm
Graham	Graham	Strickland
Green (TX)	Minge	Stump
Green (WI)	Moore	Sununu
Gutknecht	Moran (KS)	Sweeney
Hall (TX)	Moran (VA)	Talent
Hansen	Murtha	Tancredo
Hastert	Myrick	Tanner
Hastings (WA)	Nethercutt	Tauscher
Hayes	Ney	Tauzin
Hayworth	Norwood	Taylor (MS)
Hefley	Nussle	Taylor (NC)
Herger	Ortiz	Terry
Hill (IN)	Ose	Thomas
Hill (MT)	Oxley	Thompson (CA)
Hilleary	Packard	Thornberry
Hinojosa	Paul	Thune
Hobson	Pease	Thurman
Hoekstra	Peterson (MN)	Tiahrt
Holden	Peterson (PA)	Toomey
Hooley	Petri	Traficant
Hostettler	Pickering	Turner
Houghton	Pickett	Upton
Hulshof	Pitts	Walden
Hunter	Pombo	Walsh
Hutchinson	Pomeroy	Wamp
Hyde	Porter	Watkins
Istook	Portman	Watts (OK)
Jackson-Lee	Price (NC)	Weldon (FL)
(TX)	Pryce (OH)	Weldon (PA)
Jenkins	Quinn	Weller
John	Radanovich	Weygand
Johnson (CT)	Ramstad	Whitfield
Johnson, Sam	Regula	Wicker
Jones (NC)	Reyes	Wilson
Kasich	Reynolds	Wise
Kelly	Riley	Wolf
Kind (WI)	Rivers	Young (AK)
King (NY)	Roemer	Young (FL)
Kingston	Rogan	

NOES—149

Abercrombie	Clyburn	Gephardt
Ackerman	Conyers	Gilchrest
Allen	Coyne	Gonzalez
Baird	Crowley	Greenwood
Baldacci	Cummings	Gutierrez
Baldwin	Davis (IL)	Hall (OH)
Barrett (WI)	DeFazio	Hastings (FL)
Becerra	DeGette	Hilliard
Berkley	Delahunt	Hinche
Berman	DeLauro	Hoeffel
Bilbray	Diaz-Balart	Holt
Blagojevich	Dicks	Horn
Blumenauer	Dingell	Hoyer
Boehler	Dixon	Inslee
Bonior	Doggett	Jackson (IL)
Borski	Engel	Jefferson
Boucher	Eshoo	Johnson, E. B.
Brady (PA)	Evans	Jones (OH)
Brown (CA)	Farr	Kanjorski
Brown (FL)	Fattah	Kaptur
Brown (OH)	Filner	Kennedy
Capuano	Forbes	Kildee
Cardin	Frank (MA)	Kilpatrick
Clay	Frost	Kleccka
Clayton	Gejdenson	Klink

Kucinich	Moakley	Saxton
LaFalce	Mollohan	Shakowsky
Lampson	Morella	Scott
Lantos	Nadler	Serrano
Larson	Napolitano	Shays
Lee	Neal	Sherman
Levin	Oberstar	Slaughter
Lewis (GA)	Obey	Stark
Lowey	Olver	Stupak
Markey	Owens	Thompson (MS)
Martinez	Pallone	Tierney
Mascara	Pascrell	Towns
Matsui	Pastor	Udall (CO)
McDermott	Payne	Udall (NM)
McGovern	Pelosi	Velazquez
McKinney	Phelps	Vento
McNulty	Rahall	Visclosky
Meehan	Rangel	Waters
Meek (FL)	Rodriguez	Watt (NC)
Meeks (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen	Waxman
Menendez	Rothman	Weiner
Millender	Roybal-Allard	Wexler
McDonald	Sabo	Woolsey
Miller, George	Sanders	Wu
Mink	Sawyer	Wynn

NOT VOTING—11

Andrews	Edwards	Rush
Brady (TX)	Granger	Smith (MI)
Carson	Lofgren	Spratt
Cox	Maloney (NY)	

□ 1311

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD changed her vote from "aye" to "no."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 17 on H.R. 350, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 17, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 16 and 17, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 16, and "yes" on No. 17, final passage.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 350, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KING HUSSEIN IBN TALAL AL-HASHEM

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to consider Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 in the House, and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to final adoption without intervening motion except for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by myself and by

the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON).

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I call up the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 7) honoring the life and legacy of King Hussein ibn Talal al-Hashem, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 7

Whereas King Hussein ibn Talal al-Hashem was born in Amman on November 14, 1935;

Whereas he was proclaimed King of Jordan in August of 1952 at the age of 17 following the assassination of his grandfather, King Abdullah and the abdication of his father, Talal;

Whereas King Hussein became the longest serving head of state in the Middle East, working with every United States President since Dwight D. Eisenhower;

Whereas under King Hussein, Jordan has instituted wide-ranging democratic reforms;

Whereas throughout his life, King Hussein survived multiple assassination attempts, plots to overthrow his government and attacks on Jordan, invariably meeting such attacks with fierce courage and devotion to his Kingdom and its people;

Whereas despite decades of conflict with the State of Israel, King Hussein invariably maintained a dialogue with the Jewish state, and ultimately signed a full-fledged peace treaty with Israel on October 26, 1994;

Whereas King Hussein has established a model for Arab-Israeli coexistence in Jordan's ties with the State of Israel, including deepening political and cultural relations, growing trade and economic ties and other major accomplishments;

Whereas King Hussein contributed to the cause of peace in the Middle East with tireless energy, rising from his sick bed at the last to assist in the Wye Plantation talks between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas King Hussein fought cancer with the same courage he displayed in tirelessly promoting and making invaluable contributions to peace in the Middle East;

Whereas on February 7, 1999, King Hussein succumbed to cancer in Amman, Jordan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of King Hussein and to all the people of Jordan in this difficult time;

(2) expresses admiration for King Hussein's enlightened leadership and gratitude for his support for peace throughout the Middle East;

(3) expresses its support and best wishes for the new government of Jordan under King Abdullah;

(4) reaffirms the United States commitment to strengthening the vital relationship between our two governments and peoples.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased.

□ 1315

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Pursuant to

the order of the House today, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. Con. Res. 7.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to accompany President Clinton, former President Bush, former President Ford, and former President Carter to King Hussein's funeral as the Speaker's representative.

World leaders, and there were many who attended the funeral, were all profoundly saddened by the loss on Sunday, February 7 of His Majesty, King Hussein bin Talal al-Hashem of Jordan.

We are today considering S. Con. Res. 7 which honors the life and legacy of King Hussein, extending the deepest sympathies and condolences of the United States Congress to Her Majesty, Queen Noor, King Abdullah, and the entire Hashemite family, and all citizens of Jordan during this most difficult period.

S. Con. Res. 7, sponsored by Majority Leader LOTT, notes King Hussein's illustrious, dedicated service to the people of Jordan, and his commitment to peace throughout the Middle East, expressing our admiration for King Hussein's enlightened leadership in his pursuit of peace.

It also expresses our support for the new government of Jordan under King Abdullah and reaffirms our commitment to strengthening the relationship between our two nations.

Mr. Speaker, King Hussein was proclaimed Jordan's monarch in 1952 at the very young age of 17 following the assassination of his grandfather, King Abdullah, and the medically required abdication of his father, Talal. King Hussein became the longest serving head of state in the Middle East and had a personal relationship with every United States President beginning with President Eisenhower.

In a region rife with political intrigue, King Hussein was a true survivor, displaying pinpoint tactical ability to survive multiple assassination attempts and plots to overthrow his government. He courageously defended his kingdom and its people even when, on occasion, his decisions differed with those of our own government.

King Hussein dedicated his life to bringing peace and stability to Jordan and to the entire Middle East. He suc-

ceeded through the sheer force of will, as well as his dedication, his persistence, and his vision for a brighter future.

Under his leadership, Jordan matured from its beginnings as a desert kingdom to one of the leading nations of the Middle East. King Hussein instituted wide-ranging democratic reforms, and a friendship between our Nation and Jordan grew even stronger based on mutual respect and our common interests.

This enduring partnership bodes well for cooperation and development in Jordan as we witness a transition to King Hussein's eldest son and heir, King Abdullah.

Throughout King Hussein's reign, his search for peace was everlasting. Despite decades of conflict with Israel, King Hussein maintained secret contacts with Israeli leaders throughout the years. Under his leadership, a historic peace treaty was signed between Jordan and Israel on October 26, 1994, which King Hussein termed his crowning achievement and which today serves as a model for Arab-Israeli co-existence.

Mr. Speaker, in all probability, the Wye River Memorandum between Israel and the Palestinian Authority last October would not have been signed had it not been for King Hussein who rose from his hospital bed at the Mayo Clinic to travel to the Wye Plantation to inspire its participants.

Throughout his life, King Hussein was renowned as a man of courage, of wisdom, dignity, and strength. All of us recognize the extraordinary impact that King Hussein had on the people of Jordan, on our own Nation, and upon the world. This measure before us assures the citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan that the friendship, support, and assistance of our Nation will continue as part of King Hussein's legacy to its people.

Mr. Speaker, one of the noblest men I have had the privilege of knowing is now destined for the ages. When the King addressed Congress after the announcement that peace with Israel had been achieved, he said, and I quote, "The two Semitic peoples, the Arabs and the Jews, have endured bitter trials and tribulations during their journey through history."

"Let us resolve to end this suffering forever and to fulfill our responsibilities as leaders of our peoples, and our duty as human beings toward mankind."

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of us will take those words to heart and carry on the legacy that King Hussein bequeathed to us and the world. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to lend their full support to S. Con. Res. 7.

Mr. Speaker, it was my solemn duty and honor to represent this House with my distinguished colleague Mr. BONIOR, the Minority Whip, and Presidents Clinton, Ford, Bush, and Carter, at the funeral on Monday of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, a leader of vision and courage and a true friend of the United States.

In the course of that funeral and from all corners of the world, there have been many fitting tributes to the man who ruled Jordan for 47 years and made his country a partner with the United States and with Israel for peace in the Middle East. One of those tributes was issued by the American Jewish Committee, an organization committed to strengthening the U.S.-Jordan relationship in the context of its support for a secure and lasting peace for Israel, containment of radical movements and regimes, and stability in a region vital to U.S. interests.

I wish to call my colleagues' attention to the following statement, issued by the American Jewish Committee upon the death of King Hussein:

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE MOURNS KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN, HAILING HIS COURAGEOUS EMBRACE OF TRUE PEACE WITH ISRAEL'

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—The American Jewish Committee today mourned the death of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan. The organization's President, Bruce M. Ramer, and Executive Director, David A. Harris, issued the following statement:

"The American Jewish Committee mourns with the subjects of His Majesty King Hussein, and all peace-loving people, the untimely passing of this extraordinary leader, whose statesmanship forever altered the stale dynamic of Arab-Israeli relations.

"In his courageous embrace of real peace with Israel, King Hussein led his nation toward a new Middle East, in which Arab and Jew would not only reconcile but join hands, respecting each other's rights and borders and working together against the ominous forces—hate, violence, greed and poverty—that stalk the region. That his noble vision remains only partly fulfilled is a summons to all of us to redouble our efforts, together, for the cause of peace he so bravely championed.

"In the years since the October 1994 treaty between Jordan and Israel, King Hussein demonstrated in ways both grand and intimate his commitment to true peace—interrupting his medical treatment to help President Clinton, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and Chairman Arafat conclude the Wye River agreement last October; visiting the families of Israeli schoolchildren murdered by a crazed Jordanian soldier two years ago; eulogizing, with majestic eloquence, his 'brother' in the search for peace, Prime Minister Rabin.

"My colleagues and I were privileged to meet with His Majesty from time to time, in our country and his. We will cherish our own memories of his wisdom and compassion as he articulated in these discussions his bold vision of cooperation across the Jordan River and throughout the Middle East. As we mourn this great leader, and as we strive, as Americans and as Jews, for new understanding and an enduring peace between Arabs and Israelis, we look forward to our continuing work with the government and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

"We express our profound sympathy to His Majesty's family and to all his people at this time of great sadness."

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) a member of our committee, and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to yield time to other Members.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, the breadth in this institution of respect for King Hussein is reflected by the Members across the political spectrum who are here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the minority whip, for his statement.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, people all over the world mourn the death of Jordan's King Hussein. He was, as my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), has just said, a man of honor, a man of wisdom, and beyond everything else, he was a man of peace.

I was deeply honored to help represent this House, along with the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN), at the King's funeral. It was a very sad, sobering, but moving experience to see the leaders of the world, kings and princes and presidents and prime ministers from every continent, small countries, large countries. It was an amazing collection of the most powerful people on our planet.

The funeral procession itself, it was solemn. It was simple. But in its simplicity and its solemnity, it was majestic. It was not just presidents and kings, but it was people from everyday life who had traveled to Amman out of love and respect and out of sadness. Not just friends, but strangers, and, yes, even enemies.

President Asad from Syria was there. And I was told it had been the first time that President Asad had appeared at any meeting where Israelis and Israeli government officials were present. The Israeli government and the Israeli Society sent a broad spectrum of individuals. All their candidates for the prime minister's job were there as well as religious leaders and others who had played an important role in the history between these two countries.

In death, as in life, King Hussein brought people together. He was an extraordinary man. Like all of us, he made mistakes, but he learned from them. He grew as a man and as a leader. It was one of the most interesting and moving parts of his reign to watch him grow from a young man, not a boy, but a young man of 17 who took the thrown and matured in a most amazing way to understand and grasp the meaning and the power of peace. It takes more courage to make peace than war.

Writing of King Hussein and the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Tom Friedman of the New York Times wrote, and I quote, "There is something about watching these graybeards standing up, breaking with the past, offering a handshake to a lifelong foe and saying: Enough. I was wrong. This war is stupid. It keeps alive the idea that anything is possible in politics, even in Middle East politics."

King Hussein inspired us all with his courage. Instead of looking backward

with bitterness, he chose to look forward with hope and with possibility.

King Hussein's death makes the peace process in the Middle East more challenging than ever. We ask ourselves how can such a man ever be replaced. The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) I think said it very well. When the Wye Accords were floundering at the retreat in the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay not many months ago, a retreat that was meant to breathe some life into a dying process that could have resulted in catastrophic consequences, not only for the countries involved, but for the broader world, when that process was just about to collapse, the President called King Hussein at the Mayo clinic in Rochester, New York and asked him to come. The King said "Of course I will come if you think it could help." The President's response was "Of course it will help," because he understood and knew how much respect the King had among the players in this ever-flowing and ever-ongoing struggle for peace in this region.

So the King, dying and ill, came and spent time. Of course it was impossible in his presence for those that were participating to have walked out and to deny the work that was necessary to keep the peace together.

So the question of whether or not he can be replaced or not is a good question. Of course he cannot. But he also showed us that one person can make a difference, that each of us, through our work and our lives, can leave the world a better place. He demonstrated that all of us can grow from experience and reach out to those with differences. Each of us must remember the example that King Hussein set and recommit ourselves to peace.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution in his honor. I send, again, my condolences to his family, to the Queen who has acquitted herself with so much grace and so much power and who herself has devoted her energies to peace, active in the campaign against land mines and other endeavors.

I extend my condolences to the Queen's mother and father, very lovely people who I had a chance to meet and to talk with on the way over, and of course to the King's children and to the people of Jordan.

□ 1330

I also would like to say that I support President Clinton's call for assisting Jordan by helping to pay down its debt, to improve economic ties, and doing our part to keep the peace process moving forward.

The King's legacy is one of tolerance and friendship and hope for peace. We can best honor his memory by working to make his great vision a reality.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the chairman for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

I rise as a representative of Rochester, Minnesota. And over the last 7 to 10 years, King Hussein probably spent about as much time in my district in Minnesota as anywhere in the United States. And I always knew when he was in town because this big, beautiful airplane that he was so proud of was there at the Rochester Airport. Many people may not know it, but he was very fond of flying that Lockheed L-1011 all the way from Jordan to Rochester, Minnesota. We regret that, in the end, the procedures that were attempted to save his life were not successful.

But I rise today to speak on behalf of my constituents because many of them got a chance to meet King Hussein and his Queen wife and the rest of the royal family and all the people from Jordan who came with him, and they were always impressive. In fact, in the last several years sometimes literally he and his wife would rent a little red Volkswagen Beetle and they would travel around southeastern Minnesota and many people got a chance to meet him, and everyone who did was impressed with his humanity and the way that he dealt with people. All the people who touched King Hussein were impressed by him and his gentleness.

He was in many respects a dichotomy. He was a king and yet he had the common touch. He was trained as a warrior but he spent most of his life fighting for peace. He was a pilot and yet he was down-to-earth. He stood barely five-foot-five inches tall and yet he will be remembered as a giant of this century.

We mourn his loss today. We share the pain of his family and of his people. We must now renew his commitment to humanity and his commitment to peace.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the very distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Relations and his staff.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to speak to this because King Hussein's passing should not go unrecognized by any of us, because he made a difference with his life and he left a legacy that will shine brightly in the history books. He was a kind and gentle man but also a strong and courageous person. He was a leader in a part of the world and at a time that desperately needed strong and good leadership.

It is said that he was very tough, but he was not ruthless. They tell a story of one of his political opponents who worked for years to undermine him, to overthrow his regime. He was jailed and prosecuted, of course. But when he was let out of prison, King Hussein invited him to his home and they sat down and had tea together and discussed their differences. It was that kind of toughness but goodness that sustained his kingdom.

The last time I talked with him I wanted to share with my colleagues for

a few moments because I think it spoke so much about the man. We went into a very modest house, stucco house that was in construction, certainly did not look palatial. And he sat down, he did not even have a servant at the time, and he poured his tea. And in the course of the conversation, he invited us to visit the palace but he said, "Make sure you come during the day so you do not wake up the children." Because he and Queen Noor had visited an orphanage, and seeing the condition of the children, they were moved to give over their palace, to turn it into an orphanage.

They did that. And when we drive up the driveway, this palatial driveway, we have to drive real slow because the children are running around in little scooters, playing, having fun. And when we walk in and see the way that each one of those children were being treated, it reflects how he wanted his people treated, with the kindness and gentleness and respect for all human beings that defined his philosophy. That is why he was so important to all of us.

A good friend who lives in Northern Virginia, Najeeb Halaby, was the father-in-law of King Hussein. Mr. Halaby is the father of Queen Noor and the father-in-law of King Hussein. And I know that, given all the conflict and the chaos and the challenge that his daughter has confronted with her partner, that he recognizes that his daughter was married to a great man and that in fact, because of their leadership, because of their legacy, the people of Jordan will spread the message of human rights, respect for all people, particularly women, will in fact move the Middle East into an environment of peace and justice.

That is his legacy. We thank him for it.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think that for all of us, what is clear here is that this was no ordinary world leader. World leaders who pass on are often mourned in their countries and there is often some reference abroad. But in the case of King Hussein, his personal courage and commitment to his people and the peace process has I think touched people across the globe.

I join my colleagues in offering condolences to his wife, Her Majesty Queen Noor al-Hashem; and our congratulations and pledge of support to His Majesty King Abdullah, the second ibn al-Hashem.

We have a commitment in the Middle East as a country, and our interests and the interest of peace have been furthered by King Hussein's great courage, a young man who saw his grandfather assassinated as he stood next to him. In a Middle East coming out of colonial borders that continued to change and turmoil that left thousands in cri-

sis and often in death, King Hussein continued a steady march, defending his country, trying to make his countrymen's lives better, and always trying to take the boldest steps for peace.

Often I think people misunderstood his own quiet nature and did not understand his great strength. It is clear globally today that he has set an example not just for Jordan and his son who is now king or for the crown prince but for all of us who try to participate in public service.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding.

I think it is important that we rise and acknowledge the special place that King Hussein had in this world along with his beloved people. My sympathy goes to Queen Noor and to the wonderful family of children and the family of Jordan, who loved this king.

My remarks are directed to America. For it is important for us to realize the wisdom, the greatness, the history of those who live outside of our boundaries. King Hussein was a special person, small in stature, but took up the leadership role of a great nation in his late teens. This is a remarkable accomplishment and one that our young people should look to for the fact that he was a teenager but yet had the responsibility for leadership of a nation.

The nation grew with the king. The king grew with the nation. And as he fought wars, he also fought for peace. Can we do any less in this country to know that we must protect our nation but yet be warriors for peace?

I think it is important to note that in the times of King Hussein's most painful days, suffering from a very devastating form of cancer, he did not wallow in self-pity, trying to determine how he could find the best way to live, which he was doing, but he had a keen eye on the peace process and he lifted himself, as I see some of my good friends here, lifted himself out of his sickbed and went toward the peace process, the process to bring Israel and the PLO, people of this world, people who may have differences but who he found could have a common bond. This king rose to the occasion.

And so this tribute is to recognize his spirit, his legacy, but it is also a personal commitment in which I hope my colleagues will join me, as well as the administration, as well as the American people, to understand that we must extend ourselves beyond our boundaries, that the world does include our brothers and sisters, as King Hussein reflected in his life and in his legacy.

Long live his good nation, and long live the efforts of peace, and God bless his nation as we work together to keep his legacy ongoing.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I would simply conclude the debate on our side by saying that it is my prayer and I think the prayer of every American that the God of Abraham, the God of Israel, the God of Jacob, the God of Ishmael, and the God of the Prophet Muhammad, will welcome into his kingdom and give to him the reward promised to a peacemaker, King Hussein of Jordan.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, King Hussein was a man who personified the dignity of public service. He will be sorely missed as a world leader and diplomat for world peace. Leading up to several months before his passing King Hussein was still leading the charge to bring peaceful stability to the Middle East. I would like to extend my sincere sympathy to the King's family. I know that his son will carry on his legacy.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life of a true hero of the Middle East, a true patriot, a beloved leader of his people, friend and ally of the United States, King Hussein Ibn Talal al-Hashem of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

I believe it was when, at the most tender age of 15, as his grandfather King Abdullah was assassinated before his eyes while visiting the holy site of the Al Aqsa Mosque, that this future King of Jordan had his great strength of character forged in steel.

Over his nearly 50-year reign as Jordan's Monarch, King Hussein met many challenges to his rule as a true patriot, with benevolence toward his own people and peoples throughout the region. He led with bold courage and became a visionary, and was seen often to turn away the wrath of his enemies with a gentle word and with compassionate but firm resolve even in the midst of turmoil while facing grave danger.

There was none before him so steeped in the knowledge of the history, the culture, the religion, or the traditions of all contenders for power in the region, both Jewish and Muslim. King Hussein always understood perfectly that their roots were inextricably intertwined in the fertile and historic soil of the Middle East. He met the challenges presented to him with concern for others, but first and foremost was his deep and abiding allegiance to the sovereignty of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The friendship he offered to the United States was founded upon his total respect for us as a Nation who shared his own values.

One of his greatest legacies is the significant contribution he made, right up to his death, to peace and security in the region. We witnessed his enduring personal courage as he left his treatment behind at the Mayo Clinic to hasten to the side of the President at Wye River Plantation to help the United States keep that negotiation of peace between Israel and Palestine on track.

It is for this reason, and so many other instances, that King Hussein would wish that every one of us acknowledge how vitally important it is for us to take immediate steps to strengthen the relations that exist between us in Jordan and throughout the Middle East, so that all our peoples may benefit from them.

King Hussein chose to reject violence, because it was just such violence that propelled

him into power. With the world watching, he bravely chose to reject violence and to embrace peace, and in 1994 showed remarkable courage when Jordan became only the second Arab country to sign a peace agreement with Israel.

King Hussein rejected violence and embraced peace. He showed his compassion and deep understanding when another violent act saw the 1997 murder of seven Israeli school girls. He rejected the violence but embraced peace when he traveled to Israel to visit with the families of the young victims and so joined in their mourning.

He led by example to his people and to the world at large, but especially in the Middle East. And even as the mantle of leadership for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was passed from then King Abdullah to King Hussein, so is the mantle now passed to his son, King Abdullah Bin Al-Hussein.

In memory of King Hussein's true commitment to the peace process and to the strong relationship we have forged with Jordan, I extend the hand of conciliation to his son, King Abdullah, and offer him my prayer for God's mercy, my support and my friendship as he strives to ensure that his Father's dream of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East becomes a reality.

His Majesty King Abdullah, the eldest son appointed by King Hussein before his death, received his education in England and in America, and prior to his appointment served as the Commander of the Royal Jordanian Special Forces where he honed his leadership skills.

The Appointment of the Crown Prince to succeed King Hussein will bring a continuity of his vision for Jordan, and for Peace in the Middle East, and I am confident this includes King Abdullah's commitment to the Jordan-Israel treaty of peace.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution honoring the life of King Hussein of Jordan.

King Hussein will be remembered as one of the greatest leaders of the late twentieth century. His stature, his courage, and his determination made him an international force that far surpassed the size of his tiny country.

Most of all, King Hussein will be remembered as a peacemaker. Over the four decades he led the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Hussein transformed himself from a teenager given the reins of a country at war with its neighbors, to a seasoned and benevolent statesman who saw the cause of peace as his destiny.

Hussein showed the world that you can live in a dangerous and war-infested neighborhood, and still battle first and foremost for peace. He sought peace with Israel and he facilitated peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians at the same time that he fought off a never-ending string of coup and assassination attempts at home. He saw his good friend, Yitzhak Rabin, cut down by the enemies of peace. Still, he vowed to press on, touching us all with his poignant eulogy to the fallen Prime Minister. His words at the Rabin funeral were a call to action: "Let's not keep silent. Let our voices rise high to speak of our commitment to peace for all times to come, and let us tell those who live in darkness who are the enemies of life, and through faith and religion and the teachings of our one God, this is where we stand."

And he was so committed to peace that he took time from his battle with cancer to help broker the Israeli-Prime peace accords at the Wye River Plantation last fall.

Our thoughts go out today to King Hussein's family and to the people of Jordan. I had the pleasure of meeting King Abdullah last year, and I know that the Jordanian people are in good hands. King Hussein left behind a strong governmental system and an able heir.

King Hussein once said that he wanted to give the people of the Middle East "a life free from fear, a life free from want—a life in peace." He worked tirelessly to achieve that goal, and, with our continued commitment to King Hussein's legacy, we will realize his dream.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Pursuant to the order of the House today, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the Senate concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 0, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 18]
YEAS—420

Abercrombie	Brown (CA)	Deal	Lucas (KY)	Ryun (KS)
Ackerman	Brown (FL)	DeFazio	Lucas (OK)	Sabo
Aderholt	Brown (OH)	DeGette	Luther	Salmon
Allen	Bryant	DeLahunt	Maloney (CT)	Sanchez
Andrews	Burr	DeLauro	Manzulolo	Sanders
Archer	Burton	DeLay	Markey	Sandlin
Armey	Buyer	DeMint	Martinez	Sanford
Bachus	Callahan	Deutsch	Mascara	Sawyer
Baird	Calvert	Diaz-Balart	Matsui	Saxton
Baker	Camp	Dickey	McCarthy (MO)	Scarborough
Baldacci	Campbell	Dicks	McCarthy (NY)	Schaffer
Baldwin	Canady	Dingell	McCollum	Schakowsky
Ballenger	Cannon	Dixon	McCrery	Scott
Barcia	Capps	Doggett	McDermott	Sensenbrenner
Barr	Capuano	Dooley	McGovern	Serrano
Barrett (NE)	Cardin	Doolittle	McHugh	Sessions
Barrett (WI)	Castle	Doyle	McInnis	Shadegg
Bartlett	Chabot	Dreier	McIntosh	Shaw
Bass	Chambliss	Duncan	McIntyre	Shays
Bateman	Chenoweth	Dunn	McKeon	Sherman
Becerra	Clay	Edwards	McKinney	Sherwood
Bentsen	Clayton	Ehlers	McNulty	Shimkus
Bereuter	Clement	Ehrlich	Meehan	Shows
Berkley	Clyburn	Emerson	Meek (FL)	Shuster
Berman	Coble	Engel	Meeks (NY)	Simpson
Berry	Coburn	English	Menendez	Sisisky
Biggert	Collins	Eshoo	Metcalf	Skeen
Bilbray	Combest	Etheridge	Mica	Skelton
Bilirakis	Condit	Evans	Millender-McDonald	Slaughter
Bishop	Conyers	Everett	Miller (FL)	Smith (MI)
Blagojevich	Cook	Ewing	Miller, Gary	Smith (NJ)
Biley	Cooksey	Farr	Minge	Smith (TX)
Blumenauer	Costello	Fattah	Mink	Smith (WA)
Blunt	Cox	Filner	Moakley	Snyder
Boehler	Coyne	Fletcher	Moore	Souder
Boehner	Cramer	Foley	Moran (KS)	Spence
Bonilla	Crane	Forbes	Moran (VA)	Spratt
Bonior	Crowley	Ford	Morella	Stabenow
Bono	Cubin	Fowler	Murtha	Stark
Borski	Cummings	Frank (MA)	Myrick	Stearns
Boswell	Cunningham	Franks (NJ)	Nadler	Stenholm
Boucher	Danner	Frelinghuysen	Napolitano	Strickland
Boyd	Davis (FL)	Frost	Neal	Stump
Brady (PA)	Davis (IL)	Gallegly	Nethercutt	Sununu
Brady (TX)	Davis (VA)	Ganske	Ney	Sweeney
			Northup	Talent
			Norwood	Tancredo
			Inslee	Tanner
			Istook	Tauscher
			Jackson (IL)	Tauzin
			Jackson-Lee	Taylor (NC)
			(TX)	Ose
			Jefferson	Owens
			Jenkins	Oxley
			John	Packard
			Johnson (CT)	Pallone
			Johnson, E.B.	Pascrell
			Johnson, Sam	Pastor
			Jones (NC)	Payne
			Jones (OH)	Pease
			Kanjorski	Pelosi
			Kaptur	Peterson (MN)
			Kasich	Peterson (PA)
			Kelly	Petri
			Kennedy	Phelps
			Kildee	Pickering
			Kilpatrick	Pickett
			Kind (WI)	Pitts
			King (NY)	Pombo
			Kingston	Pomeroy
			Klecza	Porter
			Klink	Portman
			Knollenberg	Price (NC)
			Kolbe	Pryce (OH)
			Kucinich	Quinn
			Kuykendall	Radanovich
			LaFalce	Rahall
			LaHood	Ramstad
			Lampson	Rangel
			Lantos	Regula
			Largent	Reynolds
			Larson	Riley
			Latham	Rivers
			LaTourette	Rodriguez
			Lazio	Roemer
			Leach	Rogan
			Lee	Rogers
			Levin	Rohrabacher
			Lewis (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen
			Lewis (GA)	Rothman
			Lewis (KY)	Rothman
			Linder	Roukema
			Lipinski	Roybal-Allard
			LoBiondo	Royce
			Lowey	Ryan (WI)
				Young (AK)
				Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Barton	Lofgren	Paul
Carson	Maloney (NY)	Rush
Fossella	Miller, George	Taylor (MS)
Gekas	Mollohan	
Livingston	Ortiz	

□ 1405

So the Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I was unavoidably detained and was not here for rollcall vote No. 18, S. Con. Res. 7, honoring the life and legacy of King Hussein. I would like to enter for the RECORD, that should I have been present for the floor vote I would have voted "yes" on agreeing to this resolution.

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF HOUSE FROM FEBRUARY 12, 1999, TO FEBRUARY 23, 1999, AND RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF SENATE FROM FEBRUARY 11, 1999, FEBRUARY 12, 1999, FEBRUARY 13, 1999, OR FEBRUARY 14, 1999, TO FEBRUARY 22, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 27

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, February 12, 1999, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 1999, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, February 11, 1999, Friday, February 12, 1999, Saturday, February 13, 1999, or Sunday, February 14, 1999, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader, or his designee, pursuant to this concurrent resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, February 22, 1999, or such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 50) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 50

Resolved that the following named Members are hereby elected to serve on standing committees as follows:

Committee on House Administration: Mr. FATTAH, Pennsylvania; and Mr. DAVIS, Florida.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION PROGRAM

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 18 outstanding high school seniors in my district who are finalists in the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

These students are among 3,600 high school seniors in the Nation selected by the College Board for this honor. They come from the cities of Chino, Ontario, Pomona, Upland, Brea, Yorba Linda, Anaheim, Rowland Heights, and my home city of Diamond Bar. I know that their families and their respective communities are proud of their academic accomplishments and their hard work.

As a representative of the 41st Congressional District in California, I can say we are also proud of them and wish them the best in their college careers.

Mr. Speaker, I include their names for the RECORD. I am sure this is not the last time we will hear from these bright young students.

The scholar finalists are: Arturo Nuno, Naomi Esquibel, Yolanda Robles, Tony Saucedo, Michelle Rodriguez, Henry Artiga, DeAnn Del Rio, Michelle Allis, Erin Freyermuth, Marissa Guerrero, Maria Sequeira, Meredith Garcia, Natalie Alvarado, Michael Espinoza, and Juan Jauregui.

Honorable mention finalists include: Oscar Teran, Gabriel Bustos, and Nick Yanez.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE FOR THE 106TH CONGRESS

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

tleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, pursuant to Rule XI, clause 2(a) of the Rules of the House, a copy of the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture, which were adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee on this day.

Appendix A of the Committee Rules will include excerpts from the Rules of the House relevant to the operation of the Committee. Appendix B will include relevant excerpts from the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. In the interests of minimizing printing costs, Appendices A and B are omitted from this submission.

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) *Applicability of House Rules.*—(1) The Rules of the House of Representatives shall govern the procedure of the committee and its subcommittees, and the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture so far as applicable shall be interpreted in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the committee and its subcommittees. (See Appendix A for the applicable Rules of the House of Representatives.)

(2) As provided in clause 1(a)(2) of House rule XI, each subcommittee is part of the committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the committee and its rules so far as applicable. (See also committee rules III, IV, V, VI, VII and X, *infra*.)

(b) *Authority to Conduct Investigations.*—The committee and its subcommittees, after consultation with the chairman of the committee, may conduct such investigations and studies as they may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of their responsibilities under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and in accordance with clause 2(m) of House rule XI.

(c) *Authority to Print.*—The committee is authorized by the Rules of the House of Representatives to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the committee and its subcommittees. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the committee and its subcommittees shall be paid from applicable accounts of the House described in clause (i)(1) of House rule X in accordance with clause 1(c) of House rule XI. (See also paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of committee rule VIII.)

(d) *Vice Chairman.*—The Member of the majority party on the committee or subcommittee designated by the chairman of the full committee shall be the vice chairman of the committee or subcommittee in accordance with clause 2(d) of House rule XI.

(e) *Presiding Member.*—If the chairman of the committee or subcommittee is not present at any committee or subcommittee meeting or hearing, the vice chairman shall preside. If the chairman and vice chairman of the committee or subcommittee are not present at a committee or subcommittee meeting or hearing the ranking Member of the majority party who is present shall preside in accordance with clause 2(d), House rule XI.

(f) *Activities Report.*—(1) the committee shall submit to the House, not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a report on the activities of the committee

under rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives during the Congress ending on January 3 of such year. (See also committee rule VIII(h)(2).)

(2) Such report shall include separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of the committee during that Congress.

(3) The oversight section of such report shall include a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the committee pursuant to clause 2(d) of House rule X, a summary of the actions taken and recommendations made with respect to each such plan, and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the committee, and any recommendations made or actions taken with respect thereto.

(g) *Publication of Rules.*—The committee's rules shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the committee is elected in each odd-numbered year as provided in clause 2(a) of House rule XI.

(h) *Joint Committee Reports of Investigation or Study.*—A report of an investigation or study conducted jointly by more than one committee may be filed jointly, provided that each of the committees complies independently with all requirements for approval and filing of the report.

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETINGS—REGULAR, ADDITIONAL AND SPECIAL

(a) *Regular Meetings.*—(1) Regular meetings of the committee, in accordance with clause 2(b) of House rule XI, shall be held on the first Wednesday of every month to transact its business unless such day is a holiday, or Congress is in recess or is adjourned, in which case the chairman shall determine the regular meeting day of the committee, if any, for that month. The chairman shall provide each member of the committee, as far in advance of the day of the regular meeting as practicable, a written agenda of such meeting. Items may be placed on the agenda by the chairman or a majority of the committee. If the chairman believes that there will not be any bill, resolution or other matter considered before the full committee and there is no other business to be transacted at a regular meeting, the meeting may be cancelled or it may be deferred until such time as, in the judgment of the chairman, there may be matters which require the committee's consideration. This paragraph shall not apply to meetings of any subcommittee. (See paragraph (f) of committee rule X for provisions that apply to meetings of subcommittees.)

(b) *Additional Meetings.*—The chairman may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the committee, additional meetings of the committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the committee or for the conduct of other committee business. The committee shall meet for such additional meetings pursuant to a notice from the chairman.

(c) *Special Meetings.*—If at least three members of the committee desire that a special meeting of the committee be called by the chairman, those members may file in the offices of the committee their written request to the chairman for such special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matters to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the majority staff director (serving as the clerk of the committee for such purpose) shall notify the chairman of the filing of the request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of the request, the chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the committee may file in the offices of the committee their

written notice that a special meeting of the committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measures or matter to be considered at that special meeting in accordance with clause 2(c)(2) of House rule XI. The committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the majority staff director (serving as the clerk) of the committee shall notify all members of the committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered, and only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

III. OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS; BROADCASTING

(a) *Open Meetings and Hearings.*—Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing by the committee or a subcommittee shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of House rule XI. (See Appendix A.)

(b) *Broadcasting and Photography.*—Whenever a committee or subcommittee meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of House rule XI. (See Appendix A.) When such radio coverage is conducted in the committee or subcommittee, written notice to that effect shall be placed on the desk of each Member. The chairman of the committee or subcommittee, shall not limit the number of television or still cameras permitted in a hearing or meeting room to fewer than two representatives from each medium (except for legitimate space or safety considerations, in which case pool coverage shall be authorized).

(c) *Closed Meetings—Attendees.*—No person other than members of the committee or subcommittee and such congressional staff and departmental representatives as the committee or subcommittee may authorize shall be present at any business or markup session that has been closed to the public as provided in clause 2(g)(1) of House rule XI.

(d) *Addressing the Committee.*—A committee member may address the committee or a subcommittee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration. (See committee rule VII (e) relating to questioning a witness at a hearing.) The time a member may address the committee or subcommittee for any such purpose shall be limited to five minutes, except that this time limit may be waived by unanimous consent. A Member shall also be limited in his or her remarks to the subject matter under consideration, unless the Member receives unanimous consent to extend his or her remarks beyond such subject.

(e) *Meetings to Begin Promptly.*—Subject to the presence of a quorum, each meeting or hearing of the committee and its subcommittees shall begin promptly at the time so stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(f) *Prohibition on Proxy Voting.*—No vote by any Member of the committee or subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(g) *Location of Persons at Meetings.*—No person other than the committee or subcommittee members and committee or subcommittee staff may be seated in the rostrum area during a meeting of the committee or subcommittee unless by unanimous consent of committee or subcommittee.

(h) *Consideration of Amendments and Motions.*—A Member, upon request, shall be recognized by the chairman to address the committee or subcommittee at a meeting for a

period limited to five minutes on behalf of an amendment or motion offered by the Member or another Member, or upon any other matter under consideration, unless the Member receives unanimous consent to extend the time limit. Every amendment or motion made in committee or subcommittee shall, upon the demand of any Member present, be reduced to writing, and a copy thereof shall be made available to all Members present. Such amendment or motion shall not be pending before the committee or subcommittee or voted on until the requirements of this paragraph have been met.

(i) *Demanding Record Vote.*—A record vote of the committee or subcommittee on a question or action shall be ordered on a demand by one-fifth of the Members present.

(j) *Submission of Motions or Amendments in Advance of Business Meetings.*—The committee and subcommittee chairman may request and committee and subcommittee members should, insofar as practicable, cooperate in providing copies of proposed amendments or motions to the chairman and the ranking minority member of the committee or the subcommittee 24 hours before a committee or subcommittee business meeting.

(k) *Points of Order.*—No point of order against the hearing or meeting procedures of the committee or subcommittee shall be entertained unless it is made in a timely fashion.

(l) *Limitation on Committee Sittings.*—The committee or subcommittees may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

IV. QUORUMS

(a) *Working Quorum.*—One-third of the members of the committee or a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action, other than as noted in paragraphs (b) and (c).

(b) *Majority Quorum.*—A majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for:

(1) the reporting of a bill, resolution or other measure. (See clause 2(h)(1) of House rule XI, and committee rule VIII);

(2) the closing of a meeting or hearing to the public pursuant to clauses 2(g) and 2(k)(5) of the Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives; and

(3) the authorizing of a subpoena as provided in clause 2(m)(3), of House rule XI. (See also committee rule VI.)

(c) *Quorum for Taking Testimony.*—Two members of the committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(d) *Unanimous Consent Agreement on Voting.*—Whenever a record vote is ordered on a question other than a motion to recess or adjourn and debate has concluded thereon, the committee or subcommittee by unanimous consent may postpone further proceedings on such question to a designated time.

V. RECORDS

(a) *Maintenance of Records.*—The committee shall keep a complete record of all committee and subcommittee action which shall include:

(1) in the case of any meeting or hearing transcripts, a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved, and

(2) written minutes shall include a record of all committee and subcommittee action and a record of all votes on any question and a tally on all record votes. The result of each such record vote shall be made available by the committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the committee and by telephone request. Information so available for public inspection shall

include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members present but not voting.

(b) *Access to and Correction of Records.*—Any public witness, or person authorized by such witness, during committee office hours in the committee offices and within two weeks of the close of hearings, may obtain a transcript copy of that public witness's testimony and make such technical, grammatical and typographical corrections as authorized by the person making the remarks involved as will not alter the nature of testimony given. There shall be prompt return of such corrected copy of the transcript to the committee. Members of the committee or subcommittee shall receive copies of transcripts for their prompt review and correction and prompt return to the committee. The committee or subcommittee may order the printing of a hearing record without the corrections of any Member or witness if it determines that such Member or witness has been afforded a reasonable time in which to make such corrections and further delay would seriously impede the consideration of the legislative action that is subject of the hearing. The record of a hearing shall be closed 10 calendar days after the last oral testimony, unless the committee or subcommittee determines otherwise. Any person requesting to file a statement for the record of a hearing must so request before the hearing concludes and must file the statement before the record is closed unless the committee or subcommittee determines otherwise. The committee or subcommittee may reject any statement in light of its length or its tendency to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) *Property of the House.*—All committee and subcommittee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Members serving as chairman and such records shall be the property of the House and all Members of the House shall have access thereto. The majority staff director shall promptly notify the chairman and the ranking minority member of any request for access to such records.

(d) *Availability of Archived Records.*—The records of the committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with House rule VII. The chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of the committee of the need for a committee order pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of such House rule, to withhold a record otherwise available.

(e) *Special Rules for Certain Records and Proceedings.*—A stenographic record of a business meeting of the committee or subcommittee shall be kept and thereafter may be published if the chairman of the committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member, determines there is need for such a record. The proceedings of the committee or subcommittee in a closed meeting, evidence or testimony in such meeting, shall not be divulged unless otherwise determined by a majority of the committee or subcommittee.

(f) *Electronic Availability of Committee Publications.*—To the maximum extent feasible, the committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

VI. POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER.

(a) *Authority to Sit and Act.*—For the purpose of carrying out any of its function and duties under House rules X and XI, the committee and each of its subcommittees is au-

thorized (subject to paragraph (b)(1) of this rule)—

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned and to hold such hearings, and

(2) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers and documents, as it deems necessary. The chairman of the committee or subcommittee, or any member designated by the chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b) *Issuance of Subpoenas.*—(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the committee or subcommittee under paragraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present, as provided in clause 2(m)(3)(A) of House rule XI. Such authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the chairman of the committee or by any member designated by the committee. As soon as practicable after a subpoena is issued under this rule, the chairman shall notify all members of the committee of such action.

(2) Notice of a meeting to consider a motion to authorize and issue a subpoena should be given to all members of the committee by 5 p.m. of the day preceding such meeting.

(3) Compliance with any subpoena issued by the committee or subcommittee under paragraph (a)(2) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

(4) A subpoena *duces tecum* may specify terms of return other than at meeting or hearing of the committee or subcommittee authorizing the subpoena.

(c) *Expenses of Subpoenaed Witnesses.*—Each witness who has been subpoenaed, upon the completion of his or her testimony before the committee or any subcommittee, may report to the offices of the committee, and there sign appropriate vouchers for travel allowances and attendance fees to which he or she is entitled. If hearings are held in cities other than Washington DC, the subpoenaed witness may contact the majority staff director of the committee, or his or her representative, before leaving the hearing room.

VII. HEARING PROCEDURES.

(a) *Power to Hear.*—For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under House rule X and XI, the committee and its subcommittees are authorized to sit and hold hearings at any time or place within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned. (See paragraph (a) of committee rule VI and paragraph (f) of committee rule X for provisions relating to subcommittee hearings and meetings.)

(b) *Announcement.*—The chairman of the committee shall after consultation with the ranking minority member of the committee, make a public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any committee hearing at least one week before the commencement of the hearing. The chairman of a subcommittee shall schedule a hearing only after consultation with the chairman of the committee and after consultation with the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, and the chairmen of the other subcommittees after such consultation with the committee chairman, and shall request the majority staff director to make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of such hearing at least one week before the hearing. If the chairman of the committee or the subcommittee, with concurrence of the ranking minority member of the committee or subcommittee, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing

sooner, or if the committee or subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the chairman of the committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, shall request the majority staff director to make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record, and shall promptly enter the appropriate information into the committee scheduling service of the House Information Systems as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(c) *Scheduling of Witnesses.*—Except as otherwise provided in this rule, the scheduling of witnesses and determination of the time allowed for the presentation of testimony at hearings shall be at the discretion of the chairman of the committee or subcommittee, unless a majority of the committee or subcommittee determines otherwise.

(d) *Written Statement; Oral Testimony.*—(1) Each witness who is to appear before the committee or a subcommittee, shall insofar as practicable file with the majority staff director of the committee, at least 2 working days before day of his or her appearance, a written statement of proposed testimony. Witnesses shall provide sufficient copies of their statement for distribution to committee or subcommittee members, staff, and the news media. Insofar as practicable, the committee or subcommittee staff shall distribute such written statements to all members of the committee or subcommittee as soon as they are received as well as any official reports from departments and agencies on such subject matter. All witnesses may be limited in their oral presentations to brief summaries of their statements within the time allotted to them, at the discretion of the chairman of the committee or subcommittee, in light of the nature of the testimony and the length of time available.

(2) As noted in paragraph (a) of committee rule VI, the chairman of the committee or one of its subcommittees, or any Member designated by the chairman, may administer an oath to any witness.

(3) To the greatest extent practicable, each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include with the written statement of proposed testimony a curriculum vitae and disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years.

(e) *Questioning of Witnesses.*—Committee or subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the chairman of the committee or subcommittee for that purpose. Each Member so recognized shall be limited to questioning a witness for 5 minutes until such time as each Member of the committee or subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness for 5 minutes; and thereafter the chairman of the committee or subcommittee may limit the time of a further round of questioning after giving due consideration to the importance of the subject matter and the length of time available. All questions put to witnesses shall be germane to the measure or matter under consideration. Unless a majority of the committee or subcommittee determines otherwise, no person shall interrogate witnesses other than committee and subcommittee members.

(f) *Extended Questioning for Designated Members.*—Notwithstanding paragraph (e), the chairman and ranking minority member may designate an equal number of members from each party to question a witness for a period not longer than 60 minutes.

(g) *Witnesses for the Minority.*—When any hearing is conducted by the committee or

any subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the committee or subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the chairman by a majority of those minority members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least 1 day of hearing thereon as provided in clause 2(j)(1) of House rule XI.

(h) *Summary of Subject Matter.*—Upon announcement of a hearing, to the extent practicable, the committee shall make available immediately to all members of the committee a concise summary of the subject matter (including legislative reports and other material) under consideration. In addition, upon announcement of a hearing and subsequently as they are received, the chairman of the committee or subcommittee shall, to the extent practicable, make available to the members of the committee any official reports from departments and agencies on such matter. (See committee rule X(f).)

(i) *Participation of Committee Members in Subcommittees.*—All members of the committee may attend any subcommittee hearing in accordance with clause 2(g)(2) of House rule XI, but a Member who is not a member of the subcommittee may not vote on any matter before the subcommittee nor offer any amendments or motions and shall not be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum for the subcommittee and may not question witnesses without the unanimous consent of the subcommittee.

(j) *Open Hearings.*—Each hearing conducted by the committee or subcommittee shall be open to the public, including radio, television and still photography coverage, except as provided in clause 4 of House rule XI (see also committee rule III (b)). In any event, no Member of the House may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing unless the House by majority vote shall authorize the committee or subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular bill or resolution or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members by means of the above procedure.

(k) *Investigative Hearings and Reports.*—(1)(i) The chairman of the committee or subcommittee at an investigative hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation. A copy of the committee rules (and the applicable provisions of clause 2 of House rule XI, regarding investigative hearing procedures, an excerpt of which appears in Appendix A thereto) shall be made available to each witness. Witnesses at investigative hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights. The chairman of the committee or subcommittee may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; but only the full committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(ii) Whenever it is asserted that the evidence or testimony at an investigative hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, such testimony or evidence shall be presented in executive session, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (j) of this rule, if by a majority of those present, there being in attendance the requisite number required under the rules of the committee to be present for the purpose of taking testimony, the committee or subcommittee determines that such evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, the committee or subcommittee shall afford a person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness; and the committee or subcommittee shall receive and

shall dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(iii) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the committee or subcommittee. In the discretion of the committee or subcommittee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent statements in writing for inclusion in the record, the committee or subcommittee is the sole judge of the pertinency of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearings. A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his or her testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the committee or subcommittee. (See paragraph (c) of committee rule V.)

(2) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the members of the committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such day) in advance of their consideration.

VIII. THE REPORTING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) *Filing of Reports.*—The chairman shall report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the committee and shall take or cause to be taken all necessary steps to bring such bill, resolution, or other measure to a vote. No bill, resolution, or measure shall be reported from the committee unless a majority of the committee is actually present. A committee report on any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the committee shall be filed within 7 calendar days (not counting days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the majority staff director of the committee a written request, signed by a majority of the committee, for the reporting of that bill or resolution. The majority staff director of the committee shall notify the chairman immediately when such a request is filed.

(b) *Content of Reports.*—Each committee report on any bill or resolution approved by the committee shall include as separately identified sections:

(1) a statement of the intent or purpose of the bill or resolution;

(2) a statement describing the need for such bill or resolution;

(3) a statement of committee and subcommittee consideration of the measure including a summary of amendments and motions offered and the actions taken thereon;

(4) the results of the each record vote on any amendment in the committee and subcommittee and on the motion to report the measure or matter, including the names of those Members and the total voting for and the names of those Members and the total voting against such amendment or motion (See clause 3(b) of House rule XIII);

(5) the oversight findings and recommendations of the committee with respect to the subject matter of the bill or resolution as required pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of House rule XIII and clause 2(b)(1) of House rule X;

(6) the detailed statement described in section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if the bill or resolution provides new budget authority (other than continuing appropriations), new spending authority described in section 401(c)(2) of such Act, new credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures, except that the estimates with respect to new budget authority shall include, when practicable, a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant program (or programs) to the appropriate levels under current law;

(7) the estimate of costs and comparison of such estimates, if any, prepared by the Di-

rector of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with such bill or resolution pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if submitted in timely fashion to the committee;

(8) any oversight findings and recommendations made by the Committee on Government Reform under clause 4(c)(2) of House rule X to the extent such were available during the committee's deliberations on the bill or resolution;

(9) a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution;

(10) an estimate of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out such bill or joint resolution in the fiscal year in which it is reported and for its authorized duration or for each of the 5 fiscal years following the fiscal year of reporting, whichever period is less (see Rule XIII, clause 3(d)(2), (3) and (h)(2), (3)), together with—

(i) a comparison of these estimates with those made and submitted to the committee by any Government agency when practicable, and

(ii) a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant program (or programs) with appropriate levels under current law (The provisions of this clause do not apply if a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and included in the report);

(11) the changes in existing law (if any) shown in accordance with clause 3 of House rule XIII;

(12) the determination required pursuant to section 5(b) of Public Law 92-463, if the legislation reported establishes or authorizes the establishment of an advisory committee; and

(13) the information on Federal and intergovernmental mandates required by section 423(c) and (d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as added by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-4).

(c) *Supplemental, Minority, or Additional Views.*—If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the committee, any Member of the committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views, that Member shall be entitled to not less than 2 subsequent calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such date) in which to file such views, in writing and signed by that Member, with the majority staff director of the committee. When time guaranteed by this paragraph has expired (or if sooner, when all separate views have been received), the committee may arrange to file its report with the Clerk of the House not later than 1 hour after the expiration of such time. All such views (in accordance with House rule XI, clause 2(1) and House rule XIII, clause 3(a)(1)), as filed by one or more members of the committee, shall be included within and made a part of the report filed by the committee with respect to that bill or resolution.

(d) *Printing of Reports.*—The report of the committee on the measure or matter noted in paragraph (a) above shall be printed in a single volume, which shall:

(1) include all supplemental, minority or additional views that have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report; and

(2) bear on its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, or additional views (and any material submitted under House rule XII, clause 3(a)(1)) are included as part of the report.

(e) *Immediate Printing; Supplemental Reports.*—Nothing in this rule shall preclude—

(1) the immediate filing or printing of a committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, or additional views has been made as provided by paragraph (c), or

(2) the filing by the committee of any supplemental report on any bill or resolution that may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the committee on that bill or resolution.

(f) *Availability of Printed Hearing Records.*—If hearings have been held on any reported bill or resolution, the committee shall make every reasonable effort to have the record of such hearings printed and available for distribution to the Members of the House prior to the consideration of such bill or resolution by the House. Each printed hearing of the committee or any of its subcommittees shall include a record of the attendance of the Members.

(g) *Committee Prints.*—All committee or subcommittee prints or other committee or subcommittee documents, other than reports or prints of bills, that are prepared for public distribution shall be approved by the chairman of the committee or the committee prior to public distribution.

(h) *Post Adjournment Filing of Committee Reports.*—(1) After an adjournment of the last regular session of a Congress sine die, an investigative or oversight report approved by the committee may be filed with the Clerk at any time, provided that if a member gives notice at the time of approval of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views, that member shall be entitled to not less than 7 calendar days in which to submit such views for inclusion with the report.

(2) After an adjournment of the last regular session of a Congress sine die, the chairman of the committee may file at any time with the Clerk the committee's activity report for that Congress pursuant to clause 1(d)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives without the approval of the committee, provided that a copy of the report has been available to each member of the committee for at least 7 calendar days and the report includes any supplemental, minority, or additional views submitted by a member of the committee.

IX. OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

(a) *Oversight Plan.*—Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the chairman shall convene the committee in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present to adopt its oversight plans for that Congress. Such plans shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration. In developing such plans the committee shall, to the maximum extent feasible—

(1) consult with other committees of the House that have jurisdiction over the same or related laws, programs, or agencies within its jurisdiction, with the objective of ensuring that such laws, programs, or agencies are reviewed in the same Congress and that there is a maximum of coordination between such committees in the conduct of such reviews; and such plans shall include an explanation of what steps have been and will be taken to ensure such coordination and cooperation;

(2) give priority consideration to including in its plans the review of those laws, programs, or agencies operating under permanent budget authority or permanent statutory authority;

(3) have a view toward ensuring that all significant laws, programs, or agencies with-

in its jurisdiction are subject to review at least once every 10 years. The committee and its appropriate subcommittees shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within its jurisdiction as provided in clause 2(d) of House rule X. The committee shall include in the report filed pursuant to clause 1(d) of House rule XI a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the committee under clause 2(d) of House rule X, a summary of actions taken and recommendations made with respect to each such plan, and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the committee and any recommendations made or actions taken thereon.

(b) *Annual Appropriations.*—The committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriations for continuing programs and activities of the Federal Government and the District of Columbia government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirements, and objectives of the programs and activities involved. The committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefore would be made annually.

(c) *Budget Act Compliance: Views and Estimates (See Appendix B).*—By February 25 each year and after the President submits a budget under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the committee shall, submit to the Committee on the Budget (1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year (under section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974—see Appendix B) that are within its jurisdiction or functions; and (2) an estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction that it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) *Budget Act Compliance: Recommended Changes.*—Whenever the committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process, it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations, and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (See Appendix B).

(e) *Conference Committees.*—Whenever in the legislative process it becomes necessary to appoint conferees, the chairman shall, after consultation with the ranking minority member, determine the number of conferees the chairman deems most suitable and then recommend to the Speaker as conferees, in keeping with the number to be appointed by the Speaker as provided in clause House rule I, clause 11, the names of those members of the committee of not less than a majority who generally supported the House position and who were primarily responsible for the legislation. The chairman shall, to the fullest extent feasible, include those members of the committee who were the principal proponents of the major provisions of the bill as it passed the House and such other committee members of the majority party as the chairman may designate in consultation with the members of the majority party. Such recommendations shall provide a ratio

of majority party members to minority party members no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio of majority party members to minority party members on the committee. In making recommendations of minority party members as conferees, the chairman shall consult with the ranking minority member of the committee.

X. SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) *Number and Composition.*—There shall be such subcommittees as specified in paragraph (c) of this rule. Each of such subcommittees shall be composed of the number of members set forth in paragraph (c) of this rule, including *ex officio* members.

The chairman may create additional subcommittees of an *ad hoc* nature as the chairman determines to be appropriate subject to any limitations provided for in the House rules.¹

(b) *Ratios.*—On each subcommittee, there shall be a ratio of majority party members to minority party members which shall be consistent with the ratio on the full committee. In calculating the ratio of majority party members to minority party members, there shall be included the *ex officio* members of the subcommittees and ratios below reflect that fact.

(c) *Jurisdiction.*—Each subcommittee shall have the following general jurisdiction and number of members:

OPERATIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry (21 Members, 11 majority, 10 minority).—Agency oversight, review and analysis, special investigations, pesticide regulation, nutrition, food stamps, hunger, consumer programs, and forestry.

COMMODITY SUBCOMMITTEES

General Farm Commodities, Resource Conservation, and Credit (21 Members, 11 majority, 10 minority).—Program and markets related to cotton, cottonseed, wheat, feed grains, soybeans, oilseeds, rice, dry beans, peas, lentils, the Commodity Credit Corporation, agricultural credit, natural resource conservation, small watershed program, rural development, rural electrification, energy, farm security, and family farming matters.

Livestock and Horticulture (23 Members, 12 majority, 11 minority).—Livestock, dairy, poultry, meat, seafood and seafood products, the inspection of those commodities, aquaculture, animal welfare, fruits and vegetables, marketing orders, and grazing.

Risk Management, Research, and Specialty Crops (34 members, 18 majority, 16 minority).—Commodity futures, crop insurance, peanuts, sugar, tobacco, honey and bees, research and education, and agricultural biotechnology matters.

(d) Referral of Legislation.—

(1)(a) In general.—All bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to the committee shall be referred to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within 2 weeks after being referred to the committee. After consultation with the ranking minority member, the chairman may determine that the committee will consider certain bills, resolutions, or other matters.

(b) Trade Matters.—Unless action is otherwise taken under subparagraph (3), bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to

¹ The chairman and ranking minority member of the committee serve as *ex officio* members of the subcommittees. (See paragraph (e) of this rule.)

the committee relating to foreign agriculture, foreign food or commodity assistance, and foreign trade and marketing issues will be considered by the committee.

(2) The chairman, by a majority vote of the committee, may discharge a subcommittee from further consideration of any bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the subcommittee and have such bill, resolution or other matter considered by the committee, the committee having referred a bill, resolution, or other matter to a subcommittee in accordance with this rule may discharge such subcommittee from further consideration thereof at any time by a vote of the majority members of the committee for the committee's direct consideration or for reference to another subcommittee.

(3) Unless the committee, a quorum being present, decides otherwise by a majority vote, the chairman may refer bills, resolutions, legislation or other matters not specifically within the jurisdiction of a subcommittee, or that is within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee, jointly or exclusively as the chairman deems appropriate, including concurrently to the subcommittees with jurisdiction, sequentially to the subcommittees with jurisdiction (subject to any time limits deemed appropriate), divided by subject matter among the subcommittees with jurisdiction, or to an ad hoc subcommittee appointed by the chairman for the purpose of considering the matter and reporting to the committee thereon, or make such other provisions deemed appropriate.

(e) *Service on subcommittees.*—(1) The chairman and the ranking minority member shall serve as *ex officio* members of all subcommittees and shall have the right to vote on all matters before the subcommittees. The chairman and the ranking minority member may not be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(2) Any member of the committee who is not a member of the subcommittee may have the privilege of sitting and nonparticipatory attendance at subcommittee hearings in accordance with clause 2(g)(2) of House rule XI. Such member may not:

(i) vote on any matter;

(ii) be counted for the purpose of an establishing a quorum for any motion, vote, or other subcommittee action;

(iii) participate in questioning a witness under the 5-minute rule, unless permitted to do so by the subcommittee chairman or a majority of the subcommittee a quorum being present;

(iv) raise points of order; or

(v) offer amendments or motions.

(f) *Subcommittee Hearings and Meetings.*—(1) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction after consultation by the subcommittee chairmen with the committee chairman. (See committee rule VII.)

(2) After consultation with the committee chairman, subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their subcommittees and shall request the majority staff director to make any announcement relating thereto. (See committee rule VII(b).) In setting the dates, the committee chairman and subcommittee chairman shall consult with other subcommittee chairmen and relevant committee and subcommittee ranking minority members in an effort to avoid simultaneously scheduling committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings to the extent practicable.

(3) Notice of all subcommittee meetings shall be provided to the chairman and the ranking minority member of the committee by the majority staff director.

(4) Subcommittees may hold meetings or hearings outside of the House if the chairman of the committee and other subcommittee chairmen and the ranking minority member of the subcommittee is consulted in advance to ensure that there is no scheduling problem. However, the majority of the committee may authorize such meeting or hearing.

(5) The provisions regarding notice and the agenda of committee meetings under committee rule II(a) and special or additional meetings under committee rule II(b) shall apply to subcommittee meetings.

(6) If a vacancy occurs in a subcommittee chairmanship, the chairman may set the dates for hearings and meetings of the subcommittee during the period of vacancy. The chairman may also appoint an acting subcommittee chairman until the vacancy is filled.

(g) *Subcommittee Action.*—(1) Any bill, resolution, recommendation, or other matter ordered reported to the committee by a subcommittee shall be promptly reported by the subcommittee chairman or any subcommittee member authorized to do so by the subcommittee.

(2) Upon receipt of such report, the majority staff director of the committee shall promptly advise all members of the committee of the subcommittee action.

(3) The committee shall not consider any matters reported by subcommittees until 2 calendar days have elapsed from the date of reporting, unless the chairman or a majority of the committee determines otherwise.

(h) *Subcommittee Investigations.*—No investigation shall be initiated by a subcommittee without the prior consultation with the chairman of the committee or a majority of the committee.

XI. COMMITTEE BUDGET, STAFF, AND TRAVEL

(a) *Committee Budget.*—The chairman, in consultation with the majority members of the committee, and the minority members of the committee, shall prepare a preliminary budget for each session of the Congress. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, travel, investigation, and other expenses of the committee and subcommittees. After consultation with the ranking minority member, the chairman shall include an amount budgeted to minority members for staff under their direction and supervision. Thereafter, the chairman shall combine such proposals into a consolidated committee budget, and shall take whatever action is necessary to have such budget duly authorized by the House.

(b) *Committee Staff.*—(1) The chairman shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the professional and clerical employees of the committee not assigned to the minority. The professional and clerical staff of the committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate. (See House rule X, clause 9).

(2) The ranking minority member of the committee shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the ranking minority member of the committee who may delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(3) From the funds made available for the appointment of committee staff pursuant to any primary or additional expense resolu-

tion, the chairman shall ensure that each subcommittee is adequately funded and staffed to discharge its responsibilities and that the minority party is fairly treated in the appointment of such staff (See House rule X, clause 6(d)).

(c) *Committee Travel.*—(1) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolution as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern official travel of committee members and committee staff regarding domestic and foreign travel (See House rule XI, clause 2(n) and House rule X, clause 8 (reprinted in Appendix A)). Official travel for any member or any committee staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the chairman. Official travel may be authorized by the chairman for any committee Member and any committee staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the committee and its subcommittees and meetings, conferences, facility inspections, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter relevant to the general jurisdiction of the committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the chairman in writing the following:

(i) The purpose of the official travel;

(ii) The dates during which the official travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the official travel is being made;

(iii) The location of the event for which the official travel is to be made; and

(iv) The names of members and committee staff seeking authorization.

(2) In the case of official travel of members and staff of a subcommittee to hearings, meetings, conferences, facility inspections and investigations involving activities or subject matter under the jurisdiction of such subcommittee to be paid for out of funds allocated to the committee, prior authorization must be obtained from the subcommittee chairman and the full committee chairman. Such prior authorization shall be given by the chairman only upon the representation by the applicable subcommittee chairman in writing setting forth those items enumerated in clause (1).

(3) Within 60 days of the conclusion of any official travel authorized under this rule, there shall be submitted to the committee chairman a written report covering the information gained as a result of the hearing, meeting, conference, facility inspection or investigation attended pursuant to such official travel.

(4) Local currencies owned by the United States shall be made available to the committee and its employees engaged in carrying out their official duties outside the United States, its territories or possessions. No appropriated funds shall be expended for the purpose of defraying expenses of members of the committee or its employees in any country where local currencies are available for this purpose; and the following conditions shall apply with respect to their use of such currencies;

(i) No Member or employee of the committee shall receive or expend local currencies for subsistence in any country at a rate in excess of the maximum per diem rate set forth in applicable Federal law; and

(ii) Each Member or employee of the committee shall make an itemized report to the chairman within 60 days following the completion of travel showing the dates each country was visited, the amount of per diem furnished, the cost of transportation furnished, and any funds expended for any other official purpose, and shall summarize in these categories the total foreign currencies and appropriated funds expended. All such

individual reports shall be filed by the chairman with the Committee on House Administration and shall be open to public inspection.

XII. AMENDMENT OF RULES

These rules may be amended by a majority vote of the committee. A proposed change in these rules shall not be considered by the committee as provided in clause 2 of House rule XI, unless written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each committee Member 2 legislative days in advance of the date on which the matter is to be considered. Any such change in the rules of the committee shall be published in the Congressional Record within 30 calendar days after its approval.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MANDATES INFORMATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with encouragement that this House just passed the Mandates Information Act, which will help to safeguard us from making unfunded mandates to the private sector.

Well, I am here today to do just that, to address an unfunded mandate that our constituents pay for every month in their phone bills, the E-rate program, sometimes known as the "Gore Tax," because it has garnered the Vice President's support.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the intent of the "Gore Tax" is to ensure that every school and library is connected to the Internet. But the FCC pays for this program by getting mandatory contributions from phone companies and others. If you look at your phone bill, you will see that mandatory contribution passed on to you, the consumer, as part of the Universal Service Charge.

Mandatory contributions. Mr. Speaker, let us be honest. If it looks like a tax, it quacks like a tax, it is a tax. We can say that our annual "mandatory contributions" to the government are due on April 15th, but we know different.

I have a chart here that shows how it works. First the FCC forces this mandatory contribution on long distance phone companies and others; second, those companies make their massive contributions to the Universal Service Corporation here. That is currently capped at \$2.25 billion each year, this mandatory contribution.

Only here, only in government, only at the Federal Government, could we actually come up with these oxymoronic statements, that this is a mandatory contribution.

But what the Vice President and other E-rate supporters do not want you to know is that this is a hidden tax. Consumers are forced to pay this charge through their monthly phone bills. This is where the hidden tax is found, and I would like to eliminate it.

Mr. Speaker, Americans today are taxed at the highest levels in history.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office recently reported that Federal tax revenues have reached a peacetime record level of 20.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is not just a hidden tax, it is also an unnecessary tax. I have some statistics here from the Congressional Research Service that came before the "Gore Tax" was created.

Now, remember this tax was put on, it was snuck through essentially in order to provide technological support and technology support for schools, in order to encourage them to get on to the Internet and to put computers in classrooms.

□ 1415

But before this tax was ever passed, according to the Congressional Research Service, the 1997 student-to-computer ratio in this country was 8-to-1. Also in 1997, 78 percent of all schools were connected to the Internet, remember, before this tax ever came into existence.

Mr. Speaker, the President has just asked for another \$766 million in his Department of Education's budget for education technology alone. That is three-quarters of \$1 billion, and I quote his own budget summary, "as a part of the President's proposal to connect all schools to the Internet and put a computer in every classroom." Mr. Speaker, this is the "Gore Tax," and what is this "Gore Tax" program? Is there not some duplication in a multibillion-dollar effort to put Internet in the schools?

In fact, there are over 20 Federal programs aimed toward this effort, not to mention hundreds of State and local private initiatives.

Last year, the Committee on Appropriations reported that the Department of Education cannot account for the money it now spends in education technology. They cannot explain where this money goes. In fact, the Committee on Appropriations said that it fears millions of dollars might go unspent each year.

Today, I am introducing the E-Rate Termination Act, and I would like to thank the 13 original cosponsors of this bill for recognizing the dire need for change. By eliminating this hidden tax, we can focus on honest and realistic ways to address our schools' and libraries' technological needs, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. EMERSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING MEDICARE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk a little bit about what the Republican agenda is this year. We have been saying BEST military. B for balancing in the budget, paying down the debt, responsible spending; E for excellence in education; S for saving Social Security; T for lowering taxes and having a strong military presence that we need in the world today.

I have with me a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) who has worked so long on protecting Medicare and working for lowering taxes, and also the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), one of our distinguished freshman Members, and we were just going to talk about some of the things we hope to accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

One of the focal points obviously at the beginning of this, the 106th Congress, is the Medicare Commission which is scheduled to make its report, if we can get 11 of the 17 members to agree on a plan, in early March. I would tell the gentleman that the things that have taken place recently, primarily on the executive side of Washington, have made it immensely more difficult for us to try to come together.

In the context of trying to get 11 of 17 people who are very knowledgeable,

who have been experienced, four of whom were appointed by the President, four by the Speaker of the House, the majority leader of the Senate, two by the minority leader of the Senate and minority leader of the House, to come to agreement is difficult in the best of times. But when the President, in his State of the Union message, pulled like a genie out of the bottle, I am willing to put \$700 billion on the table, and by the way, I will bring the drugs in, throwing a party, the difficulty of coming to agreement in the Medicare Commission was blurred. It sounded as though there was more money available than anyone thought, and that it is relatively simple to move prescription drugs into a Medicare solution.

The folks who are the participants in Medicare, the providers, the taxpayers, and the beneficiaries, all had a sigh of relief that the problem has been solved, when in fact, as we are now discovering, as Samuelson's excellent guest editorial in the Washington Post today spelled it out, that there was a lot more smoke and mirrors in the President's budget than anyone anticipated.

Just a couple of examples of the difficulty. When the President said that he was going to put \$700 billion on the table, that is not the case. When the President said we should have a prescription drug benefit in Medicare, everyone nods their head yes, and we are in agreement that that should occur. But what is not explained, and what most people do not realize, I would say to the gentleman from Georgia, is that 65 percent of the seniors on Medicare have some sort of prescription drug program. What we need to do is examine the 35 percent who do not and create a program that brings them into a protective structure to shelter them from the full cost of prescription drugs, without driving out those other 65 percent who do have a drug support program in some way.

It just seems to me that for the President to make the statements that he did in January and February, when we are on the verge of having to make an agreement in March, that advertently or inadvertently he has created a far more difficult problem for us than we had prior to what he considered helping statements. That is exactly the wrong kind of approach to solving a very difficult problem in terms of the kind of help the President could give. If the President showed leadership, if he brought ideas to the table, if he empowered his appointees to sit down and work with the Senator from Louisiana, the chairman of the committee, Senator BREAU, all of those would be positive.

Our hope is that in the remaining weeks of February, the President will engage, he will lead and assist us in reaching a solution that all of us want: a better Medicare for our seniors.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the other gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I realize my time is short. I just would like to emphasize, following the comments from my distinguished colleague from California, the importance of this issue for me personally. I can recall on numerous occasions being visited by residents of the Third District talking about their need for adequate medical care. We are going to work on this, this year. The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) is leading us forward, together with the gentleman from Louisiana. I think we are going to make progress.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, what we are trying to do is find the balance to protect and preserve Medicare, not for the next election, but on a bipartisan basis for the next generation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TIAHRT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER TREATMENT ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I would like to highlight an issue that is of great importance to the future of our wonderful country. I want to talk about a rapidly-growing, pervasive disease that is affecting the stability of many families and many homes throughout our land.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about breast and cervical cancer and how it is up to each and every one of us to eradicate this disease, and how each one of us could be faced with the opportunity to help eradicate these diseases by cosponsoring the bill sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), The Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act of 1999.

Breast and cervical cancer do not discriminate. These diseases can affect every mother, daughter, sister, including ours. And although these diseases are not as of yet preventable, they can be stopped in their tracks with treatment if they are detected early in their development.

Congress has gone as far as passing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, and this provides screening for women who do not have health insurance coverage and who do not qualify for either Medicaid nor Medicare. While this was a great advancement, it became evident that it was only an initial step and that a more viable yet long-term solution was needed. What is needed is funding for treatment services once a woman is diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer.

What happens to the woman who is diagnosed with this through the Federal CDC program and is not able, not financially able to afford treatment? Should she be left to die? Should she be forced to spend her days holding bake sales and car washes to get the funds needed to treat her potentially fatal disease? Should she be forced to let time elapse as she scrambles for money from various health care agencies and dwindling State funds?

Unfortunately, this is the scenario that is occurring in the lives of many women who are diagnosed positively through the CDC program. In my congressional district of Miami, for example, Mr. Speaker, a lady named Yolanda qualified for a free mammogram screening, and after suspicious results, was recommended for a surgical biopsy. This recommendation took place a year ago, yet Yolanda has yet to undergo a biopsy for fear of placing an even bigger financial burden on her husband, who holds only a low-paying job.

Another constituent of my congressional district named Maria was recommended to undergo diagnostic procedures after an abnormal screening in 1996. Although she qualified for free diagnostic procedures, she was told that treatment would not be covered. As a result, Maria has yet to undergo these necessary procedures for fear that she would not be able to pay for treatment if, in fact, the treatment is needed.

The bill of the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), The Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, will put an end to the cruel and heartbreaking irony of providing screenings, yet no treatment. His bill will provide States an optional Medicaid benefit to provide coverage for treatment to low-income women screened and diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer through the CDC early detection program.

Fortunately, the number of women who need actual treatment for these cancers are not many. In fact, through the CDC program less than 4,000 women have been diagnosed with breast cancer and less than 350 women have been diagnosed with cervical cancer over a period of 9 years. With little cost to the taxpayer, the legislation of the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) would positively impact the lives of thousands of women and their families by providing guaranteed access to treatment.

I salute the National Breast Cancer Coalition and especially my constituent, Jane Torres, who is the President of the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition, for bringing this important issue to the forefront of our agenda. Through their many years of hard work and dedication to advocate sufficient funding for research and education, and for ensuring quality in health care for all without fear of discrimination, many of these women have been helped.

Before my colleagues prepare to go back to their districts, I hope that all of us in the Congress will remember the Yolandas and the Marias in their

districts as well. I hope that they will acknowledge the many cases that resemble theirs and the many women who are counting on us to do the right thing. I hope that all of us will support The Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, to give women a fighting chance against this disease and to truly reduce the incidence of death from breast and cervical cancer.

DEALING WITH THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s, no problem loomed larger in our Nation than the growing, seemingly never-ending Federal debt. Now, we have gotten to the point where that Federal debt is at \$5.5 trillion, and in the early 1990s we were adding to it to the tune of almost \$300 billion a year and more, and projections showed that going up forever. It looked like it was never going to end and it did not seem like we were ever going to get out of the debt spiral.

I rise today to give a little good news, that we are headed in the right direction finally on the debt issue, but also to emphasize the importance of going the whole way: getting the budget balanced, and perhaps as important, paying down some of that debt.

Since 1992 we have seen reductions in the yearly deficit, to the point where in this past year that deficit is only about \$30 billion.

□ 1430

I know Members have heard we have a surplus, but we really do not, because we are still counting the money we borrow from the social security trust fund as income, and it is really not. We have to pay that money back. So within the unified budget we are \$30 billion in debt this year, and have a projected surplus for 2001. So we are headed in the right direction, but we need to maintain that fiscal discipline to get there, to get the budget balanced.

To show just how big a problem the debt is, I have brought a chart with me today that shows where the Federal Government spends its money. It spends it in a variety of different areas. The third largest chunk of money going out of the Federal Government right now goes to interest on the debt. Fourteen percent of our budget, or \$243 billion a year, is paid on interest on the debt.

What that means is that this money basically is not helping us do anything. It is not helping us cut taxes, it is not helping us cover social security or national defense or health care for seniors. It is simply going to service the debt we ran up over the course of the last 30 years.

If we can reduce this number we can do dramatically positive things for this country, either by reducing taxes or

funding necessary programs. It is very important that in the next 10 years we do this, we start to reduce the debt, because the economy is strong now. We have an unemployment rate of 4.3 percent. We have record low inflation. Now is the time to pay down that debt.

A crisis will come. The economy cannot remain in boom times forever. When it does, we are going to need the resources to deal with that crisis. If we do not step up to the problem now, start paying down the debt during good times, we will be in horribly bad shape when the bad times come.

I rise with particular emphasis on this point as a Democrat because I think Democrats need to be for fiscal responsibility and emphasize that that is a cornerstone of our message, is to get the budget balanced, keep it that way, and pay down the debt. I think that is a very important principle for the Democratic Party to stand up for. I as a Democrat I am going to stand up for that. This will have dramatic effects on individual lives, as well.

Speakers who are going to follow me are going to talk a little bit about the positive effects of reducing interest rates on peoples' lives. If the government is not out there sucking up all of the money, that means that others, small businesses, farmers, individuals, people looking for student loans, home mortgages, will have access to that money and to borrow it at a better rate, because the government is not out there grabbing all of it. If the interest rates go down, that improves individual's lives in a wide variety of areas, some of which my colleagues will touch upon in a minute.

The bottom line point here is with the economy strong, with us headed in the right direction, finally, on fiscal responsibility, we need to stay with that discipline and get there, get the budget balanced, start paying down the debt so we can strengthen our entire economy, create more jobs, and create a better future for ourselves and for our children.

I strongly urge my colleagues today to maintain fiscal discipline and pay down the debt. That needs to be one of our number one priorities for the coming decade.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BOYD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE NEW DEMOCRATIC COALITION STANDS FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the new Democratic coalition, several of my

colleagues along with myself, have come to the floor to speak in favor of fiscal responsibility. We are faced with a philosophical and fiscal choice this year, and it is a wonderful choice to make. It is a choice on how we deal with a surplus.

I was a member of the Committee on the Budget, and in 1997 we came up with a plan to make sure that we eliminated the Federal deficit by the year 2002. Many scoffed that that plan, although it was adopted by this House, could not possibly achieve the objective by 2002. It is with some pride and some great hope that we are now, not in 2002 but 1999, wondering what to do with the Federal surplus. I believe we should continue the same fiscal policies that got us the surplus.

The choice before us is major across-the-board tax cuts that we cannot afford, or major Federal spending programs of tens of billions of dollars that we cannot afford, or alternatively, modest tax cuts and saving the lion's share of the surplus. It is that latter course, the course of fiscal responsibility, that is better not only for social security and Medicare but also for the business community, for middle-class families, and for the poor.

As a Democrat, many of my years were spent, and I got active in politics relatively early, focused on programs like the Great Society, programs designed to help the poor and the dispossessed, and make sure that we are brought together as one Nation.

But when I got to Congress we all focused on fiscal responsibility, not new government programs, as a way of achieving a great society. We were right to do so, because the greatest possible program for the poor is a national economy that is creating new jobs. What more proof do we need than just 2 days ago the announcement that Hispanic unemployment and African American unemployment reached the lowest levels in the history of those statistics being kept in America?

Lyndon Johnson would be proud, perhaps, that we achieved a goal that was always out of sight for the Great Society, but now is in sight for a fiscally responsible society. The best thing we can do for the poor is not necessarily a new Federal program, but it is keeping this Federal expansion going. Likewise, it is the best thing we can do for the business community and for middle-class families.

Yes, the business community likes and deserves and wants a tax cut. But today's market of, or nearly, a thousand on the Dow was not achieved in the 1980s when we had huge tax cuts, most of them focused on the rich and the business community and the corporate sector.

We have achieved near record levels and record levels on Wall Street not because of the lowest possible taxes, but because of the most responsible Federal government we have seen in modern history. While Europe, each country in Europe, tends to run a deficit of

two or three percent of its GDP, we in the United States have shown that democracy can go hand-in-hand with fiscal responsibility.

As for middle-class families, middle-class families deserve and need a tax cut. We voted for one in 1997, and I hope to provide targeted tax cuts for middle-class families and be part of providing that today.

As this chart illustrates, middle-class families will benefit just as much or more from a reduction in interest rates as they will from the tax cuts that are being proposed. This chart demonstrates that even with an average-priced home, and they are twice as expensive in my district, the savings is \$1,860 from a fiscally responsible budget.

WITH BIPARTISAN FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I must tell the Members that I have been very encouraged by the last two speeches from our Democratic friends talking about the need for fiscal responsibility. I really do believe that despite the fact that the chattering classes on TV every night talk about how this Republican Party is getting brutalized by the polls in the area of public opinion, I have to tell the Members that I am very encouraged, because it appears that we have won the debate. To hear Democrats talking about fiscal responsibility in 1999, talking about the deficit, talking about staying away from tax increases, these are the very things that got me to Washington in 1994.

I remember back in 1993 when the new President, who was elected by promising to reduce the deficit by cutting spending and cutting middle class taxes, came forward and he increased taxes, and actually gave us one of the largest tax increases in the history of this country.

I ran because of that, and I have to tell the Members, when I ran in 1994 I talked about the deficit. I talked about the need of cutting the deficit, cutting spending, reducing the size of Washington, and creating an explosive economy that would lift all boats.

What happened? In 1994 when I came to town we had deficits approaching \$300 billion. Now, of course, we are moving towards a true surplus. In 1994 interest rates were about 3 percent higher. The last gentleman who spoke, who I agreed with, the last gentleman who spoke talked about how in 1997 they came up with a budget plan that would balance the budget by the year 2002.

Actually, I remember when we got here in 1994 and we were sworn in. In early 1995 the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, the gentleman from

Ohio (Mr. JOHN KASICH) invited the Fed chairman Alan Greenspan to come and testify on Capitol Hill about the long-term effects of balancing the budget, under our plan of balancing it by 2002.

Alan Greenspan looked at the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman KASICH) and said, "If you only have the political courage to move forward and balance the budget by 2002, we will see the fastest peacetime economic expansion since the war."

What was the President's response? The President, who now talks about how he is this great fiscal disciplinarian, the President came out in 1995 and said balancing the budget by 2002 would destroy the economy, would wreck all the economic growth that we were fighting for.

I do not say this to say that the Republicans exclusively are responsible for this strong economy, or the fact that we are now playing surplus politics, because really, there is enough credit to go around.

What I am saying is there is a danger of us sitting here today in 1999 and rewriting history. There is a danger that we forget just how hard we had to fight this President, who was willing to veto every appropriation bill, shut down the government, turn around and blame it on us, because he said our plan to balance the budget by 2002 would destroy the economy.

Let me tell the Members, history has shown that we were right, and that, more importantly, Alan Greenspan's prediction in 1995 was correct. At the same time that the President was saying that balancing the budget in 7 years would destroy the economy, the Fed chairman was saying, "Go ahead. Do it. Damn the political torpedoes. Take that opportunity to balance the budget. The markets will respond."

As the last gentleman said, they have responded. Interest rates continue to fall, the stock market continues to explode, and the great news is that unemployment among minorities is dropping to a record low. Unemployment across the country is dropping to record lows. Again, I see this as a very, very positive sign that all the things that we fought for in 1995 were really worth fighting for.

I have to tell the Members, these past two Members who spoke are people who came after 1995 and 1996, and when they team up with other conservative Democrats to join up with those of us that believe the deficit and the long-term debt really is a drag on the economy, I think that all things are possible as we go into this new century. Again, I am very, very encouraged.

IMPORTANT CHOICES: HOW TO USE EMERGING SURPLUSES IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk today about a very important choice before the Congress and before the United States. It has to do with how we use the surplus that has developed in the social security trust fund, and in the years ahead, the surpluses that will begin to develop elsewhere in the Federal Government if this economy continues to be as healthy as it has been.

I support the President's position that we take the lion's share of this surplus in the social security trust fund and use it to pay down the debt. Those of us who serve on the Committee on the Budget have the job to begin to sort through the fine print on this.

What is becoming clear is what the President has proposed is balanced. What the President has proposed is that as we pay down the debt, we will be protecting social security for the retirement of the baby boomers in the future. We will be protecting Medicare for the future as well.

□ 1445

The position that we should be taking, the balanced position we should be taking is, if we want additional spending as a Democrat or Republican for education or other programs, we find a place to cut the Federal budget to fund that, but do not use the surplus. Let us pay down the debt first.

If we want to cut taxes, which we should do, find a place in the Federal Government to cut spending to support that tax cut, but do not use the surplus. Use the surplus to pay down the debt. This can be done.

We did it in 1997 with the Balanced Budget Act. We enacted tax cuts of over \$90 billion by cutting spending elsewhere in the Federal Government, not relying upon the lion's share of the surplus. That should go into paying down the Federal debt.

Let me talk about the very important fact of how this benefits all of us at home. As we begin to pay down the debt, we will continue to enjoy a very healthy economy.

Alan Greenspan who has testified before the House Committee on the Budget has made it clear that, as the Federal Government borrows less and less, as more and more money is available in the private sector, interest rates will go down. Interest rates could go down as much as two additional points if we continue our course of fiscal responsibility and do as the President has advocated, use the lion's share of the surplus in the Social Security Trust Fund to pay down the debt.

What does that mean to us as the consumers? Look at the average mortgage, about \$115,000 in many parts of the country. One is paying \$844 every month on one's mortgage to keep one's home. If interest rates go down two additional points, that could mean a drop in one's monthly mortgage payment to \$689. That is \$155 in one's pocket that one did not have beforehand. One did not have to call one's accountant to

figure out how to use the tax code to take that savings. It is money in one's pocket every month.

That is what low interest rates are about. That is what it is about when we talk about using the lion's share of the surplus in the Social Security Trust Fund to pay down the debt.

Let me give my colleagues another example. Many children and adults in this country have student loans. As interest rates drop in response to us paying down the Federal debt, it will have a positive impact on people that are working so very desperately to repay their student loans.

In many parts of the country, the average student loan rate is about 8¼ percent and a balance of about \$35,000. There are a lot of students and former students in this country that owe a lot of money to the Federal Government. If interest rates continue to decline as we pay down the debt, one can see as much as a \$385 drop per month in student loans. That is money in one's pocket. That is better than most of the tax cuts one will hear advocated up here.

We are doing it in a way that is responsible. We are paying down the Federal debt. We are protecting Medicare. We are protecting Social Security by doing the same thing that each of us does at home, which is try to keep our checkbook in order.

So I support the President's position that we use the lion's share of the surplus in the Social Security Trust Fund to pay down the debt. It is the right thing to do. It is good for Social Security. It is good for Medicare. It will help consumers at home. It will lower interest rates.

MAKE 1999 THE YEAR OF THE TROOPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, under the Constitution, the Congress of the United States is responsible for the national security of our country. The first priority for 1999 should be to make this the year of the troops.

The service chiefs several days ago testified before the Committee on Armed Services on which I serve that their troops are the most important part of the military that is in need. Problems are there that must be addressed.

The first problem is that of retention, retaining the capable and bright young people in our military forces, whether it be the Army, Navy, Marines, or Air Force. We are having trouble retaining mid-career officers. We are having trouble retaining non-commissioned officers and those with critical skills, pilots, airplane mechanics, those that are skilled with computers and information systems.

Another problem is that of recruiting, causing young people to want to

join the services. All four of the services are having difficulty with recruiting. All of the services, with exception of the Marine Corps are not meeting their goals.

The Army will have a shortfall of some 3,000, maybe even as high as 6,000 people in their recruiting goals. The Navy could be as many as 4,000 short. The Air Force plans to buy television ads for the first time. If retention and recruiting are not improved, the services will be unable to make the end strengths, that is the numbers that are allocated by law, which by the way are already too low.

For example, the Army ended 1998, fiscal year, approximately 4,000 people under strength. All of this leads to a readiness problem, whether the forces are ready to perform their job at the highest level that the American people expect of them. The readiness problem deals with the services, high operations Tempo, and a shortage of spare parts that contribute to the reduction in this readiness.

In addition, the operational Tempo, that is being gone so much, puts a strain on families; and the spare parts shortage adds to job dissatisfaction. Both in turn contribute to the problems of recruiting and retention.

The Department of Defense proposal for military pay retirement is a good first step. I compliment the Secretary of Defense and those that have studied this issue on that initiative.

There is a pay triad that has three aspects that we need to look at regarding paying the young people who serve and those who serve for a career. First is the across-the-board pay increase for all service members, 4.4 percent, effective January 1 of the year 2000, with additional raises programed for the year 2001 and 2005.

The second part of this triad is the pay table reform, additional raises to better reward performance by compensating service members for skills and education and years of experience.

Then there is the reform of the retirement system, a return to the 20-year retirement to 50 percent of the basic pay.

Congress can do these things, but we can and, frankly, we should do more. It was General Hughes Shelton, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who testified several days ago and said, "You can't pay our troops too much, but you can pay them too little."

We should consider a Military Thrift Savings Plan— which many corporations afford their employees. We need to take better care of the families by better family housing and improving their medical care, making sure that TriCare works the way we intend it to work, make sure that they have better barracks for those who are single and do not have families.

We should ensure that the people in the military do not get left behind in the booming economy that we have, or else they tend to leave the military behind.

We have a highly capable military force, I think the finest our Nation has ever had. But the key, of course, is the people, qualified, motivated, intelligent, hardworking people of whom we are so proud.

We need to keep and attract quality people, to train them, and ensure that their morale remains high. It will require a multiyear effort. Mr. Speaker, we should begin that effort now by making the year 1999 the year of the troops.

USE SURPLUS TO PAY DOWN NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this year marked a real turning part in the recent history of our country as this was the first year in over a couple decades that we actually could no longer talk about our country running a deficit but actually talk about our country running a surplus.

When I first was elected to Congress over 8 years ago, we were talking about budget deficits that were approaching \$290 billion a year. Today, this year, because of the great leadership of President Clinton and Republicans as well as Democrats in Congress, we have made the tough choices that have put us on the path of greater responsibility.

This year in Congress, we are once again going to be called upon to make some tough choices about how should we proceed in terms of making decisions to ensure that we maintain a path of fiscal responsibility.

I am here to argue that it is the interest of our families, it is in the interest of our children that we commit ourselves to paying down the national debt, that we support President Clinton's decision to use these surplus dollars that we are going to be generating over the next 15 years to try to pay off the \$3.7 trillion in national debt that have accumulated over the last 20 years.

It does not matter if we are a supporter of defense or if we are a supporter of education. It is in all of our interest to pay down the national debt. The reason for that is very simple to understand. When we look at how the government spends every tax dollar that we receive, I think half of us would be surprised when we identify that the third largest expenditure of the Federal Government is on interest on the national debt. Fourteen cents of every tax dollar collected is going to pay interest on the national debt. By comparison, we are only spending \$55 billion on education or 3 cents on every dollar.

So the decision by the President and many of us in the Democratic Party to commit ourselves to paying down the national debt, what it means in effect is that we are going to reduce this \$243

billion that we are spending every year on interest in order that we can ensure that we will have the ability to meet a lot of other pressing needs, whether it be national defense or whether it be education.

As I said earlier, this is in the interest of all of our families because, by paying down the national debt, we are also going to be alleviating the burden on an average family of four today who is paying, in effect, \$3,644 a year to finance that interest.

We had earlier speakers that talked about what it means in terms of mortgage payments. If we paid down the national debt, we are going to see an expected reduction of interest rates of 2 percent, which again means the difference in a monthly mortgage payment of \$155 a month.

When people talk about making a tax cut or providing all of our citizens with a tax cut, I can think of no better tax cut than paying down the national debt because we are, in effect, reducing the burden of this interest payment.

I myself, besides being a Member of Congress, am a farmer. As most farmers, we have to borrow money in order to operate our enterprises. An average operating loan of maybe \$250,000 a year, that 2 percent reduction in interest rate means \$5,000 in the bottom line in profits to a farmer.

When we purchase a new piece of equipment, which are becoming increasingly expensive, an average combine today costing \$200,000, again the benefits of paying down our national debt, which will reduce interest rates, will manifest itself in a total savings on interest on the purchase of one combine of over \$11,000 a year.

So in this Congress, when there is going to be a debate among those who are supporting a policy that the President is advocating of paying down the national debt in order to try to keep this economy on a sound path, in order to ensure that we can see even lower interest rates than we see today, that is a course we should take.

I think we ought to be very cautious in succumbing to the allure of tax cuts which would pose a great jeopardy to the country if they are not paid for by reductions of spending in other components in our budget, because they have the danger of taking us once again down a path that will lead to increased deficits and increased national debt, which will undermine the solvency of our economy and certainly will continue to obligate our families and future generations the responsibility of continuing to pay the carrying cost of our excess spending of today.

□ 1500

DISCUSSION ON THE SURPLUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion on the surplus, not just how to spend it but how we got here. Different people can take a different view of both, but I would like to point out some actual facts.

First of all, in 1993, the White House under President Clinton, they had the House, the Senate and the White House. They gave us in 1993 what the Democrats called an economic stimulus package, which raised taxes to the highest level ever on the American people, and they state that that brought us the surplus.

I would claim that that is inaccurate. Because in 1995, when the Republicans took over the House and Senate, we rejected over 90 percent of that economic stimulus package. We are not even operating under that stimulus package.

And what did that stimulus package do? It increased the tax on Social Security. It increased the tax on middle-income working families. I do not use the term "middle-class." I do not think there is any such thing as a middle-class citizen. There are middle-income citizens. And for the first time, in 1995 we decreased the amount of tax on Social Security that the 1993 bill did. And when people fill out their tax forms this April, for the first time, they will receive a \$400 deduction per child. Next year that will go to \$500 per child.

They can also receive tax credits. But we repealed the 1993 bill to actually give more dollars back to working Americans instead of the Government itself.

Take a look at welfare reform, when the Democrats said they were responsible for the deficit. First of all, the President vetoed the balanced budget. And I think we can all remember he said, well, it will take two years. It will take four years. It will take six. It will take eight. And finally, after the third time, he came around and signed it and gave us the same Medicare program that they put over \$100 million in ads demonizing the Republicans for and he signed that. But for 40 years they took money out of the Social Security account and paid for welfare.

The President just said in his State of the Union, look, we have less than one half of the welfare rolls that we did before. Now, instead of government having to pay people on welfare and take out of the budget, now the Welfare to Work program, we have people actually working and contributing to the budget and adding to that. That is more money.

The billions of dollars that we gave to welfare recipients, the average, Mr. Speaker, was 16 years, the average, on welfare. That is wrong. All of those savings and the quality of life for those families and for those children that were on welfare is better.

Are there people that need welfare money? Absolutely. And we do not mind giving our tax dollars to that. But 16 years is too much. But yet many of the progressive caucus would just

give more money and more money and more money without managing the program. That is what led a lot to the deficits that we had in the different budgets.

If we take a look at the balanced budget, the balanced budget, according to Alan Greenspan, has lowered interest rates between 2 and 8 percent. Look at what that has done to the markets and the increase in the markets, in the economy. Capital gains reductions paid for itself.

If we take a look at the other tax breaks that we gave to American people so that they spent the dollars, not the government, the surpluses are due because the Republicans gave money back to working people instead of taking it away.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND REDUCING NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, Americans now are looking at the longest peacetime expansion of the United States economy since the start of the 20th century. The outlook for our future is rosy. Economic growth is expected to continue to rise, and unemployment is predicted to stay below 5 percent. Inflation is expected to remain low, and it is believed that the interest rates on mortgages and loans will continue to remain attractive.

This booming Federal economy has passed on some benefits to the Federal Government. The most notable are the increased tax revenues and Social Security dollars that result from a fully employed workforce. With this economy, Congress is faced with a new and interesting predicament of deciding what to do with those Social Security surpluses.

If we look only at the short term, we might be tempted to spend those funds on what later generations would call reckless tax cuts. Now, I support cutting taxes and I hope we can find some room this year to do just that. But the American public is more savvy and will not condone irresponsible use of projected budget surpluses.

My constituents, if they retired, would not go out and spend all of their retirement on a new sailboat the day they retired. Well, I think they want us to show that same fiscal restraint and discipline.

While economists are predicting good times ahead, our future also holds a growing number of baby-boomers who will be moving from the work force into retirement. They have paid into Social Security and they should know it will be there for them in the future.

The youngest citizens of our Nation also need to know that we are thinking ahead. If we work to save Social Security and Medicare now and pay down our national debt, we will leave them

with a healthy economy and the resources they need to move this nation ahead.

This year, as a member of the Committee on the Budget, I will be looking forward to working on these issues. We know that the part of our national debt "held by public" will be 42 percent of our Gross Domestic Product this year. This is the term we use to describe the money the Federal Government has borrowed from banks and pension funds. With a Federal debt in the area of \$5 trillion, we need to focus on paying that down and end the process of borrowing.

The budget proposal sent to Congress by the President does just that. It makes sure that we save and makes sure that Medicare and Social Security are there for the future, as well as it pays down the debt. This is a home run for all of our citizens.

If my colleagues look at this chart, we look at the interest again, 14 percent. If we have the discipline, the fiscal discipline, to make sure we have Social Security there for the future, that we have Medicare there for the future and pay down that debt, we will get that down to about 2 cents per dollar. With that kind of a reduction, I want to tell my colleagues, there will then be real money for tax cuts and real money for investing in a lot of programs that people want.

I am looking forward to working on this agenda that will be healthy for the future economy of the United States.

NEVADA IS TARGET FOR NUCLEAR PAYLOAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 10 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I come before my colleagues to give voice to the well-founded fears and concerns of the citizens of the Las Vegas Valley, which is my home district, and the citizens of the entire State of Nevada.

Over one and a half million Nevadans live within an hour or so drive from the so-called temporary high level nuclear dump proposed in H.R. 45. This bill would dump over 70,000 tons of an incredibly lethal substance at one location in southern Nevada. Those Nevadans, mothers like myself, fathers, sons, daughters and grandparents, deserve the same health and safety protections as every American.

H.R. 45 would deny equal protection under the law to the citizens of Nevada and to future Nevada generations. But I will also discuss how this bill places Americans in all parts of this country at risk.

When one lives in a State that has been singled out as the target for a nuclear payload, he gives close attention to the issue. Nevadans know just how toxic, how dangerous, how menacing high-level nuclear waste really is. To

give my colleagues some idea, a person standing next to an unshielded spent nuclear fuel assembly would get a fatal dose of radiation within three minutes.

Under H.R. 45, the concentrated level of deadly radiation in one place in my home State staggers the imagination. H.R. 45 would force all of the Nation's high-level waste on the people of one State, a State where there is not even one nuclear reactor.

For nearly two decades the nuclear industry and the Department of Energy have tried to convince Nevadans that high-level nuclear waste transportation and storage is safe. Their argument basically is, we will just stuff this stuff right into metal cans, screw the lids on tight, and there is nothing to worry about.

Well, what is wrong with this picture? Well, if those cans of nuclear waste are so safe, why do they have to be shipped from all parts of the United States into the State of Nevada? That question has haunted Nevadans for years, and our concerns have intensified with H.R. 45.

This bill would unleash high-level nuclear waste onto the Nation's highways and rail lines. It is this issue, the transportation of high-level nuclear waste, that binds Nevadans with all Americans as potential victims of H.R. 45.

Americans from all parts of the country would be exposed to unacceptable and unnecessary risk because they live near highways and railroads where nuke trucks and trains would roll. Moving nuclear waste to Nevada would require well over 100,000 long-haul shipments. Nuclear waste will be speeding around the clock every day for nearly 30 years on our roads and rails. This should sound a national alarm.

The deadly cargo will intrude on 43 States and hundreds of cities and towns across our nation. Fifty million Americans live within just a mile and a half of shipping routes. The waste will rumble through Birmingham, Alabama; Laramie, Wyoming; Portland, Maine; and the suburbs of Los Angeles; Miami, Florida; Kansas City; and St. Louis, Missouri. In short, nuclear waste will be on the move all over the country all the time for 30 years.

The Department of Transportation counted more than 99,000 incidents in which hazardous materials were released from trucks and trains from 1987 to 1996, causing 356 major injuries and 114 deaths. The Department of Energy has described a plausible crash scenario involving high impact and fire that would contaminate an area of 42 square miles with radioactive debris. It is truly horrifying to picture this happening in a populated area.

We have been repeatedly told that shipping nuclear waste across the country and stashing it at a dump site is safe. But let us take a brief look at the history of how the Federal Government has handled nuclear projects. The lands around nuclear installations at Hanford, Washington, Rocky Flats,

Colorado, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Fernald, Ohio, are contaminated. The GAO concluded that 124 of our 127 nuclear sites have been mismanaged by the DOE.

Nevadans do not buy this "don't worry, be happy" attitude towards radiation, and for good reason. I grew up in Nevada. Nevadans were proud to volunteer for the patriotic chore of playing host to above- and below-ground nuclear weapons testing, but the Federal Government never leveled with us about the risks.

In the 1950s the Government produced films advising that if people just stayed indoors as clouds of fallout drifted through communities, everyone would be safe. As a safety measure, the Government suggested that a quick car wash would eliminate any pesky radioactive contamination.

It seems harmless enough if it were not for the evidence of a disturbing increase in cancer that later traumatized these same communities. Harmless? Perhaps, if above-ground testing did not spread radioactive elements across the country.

Supposedly safe above-ground nuclear tests were stopped when it was proved that radiation was winding up in the bodies of American children through the milk they were drinking. Underground testing was supposed to be the safe answer, or so the Government said. The radioactivity would be trapped underground, never to get out, except that some of the underground shafts burst open, spewing radiation into the air. Now scientists are finding that plutonium thought to be trapped in these test shafts is moving through the groundwater at alarming speed.

□ 1515

So I have a healthy skepticism about Federal nuclear programs. My healthy skepticism persuades me that H.R. 45 is, in fact, a Trojan horse for permanently dumping high level nuclear waste in Nevada.

Make no mistake, there is nothing temporary about H.R. 45. This bill is a political vehicle to get the waste to Nevada, to be conveniently parked next door to Yucca Mountain, the site of a failing effort to justify a permanent dump.

The past year has been marked by a quickening pace of scientific evidence that clearly eliminates Yucca Mountain as a safe place for nuclear waste. Water will saturate the dump. Those who thought Yucca Mountain would be dry for 10,000 years are stunned to discover that water is filtering through at an alarming rate. Yucca Mountain has been, is and always will be jolted by earthquakes. In recent days seismologists described swarms of earthquakes that rocked the area. To visit Yucca Mountain is to feel the earth move.

A growing number of scientists fear that a Yucca Mountain dump intended to isolate deadly radioactivity forever may well explode into an environmental apocalypse of volcanic eruptions. It is not nice to fool Mother Nature. Where earthquakes, water and

volcanic activity are permanent dangers, we must not build a high level nuclear dump.

The nuclear power industry should immediately cancel the Yucca Mountain project. The billions of dollars coming from ratepayers would be better spent finding a sensible and safe solution to nuclear disposal. Instead we have H.R. 45. This bill exists because the nuclear power industry sees that the only way to keep the Yucca Mountain project alive is to build a temporary dump next door. With the waste site up at the temporary dump near Yucca Mountain, there would be a powerful motivation to make Yucca Mountain work out somehow.

Under those circumstances I fear that the health and safety of current and future generations would be jeopardized for the sake of expediency. As the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board has clearly stated, a temporary facility at the Nevada test site could prejudice later decisions about the suitability of Yucca Mountain.

H.R. 45 has its roots in expediency over public health and welfare. H.R. 45 throws out existing radiation safety standards and replaces them with dangerous levels of radiation exposure that would be, quote, acceptable. The temporary dump cannot meet the current standards, so H.R. 45 permits Nevadans to be exposed to four to six times the amount of radiation allowed at any other waste site. H.R. 45 allows exposure 25 times the level set by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA administrator Carol Browner said H.R. 45 would authorize exposures to future generations of Nevadans which are much higher than those allowed for other Americans and citizens of other countries. Congress in 1982 called for nine potential nuclear storage sites to be assessed. By 1987, due to political considerations, not scientific findings, Yucca Mountain alone was targeted for site characterization.

As it became increasingly clear Yucca Mountain is not suitable under stringent and responsible law that Congress passed in 1982, the rules have been repeatedly relaxed in favor of Yucca Mountain and against health and safety. And now comes H.R. 45, a bill which achieves nothing but risks the health and safety of current and future generations of Nevadans.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board advises that there are no compelling reasons to move the nuclear waste in short term. H.R. 45 would be a terrible and needless mistake. If passed, it would be fought in courts by Americans across this country. I would stand with them in court or on the roads and rails if necessary to stop this disastrous policy.

REMEMBER PAOLI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.

WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this special order to discuss America's patriots. The patriots of America have been extremely important in the struggle for this great Nation over the past 220 years, to allow us to enjoy the freedoms and the independence that oftentimes we take for granted. My discussion today will focus on the patriots of America of the past and the patriots of America today, those who are defending our country around the world.

Let me start off by discussing a situation I think requires national attention.

Over 220 years ago, Mr. Speaker, this Nation was fighting for its existence. Young patriots, many of whom were undertrained, who were not properly fed, who were ill-equipped, were fighting against the forces of England to allow us to have a free independent Nation. There were some very serious battles in that process. We know those battles from our history books, the battles of Valley Forge, the battles that took place in Brandywine.

But, Mr. Speaker, what we have failed to understand is that one key battle that many historians would argue was the turning point in the morale of our troops to defeat the British was the battle that resulted in the outcry of our troops, "Remember Paoli." It occurred in the spring of 1777 when the British were conducting the Philadelphia campaign to then take over the capital of our Nation because at that time Philadelphia was the capital of the United States. There was a major effort on the part of the British to move to capture Philadelphia, and in the process a series of battles took place.

The first of two American attempts to stop the British invasion that fall was the battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777, and the unsuccessful Battle of the Clouds, September 16, 1777. There was also a third attempt to contain the British General Sir William Howe's advance on Philadelphia, and each of them were unsuccessful.

But a very important history lesson shows us that in the Battle of Paoli the British troops sought and successfully committed a surprise attack on our troops that were encamped at Paoli at a cornfield, a cornfield that still exists today. The British went to do this in the early morning hours so as to avoid detection, and they did not want to use their guns because they wanted a surprise attack to wipe out the patriots for the fight for our independence.

The battle took place, and the British massacred the American patriots. Their bayonet attacks on the American young men who fought there, many of whom were 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 years of age, were by all accounts devastating. Fifty-three young Americans were slaughtered, slaughtered by the British. They were slaughtered in such a fierce way that the story of that battle

traveled throughout the Revolutionary War troops and the cry of "Remember Paoli" became a rallying cry for the American patriots in all future battles of the revolution which we all know we successfully won.

"Remember Paoli" was about a battle fought on a 40-acre site in Malvern and Chester County in Pennsylvania, not far from Valley Forge and not far from Brandywine. Today there are 53 young American patriots whose bodies lay in rest at that site.

The challenge we have, Mr. Speaker, is that that 40-acre battlefield adjacent to the burial site of these young American patriots is about to be sold. It is about to be developed; perhaps another shopping center, perhaps another housing project, perhaps being paved over by someone who wants to build some new type of development in the area that we call the Main Line coming out of Philadelphia, a very affluent area.

But the owner of the property, a private school right next to the site, has issued a challenge, that America, the State, the county and the local community should undertake an effort to preserve that 40-acre site so that those 53 young American patriots, so that their memory is never forgotten.

Two and a half years ago when the owner of that property came forward, the owner of the school, the board of directors said, "We challenge the community, we challenge the country to protect this site and allow us to move on to other things. But if you do not take up that challenge, we will sell the site to developers."

Mr. Speaker, that sale is imminent, and if in fact the Paoli site is sold, it will be one of the last remaining significant sites that was a part of our Revolutionary War history. It is a site that needs to be protected. It is a site that needs the Federal Government, the State, the county and the local government to come together with the private sector to show those American patriots and all of our war heroes, including those serving the country today, that we will always remember and honor their service, and in this case especially because of the symbolism associated with the battle at Paoli and the massacre that occurred there.

Two and a half years ago a local group led by citizens in Malvern Borough, where Paoli is located, joined together to begin to raise the private money to acquire this site. Now many would argue this site should be protected by the Federal Government. After all, it was a major battle, just as Valley Forge was a battle and Brandywine was a battle and other historical sites were battle grounds. But they decided they would set the tone, so they set out to raise money. To date they have raised over \$500,000 in actual money and commitments to help protect this site.

They came to me one year ago, and they said, "Congressman, can you assist us? Because there are patriots of the Revolutionary War who are buried

at this site." And I said absolutely unequivocally I would help to have the Federal Government include this site as a part of the history of this great Nation.

Throughout last year we worked on a bipartisan piece of legislation that worked its way out of the Committee on Resources. With the full support of JIM HANSEN and his subcommittee and DON YOUNG on the full committee the bill was passed in the Senate, but because of a difficulty in getting the bill under unanimous consent on the floor on the last day could not be brought up for passage. I have reintroduced that measure in the House this session.

Yesterday I introduced the Patriot Act, Mr. Speaker, which would, in fact, allow us to assist the local folks in protecting the site of the Paoli massacre and the revered site where those 53 young Americans are buried. The bill has the unanimous support of the entire Pennsylvania congressional delegation, our neighbor in Delaware, Congressman CASTLE, our neighbor in south Jersey, ROB ANDREWS, because they understand, as I do, the historical significance of this site.

The legislation, Mr. Speaker, would allow us to authorize up to \$2.5 million to show this local school that we want to work with the local folks to acquire this site. This act would require that a study be done by the National Park Service as to whether or not the site of the Paoli massacre should be included as a part of the Valley Forge National Park right down the road. In the meantime, it would allow the Federal Government to an appropriate on a dollar-for-dollar basis one-half of the \$2.5 million needed to acquire this site.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the local folks in Chester County have already raised \$500,000. What we would do is then move to provide a matching dollar-for-dollar basis up to a cap of \$1.25 million, so we would have a combined total of \$2.5 million to acquire the 40-acre site.

The Borough of Malvern, where the battlefield is located, has agreed to maintain the site until the Park Service determines whether or not it will take the site as a part of Valley Forge National Park. In the meantime, they will police it, they will oversee it. That site will remain as it was 222 years ago. It will still be the cornfield that it was when those soldiers bravely fought for our independence.

To do anything less than protect that site would in my opinion be a national embarrassment, and I urge my colleagues to sign on, to jointly support and honor those brave patriots who fought for America's independence, to allow us to help protect one of those final sites in our history that is today threatened by developers.

Mr. Speaker, the precedent is clear here. We are not asking for the Federal Government to go out and buy the land itself. The local community is raising the funds. The local community is committed.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, two days ago I visited one of the elemen-

tary schools right near the Paoli site, the Exton Elementary School, where the combined students of the fourth grade class of the Exton elementary school handed me 41,000 and 500 pennies. In their Pennies for Paoli campaign these young students for the past five months collected pennies from throughout their neighborhood because they want to show the Federal, State and county governments that they think it is important that we take the time to protect this sacred site where these 53 American heroes are buried.

□ 1530

They handed me the money and the accompanying check for \$415 as a part of their ongoing commitment to help indicate their support and their involvement in saving Paoli.

Other schools in the region have taken similar initiatives to help protect the Paoli site. Mr. Speaker, the Sugartown Elementary School, the KD Markley Elementary School, the Charlestown Elementary School and the Exton Elementary School all have conducted letter writing campaigns.

My office has received thousands of letters from young people, not just in our region, but because this story was the subject of a national news story on Good Morning America on July 4th of last year, thousands of people around America have written to say that we too think America should protect and preserve this final site that is so important to understanding the history of America during our struggle for freedom and independence. I think our students have set the example for us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit some of the letters from these elementary students about what they think about the Paoli site.

From Nick, dated January 4, 1999: "Dear Mr. Weldon, please save the Paoli Battlefield. It is very special to us. It helps us learn about our country's history." He drew pictures of the battle.

I have another letter from Myles Neuman from Sugartown School: "Dear Curt Weldon, the Paoli Battlefield should be preserved as a national park because those graves should honor the brave soldiers that fought for our country. If you were one of the honorable soldiers that fought on this field, would you like builders to develop something or develop it for other uses in Paoli? This would be a great honor for us and the kids that are learning about our history. It would be a wonderful addition to Valley Forge Park." That is from Myles Neuman.

Or Alyssa Jackson, who says: "I am in Mrs. Weigal's fourth grade class. I live in Frazer, PA. I am writing to you to do all that you can to save the Paoli Battlefield. I think the builders are wrong to want to build homes or businesses where over 50 people are buried. I hope you can do something about it."

Finally, from Emily: "Please save the Paoli Battlefield. It is very special to us. It helps us to learn about our

country's history. I have seen the Paoli Battlefield. It is very pretty."

Mr. Speaker, these are but a few of the thousands of letters that I have received from young people, not just in my district, but throughout the region and throughout the country, that are asking this Congress to do something very small, very simple, yet very historic, and that is to pass the authorizing legislation that passed the Senate in the last session, that passed the Interior Committee, to allow us to work with the local folks to preserve the Paoli Battlefield. Nothing I think of could be more important for the remembrance of our patriots.

Also in our P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act, Mr. Speaker, we authorize the continued funding of approximately \$6 million for the full definition of the Brandywine Battlefield. The Brandywine Battlefield, where another historic battle was fought between our patriots and the British, has not yet been fully completed in terms of acquiring the space around it.

We are not talking about money to build buildings. We are talking about the easements necessary to keep this battle site as it was 222 years ago.

In the case of Brandywine, again, we are saying that the authorization is for \$6 million, but the local folks must raise \$3 million, so on a dollar for dollar basis, with state money, with county money, with private dollars, we will match on a dollar for dollar basis the funding necessary to complete the full dimensions of the original site of the Brandywine Battlefield.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the third provision in my P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act would allow us to approve an agreement between the National Park Service and the largest collectors of Revolutionary War artifacts in America.

For the past 5 years I have been working with the collectors, those people who have the largest private collections of Revolutionary War materials. Most of these materials are today being housed within their own control or they are loaned to museums when they see fit.

The collectors approached me and said, "Congressman Weldon, we would like to work with you to privately fund a major new display area and museum at the site of Valley Forge. We are not asking for Federal money. We are asking you to work with us in an agreement with the Park Service that will allow us to have a trade of property that is currently owned by the Valley Forge historical society to allow us to raise the money to build this new 21st century learning center about the Revolutionary War."

The collectors that I have been working with, Mr. Speaker, have agreed that they would make their collections available to this site, that they would be permanently on display for all Americans to see, artifacts that Americans otherwise would not have access to, to compliment those artifacts that are already existing at Valley Forge.

All we are asking in this bill is to give the Park Service the approval to finalize that agreement between the private collectors and the National Park Service. We are asking for no authorization of dollars to allow this new museum to go forward.

Mr. Speaker, he think these three initiatives are very logical. I think they are the kind of thing that Republicans and Democrats can jointly support. I think there is no better series of actions that we can take in 1999 to remember the Pennsylvania patriots who fought to give us the freedoms and liberties and independence of this great Nation. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting the patriots of the Revolutionary War and to cosponsor the P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act of 1999.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF AMERICA'S PATRIOTS OF TODAY

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the second half of my special order I would also like to discuss America's patriots of today, because we have some major problems that need to be addressed in this session of the Congress.

We need to address these, Mr. Speaker, because the patriots of today are finding it extremely difficult to do the job that they voluntarily signed up to do on behalf of our great Nation.

I am ashamed to tell you, Mr. Speaker, today, as a senior member of the Committee on Armed Services, as the chairman of one of our key subcommittees, that we have some of our fighter wings where up to one-third of our airplanes are not flying because they have had to be cannibalized to use the parts from those planes to keep the other two-thirds flying.

I am ashamed to report, Mr. Speaker, that we have ships at sea, our carriers, where we are hundreds of sailors short, going out to complete missions and coming back home without the proper staffing that we have identified as appropriate for these most important vessels of our Navy.

I am embarrassed that we are asking our Marine Corps to fly in CH-46 helicopters that were built during the Vietnam War that we will continue to fly until they are 55 years old. I am embarrassed that we will be flying the B-52 bomber when it is 75 years old.

Mr. Speaker, we have problems in our military that we need to address, and these problems did not happen overnight and these problems need to be addressed this a bipartisan manner.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, we have to understand why we are where we are today. Let me take a few moments to inform our constituents and our colleagues, especially our colleagues who are sitting in their offices or perhaps back in their homes, about the problems that our military is suffering today, because the perception in America is that we have given so much money to our military that they should have the need of no new dollars. In fact, there are some who say we should cut the defense budget even more than we have cut it.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 14 to 15 years, the only area of the Federal budget that we have cut in real terms has been our defense budget. Fourteen consecutive years of real cuts, not inflationary cuts, but real cuts, in the level of defense spending.

Now, some would say, well, that was justified because the Cold War ended. Let me give you a simple comparison, Mr. Speaker. Let me use the time of John Kennedy, not Ronald Reagan.

When John Kennedy was the President in the 1960's, this country was spending 52 cents of every Federal tax dollar on our military, on those brave patriots who serve our country. That was a time of peace. It was after Korea, yet it was before Vietnam. Yet in those years that John Kennedy served, 52 cents of every Federal tax dollar sent to Washington went to support the men and women in the military. Nine percent of our country's gross national product was used on defense.

In this year's budget, Mr. Speaker, we are spending 15 cents of the Federal tax dollar on the military. We are spending approximately 2.8 percent of our country's gross national product on the military. By anyone's calculation, that is a dramatic decline.

Now, some would say that is still enough money. It is more than others nations spend collectively, and we should be able to handle that because, after all, the Cold War has ended.

But, Mr. Speaker, things have changed since the 1960's. Let's go through a few of those changes.

First of all, when John Kennedy was President, we had a draft. We sucked young people out of high school, we paid them next to nothing, they served the country for two years, and then they went on to do their chosen career or their job in the private sector.

We no longer have the draft, Mr. Speaker. Our troops today are well paid. Our troops today have high school educations, many have college degrees, many are married, they have children. Therefore, we have housing costs, health care costs, education costs, travel costs, that they never had when John Kennedy was the President.

Mr. Speaker, even though we have cut defense spending dramatically, the portion of our defense budget that we use for the quality of life for our troops has increased dramatically. This is where the bulk of our money goes today, to educate the young offspring, to take care of health care needs, to provide housing for our troops and families and travel to move them at home and around the world.

But some other things have happened, Mr. Speaker. Back when John Kennedy was the President, we spent no money in the defense budget on the environment. In this year's defense budget, Mr. Speaker, we will spend \$12 billion of DOD money on environmental mitigation. Approximately half of that money goes for our nuclear program, to deal with our decommissioned nuclear vessels. The other half goes for

a variety of programs, ranging from base cleanups to environmental cooperation with nations and militaries around the world. But that is \$12 billion more out of our defense budget that wasn't spent during John Kennedy's era. That is increasing each year.

But perhaps the most dramatic change, Mr. Speaker, since the 1960's, is best reflected by this chart. From World War II until approximately 7 to 8 years ago, the commanders-in-chief of our country, who were both Democrats and Republicans, committed our troops to just 10 deployments at home and abroad. Ten times over 40 years our troops were sent into harm's way. They were sent into Vietnam, they were sent into Grenada, they were sent into Chicago and Detroit and Watts, but only 10 times in 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, in the past 7 years, most of them under the current administration, this commander-in-chief has deployed our troops 32 times. Thirty-two times in 8 years, 10 deployments in 40 years. At a time where the bulk of our money is going for quality of life, at a time where we are spending \$12 billion a year on the environment, we have 32 deployments, and the President is talking today about sending 4,000 to 5,000 troops to Kosovo, which would raise this to 33 deployments.

Now, why is that important, Mr. Speaker? Because every time the commander-in-chief commits our troops, he has not identified the dollars to pay for those deployments. He simply commits the troops, and then we are left to pay the price that is required to pay for those deployments around the world.

The deployment to Bosnia, Mr. Speaker, as of today, has cost the American taxpayers \$9 billion. Where did that money come from, Mr. Speaker? Because we did not allocate that money in advance, all of that \$9 billion had to come out of an ever-decreasing defense budget.

So what did we do? Instead of building replacement helicopters for the CH-46, we slid the replacement program out to some other administration. Instead of building the Army's replacement helicopter for their existing helicopter, we shipped the Comanche out to the out years. Instead of taking care of the replacement parts for those fighter planes, we slipped that out and we have to cannibalize existing planes. And because we cannot recruit new young people to fill the slots for the Navy and the other services, we have had to go to deployments with less than the required slots filled. In fact, Mr. Speaker, our retention rates for pilots in the Navy and the Air Force is the lowest rate since World War II.

□ 1545

Mr. Speaker, these deployments have robbed our modernization and our research for the future. It has caused us, in my opinion, to face the time when we will look back on these eight years

as the worst period of time for undermining our national security in the Nation's history.

Now, Mr. Speaker, critics will look at this and say, "Wait a minute, wait a minute, what about President Bush?" Because eight years ago he was the one who sent our troops into Desert Storm, and after all, that was a major war. Mr. Speaker, they would be right. President Bush did send our troops into Desert Storm. He sent 400,000 of our troops over there. But, Mr. Speaker, when Commander in Chief Bush sent our troops into Desert Storm, he went to all of our allies and he said, "You either send troops, or you pay for the cost of Desert Storm."

Desert Storm cost the American taxpayers \$52 billion, but unlike this administration, President Bush was able to receive \$53 billion in reimbursements. Those allied nations that did not send troops to Desert Storm gave us the dollars to pay for that deployment, so the net cost to us in terms of dollars was zero. And the deployments under this administration, every one of them, have been paid for by the U.S. taxpayer by robbing the DOD budget.

When we sent our troops into Haiti, President Clinton said it was going to be a multinational force, and some would say it is. But what he did not tell us, Mr. Speaker, is that we are paying for the salary and the housing costs and in some cases the food costs for foreign troops to go into Haiti. Bangladesh sent 1,000 troops. It was a good deal for them because American taxpayers are paying for the costs of keeping them in Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, unlike Desert Storm, these most recent 31 deployments or 32 deployments have been paid for by the U.S. taxpayer, taking money out of the defense budget that was already dramatically being decreased. The irony of all of this, Mr. Speaker, is I have to focus on two points.

First of all, by deploying American men and women around the world, this President has created the impression that all of a sudden the world is safe. There are no more wars in Bosnia, there is no more conflict in Haiti, there is no more conflict in Macedonia and there will be no more conflict in Kosovo, because America has our troops around the world. And the irony is that the American people think by perception that therefore we must cut the defense budget because the world is so much safer today, when in fact it is safer because we have troops on standby and on alert around the world that is costing us dearly in terms of dollars necessary to modernize our military.

No wonder, Mr. Speaker, the President got a standing ovation when he went to the U.N. If I were the President and went to the U.N. and all of those nations out there saw America ready to put our troops on the spot around the world and not pay for it, I would get a standing ovation too.

Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon's own numbers show that for these deploy-

ments just in this administration, the American taxpayers have spent a total of \$19 billion, \$9 billion for Bosnia alone. Mr. Speaker, \$19 billion, to send our troops to places some of which I support, but which should have had our allies pay the bill.

When many of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, both Democrats and Republicans, objected to deploying our troops into Bosnia, it was not because we did not think that Bosnia was important or that we did not think we should be part of a multinational force, because we do. What we objected to, Mr. Speaker, was the fact that America was going to send 36,000 troops into Bosnia, both in theater and in the support around Bosnia, when neighbors like France and Germany were only sending in token components. In the case of Germany, 4,000 troops; in the case of the French and the other neighbors of Bosnia, much smaller amounts.

The question we had is, why is the U.S. footing the bill? Why should not these other nations do what George Bush got nations to do in Desert Storm? Why should they not chip in and help to pay for these operations?

That did not happen, Mr. Speaker, and right now we are facing a situation where the President is saying to the American people, we need to send 4,000 to 5,000 troops into Kosovo. That may or may not be justified, but, Mr. Speaker, he is not going to ask for the approval of the Congress. For the 33rd time in 7 years, he will simply send our troops, as he can do as the commander in chief. He is not going to tell us how much it will cost, because we already asked and he said we do not know. And he is not going to tell us how long they are going to stay there. He is going to send our troops and the Congress is going to be left to foot the bill.

The second irony of this whole thing, Mr. Speaker, is as we in this Congress, Republicans and Democrats over the past four years have tried to replenish some of these funds, to reimburse the military for the extra costs of these deployments, we have been criticized for putting more money in the Pentagon's budget than what the service chiefs asked for. In each of the past four years, Democrats and Republicans came together in both the House and the other body and we said, we want to replenish some of these funds because they have been taken away for military operations and the Pentagon was not reimbursed for the cost. Each year that we did that, this White House that sent our troops on these deployments and did not ask for our approval publicly criticized us for putting more money into the defense budget than what the service chiefs had asked for. Amazing, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, \$19 billion to pay for these deployments. This Congress, in a bipartisan way trying to reimburse the Department of Defense for those deployments, gets criticized because we are putting pork that was not asked for back into defense budget.

Because of these shortcomings, Mr. Speaker, we are facing a crisis today. We have slipped the modernization of our military systems to the next administration. The service chiefs have now publicly come on the record, and in a hearing last week before the House and the week before before the Senate, they said this year they are \$19 billion short just to meet their needs.

Now, the President has given some great speeches over the past 30 days. We heard the Secretary of Defense give a speech where he said the White House had now agreed with the Congress that the threat of external missile proliferation is now real and it is here, and therefore they put hundreds of millions of dollars into the outyears budget for missile defense, something we have been saying for the past three years.

The President gave a speech on cyber terrorism. He said we need to put more money in the budget to protect this country from those who would threaten to take out our smart systems, both our weapons systems and our information systems that control our quality of life. He gave another speech where he said we needed to spend more money against terrorism and for detection of use of weapons of mass destruction.

But what he did not tell the American people, Mr. Speaker, is that his budget request for next year actually does not increase funding for any of those areas. The missile defense budget decreases by a significant amount over five years. The budget for antiterrorism does not increase the way it needs to, in spite of this Congress's leadership in that area; and the budget for cyber terrorism and information warfare likewise does not increase. In fact it stagnates and, I would argue, decreases, when the Defense Science Board three years ago told us we should be spending \$3 billion more on the issue of information warfare to protect America from a cyber attack.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a very unusual situation. We have an administration that has used our military more than any administration in this century, in this country's history. Mr. Speaker, 32 and soon to be 33 deployments in 7 to 8 years, versus 10 in 40 years. Yet, during that time the administration has continued to decrease the funding for the services, has paid for none of these deployments, has asked to take all of that money out of the backbone of our military budget and then has criticized the Congress for wanting to put more money back in, and goes around the world saying how nice and calm things are.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be real. This is not an argument between Republicans and Democrats. In the House and the Senate, the defense battles have been won by Democrats and Republicans coming together to tell this administration that they have got it all wrong. And in this Congress, the single most important debate we will have is about the future of the support of our patriots.

I started off my talk today by focusing on the patriots of 222 years ago. I end my talk today in talking about the patriots of 1999, young people around the world who are being asked to go from Bosnia to Haiti, from Haiti to Somalia, from Somalia to Macedonia. In the trips I have taken to meet with our young troops they talk about their pride in America and their pride in the service and they are the best in the world, but they also say, "Mr. Congressman, can you please stop sending us from one deployment to the next? We need some time off with our families. We need some time off just to have some rest."

We need to stop being deployed around the world, because while we have not done that for them, our morale has declined. That is why our retention rates are so low. That is why we do not have the staffing needs that we should have for the military. And that is why, Mr. Speaker, I maintain that this period of time is going to go down in history as the worst period of time for undermining our Nation's security in the history of America.

In spite of the presence of our troops all around the world in all of these deployments today, I would argue the world is more unstable than in some cases it was during the Cold War. Russia has many internal problems: economic instability, massive proliferation that is in many cases totally uncontrollable. We have instances where China and North Korea have been caught sending technology to countries like North Korea. We know that Pakistan and India both got their technology from Russia and China. We know that Iran and Iraq have developed missile systems because of cooperation from those nations. And all of this instability is causing us to face increasing threats in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be real with the American people. This administration has not been real with the American people. They have painted a rosy picture. They have had the photo ops of the commander in chief walking down the White House lawn with the troops behind him. They have had the photo opportunity of the commander in chief on the decks of the carrier when it was dedicated. But that is not what supporting our troops is all about. It is about funding them. It is about asking for the dollars to support these deployments. It is about giving them the systems to protect their lives.

Mr. Speaker, another example of an attempt to back-door the defense budget is the administration's backhanded effort to pay for the Wye River Agreement. The Wye River Agreement, which I applaud the administration for achieving, is important for security, and we need to understand the importance of that. But instead of coming to this Congress and asking us openly to support the funding for the Wye River Agreement, the administration has proposed and has informed the Congress that they will take an additional

\$230 million out of our defense budget for missile defense purposes to fund the Wye River Agreement, which has nothing to do with our defense budget.

Mr. Speaker, how much longer will this continue? How much more will we tolerate the efforts of this administration to undermine the security of this country? Democrats and Republicans alike have been working together in this area to do the job that America needs.

I urge my colleagues in this 106th Congress to pay attention, to work together as we have in the past to convince the administration that this must stop, that we must support our troops, that we must make sure that everyone understands that the reason we have a strong military is not just to deploy our troops around the world but to deter aggression. No Nation has ever been defeated because it was too strong, and we must understand that one of most important responsibilities outlined in the Constitution is the defense of the American people wherever they might be, at home or abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of the outstanding schools in my Congressional District—Sugartown Elementary School, KD Markley Elementary School, Charlestown Elementary School, and East Goshen Elementary School. The fine students of these schools have contacted me to inform me of an issue which is important to them, to their schools, to their community and to our nation—they are fighting to save the Paoli Battlefield.

The Paoli Battlefield, which is located in my Congressional District, remains one of the only historic sites from the Revolutionary War left untouched since 1777. This land was the site of the "Paoli Massacre" in which British troops led by Major General Grey attacked the American Army of Pennsylvania Regiments on the wooded hillside and two fields between what is now Sugartown Road and Warren Avenue. The ensuing battle resulted in at least 52 American deaths and 7 British fatalities. The British night-time bayonet charge was aided by the fact that Americans were silhouetted against the light of their campfires. Some American troops panicked and fled and general disorder spread throughout the American line. British dragoons, arriving on the field, shattered the American column and pursued retreating Americans as far as Sugartown Road. Only the more disciplined American soldiers escaped the original onslaught unscathed, but a following British assault completed the rout.

The Paoli Massacre was part of the Revolutionary War's Philadelphia Campaign, a chapter of the war that witnessed the occupation of Philadelphia and the famed American encampment at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777–78. The first two American attempts to stop the British invasion that Fall were the Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777, and the unsuccessful Battle of the Clouds, September 16, 1777. The Paoli Massacre was part of the third effort to contain British General William Howe's advance on Philadelphia.

In an effort to save the Paoli Battlefield, I will be introducing the P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act—Preserve America's Treasures of the Revolution for Independence for Our Tomorrow. Pas-

sage of this legislation will forever insure that the sacrifice made by our nation's first veterans will be remembered. This legislation will also protect the Brandywine Battlefield. The Battle at Brandywine was the most significant battle of the Philadelphia campaign. My bill further memorializes this campaign by authorizing the Superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park to enter into an agreement with the Valley Forge Historical Society to build a museum which would house the world's largest collection of Revolutionary War artifacts and memorabilia, including the tent in which General Washington slept at Valley Forge.

And so Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the outstanding young patriots of my district who have made their voices heard in the fight to preserve this piece of our nation's history. The students of these schools sent me almost five hundred letters, pictures, and banners with their plea for this body to "Remember Paoli!"—this small piece of land that is so important to their communities. As a former school teacher and a father of five, I am heartened by their dedication and commitment to this cause. The future of America lies with our youth, and with youngsters like these, I am confident that America's future will be bright.

I would like to congratulate these young patriots of my district, and thank them for taking part in this campaign to preserve the history of the Revolutionary War. I would also like to thank their teachers and parents who also sent me letters, and taught these students that their involvement could make a difference. I would like to include the letters of Melissa Clark, who is in the first grade at KDMarkley; Bonnie Hughes-Sobbi, mother of a fourth grader at KDMarkley; Bess McCadden who is in the fourth grade at Charlestown Elementary; and Catherine Wahl who is in the fourth grade at the Sugartown School for the record so that my colleagues can also appreciate them.

JANUARY 6, 1999.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to you to ask you to save the Paoli Battlefield. We need to remember the men who fought to make our country free. Please do not build houses on the Paoli Battlefield.

Sincerely,

MELISSA CLARK.

JANUARY 5, 1999.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WELDON: It has come to my attention, through my daughter's fourth grade class, that a part of our local history is being threatened by "progress". The site to which I refer is the Paoli Battlefield, located in Malvern, PA.

Our children are being taught the importance of this site in their local history lessons and are also being taught to respect sites such as this for their intrinsic and irreplaceable value. We should be willing to support our lessons to our children by protecting the Paoli Battlefield from development.

Thank you for your efforts in support of protecting this site, hopefully with permanent registry as an historic landmark. I will be happy to lend any assistance, as I am able, to further this cause.

Very Truly Yours,

BONNIE HUGHES-SABBI.

DECEMBER 22, 1998.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WELDON: People know that it is wrong to build something on historical land. Valley Forge Park is part of our history, so we should also save the site of the Paoli Massacre Battlefield. My classmates and I have been studying it, and I

think that building things on historical land is destructive. If General Anthony Wayne were here, he would do all he could to stop people from building something on the ground of our past.

Don't let people build on the site of the Paoli Massacre Battlefield! Please save it!

Sincerely,

BESS MCCADDEN.

DECEMBER 11, 1998.

DEAR MR. WELDON: I think that you should stop this craziness because it should remain a burial ground. Paoli isn't very popular except for the Paoli Battlefield. That puts us in the battlefield book. It is a historical sight [sic]. It's disrespectful to knock down a memorial battlefield. One of my ancestors was buried at that battlefield there so I care very deeply about this battlefield.

CATHERINE WAHL.

JANUARY 4, 1999.

DEAR MR. WELDON, please save the Paoli Battlefield! It is very special to us. It helps us learn about our country's history.

SUGARTOWN SCHOOL,
MALVERN, PA,
December 15, 1998.

Hon. CURT WELDON,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR HONORABLE CURT WELDON: The Paoli Battlefield should be preserved as a national park because these graves should honor the brave soldiers that fought for our country.

If you were one of the honorable soldiers that fought on this field would you like developers to build something over you? We have enough developments built in Paoli. This would be great for us kids that are learning about history. This would be a wonderful addition to Valley Forge Park.

Sincerely,

MYLES NEWMAN.

P.S. Thank you for reading my letter.

DECEMBER 22, 1998.

DEAR REP. WELDON, I am in Mrs. Weigal's 4th grade class. I live in Frazer, PA.

I'm writing to you to ask you to do all you can to save the Paoli Battlefield. I think that the builders are wrong to want to build houses there when 50 people are buried there. I hope you can do something about it.

Sincerely,

ALYSSA JACKSON.

JANUARY 4, 1999.

DEAR MR. WELDON, please save the Paoli Battlefield! It is very special to us. It helps us to learn about our country's history. I have seen the Paoli Battlefield it is very pretty.

Sincerely,

EMILY.

CHESTER COUNTY, PA,
December 22, 1998.

DEAR REP. WELDON, you should strongly support saving the Paoli Battlefield because many people lost their lives fighting for freedom and if you didn't it would be dishonorable to the soldiers. But really what would you rather have more population or more historical sites? Have a good time in Washington, D.C. with that legislation (I hope it will be positive.)

Sincerely,

TREY MORRIS.

DEAR REP. WELDON, my name is Steven Binstein. I am in fourth grade at Charlestown. I live in Malvern. I would appreciate it if you don't let the developers make houses on the Paoli Battlefield because that is a

very nice peace of land. Soldiers fought their and some died and some didn't. The real reason I think the developers shouldn't build houses there is because people were buried there, and they cant just build over them.

That's why I think you shouldn't let the developers build there.

Sincerely,

STEVEN BINSTEIN.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. LOFGREN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for Tuesday, February 9, and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for Wednesday, February 10, on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FROST) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BOYD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOOLEY of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. OSE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COMBEST, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCINTOSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. EMERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 11, 1999, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

469. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Citrus Canker; Addition to Quarantined Areas [Docket No. 95-086-2] received January 25, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

470. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Illinois Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Plan [SPATS No. IL-093-FOR] received January 25, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

471. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Summer Flounder Commercial Quota Transfer From North Carolina to Virginia [I.D. 121598I] received January 11, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

472. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific cod and pollock in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 981222314-8321-02; I.D. 012099B] received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

473. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inshore-Offshore Allocations of Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch; Inshore-Offshore Allocation of 1999 Interim Groundfish Specifications [Docket No. 981021263-9019-02; I.D. 090898D] (RIN: 0648-AK12) received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

474. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 99-7] received January 25, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

475. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Modifications and Additions to the Unified Partnership Audit Procedures [TD 8808] (RIN: 1545-AW23) received January 25, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WELLER (for himself, Mr. MCINTOSH, Ms. DANNER, Mr. RILEY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BARCIA of Michigan, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. BARTLETT

of Maryland, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. BE-REUTER, Ms. BIGGERT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BONILLA, Mrs. BONO, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. BUYER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CANNON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. COBLE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CRANE, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. DUNN of Washington, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. EHRlich, Mr. ENGLISH, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. EWING, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FOSELLA, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GOSS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HORN, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. KUYKENDALL, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LAZIO of New York, Mr. LEACH, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. LINDER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. METCALF, Mr. MICA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCCREERY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. NEY, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. OSE, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PEASE, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. PITTS, Mr. POMBO, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REGULA, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. ROEMER, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. ROGERS, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. STUMP, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. TALENT, Mr. TANCREDO, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mrs. WILSON, Mr. WOLF, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DELAY, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. QUINN, Mr. ROGAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LIV-INGSTON, Mr. BASS, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. COOK, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. HYDE, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. KINGSTON,

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. CONDIT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. FORD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, Mr. KASICH, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. RAHALL):

H.R. 6. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the marriage penalty by providing that the income tax rate bracket amounts, and the amount of the standard deduction, for joint returns shall be twice the amounts applicable to unmarried individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OBERSTAR (for himself, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. HORN):

H.R. 661. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to prohibit the commercial operation of supersonic transport category aircraft that do not comply with stage 3 noise levels if the European Union adopts certain aircraft noise regulations; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BARR of Georgia:

H.R. 662. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to administer or enforce the provisions of Executive Order 13107, relating to the implementation of certain human rights treaties; to the Committee on International Relations.

H.R. 663. A bill to provide that the provisions of Executive Order 13107, relating to the implementation of certain human rights treaties, shall not have any legal effect; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BERRY, Mr. STARK, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. LAMPSON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FROST, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. FORD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. WEYGAND, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. OLVER, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. OBEY, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. BENTSEN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. SHOWS, and Mr. BOSWELL):

H.R. 664. A bill to provide for substantial reductions in the price of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAFALCE (for himself, Mr. VENTO, Mr. BAKER, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. ACKERMAN):

H.R. 665. A bill to enhance the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, and other financial service providers and ensuring adequate protection for consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently

determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROWN of California:

H.R. 666. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish a multi-agency program in support of the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative to promote energy efficient, environmentally sound economic development along the border with Mexico through the research, development, and use of new materials technology; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. BURR of North Carolina:

H.R. 667. A bill to remove Federal impediments to retail competition in the electric power industry, thereby providing opportunities within electricity restructuring; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. LANTOS):

H.R. 668. A bill to establish a uniform closing time for the operation of polls on the date of the election of the President and Vice President; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr.

GILMAN, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. WALSH, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. PETRI, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEACH, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. LEE, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

H.R. 669. A bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself,

Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. BORSKI, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. PEASE, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. STARK, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. FARR of California, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BALDACCI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. GOODE):

H.R. 670. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to establish guidelines for the relocation, closing, consolidation, or construction of post offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. STARK, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. COYNE, and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H.R. 671. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to help children aging out of foster care to make the transition to becoming independent adults, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the work opportunity tax credit to include individuals who were in foster care just before their 18th birthday, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CRANE (for himself and Mr. MATSUI):

H.R. 672. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from issuing regulations dealing with hybrid transactions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEUTSCH (for himself and Mr. SHAW):

H.R. 673. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and other appropriate agencies for the purpose of improving water quality throughout the marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. MCCRERY, and Mr. WATKINS):

H.R. 674. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that natural gas gathering lines are 7-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KANJORSKI:

H.R. 675. A bill to provide jurisdiction and procedures for affording relief for injuries arising out of exposure to hazards involved in the mining and processing of beryllium; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 676. A bill to amend the Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement Act to conform that Act with the judgments of the United States Federal Courts regarding the rights and sovereign status of certain Indian Tribes, including the Narragansett Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

H.R. 677. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the construction in the United States of luxury yachts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. HORN, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FILNER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. FROST, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. BALDACCIO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. JOHN, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. LAMPSON, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. VENTO, Mr. WYNN, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 678. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit desecration of Veterans' memorials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUTHER (for himself, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 679. A bill to limit further production of the Trident II (D-5) missile; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUTHER (for himself, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. ENGLISH, and Mr. MINGE):

H.R. 680. A bill to reduce the number of executive branch political appointees; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. MCCRERY (for himself, Mr. SHAW, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. MATSUI, Ms. DUNN of Washington, Mr. CRANE, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. HOUGHTON, and Mr. WELLER):

H.R. 681. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the subpart F exemption for active financing income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCINNIS (for himself, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. PACKARD, and Mr. EHRLICH):

H.R. 682. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to accelerate the phase-in of the \$1,000,000 exclusion from the estate and gift taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MEEK of Florida (for herself and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 683. A bill to facilitate the recruitment of temporary employees to assist in the conduct of the 2000 decennial census of population; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. STARK, Ms. RIVERS, and Mr. MEEHAN):

H.R. 684. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to control water pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOORE (for himself, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BOYD, Mr. FORD, and Mr. DEFazio):

H.R. 685. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to ensure that the receipts and disbursements of the Social Security trust funds are not included in a unified Federal budget; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ORTIZ:

H.R. 686. A bill to designate a United States courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the "Garza-Vela United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. ROUKEMA (for herself and Mr. VENTO):

H.R. 687. A bill to abolish the Special Reserve of the Savings Association Insurance Fund and to repeal the provision which would have established the Special Reserve of the Deposit Insurance Fund had section 2704 of the Deposit Insurance Funds Act of 1996 taken effect; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 688. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the increase in tax on Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. CRANE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. DUNN of Washington, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WELLER, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BEREU-TER, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEACH, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. HALL of Texas):

H.R. 689. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 690. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to add bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma to the list of diseases presumed to be service-connected for certain radiation-exposed veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. STEARNS (for himself, Mr. STUMP, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. RAHALL, and Mrs. KELLY):

H.R. 691. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a portion of any funds recovered by the United States in any future lawsuit brought by the United States against the tobacco industry to be made available for health care for veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TANCREDO (for himself, Mr. STUMP, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. PETRI, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. DOOLITTLE):

H.R. 692. A bill to terminate the e-rate program of the Federal Communications Commission that requires providers of telecommunications and information services to provide such services for schools and libraries at a discounted rate; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MINGE, Mr. BOSWELL, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. WELLER, and Mrs. CLAYTON):

H.R. 693. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to institute a program of mandatory livestock market reporting for meat packers regarding prices, volume, and the terms of sale for the procurement of domestic and imported livestock and livestock products, to improve the collection of information regarding swine inventories and the slaughtering and measurement of swine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mrs. WILSON):

H.R. 694. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey an administrative site to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico; to the Committee on Resources.

H.R. 695. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to convey an administrative site in San Juan County, New Mexico, to San Juan College; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. WATKINS:

H.R. 696. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the deadline for the submission to the Federal Election Commission of campaign reports covering the first quarter of the calendar year; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. WICKER:

H.R. 697. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide that any decision relating to the establishment or implementation of policies of discipline of children with disabilities in school be reserved to each State educational agency, or as determined by a State educational agency, to a local educational agency; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

H.R. 698. A bill to repeal the requirement relating to specific statutory authorization for increases in judicial salaries, to provide for automatic annual increases for judicial salaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WOOLSEY:

H.R. 699. A bill to reward states that enact welfare policies and support programs that truly lift families out of poverty; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 700. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced protections for airline passengers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself,

Mr. DINGELL, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. JOHN, Mr. BAKER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. TANNER, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GOSS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. ROEMER, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. WELLER, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. LEE, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. BASS, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 701. A bill to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-ROBERTSON Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. LAZIO of New York:

H. Con. Res. 27. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GILMAN (for himself, Mr. GEP-

HARDT, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. COX of California, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SALMON, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. TANCREDO):

H. Con. Res. 28. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should introduce and make all efforts necessary to pass a resolution criticizing the People's Republic of China for its human rights abuses in China and Tibet at the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mrs. FOWLER (for herself, Mr.

SPENCE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. STEARNS, Mrs. BONO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. HILLEARY, and Mr. FOLEY):

H. Con. Res. 29. Concurrent resolution expressing the opposition of Congress to any deployment of United States ground forces in Kosovo, a province in the Republic of Serbia, for peacemaking or peacekeeping purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. METCALF (for himself, Mr.

HYDE, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. HERGER, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. ENGLISH, and Mr. SCARBOROUGH):

H. Con. Res. 30. Concurrent resolution to express the sense of the Congress that any Executive order that infringes on the powers and duties of the Congress under article I, section 8 of the Constitution, or that would require the expenditure of Federal funds not specifically appropriated for the purpose of the Executive order, is advisory only and has no force or effect unless enacted as law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIERNEY (for himself, Mr.

LARSON, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. FROST, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BORSKI, and Mr. RAMSTAD):

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution to designate a flag-pole upon which the flag of the United States is to be set at half-staff whenever a law enforcement officer is slain in the line of duty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FROST:

H. Res. 50. A resolution designating minority membership on certain standing committees of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr.

ENGEL):

H. Res. 51. A resolution recognizing the suffering and hardship endured by American civilian prisoners of war during World War II; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself and Mr. BERMAN):

H. Res. 52. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the One Hundred Sixth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. KELLY:

H.R. 702. A bill for the relief of Frank Redendo; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 703. A bill for the relief of Khalid Khannouchi; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 704. A bill for the relief of Walter Borys; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 33: Mrs. FOWLER.

H.R. 133: Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 198: Mr. SCHAFFER.

H.R. 206: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 207: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 220: Mr. DOOLITTLE.

H.R. 222: Mr. MCKEON and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 323: Ms. RIVERS, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. COOK, Mr. PICKERING, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. EHRLICH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. QUINN, and Ms. KILPATRICK.

H.R. 347: Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CONDIT, Mr.

HOLDEN, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. STUMP, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. GOODE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. NEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. BARCIA of Michigan.

H.R. 351: Mr. SANDLIN and Mr. CAMP.

H.R. 357: Mr. BORSKI and Mr. STUPAK.

H.R. 358: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 415: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 506: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GEKAS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ROGERS, and Ms. PELOSI.

H.R. 516: Mr. HOSTETTLER and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

H.R. 525: Mr. WEINER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

H.R. 530: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. STUMP, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 540: Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 576: Mr. ENGLISH, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. WYNN, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 586: Mr. SHOWS.

H.R. 590: Mr. BALDACCI.

H.R. 614: Mr. SHAW, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. METCALF.

H.J. Res. 9: Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. KOLBE, and Mr. ROYCE.

H. Res. 19: Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. CUBIN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. BONO, Mr. WISE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. LOBRONDO, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. SHOWS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. FORD, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. FOLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ENGLISH, Mrs. MORELLA, Mrs. KELLY, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. BOEHLERT.

H. Res. 20: Mr. KOLBE, Mr. GOODE, Mr. ENGLISH, and Mr. HOSTETTLER.

H. Res. 35: Mr. DINGELL, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. WYNN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FROST, Mr. WEINER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DIXON, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. OLVER, Mrs. THURMAN, Mrs. CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.