

to preserve 100 percent of the Social Security balance. We believe that it is worth fighting for our grandparents to do the right thing and not spend their money on pork.

STEEL IMPORTS AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the first chart tells us the story, I guess in black and white, on steel imports and why this Congress must act today to do something about steel imports and illegal dumping.

We can see, from 1997 to 1998, the large increase in steel imports, and particularly because of illegal steel dumping.

This just tells the story in a bar graph and in black and white. Let us tell the story in terms of human suffering. For instance, at Wierton Steel, in which the headlines we have blown up show, "Wierton Steel layoffs hit 775 workers." It is actually more by now. "Wierton Steel announces more layoffs," layoffs that are occurring throughout the Ohio Valley and the Mon Valley.

Mr. Speaker, this House must act today to stop illegal steel dumping. We have the opportunity to send the message not only to the administration but to foreign nations. If others will not act, Congress will.

Let us act today for Wierton and for a whole lot of other steel producing communities in the United States.

RELEASE IMPRISONED CHINESE PASTOR XU YONGZE

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice to that of the House majority whip who spoke earlier calling for the release of Pastor Xu in China.

It is indeed sad that, as we find ourselves just 1 year away from the 21st century, there are still places in this world where a person can be locked away merely for expressing their faith in God. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Xu serves as a reminder to us all of how precious our freedom truly is, especially our freedom to worship as we choose.

The Chinese government claims that Pastor Xu is dangerous merely because he believes in a judgment day. Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not find that crazy or dangerous. A belief in judgment day is a basic belief not just of Christians but of so many religions around the world.

This week Pastor Xu begins his third straight year in prison simply for preaching the gospel. If the Chinese are serious about strengthening the ties between our two countries, they must learn to respect religious freedom.

I urge President Jiang Zemin, please, release Pastor Xu and let him return to his family.

MEDICARE COMMISSION FINISHES WORK WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Medicare Commission finished its work but did not come out with a recommendation. It did not come out with a recommendation because the thrust of the commission was to privatize; that is, to get rid of Medicare as we have known it and move it into the private sector. Now, the people pushing that idea are the very people in this House who have opposed the Patients' Bill of Rights.

If we are going to take all the senior citizens in this country, and the disabled, 39 million people, and throw them into the private sector, and will not give them the protections of a Patients' Bill of Rights, there is no justice in that kind of system.

The Commission rightly rejected it. The Commission refused to consider the President's addition of 15 percent of the surplus. The Commission refused to consider the President's proposal regarding people between the ages of 55 and 65. This House now has to come to grips with it.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

(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, I rise today to wish everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day and celebrate the great accomplishments made by Irish Americans to our republic.

Across America, whether we are Irish American or not, we honor the sacrifices made by so many Irish Americans and really celebrate their accomplishments.

It was not always easy, though, for the Irish who came to our shores. It was not long ago the Irish seeking employment were met with the infamous warnings, "Irish need not apply." But the goodness that is America prevailed, and generations of Irish Americans have made this country the greatest in the history of the world.

With their solid work ethic and belief in personal responsibility, love of our Nation, respect for honor, and a gentleness towards the weak and infirm, I, like millions of Americans, proud of my Irish heritage, understand how lucky we all are to be Americans. I wish everybody a happy St. Patrick's Day.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, sometime during the year 2013, the funds we pay out to Social Security recipients are going to exceed the funds coming in to finance the system.

Despite the White House war room rhetoric, the Clinton budget does nothing to save Social Security. If my colleagues do not believe me, they should listen to this. In February, David Walker, the Comptroller General of the United States, stated, and I quote, "The President's proposal does not alter the projected cash flow imbalances in the Social Security program."

It is true. The President's proposal does not save Social Security. The only way that Clinton's numbers add up is through a faulty double-counting scheme.

This is not a Republican complaint. Some of Social Security's chief defenders, members of the President's party, have said that the President's approach is based largely on imaginative accounting.

We do not need any more shell games and number schemes for Social Security. We just need a system that can ensure tomorrow's seniors that their savings will be there when they retire without government interference. We desperately need the President to be a leader on the tough issues.

We cannot waste this historic opportunity to preserve the Nation's Social Security program. Unfortunately, the President's budget represents his typical rhetoric and sloganeering at its worst.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL WILL NOT WIN ANY AWARDS

(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, it is perhaps the old teacher in me, but whenever I see something like a budget proposal that has been submitted by the President, I want to give it a grade. And I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that this President's budget proposal will not win any accounting awards.

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It will never be used in any economics class unless to show students just how slippery a politician can be with retirement money.

The President's budget proposal for Social Security contains more phoney numbers than a Millie Vanilli soundtrack. \$2.4 trillion in double counting. That is even more double counting than the administration's unconstitutional census sampling scheme. And it gets worse from there, Mr. Speaker.

GAO and CBO are both on record stating that the President's proposal for Social Security might actually make the problem worse. The problem, of course, is that the baby-boomers will soon retire and Social Security will

greet that event by going belly up faster than can you say Jeff Gordon.

Seniors deserve better. Instead of reassuring seniors that Social Security will be put on a sounder financial footing, the President's proposal sends a message that the politicians will have to deal with the mess after he is gone. The President's Social Security proposal gets an F.

HR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 820, COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 113 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 113

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 820) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the

committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), my friend and colleague, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I notice an outbreak of the wearing of the green around the Hill today, and I want to especially extend a happy congratulations for St. Patrick's Day to my friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), who has a very strong interest in this subject I am advised.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate on this subject only.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present another noncontroversial wide open rule from the Committee on Rules under the benevolent leadership of the chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule makes in order an amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for purposes of amendment. It authorizes the chair to accord priority of recognition to those Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is an option available to all Members.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommend, with or without instructions. It is a good rule and it should not engender any opposition. The subject matter is important.

Mr. Speaker, while the Coast Guard is the smallest of our armed services, its responsibilities are great and vitally important. It is an agency with many missions. We ask the Coast Guard to be responsible for such critical areas as the navigation and safety of our waterways and emergency search and rescue.

As a branch of the Armed Forces, the Coast Guard has also helped defend America in every war since 1790. It has a brave and long tradition. To maintain an effective and ready force, H.R. 820, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998, authorizes 44,000 active duty military personnel by the end of fiscal year 2001.

Most important to today's debate is the evolving role the Coast Guard is playing on the war on drugs. Last year this Congress reached an agreement with the White House to win the war on drugs, not just trim it back a little and settle for a stalemate. We want to win it. We intend to win this war that

is so critical to the future of our youngsters, and this particular legislation helps us on that path.

As so often in this city, we have discovered that talk is cheap. The Clinton White House has submitted a budget that is negligent on the war on drugs and abandons the commitment made by the Clinton White House just last fall to help win that war on drugs. In fact, the Clinton budget request does not implement anything within the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act beyond that contained in last year's omnibus bill.

H.R. 820 puts our money where our mouth is. It fully funds the Western Hemisphere effort, with an additional \$290 million in operating expenses for the next 2 years. This money will have a direct impact at the source of the drug scourge, including additional coastal patrol boats, the creation of a regional law enforcement center in Puerto Rico, several maritime patrol aircraft, several cutters and vessels to be received from the United States Navy. Americans have a right to demand results, not more talk, but results on the war on drugs and H.R. 820 delivers.

A recent study by the Institute for Defense Analysis examining effectiveness of cocaine interdiction found strong links between supply disruptions and rising street prices in the United States. It also found that, when street prices rise, use falls, especially among casual users. We know that interdiction works and that taking dead aim at the supply side must be a large piece of our effort. That does not diminish from the efforts, of course, on the demand side that we also must make. H.R. 820 makes good on our commitment on the supply side.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fair rule that allows open debate and consideration of all germane amendments. I urge a yes vote on the rule as well as the underlying bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), my dear friend, who I hope stays with me in the House for a few more years, for yielding me the customary half-hour.

Mr. Speaker, today is March 17. It is not only a great day for the Irish, but it is a great day for the Coast Guard. Mr. Speaker, during the last 84 years, the United States Coast Guard has been protecting people at sea and enforcing United States law.

This bill for which the rule provides consideration will authorize funding for the Coast Guard for another 2 years, including \$380 million for drug interdiction efforts in keeping with last year's Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act. It will also provide funding to finish the design work and the replacement for the Great Lakes icebreaker *Mackinaw*.