

For bioterrorism, to protect our Nation from this growing threat, which we hope the Senate will complete this week.

The terrorist attacks pushed an already struggling economy into a recession. The House responded by passing an economic stimulus package. Unfortunately, the other body was unable to pass similar legislation. Our bill was a fair and balanced bill that would have helped workers who lost their jobs keep their health insurance. Most importantly, it would have helped those workers get back to work. It looks today that the other body will not complete work on our legislation. I think that is a shame.

One of the biggest frustrations this year has been the lack of production from our friends on the other side of the Rotunda. The House has led the way in implementing the President's agenda, but on too many occasions the Senate has dropped the ball.

Here is the long list of items that passed this House but that the Senate has left for next year:

We passed the President's faith-based initiative, to give religious organizations the same rights as other groups to use Federal funds to help America's less fortunate.

We passed a comprehensive energy bill to step up energy production here at home, reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy, and make energy cleaner and cheaper and more dependable for years to come. Not only does this bill set us on a more secure road for the future, it helps our economy by creating another 700,000 American jobs.

We passed a bill that banned human cloning for reproduction and research to uphold the sanctity of life, as well as the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which makes it a Federal crime to harm or kill an unborn child during a violent attack against a pregnant woman.

We passed Trade Promotion Authority for our President so that he could open new world markets for American goods and services, grow our economy, and open up 1 million new jobs by the year 2006.

We passed election reform, to restore the American public's confidence in the democratic process and ensure that America's voting system is the very best in the world.

Clearly, the other body has much work to do in the next session of the 107th Congress. We also must complete action on the President's issue that he said in his election that he wanted every American to have access to health care. The Patients' Bill of Rights legislation was passed in this House earlier this year.

□ 1415

The bill has been stuck in conference since August. It is time to get that legislation finished. The bill we passed in August aims to improve care to expand patient protections, make health care more affordable for the many families

that lack coverage, and hold HMOs accountable, allowing patients to challenge their insurance plans if they fail to deliver quality coverage.

We will have other initiatives. We must authorize the historic Welfare Reform Act, first passed in 1996. We will consider proposals to strengthen retirement security, including making prescription drugs more affordable and available to America's seniors.

We must also help our President in this historic fight against terrorism. Whether it be providing more resources for homeland security and getting more money for our armed services, whether it be the effort to prepare our Nation for biological and chemical terrorism, or our efforts to reform our insurance laws so that our Nation will be adequately prepared for the consequences of terrorist attacks, this Congress will do the right things for the American people.

Looking over the events of this last year, I cannot help but note the passing of several important Members of Congress: Joe Moakley, a great American from Massachusetts; Norm Sisisky, a wonderful person who served this House from Virginia; Floyd Spence, from South Carolina; and Julian Dixon, from California, all served their country with distinction, in different ways, but with the same sense of patriotic duty. They will be sorely missed in this House of Representatives.

In conclusion, let me report to you, Mr. Speaker, that this House of Representatives has served the people in a year of turbulence and war with distinction. I am proud of our efforts, and I look forward to an equally successful year in the second session of the 107th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not thank the people who make this Congress work, who are here day in and day out, in the wee hours of the morning, who enroll our bills, who make this institution a great institution; and also those people who in the times of terror and terrorist attack spent countless hours and days and weeks making this place available to the American people so that this Congress could do its work. I thank you.

God bless America.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1088. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to reduce fees collected by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 295. Concurrent resolution providing for the sine die adjournment of the first session of the One Hundred Seventh Congress.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the report of the com-

mittee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3061) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1702

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment to House amendment to Senate amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2884. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3338) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the topic of the out-of-order speech of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

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

There was no objection.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 4 p.m. on Friday, December 21, 2001, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its passage without amendment of House Joint Resolution 79, in which case the House shall stand adjourned