

November elections." And from Associated Press: "U.S. worries Iraq's chemical, biological weapons would target invading American troops in Israel."

There has been discussion of a quarter of a million of our men and women being sent to Iraq. The discussion is in the media, it is not on the floor of this House. The New York Times editorial says as follows: "Congressional leaders, including top Democrats, have rushed to voice approval for the popular notion of getting rid of Mr. Hussein. They have not, however, lived up to their responsibility for demanding a full public disclosure about how to pursue this attractive goal with maximum chances of success and minimum risk to American forces' interest and alliances. Discussion of these issues is possible without giving away legitimate military secrets."

War with Iraq, if it comes, is still many months away. What is urgently needed now is informed and serious debate, and attention to article I, section 8 of the Constitution, which requires Congress has a role.

HOUSE MAJORITY ATTEMPTING TO MOVE LEGISLATION TO HELP AMERICA

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, most of us Republicans and Democrats come to the House to pass legislation and to help the American people. I heard a minute ago from one of the Members that the accounting bill that we passed on this floor was a sham. Well, I want to inform my colleagues that 118 Democrats voted for that. Only 40 Democrats, from the leadership, primarily, voted against it.

Instead of helping the American people in a time of crisis, when the markets are bad and people are losing confidence, the Democrat leadership, once again, is playing partisan election year politics.

They also say that tax relief is only for the rich. Well, listen to the facts, as stated by Alan Greenspan yesterday. Tax relief stopped the recession. It also put this economy back on a positive note. Yet my friends on the other side, the Democratic leadership, would rather say that the tax break was for the rich. This is partisan election year rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, we are here to pass legislation, not to jam it up, like the other body, which is holding 54 of our bills.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, the time is right for this body to act on corporate accountability. The other body

got it right when it passed the Sarbanes bill by a unanimous vote.

Corporate greed is affecting every one of our constituents, whether it is in their 401(k) plans or the performance of our economy, with job opportunity, and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, let us act now. Let us act as the other body did, in a bipartisan way. Let us take up today and pass the Sarbanes bill, and let us send it to the President. He has indicated he will sign it. That will help restore confidence among our constituents and our economy.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed a prescription drug benefit under Medicare. Since this has happened, I have received hundreds of calls from seniors thanking me for voting for this very important measure.

A significant number of seniors in the First District of Oklahoma are forced to live on a fixed budget. In order to live within their means, some skip a meal, some turn off their air conditioners, and some only take half the prescriptions that have been prescribed to them, to save.

It is a simple fact that seniors need permanent prescription drug benefit from this Congress. But simple is not always synonymous with easy, especially when politics are involved. The House has passed a good bill, and I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to follow the House's lead.

Our bill was based on simple, common sense principles. They are: To lower the cost of prescription drugs now and in the future; guarantee all seniors prescription drug coverage under Medicare; improve Medicare with more choices and more savings; and strengthen Medicare for the future.

Our seniors need a prescription drug benefit this year. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will follow suit.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The Chair would remind all Members giving 1-minute speeches that they cannot urge the other body to take action.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, increasing our energy independence is absolutely vital to ensuring America's national security.

Americans are 5 percent of the world's population. We use 25 percent

of the world's oil production, and yet we produce 30 percent of the world's output of goods and services. We are the most energy-efficient and productive Nation on earth, but America has only 2 percent of the world's known oil reserves. In pumping that 2 percent, we meet only 44 percent of America's needs.

America must import nearly 60 percent of our oil, up from 32 percent in 1992 and 34 percent during the last Arab oil embargo. Americans must pay billions of dollars to unstable or hostile regimes, such as Saddam Hussein's Iraq, for the oil we need to run our economy and our military. Every year since 1970, with only a tiny blip from Alaska's Prudhoe Bay, oil production in the United States has gone down, and experts agree it will continue to go down.

That is why conservation, efficiency, and alternative and renewable forms of energy are critically important parts of a balanced, comprehensive national energy strategy.

JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Chair's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

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

Mr. LAMPSON. 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 361, nays 50, answered "present" 1, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 309]

YEAS—361

Abercrombie	Boehner	Coble
Ackerman	Bonilla	Collins
Akin	Bono	Combest
Allen	Boozman	Condit
Andrews	Boswell	Conyers
Armey	Boucher	Cooksey
Baca	Boyd	Cox
Bachus	Brady (TX)	Coyne
Baker	Brown (FL)	Cramer
Baldacci	Brown (OH)	Crenshaw
Baldwin	Brown (SC)	Crowley
Ballenger	Bryant	Cubin
Barcia	Burr	Cummings
Barr	Burton	Davis (CA)
Barrett	Buyer	Davis (FL)
Bartlett	Callahan	Davis (IL)
Barton	Calvert	Davis, Jo Ann
Bass	Camp	Davis, Tom
Becerra	Cannon	Deal
Bentsen	Cantor	DeGette
Bereuter	Capito	Delahunt
Berkley	Capps	DeLauro
Berman	Cardin	DeLay
Berry	Carson (IN)	DeMint
Biggert	Carson (OK)	Deutsch
Bilirakis	Castle	Diaz-Balart
Bishop	Chabot	Dicks
Blumenauer	Chambliss	Dingell
Blunt	Clement	Doggett
Boehlert	Clyburn	Dooley