

which we unveiled the newly ensconced and protected charters of freedom, the Constitution of the United States preceded by the Declaration of Independence and followed closely by the Bill of Rights, those three extraordinary documents which stand as probably the most powerful statements of a free people and of liberty and justice and a government of laws and not of men. They will be preserved from the elements as they have been preserved from those who would undermine their principles and their reality.

I want to congratulate the leader for his comments today at that ceremony.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would continue to yield, I know I speak on behalf of my colleague from Texas when I say we both appreciate that the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) welcomed us into the Union.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The Chair reminds Members it is inappropriate for Members of the House to characterize the actions of the Senate in their remarks.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2557, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2003

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet next week, the week of September 22, to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 2557, the Water Resources Development Act of 2003. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered the bill reported on July 23, 2003, and filed its report with the House on September 5, 2003.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules up in room 312 here in the Capitol by 1 p.m. by Tuesday, September 23. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, Members are reminded that earlier in the year the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure set forth a specific process regarding the submission of projects for inclusion in the Water Resources Development Act. The Committee on Rules does not intend to accord priority to amendments that have not gone through the aforementioned process.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the appropriate format. Members are also

advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 367

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 367.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1078

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1078.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1308, TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. RYAN of Ohio moves that the managers on the part of the House in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1308 be instructed as follows:

1. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides immediate payments to taxpayers receiving an additional credit by reason of the bill in the same manner as other taxpayers were entitled to immediate payments under the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

2. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides families of military personnel serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones a child credit based on the earnings of the individuals serving in the combat zone.

3. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report all of the other provisions of the Senate amendment and shall not report back a conference report that includes additional tax benefits not offset by other provisions.

4. To the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, the House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report other tax benefits for military personnel and the families of the astronauts who died in the Columbia disaster.

5. The House conferees shall, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this motion, meet in open session with the Senate conferees and the House conferees shall file a conference report consistent with the preceding provisions of this instruction, not later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous

consent that the motion be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and a member of the opposing party each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today I am offering a motion to instruct conferees on the child tax credit. I thank all Members of Congress, especially the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), for initially offering her leadership on this motion.

Mr. Speaker, the tax bill that was passed by Congress neglected 12 million children in America's low-income working families by cutting them out of the child tax credit plan.

My motion to instruct does a few things. It instructs the conferees to agree to the Senate language that provides for tax credit checks to be mailed immediately to low-income families. It also provides that the tax credit be extended to personnel in combat zones in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere; and the conferees could easily accomplish these changes and bring up a final bill within 2 days which is what the motion calls for.

In Ohio, the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight states that over 25,000 working families were cut out of this provision. These are families who work hard. They do pay taxes. Unlike what many Members have said during the debate in the last few months, these individuals may not pay income tax, but they pay property tax, sales tax, they pay user fees, they pay tolls to get on the roads; and so they do contribute to the economy. They do pay taxes.

I was having an interesting conversation with a Republican friend who was listening to this debate happen because this is not the first time we have had this debate in the Chamber, and he said they do not pay taxes. I said they do pay taxes. They pay sales tax and property tax. He said give them a rebate on their property tax. My question to him is what is the difference?

Mr. Speaker, these people need help, and we have not done enough for them in this Chamber. We have an opportunity with this bill to make and have real impact on low-income families.

One last example that this bill, this motion, would help those military families that we talk so much about. One example that we have, an E-5 or E-6 sergeant, 6 years of service, two children, making \$29,000 a year. If he does not serve in combat, both of his children qualify for the credit. They get the thousand-dollar credit. If he is in combat for 6 months, his or her credit drops to \$450. I do not think there is a