

Treasury 5 years ago. The fact is, since that memo was sent out, or since that study was done, Treasury has undertaken a very aggressive policy of amending tax treaties with countries to solve the problem that was mentioned in that study. Also, in the jobs bill that we passed just a couple of years ago, we legislatively attacked the problem that was mentioned in that study. So steps have been taken, both legislatively and regulatorily, to solve that problem.

The President's budget, the gentleman himself said it raises \$2 billion, approximately. His provision raises twice that. So it is apples and oranges, and obviously his provision is much broader than what the President's budget contemplated.

But, you know, I was just sitting there listening to this debate, and Americans out in the country watching this must be shaking their heads. You have got Democrats who are saying one thing and Republicans who are saying just the opposite. Republicans: It is a tax increase. Democrats: It is not a tax increase, it is a loophole closure. It is like they have been brainwashed by somebody and we have been brainwashed by somebody.

Mr. Speaker, we could have avoided this, I believe, if the majority had followed regular order; if they had allowed the Ways and Means Committee, the committee of jurisdiction over the Tax Code, to hold a hearing on this provision, to flesh it out, to hear experts on both sides, or all sides, and then let us discuss it and ask questions, probe.

Mr. DOGGETT is one of the smartest Members of our committee, and he knows a lot about the Tax Code, and especially the treatment of international companies doing business here in the United States, and I give him that. But, dadgummit, we should have had a chance to honestly debate this, and not have the majority just throw it in overnight on a farm bill, without even sending it through the Ways and Means Committee. That is wrong. That is a lousy way to legislate. It is wrong.

That is why Members on both sides of the aisle should vote no on this rule, to give this House the opportunity to act responsibly and to give the Ways and Means Committee back some of its honor. It is getting gutted by actions like this week after week after week. I am tired of it, and I ask the House, not Republicans or Democrats, Members of this proud House, to go back to doing things properly, and then maybe we will figure out something in between that we can all support.

□ 1845

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Both sides have 3¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. CARDOZA. Does the gentleman from Washington have any remaining speakers?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I have more speakers than I have time,

and I would like to inquire of my friend if he would like to entertain the proposition I offered a moment ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for 5 additional minutes for each side.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the request to extend debate. As the gentleman from Washington knows, there will be another hour of debate on the bill and then 31 amendments. There is ample time to debate this bill, so I would have to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), a member of one of the committees that was denied any opportunity to talk about the tax provisions.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and it is always imperative that we discuss issues that are brought forward.

Members of Congress often point to other countries who abridge treaties, who abridge contracts of our companies working in those countries, and they claim foul. Recently Hugo Chavez nationalized the oil industry and the electricity and oil companies. Yet the people who work for oil companies that are U.S. oil companies trying to push back that takeover were told why shouldn't we do that, your own government is doing it; we have the right.

They are referring to the language that is in this bill that affects the offshore leases, the '98-'99 leases. The Washington Post described the actions that were taken back on H.R. 6, which are very similar to these actions, as "heavy handed." The stability of contracts, this heavy-handed approach, an attack on the stability of contracts would be welcomed in Russia, Bolivia, and others have been criticized for tearing up revenue-sharing agreements with private energy companies.

Mr. Speaker, we are doing things that affect oil companies and energy prices to Americans. I oppose this rule because it violates the rule of law.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), a former member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, while I see good reforms and programs in this farm bill, I also see onerous provisions such as a massive tax increase on foreign companies who are providing good jobs here in the United States, and Davis-Bacon restrictions on biofuel production plants that drive up costs far beyond any included incentive grants.

In 2003, a constituent of Georgia's 11th District named Greg Hopkins took a big risk and decided to construct and operate a biofuel production plant

called U.S. Biofuels in Rome, Georgia. He found a market demand, and that is the reason for his plant. But in order to make a profit, Greg has to minimize costs wherever possible. If the United States is serious about moving our country to alternative fuels, we don't need restrictions like Davis-Bacon prevailing wages.

It is clear to me that the Democratic leadership of the 110th Congress is more interested in doing favors for deep-pocketed labor union supporters than protecting domestic biofuel producers, and I must oppose this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Kentucky, a classmate of mine, Mr. WHITFIELD.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I want to commend all those for the hard work they have done on this rule. I must say that the American people today, 14 percent of the American people only, approve of Congress as an institution. I think there are many reasons for that.

For example, with this farm bill we have an opportunity once every 5 years to address major issues in the farm bill. Yesterday, the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, the Budget Committee, two other Democrats and two Republicans offered an amendment to the Rules Committee on an issue that has been on this House floor five separate times and every time it passed overwhelmingly, but we needed this amendment to finally bring this issue to a conclusion. And although four people on the Rules Committee that spoke applauded our efforts and were very complimentary of it, we were not given an opportunity to bring this amendment to the floor.

In addition to that, the tax issues relating to the farm bill have not been adequately explained, have not been adequately debated. In the committee that I am on, the Energy and Commerce Committee, there is an SCHIP program that provides \$100 billion in cost over the next 5 years; and to pay for that, we have not had any opportunity to debate that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 174, nays 248, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 745]

YEAS—174

Aderholt	Alexander	Baker
Akin	Bachus	Barrett (SC)

Bartlett (MD) Gillmor
 Barton (TX) Gingrey
 Biggert Gohmert
 Bilbray Goode
 Bilirakis Goodlatte
 Bishop (UT) Granger
 Blackburn Graves
 Blunt Hastert
 Boehner Hastings (WA)
 Bonner Hayes
 Bono Heller
 Boozman Hensarling
 Boustany Herger
 Brady (TX) Hobson
 Broun (GA) Hoekstra
 Brown-Waite, Ginny Hulshof
 Buchanan Inglis (SC)
 Burgess Issa
 Burton (IN) Jindal
 Buyer Johnson, Sam
 Calvert Jones (NC)
 Camp (MI) Jordan
 Campbell (CA) Keller
 Cannon King (IA)
 Cantor King (NY)
 Capito Kirk
 Carter Kline (MN)
 Chabot Knollenberg
 Cole (OK) Lamborn
 Conaway Latham
 Crenshaw LaTourette
 Davis (KY) Lewis (KY)
 Davis, David Lucas
 Davis, Tom Lungren, Daniel
 Deal (GA) E.
 Dent Mack
 Diaz-Balart, L. Manullo
 Diaz-Balart, M. Marchant
 Doolittle McCarthy (CA)
 Drake McCaul (TX)
 Dreier McCotter
 Duncan McCreery
 Ehlers McHenry
 Emerson McKeon
 English (PA) McMorris
 Everett Rodgers
 Fallon Mica
 Feeney Miller (FL)
 Flake Miller (MI)
 Forbes Miller, Gary
 Fortenberry Mitchell
 Foxx Murphy, Tim
 Franks (AZ) Musgrave
 Frelinghuysen Myrick
 Garrett (NJ) Neugebauer
 Gilchrest Nunes

NAYS—248

Abercrombie Coble
 Ackerman Cohen
 Allen Conyers
 Altmire Cooper
 Andrews Costa
 Arcuri Costello
 Baca Courtney
 Bachmann Cramer
 Baldwin Crowley
 Barrow Cuellar
 Bean Cummings
 Becerra Davis (AL)
 Berkley Davis (CA)
 Berman Davis (IL)
 Berry Davis, Lincoln
 Bishop (GA) DeFazio
 Bishop (NY) DeGette
 Blumenauer Delahunt
 Boren DeLauro
 Boswell Dicks
 Boucher Dingell
 Boyd (FL) Doggett
 Boyda (KS) Donnelly
 Brady (PA) Doyle
 Braley (IA) Edwards
 Brown (SC) Ellison
 Brown, Corrine Ellsworth
 Butterfield Emanuel
 Capps Engel
 Capuano Eshoo
 Cardoza Etheridge
 Carnahan Farr
 Carney Fattah
 Carson Ferguson
 Castle Filner
 Castor Fossella
 Chandler Frank (MA)
 Clay Gallegly
 Cleaver Gerlach
 Clyburn Giffords

Paul
 Pearce
 Pence
 Petri
 Pitts
 Poe
 Porter
 Price (GA)
 Pryce (OH)
 Putnam
 Radanovich
 Ramstad
 Regula
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Renzi
 Reynolds
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ryan (WI)
 Sali
 Schmidt
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shadegg
 Shays
 McGovern
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (TX)
 Souder
 Stearns
 Sullivan
 Melancon
 Michaud
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, George
 Mollohan
 Moore (KS)
 Moore (WI)
 Moran (KS)

NOT VOTING—10

Baird
 Clarke
 Cubin
 Culberson
 Davis, Jo Ann
 Hunter
 LaHood
 Pickering

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1914

Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. LEVIN and Mr. ENGEL changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. HAYES, BARRETT of South Carolina, REICHERT, FRELINGHUYSEN, BURGESS, TURNER and BROUN of Georgia changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2419, FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 3/4 minutes remaining.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I have stood here for the better part of an hour as we debated this rule, and I frankly cannot believe what I am hearing.

It sounds to me like the Republican caucus of this body is actually considering voting against the thousands of farmers, their families, and the millions of people throughout this country that rely on farming for their liveli-

hood in favor of a few wealthy international companies who are deliberately evading U.S. tax law and big oil companies that have been gouging Americans at the pump.

The truth is that the Ways and Means Committee has taken the advice of the Bush administration and closed a loophole for tax cheats in order to pay for lifesaving nutrition programs for millions of Americans. This energy offset comes from reducing taxpayer subsidies for multinational oil and gas companies that have enjoyed a free ride from this Congress for far too long.

The price of oil today in New York was \$75 a barrel. Is that not enough for Americans to pay? So enough with this song and dance. This is about closing loopholes for tax cheats, a loophole that your Republican administration has been advocating. This is closing a loophole for tax cheats, a loophole that this administration has been advocating being closed for years, as it is reducing windfall profits for Big Oil.

I urge my colleagues to make the right choice here and stop playing politics with the American public.

We used to have a \$30 billion trade surplus in agriculture. Like everything else, we are trading that away. If we aren't careful, we are going to become an importer of agricultural goods for the first time in the history of the United States. That won't happen on our watch.

It's bad enough that countries like China, Japan, and Saudi Arabia are our bankers. Let us not make them our farmers, too. That is not the way this country was built, and I assure you this new Democratic Congress will not abandon our farm community.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime bill that will meet our country's needs. Every major group, the commodities, the specialty crops, the nutrition groups, the conservationists and others support this bill.

A “yes” vote on this rule and the underlying bill is a vote for the hungry, a vote for the environment, a vote for energy independence, but, most importantly, a vote to deliver on our long-standing commitment to rural America.

I urge a “yes” vote on the rule and on the previous question.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule. The rule waives all points of order on the underlying bill to shield the Democratic Leadership's attempt to bypass the rules of the House and the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. Clause 5(a) of Rule 21 states that, “a bill or joint resolution carrying a tax or tariff measure may not be reported by a committee not having jurisdiction to report tax or tariff measures.”

Yet, the bill before us today was not reported by such a committee, only by the Committee on Agriculture. Specifically, Section 1303 of the bill would change the administration of U.S. tariff rate quotas for imports of sugar so that the tariff rate quotas no longer apply on a yearly basis, but rather on a semi-