

offices for what it costs them to deliver the care to our Medicare patients.

To that end, a bill has been introduced, H.R. 5866, and I would encourage other Members to spend some time over the August break to look at this bill. Yes, it is a little long. Yes, it is a little complex. But it is important work. It ensures that physicians receive full and fair payment for their services based on the cost of the inputs that costs them to run their practice. It creates quality performance measures that allows patients to be informed consumers. It builds on the quality improvement that we have done in this Congress and that private medicine has done throughout the country for the last decade. And, finally, it seeks to find reasonable methods of paying for these benefits within the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to revise this failed formula that serves no one good. We need to provide physicians with regular, stable, predictable updates to the cost of their practices.

CREDIT UNION REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS ACT

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the importance of the financial services industry, including both banks and credit unions, to our economy. I support and applaud the steps they have taken toward better services and improved products, but I think there is some need for some changes.

That is why I have introduced a bill dealing with credit cards and am cosponsoring H.R. 2317, to update the regulation of credit unions. My support for credit unions does not reflect hostility to banks because I do not think credit unions represent a threat to the continued success of banks.

In 2005, bank profits reached a record level. Banks have a 94 percent share of the financial services industry, and the net growth in bank assets in 2005 was nearly as much as the combined total assets of all credit unions in the country. So I do not think modest changes that are in H.R. 2317 represent a real threat to the continued success of the banking industry.

When we return in September, we should have an opportunity to consider both H.R. 2317 and my bill, H.R. 5383, the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act.

HOUSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly reflect upon the accomplishments of this Congress. As we head into the August district work pe-

riod, let us look back on all we have achieved for the American people.

Under Republican leadership this House has passed legislation to bolster our economy and prevent a tax increase on millions of Americans, including small business owners, seniors, and families.

We have worked to pass a fiscally responsible budget. We have funded the War on Terror, giving our servicemen and women the tools and support they need to take the fight to the enemy. Equally important, we have worked to secure this homeland.

We have passed legislation helping American families. We got tough on child exploitation over the Internet and voted to increase funding and resources to fight methamphetamine in all our communities. We have passed legislation to protect our Pledge of Allegiance, to curb illegal Internet gambling, and to protect our right to display the American flag.

Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on and on. This Congress is working for the American people, and I ask that you join me in praising all that we have accomplished.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1705

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my remarks.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING DAN GETZ

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last night we had a terrible tragedy occur in my office. My assistant for foreign policy, Dan Getz, who was age 37, dropped dead of a heart attack.

Dan was an outstanding young man. He worked very, very hard in dealing with foreign policy issues, and he was a real credit to everybody that works here in the House.

One of the things that Members and the people of the country don't realize sometimes is how hard the people behind the scenes work. The staff people here and the staff on the committees work very, very hard day and night to make sure we are ready for debate on the floor of the House and our committee meetings. And Dan was one of the people that I thought did exemplary work. He worked so hard for us.

In fact, this week we had two hearings, and he didn't have assistants to help him, and he did it all by himself. And I feel a little guilty that he had to work so hard. So we were going to give him today off so that he could recuperate from all the hard work.

He went home last night to his beautiful wife, Lydia, and his two daughters, Nova and Sonia, who are both very, very young. I think they are very young children. And evidently he was resting and he keeled over with a heart attack; and before the rescue team could get there, he passed away.

So I would just like to say to his wife and his children how sorry we are. And I want to make this commitment to them, that if there is anything they need, I and my staff will do everything we can to make sure that they are taken care of, and that means financially as well.

And we will miss you, Dan. And the Good Lord willing, we will see you in heaven.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1810

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) at 6 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 958 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 958

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of July 28, 2006, providing for consideration or disposition of any of the following measures:

(1) A conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2830) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules, and for other purposes.

(2) A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000, to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

(3) A bill to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 958 is a same-day rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee.

This resolution applies a waiver to any special rule reported on the legislative day of July 28, 2006, providing for the consideration or disposition of any of the following measures:

A conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2830) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules, and for other purposes.

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5 million, to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

A bill to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, this is the last week before Congress will recess for the month of August so that Members can return home and spend their time meeting and working with those they represent. As such, we will not be returning to Washington, D.C., to conduct legislative business until September 6. Currently, there are several pieces of legislation of vital importance to the American people that are being worked on and are near completion.

It is imperative that we pass this same-day rule so that the House can consider these measures before the August recess. Once the House completes consideration, these measures can be sent to the Senate for deliberation before it recesses next week.

These important measures include a conference report to accompany the Pension Protection Act and legislation providing permanent estate tax relief and extending several important tax provisions in order to allow workers and families to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Mr. Speaker, the House Committee on Rules may meet later today to provide rules for the consideration of these measures once they are completed. House Resolution 958 will help facilitate the timely consideration of certain measures today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the same-day rule so that we can move forward to consideration of additional rules later today and eventually on the all important must-pass bills for the American people.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes. I yield myself 5½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this martial law rule. For weeks and weeks and weeks, this House has wasted valuable time. We have spent short workdays during short workweeks passing meaningless legislation without doing a thing to actually help the American people.

□ 1815

Today, the day before the August recess, this Republican leadership is bringing to the floor legislation that will actually be harmful to America's working families.

The martial law rule before us, passed last night by the Republicans in the Rules Committee, makes three bills in order: first, the pension conference report, which will lead to benefit cuts for millions of workers; second, a tax cut bill mostly for the rich, including an estate tax cut that affects only the very wealthiest in the country; and third, this is my favorite, "a bill to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes." Okay. Can anybody in this House tell me what that means? Of course not.

Apparently, the Republican leadership will be presenting a minimum wage bill that will be loaded down with sweetheart tax deals for the wealthy and the corporate special interests, the same special interests that call the shots in the Republican House.

So here we are voting on a rule to bring up bills that appeared literally just an hour ago which no one has read, 1,200 pages of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that the Members of this House have not had an opportunity to review, 1,200 pages.

This is what passes for the legislative process in the House these days, and it would be laughable if it were not so sad.

The Republican strategy is as apparent as it is cynical. They want to clutter the minimum wage bill with so

many giveaways to the wealthiest Americans and to corporations that it will never actually become law. That way, the dozens and dozens of vulnerable Republican incumbents can claim that they voted to increase the minimum wage, while the corporate special interests can claim victory for killing it.

Senate tax writes have already rejected, on a bipartisan basis, proposals that combine the estate tax with a tax extenders package, which is exactly what the House Republican leadership has put forward today as an attachment to the minimum wage.

The losers in this mess are hard-working American families who deserve to make a wage that keeps them out of poverty.

No wonder the American people are so sick and tired of politics as usual in Washington. For months, years even, a clear bipartisan majority has existed in the House to support an increase in the minimum wage with no strings attached. The Republican leadership has been dragged kicking and screaming to this point. It is an amazing thing to watch.

I would ask my Republican colleagues, why is it so impossible for you to do anything good for working families? Why does it cause you such pain and anguish and hand-wringing?

Congress has not raised the minimum wage since 1997. That is 9 years. During that same period, Congress has raised its own salary eight times. Now, that is what I call out of touch.

A Republican House staffer told the Columbus, Ohio, Dispatch, "Not too many people work at minimum wage anymore. I don't think it gets you anywhere politically."

Mr. Speaker, maybe I missed it and Columbus, Ohio, is on a different planet these days because nearly 15 million Americans will benefit from a minimum wage increase, 6.6 million directly and 8.3 million indirectly. Almost 60 percent of these workers are women; 40 percent are people of color.

The average corporate CEO, who will benefit, of course, from the estate tax cut, earns more before lunchtime than a minimum wage worker earns all year.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot say it more plainly. The priorities of this Republican leadership are not the priorities of the American people. What the American people want and what they deserve is a clean up-or-down vote on increasing the minimum wage, period. They will not be getting it today.

I am sick and tired of the priorities of this Republican Congress being determined by who has the fattest checkbook, by who contributes the most money to their campaigns.

Low-income workers do not have high-priced lobbyists. They do not contribute huge amounts of money to politicians or political parties, but these are the people who make this country work, Mr. Speaker. These are the people who do the hard labor, each and

every day to keep this country running. They deserve a break. They deserve a raise. They deserve the ability to provide for their families.

For once, just once, I urge my Republican colleagues to do the right thing. Reject this martial law rule.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this is Keystone Cops legislation. I fully expect to see the Marx Brothers, Larry, Curly and Moe, as Members of Congress here today.

Today, or tonight, we do not know if are going to vote on pension reform, associated health plans, repealing of the estate tax, tax extensions, or a minimum wage increase, or any combination or all of the above. It will be late on Friday night before we vote on any of these vital issues. Our constituents cannot be fooled by this late night flim-flam.

We should have an up-and-down vote on a minimum wage increase, not a vote on minimum wage increase and the estate tax at the same time or pension reform or whatever else the leadership feels convenient to add to this bill.

It is hard to hit a moving target, and rather than playing games, we should remember that there are people in this country who make \$5.10 an hour. This is a real issue that impacts real people.

We have not raised the minimum wage since 1997. When adjusted for inflation, the minimum wage is the lowest it has been in 50 years. When it takes a full day's pay to fill up your gas tank, something is wrong.

A minimum wage earner makes only \$10,700 a year. This is well below the poverty threshold for a family of three which is \$16,600 a year.

We need to lift these hardworking Americans out of poverty and have a true vote on the minimum wage.

The estate tax may be part of the package. It is clear that my Republican colleagues do not really want to pass a minimum wage bill. The Senate has not been able to muster the 60 votes to pass the estate tax bill in years. I do not know why we want to create an illusion that we are passing the minimum wage law when we know that this law is going to fail in the Senate.

Let us stop playing games with people's lives. Let us have a straight up-and-down vote on the minimum wage so hardworking Americans can see who stands with them and who stands against them.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this martial law legislation, but also against any flim-flam or Larry, Curly and Moe legislation that they may want to bring up in the middle of the night.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, in the bill that we will be considering later on that has the minimum wage provisions as my friend from Texas was talking about, it also has some very important tax, what we call tax extenders bills, that would otherwise expire.

One of those extenders is something I know is very important to the citizens of Texas in that it allows sales tax deductibility for those States that do not have a State income tax. The Speaker pro tempore is one of those, my State is one of those, and my friend from Texas also has that.

So I would hope that while we have the minimum wage in the same bill as the sales tax, it seems to me to be a pretty attractive package.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

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

Let me just respond to the gentleman. What is frustrating to us here tonight is the fact that for months and months and months we have been trying to get a straight up-or-down vote on the minimum wage. We think it is an absolute disgrace that the minimum wage has not been raised since 1997, 9 years, and in those 9 years, Congress has given itself eight pay raises. We think there is something wrong with that, and we want to see passed and enacted into law an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

So we want a straight up-or-down vote because we think that is the best way you can get that.

Instead, what you do, you bring a minimum wage bill to floor to provide some of your more vulnerable Members cover, and you bring it in a package that you know probably is not going to go anywhere in the Senate because the previous combination of the estate tax and the tax extenders package has not gone anywhere in the Senate.

So this is about cover, political cover, and not about giving millions and millions of Americans, hardworking Americans who have been neglected by the Republican Congress for years, the raise that they deserve.

The minimum wage has not been raised since 1997, and adjusted for inflation, the current minimum wage is at its lowest level in more than 50 years. Minimum wage earners working 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year, make \$10,712. That is nearly \$6,000 below the poverty line for a family of three. Thirty-five percent of those workers are their family's sole wage earners; 61 percent are women; and almost one-third of those women are raising children.

The average annual cost of family health insurance is more than a minimum wage worker's income for a whole year, and given the cost of gasoline, it takes a full day's pay for a minimum wage earner to fill just one tank of gas.

What we want is not political cover. What we want is to give these hard-

working Americans, millions and millions and millions of Americans, who constantly get neglected by this Congress, who always get a cold shoulder when it comes to trying to provide them some help, what we want to do is give them a raise.

If Members of the House deserve a raise, these low-income wage earners also deserve a raise.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for his leadership.

Wars are raging on the borders of Israel and Lebanon; wars are raging in Iraq; our soldiers are being redeployed not once, not two times and three times. I met with a young lady just recently. She has relatives who have been redeployed three times or more. Funds for the war are increasing, and my good friends on the other side, rather than stay here and work on the issues of the day, will put forward legislation that will have no place and go nowhere in the other body.

Frankly, the package that is being put through today under this martial rule will cost \$800 billion. Right now, I filed legislation to provide humanitarian aid to Lebanon to help those who are noncombatants get out safely, to find a way to help Americans who are stranded in Lebanon to get safely home, and we are addressing legislation that makes no sense.

I voted for a sales tax relief for the State of Texas. I am a Texan, and I sure believe in helping home and many other States that suffer under the burden of excessive taxes. But you cannot give an \$800 billion tax relief that no one is going to address, in the Senate, in regular order. It has to pass in the Senate and then the President signs it. And at the same time, we fail to entertain livable wages for Americans, a minimum wage increase for Americans, while we, of course, have increases.

So when you look at this package and you see this, this is going nowhere. This is to put Members on the line to be embarrassed or to go home and say why did you vote against the sales tax. I voted for it many times. I want it to pass, but it is not going to pass this way. It is going to have to pass in negotiation between the House and the Senate because Texas does deserve relief, but so do the millions of those who are not being able to make ends meet.

What about your soldiers that are on food stamps, the very soldiers who are on the front lines in Iraq? The privates are on food stamps, and we have got \$800 billion in tax relief to the richest of Americans who do not even need it.

That is what the problem is with this legislation. We waited here all day. I do not have a problem. We can be here all night. We can be here until tomorrow. We can pass H.R. 945, the Lebanon Humanitarian Relief, so we can protect

those noncombatants who are being bombed and who cannot even defend themselves. I am not concerned about protecting Hezbollah, but I am concerned about mothers and children and babies who cannot even get out because they are on the road and they are being bombed. We need a corridor that gives us that kind of separation.

But Mr. Speaker, this is no explanation. Let us get an up-or-down vote on minimum wage. Let us try to address the crisis in the Mideast. Let us help by getting real pension reform. Let us speak to the American people. Let us not play jokes here in the Congress of the United States of America.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as a former welfare mom, I know what it is like to try to get by on a paycheck that is not enough to make ends meet.

Today's minimum wage earner is trying to live on a wage that has not been raised for 9 years. Minimum wage has not been raised in 9 years, but you can be sure the cost of food has gone up over that period of time. The cost of health care has skyrocketed. The price of gas is higher than most people ever imagined it could be. Over 6 million people are trying to live in the year 2006 earning \$1,997.

So what is the Republican majority's solution to solving the problems for those who do not have enough?

□ 1830

They want to give more tax cuts to those who have more wealth than the average American can even imagine. They want to excuse the richest 7,500 families in this country from contributing like they ought to. It is time we stand up for those who don't have enough. It is time we say no to those who want too much.

I urge my colleagues to oppose creating an American aristocracy by repealing the estate tax. Vote "no" on this rule until we have a clean up-or-down vote on the minimum wage.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record, just so there is no question as to where the Republican majority is coming from, let me read to you a quote that appeared in a June 22 story of the Associated Press entitled "GOP-Run Senate Kills Minimum Wage." This is a quotation from our House Majority Leader.

He says, and I quote, "I have been in this business for 25 years and I have never voted for an increase in the minimum wage. I am opposed to it, and I think a vast majority of our rank and file is opposed to it."

That is what the other side thinks about the minimum wage, and that is why we need to demand an up-or-down vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland, our distinguished whip, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts. I agree with what

the gentleman has just said. The Republican leadership is opposed to raising the minimum wage, opposed to lifting 6.6 million people out of poverty. No Member of the House should harbor any illusions about what the Republican leadership is doing, therefore.

Today, the Republican leadership is engaging in a political stunt, in my opinion; a cynical sham, a cruel ploy to undermine a long overdue increase in the Federal minimum wage, an increase that would benefit literally millions of American workers and their families. Democrats have continually fought for a clean up-or-down vote on increasing the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour over 2 years, the first increase in 10 years.

Hear me: Groceries have not been frozen in price. Gasoline hasn't been frozen in price. Rents haven't been frozen in price. But wages of minimum-wage workers have been frozen for 10 years, and we continue to fight today about this.

The fact is, I believe a majority of the Members of this body support an increase in the minimum wage, even if the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the majority of the House Republicans do not. But the will of the House will be thwarted today if this rule passes.

On June 12, the Appropriations Committee adopted on a bipartisan vote an amendment to the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriation bill that would increase the minimum wage by \$2.10 per hour over 2 years. That bill has been languishing unconsidered for the last 2 months. In response, the Republican leadership has refused to bring that appropriation bill up for a vote.

On July 13, 64 Republicans joined all Democrats in indicating their support for an increase in the minimum wage by voting for a Democratic motion to instruct on the vocational education bill. But instead of providing for a fair up-and-down vote on the minimum wage, the Republican leadership today has combined an increase in the hourly rate with an estate tax cut that will benefit the heirs of the wealthiest estates in America and drive our Nation hundreds of billions, approximately \$800 billion further into debt.

If nothing else, Mr. Speaker, this bill certainly tells the American people precisely where the Republican priorities lie. Their priorities lie with Paris Hilton and other heirs of the super wealthy, not the hard-working Americans who work 40 hours a week earning a minimum wage and are living in poverty in the richest Nation on the face of the earth.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican bill wreaks of cynicism. It is a political stunt designed to give vulnerable Republicans in tough elections the opportunity to say they voted to raise the minimum wage, even though they know this bill is a shell game. We will give with one hand and take with the other.

The estate tax will not pass. It has not passed. We have already passed it.

We don't need to pass it again. But it is put on this bill as a poison pill to kill it because the Republican leadership opposes raising the minimum wage. What a shame.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¼ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have served here 26 years. Eight years before that I was in the State legislature. And before that, I studied legislatures. They are a subject of fascination to me because I believe deeply in democracy. I have never seen democracy so degraded in a purportedly legitimate institution as by this bill today.

It is solely intended to allow Members of your party, Mr. Speaker, to pretend to be for an increase in the minimum wage to get them safely past an election. There are plenty of ways, if they were really for increasing the minimum wage, they could join and give us the majority to do it. But you are allowing them to be dishonest.

This proposal that links the estate tax and the minimum wage in a bill that you know is not going to pass the Senate is the most ethically repugnant, intellectually dishonest, morally bankrupt ploy I have ever seen in a legislative body. For you, Mr. Speaker, and your party to perpetrate this conscious, deliberate deception, not just on the American people, but particularly on the poorest and hardest working among them, is something I would have thought previously even you would have been ashamed to do.

Apparently, shame has become entirely irrelevant to you and your party.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I feel a great deal of respect for my friend that just spoke, and I want to go on record as saying that I am one of those that is not in favor of raising the minimum wage. I have never voted for that. And my State, by the way, has, if not the highest, one of the highest minimum wages in the country.

But I am going to vote for this bill. And I am going to vote for this bill not because I embrace the minimum wage, I am going to vote for this bill because it has the estate tax provision in there. I am going to vote for this bill because it has the sales tax deduction for Washington State and other States that don't have sales tax deductibility. And my expectation is, my expectation is that the other body will vote accordingly and pass the bill, therefore, we will have the minimum wage increase that my friend from Massachusetts talked about.

It seems to me it is the best of all worlds in the give and take of the legislative process as we near a recess.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman for his honesty.

He is against the minimum wage, so he is going to vote for this bill. I would simply point out that I am for the minimum wage so I am going to vote against this sham.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Well, reclaiming my time, I am glad the gentleman told me that.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. We are mixing our symbols here. You have heard of Christmas in July and you heard the gentleman before me. This is truly Christmas in July for the wealthiest among us, those who have estates worth more than \$10 million, so they won't have to carry a share of the burden of paying for our country.

But this is really more of an April Fools in July. The calendar lies to us. Because the Republicans are saying that there is some equivalence between raising the minimum wage, something in 10 years of Republican rule that has never been raised, from \$5.15 an hour. Three million kids are dependent upon sole wage earners who earn the minimum wage, living in abject poverty at \$10,000 a year.

Some of them are pumping gas into the limousine of Lee Raymond. Who is Lee Raymond? He is the guy who just retired from ExxonMobil with a \$400 million pension extorted from the American people by gouging at the gas pump. Guess how much this bill would be worth to Mr. Raymond's heirs if he died next year? \$128 million. A \$128 million tax savings for one individual in this proposal, which will be financed on the backs of working Americans for the next 30 years.

Because, guess what, we are running a deficit. So if we are going to give Mr. Raymond's heirs a \$128 million tax break, then we are going to have to borrow the money to do it. We would borrow \$80 billion a year to give the Paris Hiltons and, yes, the Lee Raymonds, and the others who have estates worth more than \$10 million a bye. And they say that is a trade-off for after 10 years of delay and disassembling to give a tiny increase that still won't bring 6 million Americans up to the poverty level who are earning the minimum wage.

Shame on you for Christmas for the wealthiest among us in July and shame on you for April Fools on working Americans.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

Mr. DELAHUNT. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And as I listened to my friend from Oregon, I was thinking that we are helping the wealthiest of Americans by borrowing from China, by borrowing from China to subsidize that tax cut and further adding to the deficit.

But, Mr. Speaker, by the time I am finished speaking, Exxon will have

made \$158,160 in profits, as opposed to 17 cents earned for the 2 minutes worked by the gas station attendant. In the hour allotted to the debate, Exxon will have made over \$4,744,800. And if you are currently paid the minimum wage, you will have made \$5.15. In a 40-hour week, Exxon will make a staggering \$189,792,000 compared to the \$206 earned by someone on minimum wage. Of course that is before taxes. Welcome to Wonderland, Alice.

It has been 10 years since the Federal minimum wage was last adjusted, the longest period of time in which Congress has refused an increase. During that time, the price for gas has skyrocketed a whopping 136 percent, health care costs for working families have jumped 97 percent, college tuition has ballooned 77 percent, and the price of bread and milk has risen 25 percent.

Far too many families are struggling to make ends meet, living paycheck to paycheck and going deeper and deeper into debt. It is not about paying at the pump any more, now working families are feeling it in the aisles of the local supermarket or when they visit the drugstore.

We will not have a straight up-or-down vote on a clean minimum wage bill to help our working families, many of whom face a bleak future thanks to the Draconian budget cuts proposed by the administration and passed by this Congress. Instead, if we want to see the minimum wage addressed in this session of Congress, we are being forced to approve tax cuts that benefit the wealthiest among us and the Nation's corporations. That is just wrong.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 25 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Massachusetts has 5¼ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT).

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, a number of Members have come to this floor and have wondered why there isn't moral outrage. Well, when you have a President who leads you into war on all kinds of misrepresentations, when we have now lost 2,500 Americans, and when we have spent \$400 billion with no moral outrage about that, who would expect there to be moral outrage about the fact that somebody is making \$5.15 an hour in this country?

□ 1845

Now, we have Members of Congress, of course, who have indexed their salary to inflation. And this year we are

all going to pick up \$3,300. Nobody is going to blink. That is a third of what a minimum-wage worker makes working all year.

If we had indexed the minimum wage to inflation, they would be making almost \$13 an hour. But, of course, we can't think of doing something like that. That would be humane to the people that we have kicked off welfare and all the other things we have done in this society.

We have taken away pensions. We have put companies in bankruptcy. We have shifted jobs overseas, and the few that are working in this country, we want them working for as little as possible.

Well, the Republicans found a cure for that. They waited till after the news had closed for Friday. In the darkness of the night, on a Friday, they are going to pass a bill that they are going to use for their press releases on Monday when they get home to their districts: I voted to raise the minimum wage. I care about the working people of my district, they will proclaim in loud voices.

But the fact is, they know this bill isn't going to pass. And what is going to pass, they hope, is the \$300 billion for the richest among us, those poor rich people who can hardly get by. Their hearts are bleeding, but the Republicans are taking care of it. Don't worry, you rich folks. They have got you in mind. They don't care what happens to the poor.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a sham concealing an insult hiding a hypocrisy. It is a sham legislative process to bring a bill of thousands of pages, which has yet to be distributed to any of us, for a midnight vote.

It is an insult to turn to the hard-working people working for \$5.15 an hour and tell them that, first, you will get a little bit more, but it still will be less purchasing power than you had decades ago. But second, you will get it only if it is tied to relief for those who pay the estate tax.

You know, people have misnamed the estate tax the death tax. It is really and literally the millionaire's tax. The tax falls only on those who are heirs. It reduces the amount they will inherit, and only on those who are heirs to estates of over \$7 million a family.

We Democrats have proposed that we permanently lift the estate tax on all families on the first \$7 million. That would cost about \$22 billion a year.

This bill has provisions virtually abolishing the millionaire's tax and, therefore, will cost this country, when fully phased in, \$66 billion a year.

So a few quarters an hour to those who are earning the minimum wage, and \$44 billion a year to those who are heirs of estates above \$7 million a family.

That would be an insult. But don't worry about it, because it is shrouded in a hypocrisy. You see, this bill isn't designed to go anywhere. It is designed to come to the floor, we vote on it at midnight, then the Senate won't pass it.

If you have voted against raising the minimum wage a dozen times, as most of the Republicans in this House have, don't think you can get well by voting for this bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, if the gentleman is prepared to close.

Mr. MCGOVERN. How much time do I have left, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1¼ minutes.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me urge all my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, to oppose this rule. This is a martial law rule. There are 1,200 pages of legislation that nobody has read. This is not the way this House should be run.

People who are watching this on TV are scratching their heads and wondering how in the world can Members of Congress vote on legislation that they have never seen, that they haven't had a chance to read. But that is exactly what we are being asked to do tonight, and that is wrong.

What is happening right now is a deliberate attempt to, essentially, give people cover on the minimum wage, on a bill that will die.

This is not going to be enacted into law. We know that because the Senate has already made it clear that they are not going to support this legislation. And so this is political cover for Republicans who are afraid that they are going to be criticized for not voting for the minimum wage.

If you want a minimum wage, then vote for it up or down. Don't clutter it up with tax breaks for millionaires and for special corporate interests.

The fact of the matter is that it takes a full day's pay for a minimum-wage earner to fill just one tank of gas. The average CEO earns 821 times more than a minimum-wage worker. The average CEO earns more before lunchtime than a minimum-wage worker earns all year.

Let's not be cynical. Let's defeat this martial law rule. Let's give the Members of this House an opportunity to vote on the minimum wage up or down. That is what the American people deserve. Vote "no" on this martial law rule.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of time.

Mr. Speaker, this rule allows for consideration of two very important bills, bills that have been worked on extremely hard on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the rotunda. One of them is the pension reform bill that has been worked on by the respective committees for 5 or 6 years on a bipar-

tisan basis. The bill that we will take up later on pension reform is the conference report. But because of the timing and some logistics, this is the best way to address this issue is to take the bill up and pass it so that the Senate can act on it next week.

The other bill is a minimum-wage increase bill. I don't know how many times this body, in the last several months, has had procedural motions regarding the minimum wage. So we are going to have a minimum-wage bill before us later on tonight. And with that bill, with the expectation that the other body will talk about it and will pass it favorably, will be something that this body has addressed several times.

The estate tax, or the death tax, has been addressed by this Congress on two occasions. The first occasion was to totally eliminate it. And it passed this body on a bipartisan basis. The second time was a cap that we will take up, very similar to what we will take up later on. It also passed on a bipartisan basis. So the issues that we are taking up and allowing to take up with this rule aren't new to this body.

So I urge my colleagues to vote for this same-day rule and to vote, later on, for the rule that will allow consideration of these two measures that I just talked about. They are important to our constituents; and the sooner we do it, the better off we will be.

And I must say too, Mr. Speaker, the expectation is that both of these measures that we will take up later on tonight will be passed by the other body next week and they will become law. And amongst that is the minimum-wage increase that my friends on the other side of the aisle have been talking about.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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 217, nays 192, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 418]

YEAS—217

Abercrombie	Beauprez	Boozman
Aderholt	Biggart	Boustany
Akin	Bilbray	Bradley (NH)
Alexander	Bishop (UT)	Brady (TX)
Bachus	Blackburn	Brown (SC)
Baker	Blunt	Brown-Waite,
Barrett (SC)	Boehner	Ginny
Bartlett (MD)	Bonilla	Burgess
Barton (TX)	Bonner	Burton (IN)
Bass	Bono	Calvert

Camp (MI)	Hostettler	Pombo
Campbell (CA)	Hulshof	Porter
Cannon	Hunter	Price (GA)
Cantor	Hyde	Pryce (OH)
Capito	Inglis (SC)	Putnam
Carter	Issa	Radanovich
Castle	Jenkins	Ramstad
Chabot	Jindal	Regula
Chocola	Johnson (CT)	Rehberg
Cole (OK)	Johnson (IL)	Reichert
Conaway	Johnson, Sam	Renzi
Crenshaw	Keller	Reynolds
Cubin	Kelly	Rogers (AL)
Culberson	Kennedy (MN)	Rogers (KY)
Davis (KY)	King (IA)	Rogers (MI)
Davis, Tom	King (NY)	Rohrabacher
Dent	Kingston	Ros-Lehtinen
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kirk	Royce
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kline	Ryan (WI)
Doolittle	Knollenberg	Ryun (KS)
Drake	Kolbe	Saxton
Dreier	Kuhl (NY)	Schmidt
Duncan	LaHood	Schwarz (MI)
Ehlers	Latham	Sensenbrenner
Emerson	LaTourette	Sessions
English (PA)	Leach	Shadegg
Everett	Lewis (CA)	Shaw
Feeney	Lewis (KY)	Shays
Ferguson	LoBiondo	Sherwood
Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lucas	Shimkus
Flake	Lungren, Daniel	Shuster
Foley	E.	Simmons
Forbes	Mack	Simpson
Fortenberry	Manzullo	Smith (NJ)
Fossella	Marchant	Smith (TX)
Fox	McCaul (TX)	Sodrel
Franks (AZ)	McCotter	Souder
Frelinghuysen	McCrary	Stearns
Gallegly	McHenry	Sullivan
Garrett (NJ)	McHugh	Sweeney
Gerlach	McKeon	Tancredo
Gibbons	McMorris	Taylor (NC)
Gilchrest	Mica	Terry
Gillmor	Miller (FL)	Thomas
Gingrey	Miller (MI)	Thornberry
Goode	Miller, Gary	Tiahrt
Goodlatte	Moran (KS)	Tiberi
Granger	Murphy	Turner
Graves	Musgrave	Upton
Green (WI)	Myrick	Walden (OR)
Gutknecht	Neugebauer	Walsh
Hall	Ney	Wamp
Harris	Nussle	Weldon (FL)
Hart	Osborne	Weldon (PA)
Hastert	Otter	Weller
Hastings (WA)	Paul	Westmoreland
Hayes	Pearce	Whitfield
Hayworth	Pence	Wicker
Hefley	Peterson (PA)	Wilson (NM)
Hensarling	Petri	Wilson (SC)
Herger	Pickering	Wolf
Hobson	Pitts	Young (AK)
Hoekstra	Poe	Young (FL)

NAYS—192

Ackerman	Cooper	Grijalva
Allen	Costa	Gutierrez
Andrews	Costello	Harman
Baird	Cramer	Hastings (FL)
Baldwin	Crowley	Herseth
Barrow	Cuellar	Higgins
Bean	Cummings	Hinchey
Becerra	Davis (AL)	Hinojosa
Berkley	Davis (CA)	Holden
Berman	Davis (FL)	Holt
Berry	Davis (IL)	Honda
Bishop (GA)	Davis (TN)	Hooley
Bishop (NY)	DeFazio	Hoyer
Blumenauer	DeGette	Inlee
Boren	Delahunt	Israel
Boswell	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)
Boucher	Dicks	Jackson-Lee
Boyd	Dingell	(TX)
Brady (PA)	Doggett	Jefferson
Brown (OH)	Doyle	Johnson, E. B.
Brown, Corrine	Edwards	Jones (OH)
Butterfield	Emanuel	Kanjorski
Capps	Engel	Kaptur
Capuano	Eshoo	Kennedy (RI)
Cardin	Etheridge	Kildee
Cardoza	Farr	Kilpatrick (MI)
Carnahan	Fattah	Kind
Carson	Filner	Kucinich
Case	Ford	Langevin
Chandler	Frank (MA)	Lantos
Clay	Gonzalez	Larsen (WA)
Cleaver	Gordon	Larson (CT)
Clyburn	Green, Al	Lee
Conyers	Green, Gene	Levin

Lipinski	Olver	Slaughter
Lofgren, Zoe	Ortiz	Smith (WA)
Lowey	Owens	Snyder
Lynch	Pallone	Solis
Maloney	Pascarell	Spratt
Markey	Pastor	Strickland
Marshall	Pelosi	Stupak
Matheson	Peterson (MN)	Tanner
Matsui	Pomeroy	Tauscher
McCarthy	Price (NC)	Taylor (MS)
McCollum (MN)	Rahall	Thompson (CA)
McDermott	Rangel	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Reyes	Tierney
McIntyre	Ross	Towns
McNulty	Rothman	Udall (CO)
Meek (FL)	Roybal-Allard	Udall (NM)
Melancon	Ruppersberger	Van Hollen
Michaud	Rush	Velázquez
Millender-	Ryan (OH)	Visclosky
McDonald	Sabo	Wasserman
Miller (NC)	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
Miller, George	T.	Waters
Mollohan	Sanchez, Loretta	Sanders
Moore (KS)	Ruppersberger	Watson
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Watt
Moran (VA)	Schiff	Waxman
Murtha	Schwartz (PA)	Weiner
Nadler	Scott (GA)	Wexler
Napolitano	Scott (VA)	Woolsey
Neal (MA)	Serrano	Wu
Oberstar	Sherman	Wynn
Obey	Skelton	

□ 1930

PROVIDING FUNDING AUTHORITY TO FACILITATE EVACUATION OF PERSONS FROM LEBANON

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate bill (S. 3741) to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon, and for other purposes, be taken from the Speaker's table, amended in the form that I have placed at the desk, and hereby passed; that the amendment placed at the desk be considered as read; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 3741

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FUNDING AUTHORITY.

(a) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—
 (1) AUTHORITY.—
 (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon a determination by the Secretary of State described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may transfer to the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account from unobligated amounts in any account under the “Administration of Foreign Affairs” heading such sums as may be necessary—

(i) to cover the costs of facilitating the evacuation under section 4 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2671) of persons from Lebanon on or after July 16, 2006; and

(ii) to replenish the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account up to the level of funding that existed in such account on July 15, 2006.

(B) DETERMINATION.—A determination referred to in subparagraph (A) is a determination that additional funding for the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account is necessary as a result of the extraordinary costs of facilitating the evacuation under section 4 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2671) of persons from Lebanon on or after July 16, 2006.

(C) TREATMENT OF FUNDS.—Amounts transferred under subparagraph (A) shall be merged with amounts in the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such account.

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subparagraph (B), not later than 5 days before transferring funds under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the proposed transfer.

(B) EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A) if exigent circumstances exist. In the event of such a waiver, the Secretary shall provide notice of the transfer of funds to the appropriate congressional committees as early as practicable, but in no event later than 3 days after such transfer, including an explanation of the circumstances necessitating such waiver.

(C) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the

Senate and the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 8 of title II of division B of Public Law 109-148 under the heading “EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE” and any other unobligated amounts in the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” account may be made available to cover the costs of facilitating the evacuation under section 4 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2671) of persons from Lebanon on or after July 16, 2006.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. WOLF:
 Strike subsection (a) and insert the following new subsection:

(a) INCREASE IN AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS.—Notwithstanding the transfer restrictions under section 402 of the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-108), the second proviso under the headings “DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE - ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS” is amended by striking “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$19,000,000”.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I think especially in the closing days of the session, that Members ought to have an understanding of what is going on, even though this is martial law time.

So I would ask if the gentleman would please explain to the House what this action would do.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this amendment simply gives the permissive authority to the Secretary of State to access these and other previously appropriated funds to cover the evacuation of Lebanon.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation, could I ask the gentleman, has the administration given us any indication of where they are likely to take funds from in order to accomplish this?

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, they have been in discussion with the staff as to some ideas. But their priority was to get this legislation passed because there are going to be more evacuations taking place.

So as of now I cannot tell you the exact places.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation, I would hope that the administration would let the Congress know as quickly as possible where it is planning to take funds from, so that if the Congress has any concerns, we might express those concerns before we are facing a fait accompli.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object,

NOT VOTING—24

Baca	Gohmert	Northup
Billrakis	Istook	Norwood
Boehler	Jones (NC)	Nunes
Buyer	Lewis (GA)	Oxley
Coble	Linder	Payne
Davis, Jo Ann	McKinney	Platts
Deal (GA)	Meehan	Salazar
Evans	Meeks (NY)	Stark

□ 1929

Messrs. CARDOZA, AL GREEN of Texas and BARROW changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Friday, July 28, 2006, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote No. 418. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on this vote.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5970, ESTATE TAX AND EXTENSION OF TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006 AND H.R. 4, PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-613) on the resolution (H. Res. 966) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5970) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000, to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes; and consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.