

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

Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying: When Judge Parker got through with those cold-blooded killers, there was no recidivism.

We have talked and we have heard the phrase coined so many times in referring to judges throughout America as the hanging judges. Ladies and gentlemen, that is, this was, the hanging judge, and I believe that he was revered not only by his colleagues but also by the frontier community which he served.

I think that he blazed a trail to let everybody respect the law, and sometimes you have got to get people's attention, and I think we have got the Nation's attention now to the contributions made by Judge Parker.

I support this bill and ask all Members to unanimously support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like again to echo the sentiments of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] that we recognize a man such as Judge Parker who did blaze a trail in the early years of this country to establish justice and law.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], for being extremely relentless and persistent, consistently, to get this bill pushed through the House. I thank him for all of his efforts. I urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1804.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 308, H.R. 255, H.R. 395, H.R. 653, H.R. 840, H.R. 869, H.R. 965, and H.R. 1804, the bills just considered.

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

There was no objection.

SENIOR CITIZENS' RIGHT TO WORK ACT OF 1995

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 2684) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for increases in the amounts of allowable earnings under the Social Security earnings limit for individuals who have attained retirement age, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2684

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. INCREASES IN MONTHLY EXEMPT AMOUNT FOR PURPOSES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT.

(a) INCREASE IN MONTHLY EXEMPT AMOUNT FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ATTAINED RETIREMENT AGE.—Section 203(f)(8)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 403(f)(8)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

"(D) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, the exempt amount which is applicable to an individual who has attained retirement age (as defined in section 216(l)) before the close of the taxable year involved shall be—

"(i) for each month of any taxable year ending after 1995 and before 1997, \$1,166.66 $\frac{2}{3}$,

"(ii) for each month of any taxable year ending after 1996 and before 1998, \$1,250.00,

"(iii) for each month of any taxable year ending after 1997 and before 1999, \$1,333.33 $\frac{1}{3}$,

"(iv) for each month of any taxable year ending after 1998 and before 2000, \$1,416.66 $\frac{2}{3}$,

"(v) for each month of any taxable year ending after 1999 and before 2001, \$1,500.00,

"(vi) for each month of any taxable year ending after 2000 and before 2002, \$2,083.33 $\frac{1}{3}$, and

"(vii) for each month of any taxable year ending after 2001 and before 2003, \$2,500.00."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 203(f)(8)(B)(ii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 403(f)(8)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(A) by striking "the taxable year ending after 1993 and before 1995" and inserting "the taxable year ending after 2001 and before 2003 (with respect to individuals described in subparagraph (D)) or the taxable year ending after 1993 and before 1995 (with respect to other individuals)"; and

(B) in subclause (II), by striking "for 1992" and inserting "for 2000 (with respect to individuals described in subparagraph (D)) or 1992 (with respect to other individuals)".

(2) The second sentence of section 223(d)(4)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 423(d)(4)(A)) is amended by striking "the exempt amount under section 203(f)(8) which is applicable to individuals described in subparagraph (D) thereof" and inserting the following: "an amount equal to the exempt amount which would be applicable under section 203(f)(8), to individuals described in subparagraph (D) thereof, if section 2 of the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1995 had not been enacted".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to taxable years ending after 1995.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF DISABILITY INSURANCE CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEW ADMINISTRATION REVOLVING ACCOUNT.

(a) CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEW ADMINISTRATION REVOLVING ACCOUNT FOR TITLE II DISABILITY BENEFITS IN THE FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(n)(1) There is hereby created in the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund a Continuing Disability Review Administration Revolving Account (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as the 'Account'). The Account shall consist ini-

tially of \$300,000,000 (which is hereby transferred to the Account from amounts otherwise available in such Trust Fund) and shall also consist thereafter of such other amounts as may be transferred to it under this subsection. The balance in the Account shall be available solely for expenditures certified under paragraph (2).

"(2)(A) Before October 1 of each calendar year, the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration shall—

"(i) estimate the present value of savings to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund which will accrue for all years as a result of cessations of benefit payments resulting from continuing disability reviews carried out pursuant to the requirements of section 221(i) during the fiscal year ending on September 30 of such calendar year (increased or decreased as appropriate to account for deviations of estimates for prior fiscal years from the actual amounts for such fiscal years), and

"(ii) certify the amount of such estimate to the Managing Trustee.

"(B) Upon receipt of certification by the Chief Actuary under subparagraph (A), the Managing Trustee shall transfer to the Account from amounts otherwise in the Trust Fund an amount equal to the estimated savings so certified.

"(C) To the extent of available funds in the Account, upon certification by the Chief Actuary that such funds are currently required to meet expenditures necessary to provide for continuing disability reviews required under section 221(i), the Managing Trustee shall make available to the Commissioner of Social Security from the Account the amount so certified.

"(D) The expenditures referred to in subparagraph (C) shall include, but not be limited to, the cost of staffing, training, purchase of medical and other evidence, and processing related to appeals (including appeal hearings) and to overpayments and related indirect costs.

"(E) The Commissioner shall use funds made available pursuant to this paragraph solely for the purposes described in subparagraph (C)."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 201(g)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 401(g)(1)(A)) is amended in the last sentence by inserting "(other than expenditures from available funds in the Continuing Disability Review Administration Revolving Account in the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund made pursuant to subsection (n))" after "is responsible" the first place it appears.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 221(i)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 421(i)(3)) is amended—

(A) by striking "and the number" and inserting "the number";

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a comma; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: "and a final accounting of amounts transferred to the Continuing Disability Review Administration Revolving Account in the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund during the year, the amount made available from such Account during such year pursuant to certifications made by the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration under section 201(n)(2)(C), and expenditures made by the Commissioner of Social Security for the purposes described in section 201(n)(2)(C) during the year, including a comparison of the number of continuing disability reviews conducted during the year with the estimated number of continuing disability reviews upon which the estimate of such expenditures was made under section 201(n)(2)(A)."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND SUNSET.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply for fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 1995, and ending on or before September 30, 2002.

(2) SUNSET.—Effective October 1, 2002, the Continuing Disability Review Administration

Revolving Account in the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund shall cease to exist, any balance in such Account shall revert to funds otherwise available in such Trust Fund, and sections 201 and 221 of the Social Security Act shall read as if the amendments made by subsection (a) had not been enacted.

(c) OFFICE OF CHIEF ACTUARY IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 702 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 902) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“Chief Actuary

“(c)(1) There shall be in the Administration a Chief Actuary, who shall be appointed by, and in direct line of authority to, the Commissioner. The Chief Actuary shall be appointed from individuals who have demonstrated, by their education and experience, superior expertise in the actuarial sciences. The Chief Actuary shall serve as the chief actuarial officer of the Administration, and shall exercise such duties as are appropriate for the office of the Chief Actuary and in accordance with professional standards of actuarial independence. The Chief Actuary may be removed only for cause.

“(2) The Chief Actuary shall be compensated at the highest rate of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382(b) of title 5, United States Code.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBSECTION.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. ENTITLEMENT OF STEPCHILDREN TO CHILD'S INSURANCE BENEFITS BASED ON ACTUAL DEPENDENCY ON STEPPARENT SUPPORT.

(a) REQUIREMENT OF ACTUAL DEPENDENCY FOR FUTURE ENTITLEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(d)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(d)(4)) is amended by striking “was living with or”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to benefits of individuals who become entitled to such benefits for months after the third month following the month in which this Act is enacted.

(b) TERMINATION OF CHILD'S INSURANCE BENEFITS BASED ON WORK RECORD OF STEPPARENT UPON NATURAL PARENT'S DIVORCE FROM STEPPARENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(d)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(d)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (F);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (G) and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following new subparagraph:

“(H) if the benefits under this subsection are based on the wages and self-employment income of a stepparent who is subsequently divorced from such child's natural parent, the sixth month after the month in which the Commissioner of Social Security receives formal notification of such divorce.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to notifications of divorces received by the Commissioner of Social Security on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. RECOMPUTATION OF BENEFITS AFTER NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(f)(2)(D)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(f)(2)(D)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) in the case of an individual who did not die in the year with respect to which the recomputation is made, for monthly benefits beginning with benefits for January of—

“(I) the second year following the year with respect to which the recomputation is made, in

any such case in which the individual is entitled to old-age insurance benefits, the individual has attained retirement age (as defined in section 216(l)) as of the end of the year preceding the year with respect to which the recomputation is made, and the year with respect to which the recomputation is made would not be substituted in recomputation under this subsection for a benefit computation year in which no wages or self-employment income have been credited previously to such individual, or

“(II) the first year following the year with respect to which the recomputation is made, in any other such case; or”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 215(f)(7) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(f)(7)) is amended by inserting “; and as amended by section 5(b)(2) of the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1995,” after “This subsection as in effect in December 1978”.

(2) Subparagraph (A) of section 215(f)(2) of the Social Security Act as in effect in December 1978 and applied in certain cases under the provisions of such Act as in effect after December 1978 is amended—

(A) by striking “in the case of an individual who did not die” and all that follows and inserting “in the case of an individual who did not die in the year with respect to which the recomputation is made, for monthly benefits beginning with benefits for January of—”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) the second year following the year with respect to which the recomputation is made, in any such case in which the individual is entitled to old-age insurance benefits, the individual has attained age 65 as of the end of the year preceding the year with respect to which the recomputation is made, and the year with respect to which the recomputation is made would not be substituted in recomputation under this subsection for a benefit computation year in which no wages or self-employment income have been credited previously to such individual, or

“(ii) the first year following the year with respect to which the recomputation is made, in any other such case; or”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to recomputations of primary insurance amounts based on wages paid and self employment income derived after 1994 and with respect to benefits payable after December 31, 1995.

SEC. 6. ELIMINATION OF THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IN PROCESSING ATTORNEY FEES.

(a) ACTIONS BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER.—Section 206(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 406(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the fourth and fifth sentences;

(2) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and (4);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) No person, agent, or attorney may charge in excess of \$4,000 (or, if higher, the amount set pursuant to subparagraph (B)) for services performed in connection with any claim before the Commissioner under this title, or for services performed in connection with concurrent claims before the Commissioner under this title and title XVI.

“(B) The Commissioner may increase the dollar amount under subparagraph (A) whenever the Commissioner determines that such an increase is warranted. The Commissioner shall publish any such increased amount in the Federal Register.

“(C) Any agreement in violation of this paragraph shall be void.

“(D) Whenever the Commissioner makes a favorable determination in connection with any claim for benefits under this title by a claimant who is represented by a person, agent, or attorney, the Commissioner shall provide the claimant and such person, agent, or attorney a written notice of—

“(i) the determination,

“(ii) the dollar amount of any benefits payable to the claimant, and

“(iii) the maximum amount under paragraph (2) that may be charged for services performed in connection with such claim.”; and

(4) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3).

(b) JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.—Section 206(b)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 406(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subparagraph (A), by striking “representation,” and all that follows and inserting the following: “representation. In determining a reasonable fee, the court shall take into consideration the amount of the fee, if any, that such attorney, or any other person, agent, or attorney, may charge the claimant for services performed in connection with the claimant's claim when it was pending before the Commissioner.”;

(2) in the second sentence of subparagraph (A), by striking “or certified for payment”;

(3) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(4) by striking “(b)(1)(A)” and inserting “(b)(1)”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 223(h)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 423(h)(3)) is amended by striking all that follows “obtained” and inserting a period.

(2) Section 1127(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-6(a)) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(3) Section 1631(d)(2)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) by striking “(other than paragraph (4) thereof); and

(B) by striking all that follows “title II” and inserting a period.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to—

(1) any claim for benefits under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program under title II of the Social Security Act, the supplemental security income program under title XVI of such Act, or the black lung program under part B of the Black Lung Benefits Act that is initially filed on or after the 60th day following the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) any claim for such benefits filed before such 60th day by a claimant who is first represented by any person, agent, or attorney in connection with such claim on or after such 60th day.

SEC. 7. DENIAL OF DISABILITY BENEFITS TO DRUG ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS.

(a) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE II DISABILITY BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(d)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) An individual shall not be considered to be disabled for purposes of this title if alcoholism or drug addiction would (but for this subparagraph) be a contributing factor material to the Commissioner's determination that the individual is disabled.”.

(2) REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) Section 205(j)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 405(j)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) In the case of an individual entitled to benefits based on disability, the payment of such benefits shall be made to a representative payee if the Commissioner of Social Security determines that such payment would serve the interest of the individual because the individual also has an alcoholism or drug addiction condition (as determined by the Commissioner) that prevents the individual from managing such benefits.”.

(B) Section 205(j)(2)(C)(v) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 405(j)(2)(C)(v)) is amended by striking “entitled to benefits” and all that follows through “under a disability” and inserting “described in paragraph (1)(B)”.

(C) Section 205(j)(2)(D)(ii)(II) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 405(j)(2)(D)(ii)(II)) is amended by striking all that follows “15 years, or” and inserting “described in paragraph (1)(B)”.

(D) Section 205(j)(4)(A)(i)(II) (42 U.S.C. 405(j)(4)(A)(ii)(II)) is amended by striking "entitled to benefits" and all that follows through "under a disability" and inserting "described in paragraph (1)(B)".

(3) TREATMENT REFERRALS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AN ALCOHOLISM OR DRUG ADDICTION CONDITION.—Section 222 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 422) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"Treatment Referrals for Individuals with an Alcoholism or Drug Addiction Condition

"(e) In the case of any individual whose benefits under this title are paid to a representative payee pursuant to section 205(j)(1)(B), the Commissioner of Social Security shall refer such individual to the appropriate State agency administering the State plan for substance abuse treatment services approved under subpart II of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-21 et seq.)."

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (c) of section 225 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 425(c)) is repealed.

(5) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (4) shall apply with respect to monthly insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act based on disability for months beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that, in the case of individuals who are entitled to such benefits for the month in which this Act is enacted, such amendments shall apply only with respect to such benefits for months beginning on or after January 1, 1997.

(B) The amendments made by paragraphs (2) and (3) shall apply with respect to benefits for which applications are filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) If an individual who is entitled to monthly insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act based on disability for the month in which this Act is enacted and whose entitlement to such benefits would terminate by reason of the amendments made by this subsection reapplies for benefits under title II of such Act (as amended by this Act) based on disability within 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Social Security shall, not later than January 1, 1997, complete the entitlement redetermination with respect to such individual pursuant to the procedures of such title.

(b) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SSI BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1614(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382c(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(I) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an individual shall not be considered to be disabled for purposes of this title if alcoholism or drug addiction would (but for this subparagraph) be a contributing factor material to the Commissioner's determination that the individual is disabled."

(2) REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) Section 1631(a)(2)(A)(ii)(II) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(a)(2)(A)(ii)(II)) is amended to read as follows:

"(II) In the case of an individual eligible for benefits under this title by reason of disability, the payment of such benefits shall be made to a representative payee if the Commissioner of Social Security determines that such payment would serve the interest of the individual because the individual also has an alcoholism or drug addiction condition (as determined by the Commissioner) that prevents the individual from managing such benefits."

(B) Section 1631(a)(2)(B)(vii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(a)(2)(B)(vii)) is amended by striking "eligible for benefits" and all that follows through "is disabled" and inserting "described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)".

(C) Section 1631(a)(2)(B)(ix)(II) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(a)(2)(B)(ix)(II)) is amended by striking all that follows "15 years, or" and inserting "described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)".

(D) Section 1631(a)(2)(D)(i)(II) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(a)(2)(D)(i)(II)) is amended by striking "eligible for benefits" and all that follows through "is disabled" and inserting "described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)".

(3) TREATMENT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONDITION.—Title XVI of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"TREATMENT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONDITION

"SEC. 1636. In the case of any individual whose benefits under this title are paid to a representative payee pursuant to section 1631(a)(2)(A)(ii)(II), the Commissioner of Social Security shall refer such individual to the appropriate State agency administering the State plan for substance abuse treatment services approved under subpart II of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-21 et seq.)."

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 1611(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1382(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(B) Section 1634 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1383c) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(5) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (4) shall apply with respect to supplemental security income benefits under title XVI of the Social Security Act based on disability for months beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that, in the case of individuals who are eligible for such benefits for the month in which this Act is enacted, such amendments shall apply only with respect to such benefits for months beginning on or after January 1, 1997.

(B) The amendments made by paragraphs (2) and (3) shall apply with respect to supplemental security income benefits under title XVI of the Social Security Act for which applications are filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) If an individual who is eligible for supplemental security income benefits under title XVI of the Social Security Act for the month in which this Act is enacted and whose eligibility for such benefits would terminate by reason of the amendments made by this subsection reapplies for supplemental security income benefits under title XVI of such Act (as amended by this Act) within 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Social Security shall, not later than January 1, 1997, complete the eligibility redetermination with respect to such individual pursuant to the procedures of such title.

(D) For purposes of this paragraph, the phrase "supplemental security income benefits under title XVI of the Social Security Act" includes supplementary payments pursuant to an agreement for Federal administration under section 1616(a) of the Social Security Act and payments pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 212(b) of Public Law 93-66.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 201(c) of the Social Security Independence and Program Improvements Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 425 note) is repealed.

(d) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated to supplement State and Tribal programs funded under section 1933 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-33), \$100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1997 and 1998.

(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) shall be in addition to any funds otherwise appropriated for allotments under section 1933 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-33) and shall be allocated pursuant to such section 1933.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or Tribal government receiving an allotment under this sub-

section shall consider as priorities, for purposes of expending funds allotted under this subsection, activities relating to the treatment of the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

SEC. 8. REVOCATION BY MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY OF EXEMPTION FROM SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1402(e)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, any exemption which has been received under section 1402(e)(1) of such Code by a duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister of a church, a member of a religious order, or a Christian Science practitioner, and which is effective for the taxable year in which this Act is enacted, may be revoked by filing an application therefor (in such form and manner, and with such official, as may be prescribed in regulations made under chapter 2 of such Code), if such application is filed no later than the due date of the Federal income tax return (including any extension thereof) for the applicant's second taxable year beginning after December 31, 1995. Any such revocation shall be effective (for purposes of chapter 2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and title II of the Social Security Act), as specified in the application, either with respect to the applicant's first taxable year beginning after December 31, 1995, or with respect to the applicant's second taxable year beginning after such date, and for all succeeding taxable years; and the applicant for any such revocation may not thereafter again file application for an exemption under such section 1402(e)(1). If the application is filed after the due date of the applicant's Federal income tax return for a taxable year and is effective with respect to that taxable year, it shall include or be accompanied by payment in full of an amount equal to the total of the taxes that would have been imposed by section 1401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to all of the applicant's income derived in that taxable year which would have constituted net earnings from self-employment for purposes of chapter 2 of such Code (notwithstanding section 1402(c)(4) or (c)(5) of such Code) except for the exemption under section 1402(e)(1) of such Code.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to service performed (to the extent specified in such subsection) in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1995, and with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable under title II of the Social Security Act on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of any individual for months in or after the calendar year in which such individual's application for revocation (as described in such subsection) is effective (and lump-sum death payments payable under such title on the basis of such wages and self-employment income in the case of deaths occurring in or after such calendar year).

SEC. 9. PILOT STUDY OF EFFICACY OF PROVIDING INDIVIDUALIZED INFORMATION TO RECIPIENTS OF OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During a 2-year period beginning as soon as practicable in 1996, the Commissioner of Social Security shall conduct a pilot study of the efficacy of providing certain individualized information to recipients of monthly insurance benefits under section 202 of the Social Security Act, designed to promote better understanding of their contributions and benefits under the social security system. The study shall involve solely beneficiaries whose entitlement to such benefits first occurred in or after 1984 and who have remained entitled to such benefits for a continuous period of not less than 5 years. The number of such recipients involved in the study shall be of sufficient size to generate a statistically valid sample for purposes of the study, but shall not exceed 600,000 beneficiaries.

(b) ANNUALIZED STATEMENTS.—During the course of the study, the Commissioner shall provide to each of the beneficiaries involved in the

study one annualized statement, setting forth the following information:

(1) an estimate of the aggregate wages and self-employment income earned by the individual on whose wages and self-employment income the benefit is based, as shown on the records of the Commissioner as of the end of the last calendar year ending prior to the beneficiary's first month of entitlement;

(2) an estimate of the aggregate of the employee and self-employment contributions, and the aggregate of the employer contributions (separately identified), made with respect to the wages and self-employment income on which the benefit is based, as shown on the records of the Commissioner as of the end of the calendar year preceding the beneficiary's first month of entitlement; and

(3) an estimate of the total amount paid as benefits under section 202 of the Social Security Act based on such wages and self-employment income, as shown on the records of the Commissioner as of the end of the last calendar year preceding the issuance of the statement for which complete information is available.

(b) INCLUSION WITH MATTER OTHERWISE DISTRIBUTED TO BENEFICIARIES.—The Commissioner shall ensure that reports provided pursuant to this subsection are, to the maximum extent practicable, included with other reports currently provided to beneficiaries on an annual basis.

(c) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—The Commissioner shall report to each House of the Congress regarding the results of the pilot study conducted pursuant to this section not later than 60 days after the completion of such study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. JACOBS] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING].

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, it is my honor to speak on behalf of the Senior Citizens' Right To Work Act of 1995, because I am also speaking on behalf of the 1 million people who are affected by the Social Security earnings limit.

Over a year ago, we promised working seniors financial relief from the punitive earnings limit which is imposed on many older Americans who must work to make ends meet.

Today we are taking one more step toward fulfilling that promise with the Senior Citizens' Right To Work Act.

H.R. 2684 is a fair and balanced bill. It is fair to the working seniors. It is fair to the financial soundness of the Social Security trust fund.

This legislation enjoys widespread support among the senior community, because they, too, know it is good policy to do what is right for working seniors.

The members of the Ways and Means Committee know it is good policy, too, because it passed the committee unanimously on a vote of 31 to 0.

I urge my colleagues to follow the example of the Ways and Means Committee and pass the Senior Citizens' Right To Work Act of 1995.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, of course, support this legislation as well, and I commend the gentleman from Kentucky as well as the gentleman from Texas who are longstanding supporters of the concept, and I cannot think of a better example of a legislative accommodation to various points of view.

There were those of us, and still are, who believe that it is improper to repeal the retirement test altogether, those of us who believe that retirement benefits should, in fact, go to people who are retired. But the compromise this bill represents is a very happy one, as the gentleman from Kentucky has said, for practically any reasonable person who has dealt with this issue over the years. This is a happy moment for the American people. It is a proud moment for the Congress, and it might not be a bad example for the people moving across the hall here to negotiate the whole budget.

There has been give and take. There has been friendship. And there has been accomplishment, and we have arrived at that accomplishment today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY].

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise today not in the manner that I would have liked. I support this bill. I support final passage of this bill.

But I am truly disappointed that the bill came up under suspension, because it gives us no opportunity to amend the bill, and I had planned to testify today before the Committee on Rules to ask that we could have an amendment to continue equity for the blind people of this Nation. Up to this point, people in America who are blind have the same situation on earnings test limits as those who are 65 and older, and my amendment would have maintained this current link between senior citizens and the blind for the purposes of Social Security earnings.

This Social Security earnings test link was put forth originally by our own chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER]. He had this idea that this was a very good thing for the blind to have this same type of situation, and it became law nearly 20 years ago. Unfortunately, the bill before us will break that link, and the blind will no longer have the same work incentive our senior citizens should and will enjoy.

Earlier in the year I submitted a similar amendment before the Committee on Rules during consideration of the Contract With America, and the amendment was not permitted on the floor of the House. Today, again, I tried to get an amendment before the Committee on Rules, but, unfortunately, the decision was made to have this come under suspension.

Mr. Speaker, I feel this is unfortunate for the blind of this country not to be allowed to have the vote, but,

more importantly, the link is broken. So I would like to say today, whereas it was not found possible to do this, the blind are very interested in this piece of legislation and would certainly like to reestablish this link. I would hope somewhere down the line this could come up again and we could have something that will work and continue.

□ 1645

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER] the chairman of the full Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Kentucky for yielding me time.

Today is truly a banner day for this House of Representatives and for the country. As my friend, the gentleman from Indiana, ANDY JACOBS, said, we should find more opportunities to work together for the betterment not only of our senior citizens, but for all Americans.

Today is particularly a sentimental day for me, because over 20 years ago I initiated the effort to eliminate the retirement test. I felt very strongly that this country was losing tremendous talent available in its senior citizens who, if they did work, were penalized by losing their Social Security benefits and paying the highest effective marginal tax rate as a result of any age group in the country.

Today, after all of those years, we are making a move in the right direction, and it is a result of the work of the gentleman from Kentucky, JIM BUNNING, our subcommittee chairman, cooperating with the gentleman from Indiana, ANDY JACOBS, the ranking Democrat on the committee.

But it is also a sentimental day for Barry Goldwater. I hope in some way that he may be watching today, because year after year he was the lead Senate sponsor of this legislation, until he retired from the Senate.

This earnings limit brings about the most odious administrative nightmare in every Social Security office across this country. If you talk to people who are there day by day, having to deal with Social Security problems, you will find that they will tell you that this is the toughest thing they have to deal with, just from a standpoint of administrative redtape.

When fully phased in, this will eliminate about 50 percent of the people who have to comply with it and bring about these mountainous files of uncertainty.

Seniors who want to work after the passage of this bill will be able to continue to do so up to earning \$30,000 a year. That is a giant step forward. It will unleash an awful lot of talent, an awful lot of resources, to help push this country forward in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be more gratified with the response on a bipartisan basis, where this bill came out of our committee on a 31-to-0 vote, to send it to the Senate, where hopefully

they will pass it speedily and put it on the desk of the President so it can be signed soon this year.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have the good fortune to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SHAW].

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this most important piece of legislation. It has been late in coming, but it is certainly an answer to many of our commitments to our senior citizens.

For many it is very difficult to live on Social Security and then be limited to \$11,000 a year in earnings limits, as existing law provides. By increasing this over 7 years to \$30,000, we are recognizing the fact that many of our seniors want to continue to work, can continue to work, and can live a much better and fuller life if they are able to work. It is high time that this legislation pass.

I compliment the chairman and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. JACOBS] for working on this, in a bipartisan way, to bring this most important piece of legislation to the House floor.

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLECZKA].

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us is not very controversial. The base bill does provide for an increase in the earnings limit for senior citizens. I guess we could debate, and possibly the Senate will debate, whether or not it should go to \$30,000 over a period of 7 years. But the point I want to raise with the body today is, No. 1, the process on how the bill got before us today, and then two of the components which are very troublesome to me.

We were notified, I believe last week, that this bill would be coming before the Committee on Rules today at 2:30, at which time Members who were interested could approach the Committee on Rules and ask for various amendments to be made in order.

That is the usual process when we are amending bills and debating bills. However, for whatever reason, unbeknownst to this speaker, the Committee on Rules canceled that hearing on this particular bill and it was rushed to the House under a procedure we call suspension of the rules. The suspension of the rules procedure does not permit any amendments to be offered to the legislation being debated.

So essentially what the Republican majority has done is cut some of us off, some of us who wanted to propose some constructive changes to the legislation we were debating.

You ask what are those changes? What do you want to change about the bill? There are two major changes I think that have to be addressed.

One was already spoken to by the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY], and it is something we did discuss before the committee and I am sad to say to no avail. But under cur-

rent law and under an amendment back to 1977 that was proposed by my good friend, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER], the chairman of the committee, there was a linkage formed between the blind and the earnings test for Social Security recipients. However, although that linkage has proved very beneficial to the blind involved and it has been in the law since 1977, for some reason, unbeknownst to me, that linkage is ending with the passage of this bill.

If you look at the plight of a blind person who has tried to struggle in a low paying job, to not permit them to earn more as we are doing for retired people I think is absurd. In fact, the example I used before the Committee on Ways and Means during markup was take the situation of a blind person who is not going to get better in his or her lifetime, unless a miracle would occur, a blind person who is trying to increase their stand in this country, and they try to get a job earning more money. But they know full well they are going to lose. A person who is blind who is trying to earn will lose Social Security benefits.

However, a retired person who is, say, 66 years old, very, very healthy, not blind, will over a 7-year period be able to earn \$30,000, and I think the unlinking of the two is totally unfair. However, because of the Republican procedure today, the blind people will not get a separate vote on their request to my office and many others to keep this linked.

The other problem with the bill has nothing to do with the earnings test. However, under current law for attorneys who represent people in Social Security disability cases, they receive their reimbursement for the representation through a separate check from the Social Security Administration. That is being done away with. It does not save any money. We are told it might cost some money, but we are going to save some man-hours. We did want to offer before the Committee on Rules a proposal wherein we take the one disability check going to the beneficiary, have two payees listed on the check, and if in fact that did not cover the cost we would provide for a \$20 fee. That was not permitted. That is sad.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. COLLINS].

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that this is a day that many of us in this body can stand and say promises made, promises kept, because both sides of the aisle have promised our seniors we would give them relief in their earnings ability by allowing them to continue to work and earn extra money and not be penalized for such.

It comes from both sides of the aisle. As has been mentioned, both in the subcommittee and the full committee, there was not a dissenting vote. Again, this is how this body can work.

I go back to just 10 days ago, on Sunday evening in this same body when on a unanimous consent we sent a continuing resolution down to the White House that would do the same thing, promises made, promises kept. That is why we all agreed to a 7-year balanced budget. I look forward to the day we stand here unanimously and say we fulfilled that promise also.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I now have the pleasure of yielding 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. ENGLISH].

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2684, legislation that will raise the Social Security earnings limit for working seniors who right now face higher real tax rates than millionaires in the current system.

While senior citizens are the primary beneficiaries of this legislation, I am pleased to say another important sector of our work force will also benefit, and that is members of the clergy.

H.R. 2684 includes a provision that I have advocated that would provide a 2-year open season for members of the clergy to enroll in Social Security. Some members of the clergy elected not to participate in Social Security early in their careers, before they fully understood the ramifications of opting out. Because the election process is irrevocable, there is no way for them to participate in the program under current law. Clergy typically have the most modest earnings throughout their working lives, and would be among those most likely to rely on Social Security. This legislation would give them an opportunity to enroll.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of yielding 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SAM JOHNSON] a member of the Subcommittee on Social Security and a member of the full committee.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, the only thing that is more important than repealing the 16th amendment and getting rid of the IRS is fixing it so our citizens have the right to work and earn whatever they want to. This bill, believe it or not, allows anyone between 65 and 70, which is what we are talking about, to hit \$14,000 as a salary limit this year, this next year, instead of having to wait until the year 2002, which is what current law does.

You know what that does? That helps 20 percent of those involved in that category, which is 925,000 people. That means those guys are not going to have to pay any more tax. That means they can work at Wendy's and McDonald's or wherever they want to and earn money without being subject to the Federal Government of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have to pass it. It is a duty that we have.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of yielding 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. RAMSTAD].

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. One provision of this bill, Mr. Speaker, cuts off benefits for those individuals considered disabled solely based on their addiction to either drugs or alcohol. I strongly support this provision.

Mr. Speaker, as a recovering alcoholic who spends a great deal of my time with other alcoholics and addicts who are still suffering the ravages of chemical addiction, I can tell you that paying cash benefits to these people is not the kind of help that they need. In fact, cash benefits only make the problem of addiction worse, only serve to enable, to fuel the addiction.

Those addicted to drugs or alcohol do not need cash, they need treatment. This bill, Mr. Speaker, provides \$200 million in additional money to the States through an existing block grant program for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

So I commend my distinguished colleague on the Committee on Ways and Means, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, for bringing this thoughtful piece of legislation to the floor, and I urge all of my colleagues to give substance abusers the help that they need. Support this legislation.

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN].

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Indianapolis for yielding me time. There is not a man nor woman on that particular side from the gentleman's party whom I respect more, and whom I am going to dearly miss after his retirement this year.

Mr. Speaker, today represents another step in our efforts to increase the Social Security earnings limit. Currently senior citizens between the ages of 65 and 69 lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every three they make over \$11,280. This important piece of legislation we are considering today will change that. It will raise the earnings limit for those ages 65 to 69 to \$30,000 by year 2002, thereby removing this disincentive to work and allowing seniors to keep more of their hard-earned dollars.

This bill is especially important to the folks I represent back in Nebraska. The Omaha area is currently experiencing a labor shortage. With unemployment hovering around 2 percent, our efforts to raise the earnings limit will allow more seniors to enter the work force without being punished by the Federal Government, thereby providing Nebraska businesses with experienced employees rich in talent and full of ability.

□ 1700

Simply put, lifting the earnings limit for our Nation's seniors is the right thing to do. And as my friend from

Georgia earlier said, promises made, promises kept.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CAMP].

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding. I rise in support of the Senior Citizens Right to Work Act which will raise the earnings limit for seniors.

This legislation accomplishes two important tasks: First, it ends the policy of subsidizing drug and alcohol abuse with Social Security funds; and, second, and very importantly, it ends the practice of punishing seniors who want to work.

Currently, seniors who want to remain a vital part of the work force will lose \$1 of their Social Security contributions for every \$3 they earn over \$11,280. This legislation will remove the disincentive to work placed upon seniors by raising that limit.

American seniors have worked hard to pay into the Social Security trust fund. This legislation not only protects their investment and honors our commitment to them, it also encourages seniors to continue their contribution to our Nation's work force.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. LAUGHLIN].

Mr. LAUGHLIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my chairman for yielding me time. I am proud to stand in support of the Senior Citizens Right to Work Act, and I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of this bill. Not only does it raise the earnings limit for our senior citizens between the ages of 65 and 70, just as importantly as allowing them to have hard-earned money to help them in these years, it gives the added benefit of allowing them to continue working to allow the senior citizens to do the things they want to do in their golden senior years.

Mr. Speaker, that is a benefit that is healthy to them beyond the financial earnings. And in that I cite as an example of my own father who today is working at age 76. This law does not apply to them because seniors above the age of 70 are not subjected to earnings limits. But I see senior citizens who find it healthy for their own day-to-day happiness and well-being to be working, and I am proud to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington [Ms. DUNN].

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. This is a wonderful piece of legislation. It has simply taken too long to come to the floor of the House. It is bipartisan. It came out of our Committee on Ways and Means with a vote of 31 to 0, and it is time, in fact, beyond time, that this legislation go into effect.

I support this legislation largely because I think it is just plain wrong to penalize our most experienced and

dedicated workers for continuing to work and contribute to a better livelihood for themselves and also to a better future for the United States.

Seniors across the country want to work beyond age 65 because a fixed Social Security income alone these days often does not provide adequate financial security. I think also the younger people in the workplace gain a lot through the experience of those folks who continue to work. It is good for all of us.

Unfortunately, currently the earnings limit discriminates against some of our senior citizens and prevents us from being able to benefit from the talents of millions of experienced professional. The earnings limit punishes seniors after they have earned \$11,280 by hitting them with an additional effective tax of 33 percent. It is too long that this has gone on. Now is the time to change it.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to make one note about an amendment that was accepted unanimously in the Committee on Ways and Means that is included in this legislation, a provision I offered during our consideration by our committee, that is, in effect, a sunshine amendment. It is designed to help seniors better understand their contributions and benefits under the Social Security system.

The lack of information currently provided to seniors simply is unacceptable. My parents and seniors around this country have a desire, a need, and certainly a right to know about the status of their participation in the system, and so the amendment we proposed outlines the total income earned by each senior.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions that we have added to this bill that would give further information on Social Security are: The total income earned by the individual receiving benefits, the total Social Security contributions by that individual and separately by that individual's employer, and, finally, the total dollars that have been received back by the beneficiary from Social Security.

I think, Mr. Speaker that it will open up a degree of information that has never been available before. It will help people understand what their return is on the current Social Security compared to what they have paid in. Numerous seniors in my district find it ironic that other retirement benefit programs, like mutual funds and IRAs, provide this type of information in writing on a quarterly basis.

Our proposal is a study for a period of 2 years with not more than 600,000 recipients. We will see how it works, and I hope continue to provide this and further information.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this proposal. It is, as I said, way beyond its time. It will be good for seniors and good for all of us.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEINEMAN].

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

Mr. HEINEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me this time.

I rise in strong support of this legislation. I am a cosponsor of the bill and I urge my colleagues to strongly, strongly support the bill.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, which helps to fulfill a solemn pledge I made to the senior citizens in the Fourth Congressional District of North Carolina to remove this burdensome tax targeted at our working senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior citizen myself I know that current law penalizes seniors who want to work by imposing an earnings limit on the amount of outside income they can receive while still obtaining their full Social Security benefits. Seniors between the ages of 65 and 69 currently lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$3 they earn above \$11,280. This kind of earnings limit amounts to an additional 33 percent tax on top of existing income taxes.

I know from first hand experience that many seniors continue to lead active and productive lives and contribute in important ways to our community. We should be supporting seniors who want to work, not penalizing them. H.R. 2684 will raise the current earnings limit from \$11,280 to \$30,000 by the year 2002. After the year 2002, the earnings limit will be indexed to the growth in average wages.

Mr. Speaker, this is a modest, but critical reform, and I am pleased to lend my support to this much needed legislation.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. TORKILDSEN].

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

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the increase in the earnings limit for Social Security recipients.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT], who has worked for the last 8 years to make this bill law.

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

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, this certainly is a red letter day for this Congress, but certainly, even more than that, a red letter day for the seniors of this country. It would not have happened, and I want to thank specifically the gentleman, who, after we passed this bill out of this House with over 400 votes on it, and the funding mechanism was rejected by the Senate, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING] came back, worked with the staff diligently and made it work. We need to thank him profusely for that effort to make sure that this bill is on this floor today so that we can pass it and move it on.

I also want to thank other Members, the gentleman from Texas, DICK ARMEY, who carried this bill for years

in the House; and another gentleman from Texas, BILL ARCHER, who carried it for 20 years in the House as an important piece.

What this bill does, ladies and gentleman, it helps working seniors, seniors who do not have pension income or stocks and bonds tacked away; people who have never had the chance to save and invest, and yet when they want to work to bring up their standard of living, to be part of this country, to share in the economy, to help their grandchildren, to take a vacation, to buy a car, when they go to earn those extra dollars, they get hit with a marginal tax rate of 56 percent when they exceed the limit of \$11,000. Fifty-six percent, nearly twice the rate that millionaires pay today. Those seniors who live off investment incomes are not impacted by the earnings limit.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just a right. America's working seniors should not be punished just because they never had money to tuck away and must now keep working to make ends meet. This tax relief for working seniors is sorely needed.

Even though we know working seniors will pay more into our economy and more than offset the cost associated with lifting the earnings limit, the Congressional Budget Office will not allow this dynamic method of scoring. The gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING] has worked to put together a proposal that meets the CBO budget rules and has also looked at that extra dynamic.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a salute to senior citizens, people who have worked their whole life, people who have yet to give information and education and leadership to people who are younger, that they can be the person that they look up to in a work force in a small store, a candy store, a McDonald's, the Sears area, all of those people who endorse this piece of legislation.

I again salute the gentleman from Kentucky for his tremendous leadership and his staff for bringing this piece of legislation together and salute the seniors of this country so that they can make a statement in their behalf as well.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS].

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Kentucky for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the earnings test limit is unfair and unjust. It is, effectively, a mandatory retirement mechanism for a country no longer in need of it. It precludes greater flexibility for the elderly worker, and also prevents America's full use of the eager, experienced, and educated elderly worker. Finally, it deprives the U.S. economy of the additional income which would be generated by the elderly worker.

Mr. Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of this bill, and I certainly want to applaud my colleague from Kentucky, Mr. BUNNING; and, of course, the gen-

tleman from Illinois, Mr. DENNIS HASTERT, who has labored in the vineyards for many years. When I came here in 1989, we worked so hard to get this bill forward, and I think now we have an opportunity to pass a great bill, to gain economic equality for those elderly workers who either want to work or must work in order to maintain a decent lifestyle.

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX].

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of this legislation which our senior citizens of the United States have been waiting for. The income eligibility raising is certainly an idea whose time has arrived.

I have to congratulate all those colleagues who have been working so long and hard to make this legislation a reality. The fact is that seniors should be able, under 70 years of age, to earn more than \$11,280. Under this legislation it will raise the income limit up to \$30,000 without having the deduction from their Social Security.

Anything we can do to help the seniors, who have helped us have the right to be here in Congress and to serve, certainly need our attention, our respect and admiration. I thank the individuals who have brought this legislation forward: the gentleman from Illinois, DENNIS HASTERT, the gentleman from Kentucky, Mr. BUNNING, and others, the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. JACOBS. I appreciate all their help in making this day possible and urge all my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS], a member of the Committee on Rules.

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I am overjoyed to rise today in strong support of the Senior Citizens Right to Work Act. This is very good news for seniors in Florida and all across America.

The issue here is very, very simple. Big brother, the Federal Government, is no longer going to punish seniors who choose to remain a productive part of the American work force. The new majority in Congress made a promise to our Nation's seniors that we would fix the unfair earnings test process and that is what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, today's action provides one more example of promises made, promises kept, as we have said before. By raising the earnings test threshold from the meager \$11,280 to \$30,000 over the next 6 years we are sending a clear message to seniors that hard work and self-reliance are still valued qualities in the United States of America.

Although I feel strongly that we should abolish the earnings test limit altogether, because there should be no

additional tax penalty for work just because an individual has reached a certain age, this legislation does move us much further to that ultimate goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote and very much commend the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT], and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. JACOBS], for their strong, persistent, smart leadership in this matter.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY].

□ 1715

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the gentleman from Kentucky on this issue. My father is 73 and a principal of a school in Palm Beach County, FL, very active. For those between the age of 66 and 69, they should have the same opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, we have commended people for work in America. Many of our bills talk about work being an honorable occupation. Go out and work. Get a job. But somehow when we hit 66, we are told, "Sorry, unless you are going to be penalized, you do not need to pursue gainful employment."

So, I think this Congress is on the right track. Restoring dignity. Instead of telling people just because they hit a magic number, this age, that they are no longer wanted, now we are saying they continue to be wanted. They will be productive. They will continue to pay taxes and they will have a benefit to society.

Public supermarkets in my district employ many seniors in assisting in grocery checkouts and other items. People are proud to have that opportunity to continue to remain active in their communities and the job market.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the chairman for his leadership on this and urge passage.

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLECZKA].

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I really hate to be the skunk at the Republican picnic this afternoon, but in my previous remarks I indicated that this bill is basically noncontroversial. But, also, one of the bad things that this bill that we are going to be voting on does is delink the earnings test for the blind.

Mr. Speaker, we have 17,000 people, it is not a heck of a lot, but we have 17,000 blind Americans who qualify for this program today and they are being delinked. Yet after I made those comments, not one Republican would stand up and defend that law change. That is sad.

The Speaker of this House, when he addressed the National Federation of the Blind, back in February of this year, indicated that removing the linkage for the blind was a major mistake and that he would make sure that was taken out. That is all we have heard for the last half hour is this gushing, gushing for our senior citizens. We

have heard that through this measure we are going to salute our senior citizens. This is the same party, my friends, that is cutting Medicare for the senior citizens by \$270 billion. Doubling their premiums, cutting \$185 or \$182 billion out of Medicaid, which provides nursing home care. Where were the salutes then? Where was the support and all the gushing then?

Through this bill, the seniors are going to have to work to pick up what they are losing in their health care program. This is ridiculous.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, would the Chair please give us the time remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). The gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING] has 2½ minutes, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. JACOBS] has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, just in response to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLECZKA], there are over 120 organizations currently trying to get the nonblind disabled to the same level of earnings that are under this bill for the blind disabled. The blind disabled in this bill continue to have the same limit on earnings that are in the current law. In other words, their limit on earnings will rise to \$14,400 by the year 2002. The nonblind disabled are stuck at \$6,000.

The cost of raising the nonblind disabled to the blind disabled currently is approximately \$10 billion. We do not have the money to do that. To take them to where the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY] would like to take them, the cost would run approximately \$20 billion over just the next 5 years. We do not have the money to do that.

The bill preserves the indexing of the limitation on earnings for blind disabled recipients in the future. So, in answer to the gentleman from Wisconsin, blind disabled recipients lose nothing as the result of this bill.

In summary, I would first like to thank everybody that has worked on this bill: the staff, Phil Moseley, Valerie Nixon, Kim Hildred, Katherine Keith, Mary Anne Gee, Ken Morton, Janice Mays, Sandy Wise, and Cathy Noe; but most of all I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. JACOBS]. Without his help we could not have gotten this bill together and accomplished on a bipartisan basis, both in the subcommittee and in the full committee.

When we get a bill that comes out of our subcommittee almost on a unanimous vote, and a bill that comes out of the full Committee on Ways and Means, this day and age on a unanimous vote, I am certainly very proud of that fact. And it is because of the leadership of the gentleman from Indiana on his side that we were able to accomplish that.

We know that the gentleman is going to retire, and maybe we could name this the Andy Jacobs retirement bill. The fact of the matter is I am sorry to see him leave, and I am very proud to have worked with the gentleman over the past 5 years on the Subcommittee on Social Security.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation to raise the Social Security earnings limit. Under this bill, the annual income senior citizens will be allowed to earn, without penalty, will rise from \$11,280 to \$30,000 over the next 5 years.

In this day and age, I cannot believe that there would be anybody in this Chamber who wants to discourage people from working. Yet the earnings limit does precisely that. It is a foolish policy and one which creates perverse economic incentives. H.R. 2684 represents a solid first step and goes a long way toward lifting the burden placed on those seniors who continue to work and make contributions to America's economic activity.

Under current law, seniors under the age of 70 who choose to work lose \$1 out of every \$3 they earn over some arbitrary and bureaucratic limit—currently set at \$11,280 a year. To punish these folks, who have racked up years of experience, wisdom, and institutional knowledge makes no sense whatsoever. By raising the limit to \$30,000, we begin to ease the penalty and, I hope, make definite strides to eliminating the earnings test altogether.

The elections that swept Republicans into the majority were about rearranging our priorities and keeping our promises. We promised to raise the earnings limit in the Contract With America, and this bill, of which I am proud to be an original cosponsor, is symbolic of our efforts to keep our promises and fix a Government which all too often sends hardworking citizens the wrong signals.

H.R. 2684, Mr. Speaker, is only a partial fix and only the beginning of corrective action which is long overdue. Last year, I cosponsored legislation—H.R. 300—which would have fully repealed the earnings limit and again this year, I cosponsored legislation—H.R. 201—to fully repeal the earnings test. For years, we have heard people argue that raising the earnings limit or repealing the earnings test would only benefit the wealthy. What these people either forget or ignore is the fact that under current law, income derived from private pensions and investments is not subjected to the limit at all. Therefore the argument that this bill would only benefit the wealthy is completely without merit. In fact, the ultrawealthy can and already do earn as much as they want from their investments, but middle-class hardworking men and women who want to keep a job are penalized for moneys they earn. H.R. 2684 addresses this inequity and restores fairness for those who want to work.

For many of our elderly citizens, the additional wages they will be allowed to earn, without penalty, is important. But for many more there is an even greater reward: The dignity of working, earning, and keeping an honest buck. There is a spiritual as well as a health benefit to be derived from keeping active, working and being fairly compensated. Why the Federal Government would punish people for this is beyond me.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2684 also corrects a number of other injustices as well. Like the

fact that under current law, alcoholics and drug abusers can receive Social Security disability cash payments. As I said earlier, Republicans were elected to change our priorities, and here is a clear-cut case of mixed up priorities. Punish seniors who decide to work, but give cash benefits to drug and alcohol abusers? These people need treatment and counseling. Under H.R. 2684, people addicted to alcohol or drugs will no longer be eligible to receive benefits due to disability. Instead, the bill redirects some of that funding to various drug and alcohol treatment programs so that people get the type of help they need.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would reiterate that this bill on the whole is a solid piece of legislation that can and should receive bipartisan support. It is unfortunate that during the years that the Democrats controlled the House this legislation was never brought to the floor for a vote and thus people continued to pay penalties at a very low threshold. Today, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 2684, and I look forward to building upon this achievement and eliminating the irrational earnings test altogether.

Mr. MARTIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come before you today to express my support for the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1995.

The time has come to defend the working seniors of America—seniors that have been penalized for their productive contributions to society.

The current Social Security earnings limit of \$11,280 has demonstrated Government's apathy toward those seniors who continue to work in retirement out of necessity. We must never forget that, for many seniors, work is not a choice.

More importantly, the wisdom of our Nation's seniors is needed in today's work force. America benefits from their work ethic and their experience.

I urge support for this legislation, and commended those seniors who have continued to offer their ideas and services beyond retirement. These reforms in Social Security reflect our values to allow personal responsibility and opportunity.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I offer my support for H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act.

For many senior citizens, their retirement years are not golden and filled with leisure. Many of our elderly who cannot make ends meet with their savings and Social Security benefits have no other choice but to continue working. This legislation will help low-income senior citizens, especially single women, who are at risk of living in poverty during their retirement years.

As the safety net for the elderly begins to fray due to cuts in Medicare and other programs, the least we can do is allow those who need to work to keep more of their benefits. I am pleased the Ways and Means Committee was able to forge a bipartisan bill on this important issue.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act. As you know, in 1935 Congress passed the Social Security Act to provide a stable source of income to older Americans. This program, however, includes an earnings limit that unfairly penalizes those senior citizens who want to work beyond the retirement age. Mr. Chairman, by raising the

Social Security earnings limit to \$30,000 by the year 2002, H.R. 2684, in part, fulfills our promises made to senior citizens in the Contract With America. Let me explain.

First, it is a matter of fairness for seniors. Under current law, a senior citizen loses \$1 in benefits for every \$3 earned, above the \$11,280 limit. This limit hurts low and middle-income senior citizens the most. These are individuals who work out of necessity—and need the income. Raising the earnings limit will enable these individuals to work so that they can make ends meet.

Second, the low earnings limit penalizes senior citizens for remaining in our workforce. Our economy suffers from the loss of experience and skills that seniors bring to the work force. I have heard first hand from constituents in my district, that the earnings limit actually inhibits some seniors from working because they lose a portion of their Social Security benefits.

Third, raising the earnings limit will help stimulate the economy. Obviously, senior citizens will be paying more taxes if they are working, and at the same time, have more money in their pockets to spend.

Significantly, this legislation is paid for by spending cuts that make sense. Among other things, the bill eliminates the current practice of providing disability benefits to individuals that are considered disabled only because they are alcoholics or drug addicts. It also creates a revolving fund to finance continuing disability reviews to determine whether individuals receiving disability benefits are still disabled. Based on government studies, these reviews will result in fewer beneficiaries and substantial savings to the taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation. By increasing the Social Security earnings limit, it lessens the penalty for many senior citizens and it does so, in the most fiscally responsible manner.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important legislation. The current earnings limit has been a disincentive for seniors to continue to be productively employed. In particular, the present earnings limit imposes a hardship on middle and lower-income retirees, who often rely on earnings from work to supplement their Social Security benefits. The earnings penalty is in reality a huge marginal tax on working seniors. It discourages work and it is discriminatory between earned (wages) and unearned (dividends, interest, etc.) income.

I support this legislation which will allow our seniors to continue to work and not be penalized for it. The "Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1995" is long overdue and is just one piece of our puzzle as we bring tax fairness back to America's tax code. Again, I am pleased to support this legislation which will allow Indiana seniors the right to work.

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act. This bill will help alleviate the uncalled for economic discrimination against senior citizens between the ages of 65 and 69. It is outrageous that seniors in that age bracket are unduly punished by having their Social Security earnings reduced by one dollar for every three dollars they earn above \$11,280.

This bill will increase the earnings limitation from \$11,280 to \$30,000 by the year 2002. The first increase will occur in 1996 when the

limit will be raised from the current \$11,280 to \$14,000. Each year thereafter, through 2000, the limit will increase by another \$1,000. Thus, in 2000 the limit be up to \$18,000. In 2001 the earnings limitation will jump up by some \$7,000, going from \$18,000 to \$25,000. Finally, in 2002 the limit will be increased from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

After 2002, the earnings limit will be indexed to the growth in average wages. In this way, the earnings limitation will be able to keep up with the times.

I have long been an advocate and supporter of raising the earnings limitation for seniors. Earlier this year I cosponsored H.R. 8, the Senior Citizens Equity Act, which contained a provision raising the earnings limit to \$30,000 by 2002. This provision was incorporated into H.R. 1215, the Tax Fairness and Deficit Reduction Act which passed the House on April 5, 1995, by a vote of 246 in favor, 188 against. I voted in favor of H.R. 1215. Since the fate of this legislation is still undetermined, I believe it is wise that the House is trying another venue, H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act, in the effort to raise the earnings limitation.

The current low earnings limitation is an economic disincentive to work for many of our Nation's seniors. It puts a limit on the full use of their capabilities, as many who want to work more are put off by the reduction in their Social Security benefits. It is an absurd situation. This country should encourage, not discourage, seniors from earning more than \$11,280 per year. Seniors who work are contributing mightily to our economy. They earn money and pay taxes on what they earn. They should not be penalized for their initiative and industry.

In addition to raising the earning limit for seniors, the legislation contains another much needed reform. It prohibits the consideration of drug addicts and alcoholics as disabled in determining eligibility for entitlements to cash Social Security and Supplemental Security Income [SSI] disability benefits if the addiction is the contributing factor to the disability. This should put an end to having SSI disability being misused by drug and alcohol addicts to support their habits.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act is a giant stride forward in the direction of helping our senior citizens between the ages of 65 and 69. It will enable them to earn more money without fear of having a substantial reduction in their Social Security benefits. The Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act will give our seniors the opportunity to live better lives because they will be able to have higher incomes and still retain their Social Security benefits without reductions. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act urge the measure's unanimous passage today. This essential legislation increases the amount that senior citizens under age 70 may earn without having their Social Security benefits reduced.

Under current law, Social Security beneficiaries aged 65 through 69 who earn too much lose \$1 in benefits for every \$3 they earn above specified limits. The limit is indexed so that it increases annually to reflect the increase in average wage growth. The current limit is approximately \$11,000.

Seniors who are able to work should be encouraged to do so. Without this measure, the

Federal Government is telling our elderly citizens to stay at home, and not to pursue gainful employment. That is not the message that I want to send to the seniors in the 3d Congressional District of Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's seniors have too much to offer for us to simply turn them away. We need their wisdom, their expertise and their zeal.

Older Americans have tremendous potential to contribute to our communities, both in terms of professional expertise and productivity. It is a shame to lose those invaluable resources. Furthermore, Seniors who are active live longer and lead happier lives.

I strongly support the Senior Citizen's Right to Work Act, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice some concerns with H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act. Although I will support the bill on final passage, I am concerned about the effect that some of the more obscure provisions in the legislation may have on the rights of senior citizens.

Included in this bill are provisions which remove the Social Security Administration from the process of payment of attorneys' fees. Currently, the Social Security Administration [SSA] approves the fees that an attorney may charge to represent a person in administrative proceedings, usually related to a denial of disability benefits. When the applicant is successful, SSA withholds the lesser of \$4,000 or 25 percent of the benefits to pay the attorney. H.R. 2684 would change the law such that SSA would no longer be involved in the process and attorneys could negotiate fees up to a \$4,000 limit.

This portion of H.R. 2684, while seeming sublime on the surface, may result in attorneys choosing to stop representing disabled individuals in their administrative proceedings. Since the fee would no longer be withheld, attorneys are fearful that they may not be paid for the service they provide, and thus may choose to avoid this type of representation.

While I will support the legislation, I regret that the leadership has chosen to bring this legislation to the floor in such a fashion so as to preclude amendments, and I hope to work with the Senate and the White House concerning the availability of competent representation for Social Security claimants.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1995, and commend its sponsor, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING] for all of his hard work on this measure.

Under current law, this country's senior citizens from age 65 to age 69 are limited to earn only \$11,280 in additional income before they suffer penalties of \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$3 of income earned above that limit. Mr. BUNNING's measure will allow seniors by the year 2000, to earn up to \$30,000 in outside income without being forced to give up Social Security benefits.

While this bill is certainly a step in the right direction, I believe that we should go further and eliminate this anachronistic limitation and thereby allow our seniors to continue to work to the best of their capabilities in order to sustain themselves in a time of an increasing cost of living. We must allow older Americans who choose to work to earn appropriate pay with-

out losing any of their hard-earned Social Security benefits.

Mr. BEILSON. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us obviously enjoys very broad support among our colleagues. However, we ought to pause for a moment and give serious thought to what we are doing by passing this measure.

The Congressional Budget Office projects that we will spend more than \$350 billion on Social Security benefits in 1996—more than one-fifth of the budget, and more than we are spending on any other single Federal program. Working Americans—no matter how little they make—6.2 percent of their paycheck—with their employers paying the same amount—to finance these benefits. Yet not only have we taken this huge program off the budget negotiating table, we are now actually moving to increase it—at a time when we are trying to cut back just about everything else the Government spends money on.

We need to give serious thought to whether it makes sense to increase these benefits—when the majority of that increase will go to those who are already relatively well off—at a time when we are moving to cut benefits for people who really need them.

We also need to give serious thought to whether it is wise to make what will be a huge move toward turning Social Security into a benefit which one is automatically entitled to receive upon reaching age 65, rather than a program to compensate for lost earnings due to retirement, as was originally intended. We need to ask: Does it make sense to do that when people are living so much longer than they used to, and when our population of older Americans is going to begin growing enormously in just a few years?

And, we ought to consider whether we are inviting early retirees—ages 62–64—to ask for the same thing we are about to grant retirees aged 65–69. Once we increase the earnings limitation for recipients who are aged 65–69, will early retirees ask for a liberalization of the definition of "retired" using the very same arguments that are being made by those aged 65–69?

The title of this bill, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act, is a misnomer. Senior citizens have every right to work; what this does is give older working Americans the right to collect more Social Security benefits than they are currently entitled to. At a time when we ought to be curbing entitlement spending, not expanding it, passing this legislation seems most unwise.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2684, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2684, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—REQUEST FOR REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT REGARDING COMPLAINTS AGAINST SPEAKER

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution—on behalf of myself and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON]—which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is currently considering several ethics complaints against Speaker Newt Gingrich;

Whereas the Committee has traditionally handled such cases by appointing an independent, non-partisan, outside counsel—a procedure which has been adopted in every major ethics case since the Committee was established;

Whereas—although complaints against Speaker Gingrich have been under consideration for more than 14 months—the Committee has failed to appoint an outside counsel;

Whereas the Committee has also deviated from other long-standing precedents and rules of procedure; including its failure to adopt a Resolution of Preliminary Inquiry before calling third-party witnesses and receiving sworn testimony;

Whereas these procedural irregularities—and the unusual delay in the appointment of an independent, outside counsel—have led to widespread concern that the Committee is making special exceptions for the Speaker of the House;

Whereas a resolution calling for a status report on the Gingrich investigation was tabled by the House without debate on November 17, 1995;

Whereas a second resolution calling for a status report on the Gingrich investigation was tabled by the House without debate on November 30, 1995;

Whereas the integrity of the House depends on the confidence of the American people in the fairness and impartiality of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct should report to the House, no later than December 19, 1995, concerning:

(1) the status of the Committee's investigation of the complaints against Speaker Gingrich;

(2) the Committee's disposition with regard to the appointment of a non-partisan outside counsel and the scope of the counsel's investigation;

(3) a timetable for Committee action on the complaints.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the