

The Secretary of the Treasury has stated that the Federal Government will be in default of its financial obligations if the debt ceiling limit is not raised and a \$5.8 billion interest payment made very soon. In accordance with the responsibilities of his office, Secretary Rubin sent a letter on January 22, 1996, to the congressional leadership stating that under the current conditions, the U.S. Treasury will no longer be able to fulfill all of its financial obligations very soon.

Throughout our country's history, investors have relied upon the words "the full faith credit of the United States" to guarantee the financial stability of this country. As you are fully aware, the financial reputation of an organization is based solely upon the financial history it has established. Mr. Speaker, it is an undeniable fact that this House was given 38 days notice of the impending financial dilemma and if this body fails to consider a bill regarding the debt ceiling and the impending debt payment not made on time, then the standing of the House will indeed be harmed.

May I remind the Speaker that Rule IX of the House rules states that questions of privilege are those which affect the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings. As specified in the dictionary, the word dignity relates to "The quality or condition of being worthy," as well as "The respect and honor associated with an important position."

Hence, this body's decision not to address the debt limit problem will put into question, in the eyes of our creditors and our constituents, the reputation and fiscal integrity of this collective House. As evidence, it was announced last week by Moody's Investors Service that it is considering lowering the credit rating of the U.S. Treasury bonds for the first time in history. Under Rule IX of the House rules, this series of events and their repercussions would certainly cause our creditors, constituents, and international partners to hold this House responsible.

In addition to the irreparable damage that will be suffered, by the House, great harm will be done to millions of innocent American lives, young and old alike. The U.S. Government must make a \$30 million payment to Social Security or these beneficiaries, dependent upon their monthly stipend for food, heat, and medicine, will be left without funds to meet these basic necessities of life. Also, 2.2 million veterans with service-connected disabilities and 300,000 survivors of veterans may receive for the first time in history bad checks effectively written by every Member of the House.

Mr. Speaker, there is significant concern by many economists that our economy is headed for a recession, and any default caused by our inaction will certainly drive us to it. The default of this Government will create uncertainty and anxiety in the financial, business, and consumer markets; as a result, investments will slow, capitol spending will wither, and consumer confidence will die. The reactions will only exacerbate any recession tendencies within the economy, propelling the United States into an economic dive, no one wishes. Taken together with the additional effects already mentioned, it is plainly evident that this crisis affects the very financial underpinning of our country.

The American people will be severely affected by any inability of this body to bring

forth legislation to increase the debt ceiling. I contend that as a result, they will hold us, collectively and individually, responsible for their needless suffering and trauma. If that occurs, the reputation and conduct of each of us, in our representative capacity, will be called into question. Under rule IX, this too would be sufficient justification for my privileged resolution.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has nearly exhausted all other measures to avoid a Government default. This resolution must be considered privileged because the reputation of the House is at stake. American citizens are tired of the partisan wrangling that has echoed through these halls. They want the Government to fulfill its responsibilities and meet its obligations, just as they must. With complete certainty, the U.S. House of Representatives will be held responsible and the integrity of everything that we do here will be questioned for our failure to consider a bill relating to the debt ceiling.

The House has voted to rise or extend the debt limit 33 times over the last 15 years to keep intact the good will, dignity and reputation of the U.S. Government and more specifically, this House; I do not see why we should now shirk the obligations we accepted upon our oath of office. We should not recess at this time, when America needs us to work to avoid a default on our debt.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution not to adjourn until a debt limit extension has been approved—and yet I believe the resolution does not go far enough. I regret that we are even having to consider a debt limit extension—rather than a balanced budget proposal or, at the very least, the remaining appropriations bills that should have been approved 4 months ago. I regret that this Congress plans to adjourn for a 3-week break when we have so much work left to do.

Mr. Speaker, we should not go home until all the appropriations bills have been passed and approved by the President. We should not go home until this Congress produces a balanced budget proposal that can be supported by both parties and by the President. A majority of Americans want a balanced budget—a budget that makes the most use of their tax dollars and a budget that also is kind and fair to our seniors, our children, and our less fortunate citizens.

Throughout the past year, Congress has had a golden opportunity to streamline Government, enact some needed reforms, and produce a balanced budget. But the shifting sands of time and politics have eroded that opportunity, and we are losing ground fast.

Let us not let another opportunity pass to discharge our responsibility to our fellow citizens. Let's stay and work until we've accomplished our Nation's important business.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2924, THE SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE ACT

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 355 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 355

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in

the House the bill (H.R. 2924) to guarantee the timely payment of social security benefits in March 1996. The bill shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit. The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the Minority Leader or his designee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 1 hour.

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material for the RECORD.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time given is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward, fair rule that allows for consideration of H.R. 2924, a bill to ensure that Social Security payments will not be needlessly delayed by the administration. Let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker. This is a bill to ensure that Social Security payments will not be needlessly delayed by the administration. In other words, the checks are going to go out, they are going to go out on time, they are going to be paid in full.

Mr. Speaker, because this legislation involves a matter of simple fairness, and due to the predicted impending winter storm, we are bringing it up under the expedited authority granted earlier by this House. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, and preserves the right of the minority to offer a motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, we should not really have to be working on this matter at all. Despite the fact that this Congress will pass a responsible debt limit increase prior to the March 1 deadline, and despite the fact that the President has already vetoed two debt limit increases, the administration has suddenly called into question its ability to pay for the March Social Security benefits. President Clinton made suggestive remarks along these lines at State of the Union. Well Mr. Speaker, passage of H.R. 2924 will make absolutely clear that the Secretary of the Treasury has the authority to process and send these Social Security benefit checks—which are printed in late February. I find it appalling that the sanctity of the Social Security System should be brought into question in such a cynical manner. Yet we have listened to the President and some in this body employ similar scare tactics for: School lunches, Meals on Wheels, Medicare, and so on. Each time they resort to these threats, I think their credibility drops, and certainly the President's ability to work in good faith with the majority of this Congress diminishes.

I would like to address the concerns raised by those who claim that Congress is somehow acting less than responsibly by going into a district work period before passing a full debt limit increase. I disagree—the truth is that this Congress has passed two debt limit measures, both vetoed by President Clinton. So, it is clear that in order to produce a bill that will pass Congress and be signed by the President, it must be negotiated. And these negotiations have not concluded. It makes little sense to keep Members in town waiting for the Clinton administration to get its act together, while Members could be spending time usefully working in their districts. That is where I am planning to spend the bulk of the upcoming work period—and the truth is that even when we are back in our districts we are still on call, ready to return at a moment's notice to deal with the people's business. So I would urge my colleagues to ignore the Clinton scare story du jour and support this rule and this bill which ensures Social Security checks are sent out on time payable in full.

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, before I proceed any further, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE].

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to speak out of order.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR-ELECT WYDEN

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, this is obviously a very important bill, and I would love to talk about it, but what I really want to talk about is the dean of my delegation, the Oregon delegation, and congratulate him for having become the newest Senator from the State of Oregon [Mr. WYDEN].

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

Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS], trying to blame the administration for what is going on here today. This, of course, is a classic case of the person who kills his parents and throws himself on the mercy of the court because he is an orphan.

What the majority has done is stubbornly refused to schedule a clean debt ceiling vote prior to February 26. It is their refusal to schedule a vote before February 26 which jeopardizes, potentially jeopardizes Social Security checks being sent out. They are the ones that have caused this crisis, and now they are coming to the Congress and saying, we have to pass this bill because we want these Social Security checks to go out. If they had scheduled a debt ceiling vote in a timely manner, this would not be necessary.

Mr. Speaker, why can we not just do the Nation's business? Why do we have to continue to play these games? Why can we not just vote on a clean debt ceiling?

I, for one, would like the House to have that opportunity this afternoon.

At this hour, it appears the only option open to us is to amend this rule. In order to do that, we must defeat the previous question. It is my intention, therefore, to oppose ordering the previous question.

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be no other way to bring a clean debt ceiling increase to a vote. I urge each and every Member of this body to oppose the previous question so that we can vote up or down on a debt ceiling increase.

Mr. Speaker, the intentions of this legislation are honorable, but rather than perpetuating this Government by piecemeal funding, the far better course of action would be just to take up a clean debt ceiling tonight and pass it. If we do not defeat the previous question, we are passing up a golden opportunity to do the responsible thing. We should not continue to play chicken with the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, we are supposed to be here to do the Nation's business, and the most pressing piece of business before us is to pass a debt ceiling to ensure that our Nation does not, for the first time in its 200-plus-year history, default on its obligations.

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

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

I would suggest that the full faith and credit of the United States of America would be better served if we got our budget into balance.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to shed some light on this issue in terms of the recent history of what we have been through, vis-a-vis the administration and claims made by the administration. As everybody knows, this rule is here, and the subsequent legislation, because the administration has stated that come February 26, they will be unable, because of the way the law is written, to cut the checks for Social Security beneficiaries.

Obviously, everybody on our side of the aisle and, I assume, everybody on the other side of the aisle wants people to get their Social Security checks come the last day of this month or the first day of next.

Now, the recent history of what this administration has done is that this action by the administration, as claimed by the administration, is simply not unparalleled. On November 12 and 13 and 14 of this year, Secretary Rubin told us and the American people that we had to pass a debt ceiling because default on our inability to pay our bills would be unthinkable, and we agreed.

What Secretary Rubin did not tell the American people was that there

was already a plan in place to permit the United States Government to pay its bills by borrowing from trust funds. In other words, the Secretary went out of his way to create a situation in which the American people thought that the United States Government was going to default, knowing full well the entire time that they had been working since June 24 at least to put in place a mechanism and a plan whereby the trust funds would be tapped to avoid default and still claiming to tell us, the Congress of the United States and the American people, that we were going to face a horrible default.

□ 1800

Of course they wanted a clean debt ceiling. Now we hear just a few days ago that if we do not pass a clean debt ceiling, we will not be able to send out the Social Security checks. We are not going to let that happen. If there is a problem with the law, this bill straightens it out. We know that it is not a dollars problem. We know there is enough money there to do it. So the Secretary now claims that under the statutes as they presently exist, he does not have the flexibility to send out the Social Security checks for older Americans, Social Security beneficiaries, and therefore, we are now in another state of alarm where we have to pass a clean debt ceiling.

This bill fixes the problem for the Secretary that he claims he has. I doubt if there is really a problem there any more than there was a real problem the last time around. But in this event, in this case, the rule permits the consideration of a bill to make sure that there is no reason why the Social Security checks cannot be mailed out.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY].

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the remarks of the former speaker with regard to the issue of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. Secretary Rubin has done everything humanly possible to try to avoid the default on the debt of this country that the Republican Congress has insisted upon.

It was Secretary Rubin who wrote a letter to this Congress saying that he would not under any circumstances allow the Social Security Trust Fund to be raided for the purposes of continuing to pay our bills, No. 1.

No. 2, there were elements of the Republican Party, on your side of the aisle, that started a movement to impeach Secretary Rubin for the very actions of him trying to avoid default.

So here you come onto the House floor and condemn Secretary Rubin for his efforts to try to keep the country afloat. You suggest that he is the one who is trying to raid the Social Security trust fund. You do not have the willingness to enter into a debate or a colloquy with me to discuss the truth of what has actually occurred.

The truth of what has occurred is very simply that a group of ideological

zealots in the Republican Party have tried very hard to get an agenda called the contract on American passed. They have failed because the American people did not believe in the kinds of changes that the Republican contract called for.

But rather than agreeing to the procedures of this House of Representatives that allow us to formulate compromise, you have gone back and insisted upon guerrilla tactics to force your own views on how this country's budget ought to be balanced. It is not enough to balance the budget, it is not enough to do it in 7 years. It is not enough to do it with CBO numbers, it is not enough to do it with a tax cut, it has to be with the biggest tax cut that takes the money out of the pockets of working families and hands it to the richest people in the country.

Only if that balanced budget, raiding the Medicare fund, raiding the Medicaid fund, is passed, will you allow the debts of this country to be paid. You ought to be ashamed.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this bill became necessary really because the President, Mr. Panetta, and Secretary Rubin have used our seniors as political pawns in the public debate. Instead of working on solving the problems remaining, the President has resorted to scare tactics, pure and simple, demagoguery to try to frighten our seniors on a variety of issues.

But we as Americans cannot stand by while this administration blatantly misstates the facts to make seniors believe that their Social Security checks are in jeopardy. I find this outrageous. Leon Panetta himself back in 1993, believe it or not, said it is important to tie the debt limit to other disciplines people would like to put in place.

Maybe he forgot about saying that, but I bet Leon did not forget about voting "no" against debt limit increases two times back there because it did not have anything tied to it. These comments are ridiculous. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, not only to reassure our seniors but to prevent the President from playing the scare game once again. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that seniors continue, as they have for the past 55 years, to receive their checks without fail. This will be another Republican promise that will not be broken, which is more than the President can say.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY].

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a very very bad sign. It means it's time to hold onto your hats, the Republicans are going to try it again.

But this time, instead of closing down the Government for political reasons, they are going to try something else. They are going to force the country to default on its loans, for political reasons.

And how do we know this, Mr. Speaker? Because this bill we are considering today will not avert the disastrous consequences of massive Federal default. It doesn't even come close. It simply says, "Stop us before we hurt 43 million American seniors."

With this bill my Republican colleagues are admitting, "We're gong to make the Government default, but we want you to raid the Social Security trust fund when we do."

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. It's irresponsible, and it's no way to run the Congress.

The American people are sick and tired of these political games. They didn't like their Government held hostage for the sake of politics, and they are going to like it even less when they find out what congressional Republicans are about to do to their mortgages.

And it won't stop there.

For the sake of politics my Republican colleagues will stop benefits for 3.2 million veterans.

For the sake of politics they will not pay our troops in Bosnia.

For the sake of politics they will delay pensions for 4.1 million civilian and military retirees.

For the sake of politics they will leave bond holders holding worthless paper.

And for the sake of politics they will hurt any and every American who tries to borrow money for a car, a house, or a college education.

In fact, if you have a loan now, look out. Your interest rate may be about to go through the roof.

I ask my colleagues, on behalf of a lot of very frustrated American citizens, stop these games. Congressional Republicans can't possibly want to be remembered as the people who made the United States of America default on its loans for the first time in history.

Such dangerous games would have far-reaching, devastating consequences for the entire country for years to come, and it's definitely not something to write home about.

Mr. Speaker, the American people don't want their mortgage rates to go up. They want to get college loans, and they expect and deserve their military benefits.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so that we can offer a clean debt limit extension and stop these games.

The creditworthiness of the United States, and all of its consequences, is no place to pursue budget politics.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is important to note and the record should show that the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, who just spoke, voted for and attached to the 1993 debt limit bill the largest tax increase in history. There was nothing clean about that debt limit bill, I am sure he would agreed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gen-

tleman from Glens Falls, NY [Mr. SOLOMON].

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Sanibel, FL for yielding me this time and I join him in urging the adoption of this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I sit here and I listen to this debate, and I just wonder if many of these people could really earn a living outside the beltway of this Congress, this Washington, unless of course they are lawyers, in which they pass all these doggone laws and people have to go and hire them then to defend them. I just quite do not understand it.

This bill, and I would just say to the previous speaker and others, if you do not want to vote for this bill, vote it down. This bill says that we are going to enact a public debt limit extension before March 1. If you do not want to do that, vote it down. This bill guarantees that Social Security checks are going to go out on time. If you do not want them to go out on time, vote it down.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is being brought forward to deal with an emergency situation raised by the President and the Secretary of the Treasury, and that is the threat of not sending out Social Security checks until the debt limit has been increased. That is what this is all about.

Mr. Speaker, while the crisis may have been fabricated to scare seniors, we have to take the administration at their word, that they will carry out their threat whatever their motivations might be. We will take them at their word.

Mr. Speaker, the bill this rule makes in order first restates the commitment made by the leaders of both Houses that we will enact a debt limit prior to March 1. That is what this bill says. The bill goes on to assure our country's senior citizens that in the interim they will receive their Social Security checks on a timely basis in March. That is what this bill does.

The bill then gives the Secretary of the Treasury the legal authority needed to issue obligations prior to March 1, and we checked with Secretary Rubin, to ask him if he needed this authority, and he said yes, in an amount equal to the monthly Social Security benefits payable in March of this year, estimated at \$30 billion. To further amplify on the legal status of this authority, this bill, which the Secretary of the Treasury Mr. Rubin says he needs, makes clear that this transaction will not count against the legal debt limit now in existence.

Are you listening to that?

Mr. Speaker, I think this is an important interim step to take in assuring our Nation's seniors of the seriousness of our intention and commitment to not let their benefits lapse. But more importantly, it also signals to the rest of the country our clear intention not to let this Nation default on its obligations. We will increase the public debt limit.

Mr. Speaker, why, as our Democratic colleagues have asked, do we not just raise the debt limit today? That is a good question. And I am here to answer it.

The answer is that a majority of this House, including me, do not want to continue to raise the debt limit over and over and over again without taking decisive action to begin to reverse the curse of continuing deficit spending for as far as the eye can see. That is sickening, what you are doing to my children and my grandchildren. Instead of a glide path to a balanced budget, we are currently embarked on a collision course with financial disaster.

At the very least, we need a substantial downpayment on a balanced budget that is agreeable to the Congress and the President. It is what Ronald Reagan used to do. He used to sit down with this Congress and negotiate. That agreement will not be easy to come by, but I am convinced we can have something that is acceptable prior to March 1 if we sit down and work together.

In the meantime, we do need this interim measure to ensure that Social Security benefit checks will go out and to assure our citizens and the world that this Government will not default on this Nation's obligations. I cannot imagine that any Member of this House opposes or disagrees with those two very lofty yet critical essential purposes of this legislation. It is very clear in this bill. I therefore strongly urge adoption of the previous question and the rule and then the overwhelming passage of this bill.

I want all of you standing up here with all of this rhetoric to come over here and tell me you are going to vote against this bill. You are not going to do it. You are going to vote for the bill because the bill is right and the American people want it.

□ 1815

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS].

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this rule should ultimately pass, this resolution should ultimately pass. But it is not because it is a good rule, and it is not because it is a good resolution. It is because the Republicans will not let us do anything else.

Since early this morning, I have been working with the Committee on Rules and with other people here in the House trying to get permission for the Democrats just to simply say we would like to have a vote on a permanent extension against default to the end of this fiscal year, and they will not let us have that vote. It is simply just a simple vote, like that. Now, we would not win that vote, but you know, we would at least have the opportunity to vote, but they have cut off our right to vote on that simple question.

This resolution they present is the silliest thing I have ever seen. Ulti-

mately, all it does is raise the debt ceiling by \$29 billion until March 15, and then it snaps it back to where it is now. That is all it does. It has got a lot of other verbiage in it. It is the darndest dance I have ever seen. It runs all around the bush like I am doing right now, but it comes back to the same place, right back to the same place, they raise the debt ceiling. They cannot do that, because politically it is embarrassing for them to do that, and so we have got to dance this crazy dance. We have got to dance this crazy dance for their purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I am willing to limit the debate here tonight. I am willing to cut out all of this garbage. Let us protect the credit of the United States. Let us not force our good country into default. I think we can all agree to that.

If the Republicans will only let us have it until March 15, it may give them a little time for them to think their way out of this mess that they have gotten themselves into and they have gotten our country into, but you know, this is the silliest operation that I think I have ever seen in my 34 years around here.

It should ultimately pass, but the rule is lousy. I would hope that by some luck, and it would be luck, that we could amend the rule, but you know, that is not going to happen.

I would hope that they would allow just a simple vote on this floor that we could get over in 5 minutes to vote on whether or not we want this crazy dance or whether we want a permanent.

I am trying to limit, cut out all of this long talk and get on and get to a vote. There is a snowstorm approaching. I would feel terrible if my long-winded talk led to the death of some Member of this House or some member of this fine staff.

We ought to get our business done and get it over with and get out of here.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON].

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the record should show that the gentleman from Florida who just spoke voted for and attached to the 1993 debt limit bill the largest tax increase in history. I do not believe that was a clean debt ceiling increase.

This is a good rule on a good bill. It is going to make sure Social Security's recipients get their Social Security checks.

I have a lot of elderly seniors in my district who rely on those checks. This is a good bill. Everybody in the body should support this.

We are getting bogged down talking about how the minority wants a clean debt ceiling increase. Prior to coming to the Congress as a physician, I had

the opportunity to treat AIDS patients, some of whom had acquired their AIDS through drug abuse. I had the opportunity to deal with drug addicts. I have to say there are some Members of this body who are addicted to spending taxpayers' dollars, addicted to spending money that is not theirs, and it is just wrong.

We put on the President's desk two increases in the debt ceiling, and they had attached to them provisions that would get us to a balanced budget, and he vetoed them twice on two occasions, he said, "No," and now we hear all of this clamor about a clean debt ceiling from a party that has Members like Senator CHRIS DODD in 1987, who is now the general chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who said it does not take any imagination, when he was attempting to pass a controversial financial industry legislation, questioned by the Reagan administration, he said, "I can attach an amendment to the debt ceiling bill which he has to sign, and the vote will be overwhelming." In 1984, Senator TED KENNEDY tried to force his nuclear freeze legislation onto the debt limit, justifying his amendment as the most important issue of the day.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman in the chair is an authority on the rules of the House and I believe under the rules of the House, we may not mention individual Members of the other body by name. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. Members are not supposed to refer to Members of the other body by name nor actions of the other body as a part of their remarks.

Mr. FROST. I urge the speaker in the well discontinue those actions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized to proceed in order.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, If I could conclude, let me just say in 1982, in 1983, again in 1985 and 1986, the minority party has attached legislation to a debt ceiling increase. To hand this President a debt ceiling increase that does not have provisions in it to get us to a balanced budget would be to turn our backs on the people who voted us in as the majority party in November 1994, saying they want the budget balanced.

Support this rule. It is a good rule.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I insert extraneous material at this point in the RECORD, as follows:

FLOOR PROCEDURE IN THE 104TH CONGRESS; COMPILED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

Bill No.	Title	Resolution No.	Process used for floor consideration	Amendments in order
H.R. 1*	Compliance	H. Res. 6	Closed	None.
H. Res. 6	Opening Day Rules Package	H. Res. 5	Closed; contained a closed rule on H.R. 1 within the closed rule	None.
H.R. 5*	Unfunded Mandates	H. Res. 38	Restrictive; Motion adopted over Democratic objection in the Committee of the Whole to limit debate on section 4; Pre-printing gets preference.	N/A.
H.J. Res. 2*	Balanced Budget	H. Res. 44	Restrictive; only certain substitutes	2R: 4D.
H. Res. 43	Committee Hearings Scheduling	H. Res. 43 (OJ)	Restrictive; considered in House no amendments	N/A.
H.R. 2*	Line Item Veto	H. Res. 55	Open; Pre-printing gets preference	N/A.
H.R. 665*	Victim Restitution Act of 1995	H. Res. 61	Open; Pre-printing gets preference	N/A.
H.R. 666*	Exclusionary Rule Reform Act of 1995	H. Res. 60	Open; Pre-printing gets preference	N/A.
H.R. 667*	Violent Criminal Incarceration Act of 1995	H. Res. 63	Restrictive; 10 hr. Time Cap on amendments	N/A.
H.R. 668*	The Criminal Alien Deportation Improvement Act	H. Res. 69	Open; Pre-printing gets preference; Contains self-executing provision	N/A.
H.R. 728*	Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants	H. Res. 79	Restrictive; 10 hr. Time Cap on amendments; Pre-printing gets preference	N/A.
H.R. 7*	National Security Revitalization Act	H. Res. 83	Restrictive; brought up under UC with a 6 hr. time cap on amendments	N/A.
H.R. 729*	Death Penalty/Habeas	N/A	Closed; Put on Suspension Calendar over Democratic objection	None.
S. 2	Senate Compliance	N/A	Restrictive; makes in order only the Gibbons amendment; Waives all points of order; Contains self-executing provision.	1D.
H.R. 831	To Permanently Extend the Health Insurance Deduction for the Self-Employed.	H. Res. 88	Open	N/A.
H.R. 830*	The Paperwork Reduction Act	H. Res. 91	Restrictive; makes in order only the Obey substitute	1D.
H.R. 889	Emergency Supplemental/Rescinding Certain Budget Authority	H. Res. 92	Restrictive; 10 hr. Time Cap on amendments; Pre-printing gets preference	N/A.
H.R. 450*	Regulatory Moratorium	H. Res. 93	Restrictive; 10 hr. Time Cap on amendments	N/A.
H.R. 1022*	Risk Assessment	H. Res. 96	Open	N/A.
H.R. 926*	Regulatory Flexibility	H. Res. 100	Restrictive; 12 hr. time cap on amendments; Requires Members to pre-print their amendments in the Record prior to the bill's consideration for amendment, waives germaneness and budget act points of order as well as points of order concerning appropriating on a legislative bill against the committee substitute used as base text.	1D.
H.R. 925*	Private Property Protection Act	H. Res. 101	Restrictive; 8 hr. time cap on amendments; Pre-printing gets preference; Makes in order the Wyden amendment and waives germaneness against it.	1D.
H.R. 1058*	Securities Litigation Reform Act	H. Res. 105	Restrictive; 7 hr. time cap on amendments; Pre-printing gets preference	N/A.
H.R. 988*	The Attorney Accountability Act of 1995	H. Res. 104	Restrictive; makes in order only 15 germane amendments and denies 64 germane amendments from being considered.	8D; 7R.
H.R. 956*	Product Liability and Legal Reform Act	H. Res. 109	Restrictive; Combines emergency H.R. 1158 & nonemergency 1159 and strikes the abortion provision; makes in order only pre-printed amendments that include offsets within the same chapter (deeper cuts in programs already cut); waives points of order against three amendments; waives cl 2 of rule XXI against the bill, cl 2, XXI and cl 7 of rule XVI against the substitute; waives cl 2(e) of rule XXI against the amendments in the Record; 10 hr time cap on amendments. 30 minutes debate on each amendment.	N/A.
H.R. 1158	Making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions	H. Res. 115	Restrictive; Makes in order only 4 amendments considered under a "Queen of the Hill" procedure and denies 21 germane amendments from being considered.	1D; 3R
H.J. Res. 73*	Term Limits	H. Res. 116	Restrictive; Makes in order only 31 perfecting amendments and two substitutes; Denies 130 germane amendments from being considered; The substitutes are to be considered under a "Queen of the Hill" procedure; All points of order are waived against the amendments.	5D; 26R.
H.R. 4*	Welfare Reform	H. Res. 119	Open	N/A.
H.R. 1271*	Family Privacy Act	H. Res. 125	Open	N/A.
H.R. 660*	Housing for Older Persons Act	H. Res. 126	Restrictive; Self Executes language that makes tax cuts contingent on the adoption of a balanced budget plan and strikes section 3006. Makes in order only one substitute. Waives all points of order against the bill, substitute made in order as original text and Gephardt substitute.	1D.
H.R. 1215*	The Contract With America Tax Relief Act of 1995	H. Res. 129	Open	N/A.
H.R. 483	Medicare Select Extension	H. Res. 130	Open; waives sections 302(f) and 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act against the bill's consideration and the committee substitute; waives cl 5(a) of rule XXI against the committee substitute.	N/A.
H.R. 655	Hydrogen Future Act	H. Res. 136	Open; pre-printing gets preference; waives sections 302(f) and 602(b) of the Budget Act against the bill's consideration; waives cl 7 of rule XVI, cl 5(a) of rule XXI and section 302(f) of the Budget Act against the committee substitute. Makes in order Shuster substitute as first order of business.	N/A.
H.R. 1361	Coast Guard Authorization	H. Res. 139	Open	N/A.
H.R. 961	Clean Water Act	H. Res. 140	Open	N/A.
H.R. 535	Corning National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act	H. Res. 144	Open	N/A.
H.R. 584	Conveyance of the Fairport National Fish Hatchery to the State of Iowa.	H. Res. 145	Open	N/A.
H.R. 614	Conveyance of the New London National Fish Hatchery Production Facility.	H. Res. 146	Open	N/A.
H. Con. Res. 67	Budget Resolution	H. Res. 149	Restrictive; Makes in order 4 substitutes under regular order; Gephardt, Neumann/Solomon, Payne/Owens, President's Budget if printed in Record on 5/17/95; waives all points of order against substitutes and concurrent resolution; suspends application of Rule XLIX with respect to the resolution; self-executes Agriculture language.	3D; 1R.
H.R. 1561	American Overseas Interests Act of 1995	H. Res. 155	Restrictive; Requires amendments to be printed in the Record prior to their consideration; 10 hr. time cap; waives cl 2(1)(6) of rule XI against the bill's consideration; Also waives sections 302(f), 303(a), 308(a) and 402(a) against the bill's consideration and the committee amendment in order as original text; waives cl 5(a) of rule XXI against the amendment; amendment consideration is closed at 2:30 p.m. on May 25, 1995. Self-executes provision which removes section 2210 from the bill. This was done at the request of the Budget Committee.	N/A.
H.R. 1530	National Defense Authorization Act FY 1996	H. Res. 164	Restrictive; Makes in order only the amendments printed in the report; waives all points of order against the bill, substitute and amendments printed in the report. Gives the Chairman en bloc authority. Self-executes a provision which strikes section 807 of the bill; provides for an additional 30 min. of debate on Nunn-Lugar section; Allows Mr. Clinger to offer a modification of his amendment with the concurrence of Ms. Collins.	36R; 18D; 2 Bipartisan.
H.R. 1817	Military Construction Appropriations; FY 1996	H. Res. 167	Open; waives cl. 2 and cl. 6 of rule XXI against the bill; 1 hr. general debate; Uses House passed budget numbers as threshold for spending amounts pending passage of Budget.	N/A.
H.R. 1854	Legislative Branch Appropriations	H. Res. 169	Restrictive; Makes in order only 11 amendments; waives sections 302(f) and 308(a) of the Budget Act against the bill and cl. 2 and cl. 6 of rule XXI against the bill. All points of order are waived against the amendments.	5R; 4D; 2 Bipartisan.
H.R. 1868	Foreign Operations Appropriations	H. Res. 170	Open; waives cl. 2, cl. 5(b), and cl. 6 of rule XXI against the bill; makes in order the Gilman amendments as first order of business; waives all points of order against the amendments; if adopted they will be considered as original text; waives cl. 2 of rule XXI against the amendments printed in the report. Pre-printing gets priority (Hall) (Menendez) (Goss) (Smith, NJ).	N/A.
H.R. 1905	Energy & Water Appropriations	H. Res. 171	Open; waives cl. 2 and cl. 6 of rule XXI against the bill; makes in order the Shuster amendment as the first order of business; waives all points of order against the amendment; if adopted it will be considered as original text. Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A.
H.J. Res. 79	Constitutional Amendment to Permit Congress and States to Prohibit the Physical Desecration of the American Flag.	H. Res. 173	Closed; provides one hour of general debate and one motion to recommit with or without instructions; if there are instructions, the MO is debatable for 1 hr.	N/A.
H.R. 1944	Recissions Bill	H. Res. 175	Restrictive; Provides for consideration of the bill in the House; Permits the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee to offer one amendment which is unamendable; waives all points of order against the amendment.	N/A.
H.R. 1868 (2nd rule)	Foreign Operations Appropriations	H. Res. 177	Restrictive; Provides for further consideration of the bill; makes in order only the four amendments printed in the rules report (20 min. each). Waives all points of order against the amendments; Prohibits intervening motions in the Committee of the Whole; Provides for an automatic rise and report following the disposition of the amendments.	N/A.
H.R. 1977 *Rule Defeated*	Interior Appropriations	H. Res. 185	Open; waives sections 302(f) and 308(a) of the Budget Act and cl 2 and cl 6 of rule XXI; provides that the bill be read by title; waives all points of order against the Tazin amendment; self-executes Budget Committee amendment; waives cl 2(e) of rule XXI against amendments to the bill; Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A.
H.R. 1977	Interior Appropriations	H. Res. 187	Open; waives sections 302(f), 306 and 308(a) of the Budget Act; waives clauses 2 and 6 of rule XXI against provisions in the bill; waives all points of order against the Tazin amendment; provides that the bill be read by title; self-executes Budget Committee amendment and makes NEA funding subject to House passed authorization; waives cl 2(e) of rule XXI against the amendments to the bill; Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A.

FLOOR PROCEDURE IN THE 104TH CONGRESS; COMPILED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS—Continued

Bill No.	Title	Resolution No.	Process used for floor consideration	Amendments in order
H.R. 1976	Agriculture Appropriations	H. Res. 188	Open; waives clauses 2 and 6 of rule XXI against provisions in the bill; provides that the bill be read by title; Makes Skeen amendment first order of business, if adopted the amendment will be considered as base text (10 min.); Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A
H.R. 1977 (3rd rule)	Interior Appropriations	H. Res. 189	Restrictive; provides for the further consideration of the bill; allows only amendments pre-printed before July 14th to be considered; limits motions to rise.	N/A
H.R. 2020	Treasury Postal Appropriations	H. Res. 190	Open; waives cl. 2 and cl. 6 of rule XXI against provisions in the bill; provides the bill be read by title; Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A
H.J. Res. 96	Disapproving MFN for China	H. Res. 193	Restrictive; provides for consideration in the House of H.R. 2058 (90 min.) And H.J. Res. 96 (1 hr). Waives certain provisions of the Trade Act.	N/A
H.R. 2002	Transportation Appropriations	H. Res. 194	Open; waives cl. 3 of rule XIII and section 401 (a) of the CBA against consideration of the bill; waives cl. 6 and cl. 2 of rule XXI against provisions in the bill; Makes in order the Clinger/Solomon amendment waives all points of order against the amendment (Line Item Veto); provides the bill be read by title; Pre-printing gets priority. *RULE AMENDED*.	N/A
H.R. 70	Exports of Alaskan North Slope Oil	H. Res. 197	Open; Makes in order the Resources Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as original text; Pre-printing gets priority; Provides a Senate hook-up with S. 395.	N/A
H.R. 2076	Commerce, Justice Appropriations	H. Res. 198	Open; waives cl. 2 and cl. 6 of rule XXI against provisions in the bill; Pre-printing gets priority; provides the bill be read by title.	N/A
H.R. 2099	VA/HUD Appropriations	H. Res. 201	Open; waives cl. 2 and cl. 6 of rule XXI against provisions in the bill; Provides that the amendment in part 1 of the report is the first business, if adopted it will be considered as base text (30 min.); waives all points of order against the Klug and Davis amendments; Pre-printing gets priority; Provides that the bill be read by title.	N/A
S. 21	Termination of U.S. Arms Embargo on Bosnia	H. Res. 204	Restrictive; 3 hours of general debate; Makes in order an amendment to be offered by the Minority Leader or a designee (1 hr); If motion to recommit has instructions it can only be offered by the Minority Leader or a designee.	ID
H.R. 2126	Defense Appropriations	H. Res. 205	Open; waives cl. 2(f)(6) of rule XI and section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act against consideration of the bill; waives cl. 2 and cl. 6 of rule XXI against provisions in the bill; self-executes a strike of sections 8021 and 8024 of the bill as requested by the Budget Committee; Pre-printing gets priority; Provides the bill be read by title.	N/A
H.R. 1555	Communications Act of 1995	H. Res. 207	Restrictive; waives sec. 302(f) of the Budget Act against consideration of the bill; Makes in order the Commerce Committee amendment as original text and waives sec. 302(f) of the Budget Act and cl. 5(a) of rule XXI against the amendment; Makes in order the Bilely amendment (30 min.) as the first order of business, if adopted it will be original text; makes in order only the amendments printed in the report and waives all points of order against the amendments; provides a Senate hook-up with S. 652.	2R/3D/3 Bi-partisan.
H.R. 2127	Labor/HHS Appropriations Act	H. Res. 208	Open; Provides that the first order of business will be the managers amendments (10 min.), if adopted they will be considered as base text; waives cl. 2 and cl. 6 of rule XXI against provisions in the bill; waives all points of order against certain amendments printed in the report; Pre-printing gets priority; Provides the bill be read by title.	N/A
H.R. 1594	Economically Targeted Investments	H. Res. 215	Open; 2 hr of gen. debate. makes in order the committee substitute as original text	N/A
H.R. 1655	Intelligence Authorization	H. Res. 216	Restrictive; waives sections 302(f), 308(a) and 401(b) of the Budget Act. Makes in order the committee substitute as modified by Govt. Reform amend (striking sec. 505) and an amendment striking title VII. Cl 7 of rule XVI and cl 5(a) of rule XXI are waived against the substitute. Sections 302(f) and 401(b) of the CBA are also waived against the substitute. Amendments must also be pre-printed in the Congressional record.	N/A
H.R. 1162	Deficit Reduction Lock Box	H. Res. 218	Open; waives cl 7 of rule XVI against the committee substitute made in order as original text; Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A
H.R. 1670	Federal Acquisition Reform Act of 1995	H. Res. 219	Open; waives sections 302(f) and 308(a) of the Budget Act against consideration of the bill; bill will be read by title; waives cl 5(a) of rule XXI and section 302(f) of the Budget Act against the committee substitute. Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A
H.R. 1617	To Consolidate and Reform Workforce Development and Literacy Programs Act (CAREERS).	H. Res. 222	Open; waives section 302(f) and 401(b) of the Budget Act against the substitute made in order as original text (H.R. 2332), cl. 5(a) of rule XXI is also waived against the substitute. provides for consideration of the managers amendment (10 min.) If adopted, it is considered as base text.	N/A
H.R. 2274	National Highway System Designation Act of 1995	H. Res. 224	Open; waives section 302(f) of the Budget Act against consideration of the bill; Makes H.R. 2349 in order as original text; waives section 302(f) of the Budget Act against the substitute; provides for the consideration of a managers amendment (10 min.) If adopted, it is considered as base text; Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A
H.R. 927	Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1995	H. Res. 225	Restrictive; waives cl 2(L)(2)(B) of rule XI against consideration of the bill; makes in order H.R. 2347 as base text; waives cl 7 of rule XVI against the substitute; Makes Hamilton amendment the first amendment to be considered (1 hr). Makes in order only amendments printed in the report.	2R/2D
H.R. 743	The Teamwork for Employees and managers Act of 1995	H. Res. 226	Open; waives cl 2(f)(2)(b) of rule XI against consideration of the bill; makes in order the committee amendment as original text; Pre-printing get priority.	N/A
H.R. 1170	3-Judge Court for Certain Injunctions	H. Res. 227	Open; makes in order a committee amendment as original text; Pre-printing gets priority	N/A
H.R. 1601	International Space Station Authorization Act of 1995	H. Res. 228	Open; makes in order a committee amendment as original text; pre-printing gets priority	N/A
H.J. Res. 108	Making Continuing Appropriations for FY 1996	H. Res. 230	Closed; Provides for the immediate consideration of the CR; one motion to recommit which may have instructions only if offered by the Minority Leader or a designee.	
H.R. 2405	Omnibus Civilian Science Authorization Act of 1995	H. Res. 234	Open; self-executes a provision striking section 304(b)(3) of the bill (Commerce Committee request); Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A
H.R. 2259	To Disapprove Certain Sentencing Guideline Amendments	H. Res. 237	Restrictive; waives cl 2(f)(2)(B) of rule XI against the bill's consideration; makes in order the text of the Senate bill S. 1254 as original text; Makes in order only a Conyers substitute; provides a senate hook-up after adoption.	1D
H.R. 2425	Medicare Preservation Act	H. Res. 238	Restrictive; waives all points of order against the bill's consideration; makes in order the text of H.R. 2485 as original text; waives all points of order against H.R. 2485; makes in order only an amendment offered by the Minority Leader or a designee; waives all points of order against the amendment; waives cl 5© of rule XXI (¾ requirement on votes raising taxes).	1D
H.R. 2492	Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill	H. Res. 239	Restrictive; provides for consideration of the bill in the House	N/A
H.R. 2491	7 Year Balanced Budget Reconciliation Social Security Earnings Test Reform.	H. Res. 245	Restrictive; makes in order H.R. 2517 as original text; waives all pints of order against the bill; Makes in order H.R. 2530 as an amendment only if offered by the Minority Leader or a designee; waives all points of order against the amendment; waives cl 5© of rule XXI (¾ requirement on votes raising taxes).	1D
H.R. 1833	Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1995	H. Res. 251	Closed	N/A
H.R. 2546	D.C. Appropriations FY 1996	H. Res. 252	Restrictive; waives all points of order against the bill's consideration; Makes in order the Walsh amendment as the first order of business (10 min.); if adopted it is considered as base text; waives cl 2 and 6 of rule XXI against the bill; makes in order the Bonilla, Gunderson and Hostettler amendments (30 min.); waives all points of order against the amendments; debate on any further amendments is limited to 30 min. each.	N/A
H.J. Res. 115	Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 1996	H. Res. 257	Closed; Provides for the immediate consideration of the CR; one motion to recommit which may have instructions only if offered by the Minority Leader or a designee.	N/A
H.R. 2586	Temporary Increase in the Statutory Debt Limit	H. Res. 258	Restrictive; Provides for the immediate consideration of the CR; one motion to recommit which may have instructions only if offered by the Minority Leader or a designee; self-executes 4 amendments in the rule; Solomon, Medicare Coverage of Certain Anti-Cancer Drug Treatments, Habeas Corpus Reform, Chrysler (MI); makes in order the Walker amend (40 min.) on regulatory reform.	5R
H.R. 2539	ICC Termination	H. Res. 259	Open; waives section 302(f) and section 308(a)	
H.J. Res. 115	Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 1996	H. Res. 261	Closed; provides for the immediate consideration of a motion by the Majority Leader or his designees to dispose of the Senate amendments (1hr).	N/A
H.R. 2586	Temporary Increase in the Statutory Limit on the Public Debt	H. Res. 262	Closed; provides for the immediate consideration of a motion by the Majority Leader or his designees to dispose of the Senate amendments (1hr).	N/A
H. Res. 250	House Gift Rule Reform	H. Res. 268	Closed; provides for consideration of the bill in the House; 30 min. of debate; makes in order the Burton amendment and the Gingrich en bloc amendment (30 min. each); waives all points of order against the amendments; Gingrich is only in order if Burton fails or is not offered.	2R
H.R. 2564	Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995	H. Res. 269	Open; waives cl. 2(f)(6) of rule XI against the bill's consideration; waives all points of order against the Istook and McIntosh amendments.	N/A
H.R. 2606	Prohibition on Funds for Bosnia Deployment	H. Res. 273	Restrictive; waives all points of order against the bill's consideration; provides one motion to amend if offered by the Minority Leader or designee (1 hr non-amendable); motion to recommit which may have instructions only if offered by Minority Leader or his designee; if Minority Leader motion is not offered debate time will be extended by 1 hr.	N/A

Bill No.	Title	Resolution No.	Process used for floor consideration	Amendments in order
H.R. 1788	Amtrak Reform and Privatization Act of 1995	H. Res. 289	Open; waives all points of order against the bill's consideration; makes in order the Transportation substitute modified by the amend in the report; Bill read by title; waives all points of order against the substitute; makes in order a managers amend as the first order of business, if adopted it is considered base text (10 min.); waives all points of order against the amendment; Pre-printing gets priority.	N/A
H.R. 1350	Maritime Security Act of 1995	H. Res. 287	Open; makes in order the committee substitute as original text; makes in order a managers amendment which if adopted is considered as original text (20 min.) unamendable; pre-printing gets priority.	N/A
H.R. 2621	To Protect Federal Trust Funds	H. Res.	Closed; provides for the adoption of the Ways & Means amendment printed in the report. 1 hr. of general debate.	N/A
H.R. 1745	Utah Public Lands Management Act of 1995	H. Res. 303	Open; waives cl 2(j)(6) of rule XI and sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Budget Act against the bill's consideration. Makes in order the Resources substitute as base text and waives cl 7 of rule XVI and sections 302(f) and 308(a) of the Budget Act; makes in order a managers' amend as the first order of business, if adopted it is considered base text (10 min.).	N/A
H. Res. 304	Providing for Debate and Consideration of Three Measures Relating to U.S. Troop Deployments in Bosnia.	N/A.	Closed; makes in order three resolutions: H.R. 2770 (Dorman), H. Res. 302 (Buyer), and H. Res. 306 (Gephardt); 1 hour of debate on each.	1D; 2R
H. Res. 309	Revised Budget Resolution	H. Res. 309	Closed; provides 2 hours of general debate in the House	N/A
H.R. 558	Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Consent Act	H. Res. 313	Open; pre-printing gets priority	N/A
H.R. 2677	The National Parks and National Wildlife Refuge Systems Freedom Act of 1995.	H. Res. 323	Closed; consideration in the House; self-executes Young amendment	N/A
PROCEDURE IN THE 104TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION				
H.R. 1643	To authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (MFN) to the products of Bulgaria.	H. Res. 334	Closed; provides to take the bill from the Speaker's table with the Senate amendment, and consider in the House the motion printed in the Rules Committee report; 1 hr. of general debate; previous question is considered as ordered.	N/A
H.J. Res. 134	Making continuing appropriations/establishing procedures making	H. Res. 336	Closed; provides to take from the Speaker's table H.J. Res. 134 with the Senate amendment and concur with the Senate amendment with an amendment (H. Con. Res. 131) which is self-executed in the rule. The rule provides further that the bill shall not be sent back to the Senate until the Senate agrees to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 131.	N/A
H. Con. Res. 131	the transmission of the continuing resolution H.J. Res. 134.			
H. R. 1358	Conveyance of National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory at Gloucester, Massachusetts.	H. Res. 338	Closed; provides to take the bill from the Speaker's table with the Senate amendment, and consider in the House the motion printed in the Rules Committee report; 1 hr. of general debate; previous question is considered as ordered.	N/A
H.R. 2924	Social Security Guarantee Act	H. Res. 355	Closed	N/A

* Contract Bills, 67% restrictive; 33% open. ** All legislation 1st Session, 56% restrictive; 44% open. *** Legislation 2d Session, 100% restrictive; 0% open. **** All legislation 104th Congress 60% restrictive; 40% open. ***** Restrictive rules are those which limit the number of amendments which can be offered, and include so-called modified open and modified closed rules as well as completely closed rules and rules providing for consideration in the House as opposed to the Committee of the Whole. This definition of restrictive rule is taken from the Republican chart of resolutions reported from the Rules Committee in the 103d Congress. ***** Not included in this chart are three bills which should have been placed on the Suspension Calendar. H.R. 101, H.R. 400, H.R. 440.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL].

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was just talking to my dear friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], who sits over there, but I asked him to yield when he was reading the paper there, because I wanted to make it abundantly clear that as he extends this debt limit, as he gives us the ability for the United States to pay off its obligations, that he is only doing it for the old people on Social Security, he says, he says.

So it means that these people have a lot of compassion, but they give it to us a little bit at a time. Who knows, maybe the disabled veterans will get some political attention over there, and we will get another 15 days. How about the widows of those who died defending our country? How about the crippled, the veterans in the hospital? Oh, I know, you want to make Clinton change the rules. You do not want to do it at election time. You cannot do it with overriding a veto, and so what we are going to do is select who will receive their benefits.

Do you think the United States Congress should be doing this? And of all of the committees that is doing this to the American people, it is the Committee on Rules. What substance jurisdiction do you have to select one group of Americans, people who serve their country, which groups you decide will receive their checks on time? And we get 15 days. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman for 15 days we get. Thank you. Maybe when we come back, the rest of the veterans and all the Americans who deserve their checks, you might give them 10 or 15 days, and ulti-

mately the rest of the world would say, Can you trust the United States of America? Just as far as you can check with the chairman of the committee that determines when they pay their debts.

All I can say is this, if you think we screwed this place up for 40 years, you have broken the record, because you have brought to this Congress Members who are more anxious to change the policies that we have had in the last 40 years than to legislate. We are not doing this by legislating. We are doing it by fear, and it is wrong.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlemen from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the distinguished chairman, who is making sure that everybody gets their paycheck.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, do you know that every single day that passes by, the national debt goes up another \$600 million? Think about that, \$600 million a day. Every day it goes up \$600 million, that means there are \$600 million less to help all of those people that truly need it.

You people on that side of the aisle, more than anyone else, ought to be standing up here trying to put an end to this deficit spending that is actually ruining this country and turning it into a sea of red ink.

The Record should show the gentleman from New York voted for an attachment to the 1993 debt limit bill, the largest tax increase in history. There was nothing clean about that debt limit bill.

What is different now? Nothing.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], another member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLO-

MON], the answer is in 1993 the debt ceiling extension was part of an overall package. We were not trying to blackmail the White House. You are; you are.

Look, this is nothing but a 2-week extension. That is all this is. Yes, from March 1 to March 15, 2 weeks.

And why the reference to Social Security? It is because if there were no extension, Social Security payments would, indeed, be jeopardized, contrary to the earlier communications from your side. But, look, the other obligations are also going to be paid, not only Social Security.

So really you are voting for a 2-week straight debt ceiling extension. You put in Social Security, because some of your extremists do not want to vote for a debt extension of any kind, and then it says in here Congress intends to pass an increase in the public debt limit before March 1, 1996.

Why do you not pass it tonight? I will tell you why, you have got an addiction of some kind playing with fire. You have been burned twice in terms of the CR: You played with fire, twice burned, you want to burn yourself again.

But I think the main reason is you do not know what else to do, so you are doing the same thing all over again. That is the problem. You do not have a game plan, so you punt.

The trouble is this is not a game. This is the lives of Americans that you are playing with lightly.

Stop the blackmail. Pass a clean debt ceiling period, and do it tonight.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH], a member of the Committee on the Budget.

□ 1830

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I just sort of handed out this sheet

to both sides as a reminder to us that we have not given clean debt ceiling increases. So it seems like tonight, with this clean increase in borrowing authority for the Federal Government to make sure that we get by the rest of this month and into toward mid-March, that we should pass it and say, "Look, it is a good first step, let us move on."

Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from Michigan, I would still like to point out that the last couple debt limit bills that we had represented a huge tax increase of \$137 billion over the 5-year period in 1990 when there was pressure on President Bush. Again, there was a large \$252 billion tax increase in 1993. Some of these put pressure on an administration. So the debt ceiling is not very wholesome, not being used as leverage.

As we researched the records, Treasury does not have the right to withhold Social Security payments. The trouble is they have not managed cash flow, so they are out of money right now. They have no legal authority to withhold payments for Social Security or any other trust fund when there are surpluses coming into those trust funds.

This action tonight is to give money back to Treasury because they have not had the kind of cash flow management that allows them to pay Social Security benefits and the other retirement benefits.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN].

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, just so I can set the Record straight so my colleagues over here do not make a mistake, I was not here in 1993. In fact, I was in the private sector, in fact outside the Beltway, where I was earning a living in an industry very similar to what we are talking about. In fact, my friend from New York, I have been in the private sector for a while, while you have been in the Congress, in the public sector, since I have been in high school. Quite some time.

If I wanted to, I could come down here, we could come down here as Democrats and we could say fine, go ahead and crash the capital markets of the United States. You will make Herbert Hoover look like an economic genius if you do this. But that is wrong. It is wrong for this country. This is a scary situation.

My other colleague from Texas said it is scary. Yes, it is very scary, because if we allow the Nation's debt to default, we will pay forever. If we do it for a day, it will be like Chernobyl; it will last for years and years.

Moody's said over the years that you could invest in treasuries because they would not default. This is from 1994. They said last week that they think they are going to default now, and they are looking to downgrade the debt. That is going to affect at least \$300 billion of State and local debt and school debt. Mr. Druckmiller, your expect, came out last week and said this was a

failed strategy and you should not do it.

Now, let us understand this bill. You are going to give the Treasury \$30 billion, but the Treasury needs another \$55 billion to meet the payments. Now, I tried to find in the Washington Times so I could explain to you when Treasury bonds come due. They come due on the 1st and 15th of the month. The Washington Times does not carry the Treasury thing, maybe that is why there is a misunderstanding here. But the fact of the matter is that this is totally irresponsible.

My colleague talks about the private sector. If you were on the board of a corporation that had a debt payment coming due in 29 days and you decided that you were going to take the board to Hawaii instead of staying here and working on it, the stockholders would throw you out, and they would be right for doing it.

If you were a homeowner and you did not have the money to pay your mortgage and decided you would take a vacation instead, the bank would come and take your house and they would have the right to do that.

That is what we are doing. We are not going to deal with the problem; we are going to go on a vacation. I find that hard to believe, regardless of whether I am a Democrat or a Republican. What has gotten into us here? It is incredible. It is simply incredible.

You tell us by March 1 you will get this done. My friends, you did not make the date for the appropriations bills; you did not even bring half of them to the floor by the end of the fiscal year. How are we to believe you will do this by March 1? You know what you are going to do? You are going to default on the debt that our children, my children, your children, your grandchildren are going to have to pay for, for money you already spent in previous years. That is simply unconscionable.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER], the distinguished chairman of the conference.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the Congress of the United States and the Government of the United States is not going to default on its debt, not now nor in the future. But if we are at some point going to increase the debt limit, which we are going to do the last week of February, we are going to make a downpayment for the future of our children and theirs.

For 30 years politicians in this town have done the same thing, pile up the debt, pile up the debt, and imprison our children and theirs. So every child born in America today owes \$19,000 as their share of the national debt. A child born this year will pay \$187,000 over the course of their lifetime in taxes just to pay the interest on the national debt that their parents and their grandparents have left for them. That is unconscionable.

What is the President of the United States asking? Raise the debt limit.

Let us have more debt. The fact is, it is time to get serious about balancing the budget of the United States and saving the future for our kids and theirs. Oh, but no, we do not want to do that. The President says we can agree on the numbers, but we will save the policies until later: The same kind of Washington gimmicks, the same kind of smoke and mirrors that have been used in this town to say one thing and do something else, year after year after year.

What we are saying on our side of the aisle is it is time to get serious. It is time for no more gimmicks, no more tricks. It is time to do the right thing to save the future for our kids and theirs, and we are going to do it.

Now, in the meantime we want a downpayment on extending the debt limit of this country. We ought to make some generous effort in a bipartisan way to move us toward saving the future, and we ought to do it over the next couple of weeks so that when we get back here on the 26th, we can have a bill that can be agreed to.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER].

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, if I could enter into a colloquy with the previous speaker, could I ask a question of the gentleman from Ohio? The gentleman from Ohio just made a statement that the U.S. Government was not going to default now, not ever. Let me ask you this question: Suppose that you put the conditions on the extension of the debt and the President of the United States does not blink and refuses to sign the budget or whatever downpayment you call it. Are you going to let the United States default on its obligations?

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HEFNER. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the President of the United States would like to make a downpayment toward balancing the budget just as much as you would and we would.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, the gentleman just made a statement that we will not default on our obligations now, not ever. He had no qualifications; he was just taking for granted that everything is going to fall in place and they would yield to blackmail demands. What he is saying is unless they do, you will let the U.S. Government default. Enough is enough.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO].

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get serious and it is time to stop the blackmail. It is the extremists in the House Republican conference that are playing political chicken with the credit rating of the United States. That is what it is about, is our credit rating. This Government has always paid its bills. For 220 years, through a Civil War and a Great Depression.

Paying our bills is not just important to the bond market and to the investment bankers on Wall Street. If this

nation defaults, the consequences will be most sharply felt by ordinary Americans. It is not only Wall Street, it is Main Street who pays the price. If this bill passes, Social Security checks will not bounce, and that is a good thing. But what about the countless other consequences of default? What about students whose college loan rates are set by the Government borrowing rate? What about people who bought their homes with adjustable rate mortgages, and what about those who hold credit cards?

At a time when too many Americans are swamped with bills, they are afraid that they cannot afford to pay their bills. These are people who have not seen a raise in their salaries in months and years. A Government default would make paying their bills all the more expensive. This tactic hits working families in their pocketbooks.

Mr. Speaker, we can easily avoid this crisis. Let us pass a bill that prevents default by lifting the debt ceiling and that protects the credit rating and the honor of this great Nation of ours.

Mr. FROST. Does the gentleman not have any speakers at this point?

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, may I inform the Chair and the distinguished gentleman from Texas that I have one other speaker who is on his way, and possibly we will have some stimulation in the debate here from somebody who is here. We are looking at winding down, but I am in the range of three or four Members.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT].

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, our Republican colleagues have, of course, already voted four times in this very Congress to adjust the debt limit to the full amount necessary. But now that it really counts, now that we are up against the line, they break their promise to the American people.

They whine and moan about a budget deficit, but as soon as the President proposes a balanced budget calculated by their numbers, the Speaker declares defeat. A broken promise. You see, that is the watchword of this Gingrich Republican leadership: Promises made, promises broken. The Republicans promised to give us a country that is governed responsibly, and then they come forward and waste \$1.5 billion with two Government shutdowns that were totally unnecessary, which even Speaker GINGRICH has now confessed was an error.

They promised to guarantee the fiscal integrity of this country, and now they act in a way that constitutes the biggest broken promise in American economic history. They promise to breach the promise of the full faith and credit of this country.

Republican promises made and Republican promises broken, the whole story of the 104th Congress. They have broken so many promises in this Congress to the American people, they now want to go out and break somebody

else's promise, and that is the promise that generations of Americans have stood by to protect the fiscal integrity of this country.

Can any responsible American, regardless of party, regardless of philosophy, conceivably be out there saying, Oh, go to Washington. Do not pay the bond holders. Do not pay those who rely on U.S. savings bonds. Just bring everything to a halt and default until you get your way?

Mr. Speaker, that is precisely what has been advocated here tonight. Nobody but a crackpot would advance that point of view. But indeed, while that might have been true a few years ago, and though we just heard promises, let us listen to what the Speaker of the House of the United States said: "I don't care what the price is. I don't care if we have no bonds for 30 days."

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA].

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

Mr. Speaker, tonight our action is really about choices. The administration and the other side of the aisle has made their choices. They would choose in fact to cut off payments for Social Security and maybe veterans at this point if in fact they run out of additional money to steal. In fact, the irony of this is they have been stealing and robbing Federal retirement trust funds to keep the indebtedness extended for this country.

□ 1845

So tonight is really about choices. We have seen on TV they are going to stop the printing presses. They do not want us to pay seniors.

Mr. Speaker, that is not what the Republicans want to do tonight. We want to see, in fact, that our seniors receive their check. We want to tell seniors that, in fact, we have made a different choice, that we think that we should choose in this budget whether people should continue to be paid for not working; whether we should pay illegal immigrants who come in and get better health and medical and housing benefits than our seniors and our veterans.

Those are some of the choices before us, and that is part of the choice in our budget, in our proposal. And we are going to face that measure and those choices.

So, tonight the choice is we stop the show, we stop printing the funny money or continue in a responsible fashion. We set a deadline, and that is what we have been doing and what we have been trying to do to get this Nation's finances in order. So our choice is to pay seniors tonight, to pass this rule, and to act responsibly, and we will meet our debt obligations; but we will not continue to drive this country further and further into debt, in an irresponsible fashion.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO].

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, this H.R. 2924 is about the most convoluted piece of legislation that I have seen in terms of what is going on. They say, the Republicans that they bring this bill to us, that they intend to extend the debt limit. Well, why do they not just do it? No, they bring this 2-week bill. In other words, the bad news is the fact that they feel the necessity for a 2 week measure.

If we take them at their word, the face value of what this bill says, we are going to avert the possibility that the Social Security checks are going to bounce March 1. We want them to go out, and we all want to be on the side of those receiving Social Security. But the bad news is that the veterans' checks are going to bounce, that they are not going to cash those, that the soldiers and sailors that get checks, even those in Bosnia, will not be able to cash them. The contractors who have done work in good faith will not be able to cash checks.

The fact is that this result would result in the ultimate Government shutdown. Already this year for 4 weeks out of 16, the irresponsibility in terms of the way that this majority Republican Party has run this Congress has resulted in partial shutdown of the Government. The fact is, yes, things were attached to the debt ceiling limit. But under Reagan and under Bush, and under Clinton, the Democrats got an agreement with them. We could find common ground and compromise to achieve this, so we averted the default of bonds, the credit rating of the country wasn't harmed.

We have been through Reagan and Bush and Clinton. We did it through World War I, then World War II, the Depression, the recessions, but all of a sudden now my Republican colleagues cannot do that. They cannot come to an agreement, and that is what the bad news is in terms of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we ought to protect Social Security, but we ought to protect the faith and credit of this Nation. We ought to really prevent the type of economic shock wave and damage that this proposal pretends to do through intention but not action. The fact that the Republicans want to pass just this measure of platitudes, shows that they do not understand what they are doing. I think this action unfortunately underlines the experience and the credibility of what has been said over here for 2 months. What has been said by the Speaker and their leader, over the past year that is in fact if default comes, it comes. Let us just accept it says Speaker GINGRICH. That is unacceptable says this Member. The only snow job is not the one outside; there is one going on in here tonight from the majority Republicans.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the record should show that the gentleman who just spoke so eloquently voted to attach to the 1993 debt limit bill the largest tax increase in history. There was nothing clean about that debt limit bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY].

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, all the screaming needs to subside. This Government has been running deficit for a long time. Our credit card is about to be canceled. Our checkbook is dry.

In America's communities, if we had produced the types of budgets this Congress has over the last 40 years, we would have had our home foreclosed, our credit card canceled, our checkbook confiscated, and we would be sent to jail.

Everybody is yelling about the full faith and credit of this Government, and many Members that have been on this floor screaming have been the ones who have run up, through the use of their Member card, this card that they give us when we are sworn into office, the credit card of the United States, they have been running deficits each and every budget year. And now there is screaming going on about the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

People have to accept responsibility for being the ones that charged the balance. If we give our child a credit card with a \$500 balance and they run out and use it in one day and we scream at them for not paying the bill, we have helped get them the credit. We have taught them to spend maybe recklessly.

I agree that the faith and credit of this Government is essential. This bill will allow the temporary borrowing of additional monies to cover Social Security. My grandmother depended on her Social Security before she died. She worked as a maid in a Travel Lodge motel. She was not a wealthy woman. She had \$10,000 in the bank. That is all the money she had in her life. Social Security was important to her, as it is to every other American.

Mr. Speaker, we are allowing the debt limit to increase to provide for that, but we are not perpetrating the sham on the American public with \$200 billion in excess spending year in and year out and call that democracy, call that compassion, call that good government. We need to stop the yelling, start working on the problems that face America.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SCHUMER].

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, well, my colleagues know we have heard a lot of talking here. We just heard about giving a child a credit card. And what they are advocating on that side is once the child spends on the credit card, maybe the child should not have, the parents are saying we will not pay. That is un-American. That is being a deadbeat. That has nothing to do with resolving the child's behavior in the future. That has to do with the past obligation that was incurred by the family

that people on this side are saying we will not pay.

Mr. Speaker, the average homeowner does not have the opportunity to renege on his or her mortgage. The average credit card purchaser does not have the opportunity to renege on his or her credit card. These people are struggling. They cannot do it, and at the height of irresponsibility, some of the leaders of this Nation are saying, well our country can do it. What lesson is that to the child we are talking about? I would say that to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, is it happenstance that we are playing this ridiculous game of chicken? Is it just unbelievable that we could say we would renege on our debt? Let us listen to what Speaker GINGRICH said: "The President will veto a number of things and then we will put them all on the debt ceiling. And then he will decide how big a crisis he wants."

That is good government? That is responsibility? That is bullying at best, and lunacy, irresponsible lunacy at worst. Here is another quote from the Speaker: "I do not care what the price is, I do not care if we have no executive offices, and no bonds for 30 days. Not at this time."

He just said that in September. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of blame going on. Some extremist, immature freshmen are saying let us let the country default on its debt. But it came from the Speaker. He should be ashamed of himself.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Regular order.

Mr. SCHUMER. He knows that the credit rating of the America is at stake. It is a shame.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the Record should show that the gentleman from New York who just spoke voted for an attached 1993 debt limit bill, the largest tax increase in history. There was certainly nothing clean about that debt limit bill either, and I suspect that the gentleman from New York would not agree with my conclusion that it is not responsible parenting to stop children from runaway spending.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE].

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of talk on the Republican side of the aisle tonight about scare tactics, but I have to tell my colleagues I am really scared tonight. Until this evening, I did not really believe that the Republicans would actually default on the debt. Now I believe that they will.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to what the gentleman from Ohio said, that in order to avoid default there would have to be a downpayment on the balanced budget. I listened to the gentleman from New York who said that, in order to prevent default, there would have to be certain commitments made by our side of the aisle by March 1.

Now I see a resolution coming before us that says that we will extend the

debt ceiling with regard to Social Security. What is happening here is the same kind of hostage atmosphere that we saw with the Government shutdown. The Republicans are saying that we are going to go home. We are going to come back at the end of the month when there are a few days before March 1. And if we on the other side do not do certain things and make certain commitments, if we do not vote for certain things that they want, then they are going to default.

So I do not believe it when they say that they are not going to default. The bottom line is if they are willing to say tonight that they will only extend the debt ceiling for Social Security, I have no guarantee that they will extend the debt ceiling on anything else. I think that is the height of irresponsibility.

We are talking about defaulting on a debt that is going to downgrade the credit rating of these United States in a way that has never happened before. The bottom line is that if that happens, there is no precedent for it. There is no way of ever recovering from it, whether it is mortgage interest rates, whether it is interest rates on car payments, whether it is the securities in our general credit rating. Other countries that hold our Government bonds may decide they want to sell them.

We have no idea what kind of uncharted waters we will be walking into if we ever default on the debt. This resolution tonight ways that Congress intends to pass an increase in the public debt limit before March 1, 1996. But if my colleagues listen to the other side, there is no reason to believe that.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak from this side because I am going to quote one of the most distinguished members in the Clinton administration when I finish.

But it is no coincidence, and I have been keeping track, that almost every single speaker that has spoken from the Democrat side of the aisle is listed by the National Taxpayers Union as the biggest spenders. They classify us. Biggest spenders in the Congress. Almost every one of them. That is important to note.

Let me read to my colleagues the Washington Post, March 25, 1993, that is about 2 years ago. Now listen carefully to this, because this is the statement that was made by the present chief of staff of President Clinton. Listen to this because it will really turn this thing around.

He said: The Clinton administration has waited as long as possible to seek an increase in the debt ceiling so that lawmakers, that is you and me, ladies and gentlemen, so that lawmakers can vote for budget resolutions designed to rein in deficits before being asked to increase Federal borrowing. Now, this

is Mr. Leon Panetta. He said it is important to tie, listen to this, it is important to tie it, the debt limit, he says, to other discipline people would like to put in place.

That is what Leon Panetta said. That is exactly what we are doing here. Secretary Rubin has said he does not need this authority until March 1. We want to wait as long as we can to get as much of the savings as we can to put the fiscal house in order of the people of this country. That is what we are doing. Come over here and vote for this good bill.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a no vote on the previous question. If the previous question is defeated, I shall offer an amendment to the rule which would make in order an amendment in the nature of a substitute to provide for a clean debt ceiling.

This amendment consists of the text of H.R. 2409 and provides for a clean debt ceiling increase for a full year. This number is the same figure that was in the Republican budget resolution and reconciliation bill. Our country's economy is far too important to be used as a political pawn. We cannot risk the catastrophe that will occur should we default on our Nation's debts.

□ 1900

Let us stop the game playing and pass a clean debt ceiling. I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to take the moral high ground and to vote down the previous question, so the substitute amendment can be considered by the full House.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a copy of the amendment:

The amendment referred to is as follows:

At the end of the resolution add the following new section:

Section—Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of H.R. 2409, if offered by the Minority Leader or his designee. The amendment shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the amendment."

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge that we defeat the previous question. This is a very serious matter. It is the other side of the aisle that will not bring a debt ceiling vote to the floor this week. They bring only this little piece of it. It is an important piece, and we will want Social Security checks to go out, but they will not bring a debt ceiling increase.

Mr. Speaker, they want to take this right to the brink. They want to walk us up to 2 or 3 days before the deadline, and hope that the perils of Pauline will somehow rescue the lady from the track, as the train heads to hear. If the people on the other side have miscalculated, and if the train in fact runs over

that maiden on February 29, this country is in enormous, enormous trouble.

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

Mr. Speaker, I many times watched the Perils of Pauline, and I never actually saw the train run over the victim.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a couple of points. First of all, this has been a very intriguing debate about the rule. I do not think I have heard the rule mentioned, more than in passing at the beginning, but we have had a pretty good debate on some other things.

I frankly have gotten to see my colleague, the gentleman from Florida, my good friend, the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, show us that in addition to his extraordinary oratory, he has exemplary footwork as well in the well of the House, and I commend him on that. That was certainly a fresh moment in my experience in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, some on the other side have mentioned that we are going on vacation. If Members are going on vacation over there, I wish them well. I do not believe anybody over here is planning to go on vacation. We have a considerable amount of work to do. We are doing some negotiating. We will be in our district in a work period. I know some of us will actually be here working on committee work as well, as is our custom. If those Members have time to go on vacation on the other side of the aisle and can work it into their schedules, they are fortunate, indeed.

Mr. Speaker, the next question I wanted to raise very briefly is this sort of switching of the debate from what is really adding on, piling onto a \$5 trillion national debt an unlimited amount of money for the future without any kind of control. That is really what Members are proposing to do. What you are doing, however, is switching the subject and saying "My gosh, if we do not do that, we are affecting the full faith and credit of our country." I think that is very bizarre.

The people who keep score about full faith and credit are more interested in us getting control of our spending now. That is the signal they are looking for. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if we do not do the responsible thing, we will in fact do more damage to the full faith and credit, which, or course, nobody wants to cause any problem for in any way.

The next thing that has happened, Mr. Speaker, my friend, the gentleman from New York, said we are going to have a big vote on this. We are indeed going to have a big vote on this. We are going to get probably a unanimous vote on this piece of legislation. Who would vote against sending out the Social Security checks? Who would vote against making sure those checks were not going to bounce? It seems to me that is a pretty good proposition to vote for. We have a good rule, we have a good proposition to vote for. I am

having a little trouble understanding what, therefore, the problem really is.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of talk about gloom and doom and the sky falling. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that those who are talking about all this red hot partisan rhetoric, self-fulfilling rhetoric I hope it is not, about the world ending and the full faith and credit coming apart and so forth, need to go back and look at their voting records. I did not read them all because of time, but most everybody, as the chairman has said, who got the low rating from the NTU for being big spenders are also the people who, by and large, have voted for the largest tax increase in history, and that was attached to a debt limit bill, so let us get real.

The other point I would make is I would suggest that Alan Greenspan's pulse rate is probably more important to the interest rates than the debate we are having here today in terms of the well-being of our economy, so I urge that we pass this rule and get on with it. We will then pass this legislation and remove anxiety.

Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule XV, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time which a vote by electronic device, if ordered, will be taken on the question of the adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 178, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 28]

YEAS—229

Allard	Bunning	Cubin
Archer	Burr	Cunningham
Armey	Burton	Davis
Bachus	Buyer	Deal
Baker (CA)	Calvert	DeLay
Ballenger	Camp	Diaz-Balart
Barr	Campbell	Dickey
Barrett (NE)	Canady	Doolittle
Bartlett	Castle	Dornan
Barton	Chabot	Dreier
Bass	Chambliss	Duncan
Bateman	Chenoweth	Dunn
Bereuter	Christensen	Ehlers
Bilbray	Chryslers	Ehrlich
Bilirakis	Clinger	Emerson
Bliley	Coble	English
Blute	Coburn	Ensign
Boehlert	Collins (GA)	Everett
Boehner	Combest	Ewing
Bonilla	Condit	Fawell
Bono	Cooley	Fields (TX)
Boucher	Cox	Flanagan
Brownback	Crane	Foley
Bryant (TN)	Crapo	Forbes
Bunn	Cremins	Fowler

Fox	Latham	Roukema
Franks (CT)	LaTourette	Royce
Franks (NJ)	Laughlin	Salmon
Frelinghuysen	Lazio	Sanford
Frisa	Leach	Saxton
Funderburk	Lewis (KY)	Scarborough
Gallely	Lightfoot	Schaefer
Ganske	Linder	Schiff
Gekas	Livingston	Sensenbrenner
Gilchrest	LoBiondo	Shadegg
Gillmor	Longley	Shays
Gilman	Lucas	Shuster
Goodlatte	Manzullo	Skeen
Goodling	Martini	Smith (MI)
Goss	McCollum	Smith (NJ)
Graham	McCrery	Smith (TX)
Greenwood	McDade	Smith (WA)
Gunderson	McHugh	Solomon
Gutknecht	McInnis	Souder
Hancock	McIntosh	Spence
Hansen	McKeon	Stearns
Hastert	Metcalf	Stockman
Hastings (WA)	Mica	Stump
Hayes	Miller (FL)	Talent
Hayworth	Molinari	Tate
Hefley	Moorhead	Tauzin
Heineman	Morella	Taylor (MS)
Herger	Myers	Taylor (NC)
Hilleary	Myrick	Thomas
Hobson	Nethercutt	Thornberry
Hoekstra	Neumann	Tiahrt
Hoke	Ney	Torkildsen
Horn	Norwood	Upton
Hostettler	Nussle	Vucanovich
Houghton	Oxley	Waldholtz
Hunter	Parker	Walker
Hutchinson	Paxon	Walsh
Hyde	Petri	Wamp
Inglis	Pombo	Watts (OK)
Istook	Porter	Weldon (FL)
Johnson (CT)	Portman	Weldon (PA)
Johnson, Sam	Pryce	Weller
Jones	Quillen	White
Kasich	Quinn	Whitfield
Kelly	Ramstad	Wicker
Kim	Regula	Wolf
King	Riggs	Young (AK)
Kingston	Roberts	Young (FL)
Klug	Rogers	Zeliff
Knollenberg	Rohrabacher	Zimmer
LaHood	Ros-Lehtinen	
Largent	Roth	

NAYS—178

Abercrombie	Evans	Lewis (GA)
Ackerman	Farr	Lincoln
Andrews	Fattah	Lipinski
Baesler	Fazio	Lofgren
Baldacci	Fields (LA)	Lowe
Barcia	Flake	Luther
Barrett (WI)	Foglietta	Maloney
Beilenson	Ford	Markey
Bentsen	Frank (MA)	Mascara
Berman	Frost	Matsui
Bevill	Furse	McCarthy
Bishop	Gejdenson	McDermott
Bonior	Gephardt	McHale
Borski	Geren	McKinney
Brewster	Gonzalez	McNulty
Browder	Gordon	Meehan
Brown (CA)	Gutierrez	Meek
Brown (FL)	Hall (OH)	Menendez
Brown (OH)	Hall (TX)	Miller (CA)
Cardin	Hamilton	Minge
Clayton	Hastings (FL)	Mink
Clement	Hefner	Moakley
Clyburn	Hilliard	Mollohan
Coleman	Hinche	Montgomery
Collins (MI)	Holden	Moran
Conyers	Hoyer	Murtha
Costello	Jackson (IL)	Nadler
Coyne	Jackson-Lee	Neal
Cramer	(TX)	Oberstar
Danner	Jacobs	Obey
de la Garza	Jefferson	Olver
DeFazio	Johnson (SD)	Orton
DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.	Owens
Dellums	Johnston	Pallone
Deutsch	Kanjorski	Pastor
Dicks	Kaptur	Payne (NJ)
Dingell	Kennedy (MA)	Payne (VA)
Dixon	Kennedy (RI)	Pelosi
Doggett	Kennelly	Peterson (FL)
Dooley	Kildee	Peterson (MN)
Doyle	Kleczka	Pickett
Durbin	Klink	Pomeroy
Edwards	LaFalce	Poshard
Engel	Lantos	Rahall
Eshoo	Levin	Rangel

Reed	Slaughter	Traficant
Richardson	Spratt	Velazquez
Rivers	Stark	Vento
Roemer	Stenholm	Visclosky
Roybal-Allard	Stokes	Volkmer
Rush	Studds	Ward
Sabo	Stupak	Waters
Sawyer	Tanner	Watt (NC)
Schroeder	Tejeda	Waxman
Schumer	Thompson	Williams
Scott	Thornton	Wise
Serrano	Thurman	Woolsey
Sisisky	Torres	Wyden
Skaggs	Torricelli	Yates
Skelton	Towns	

NOT VOTING—26

Baker (LA)	Green	Packard
Becerra	Harman	Radanovich
Bryant (TX)	Kolbe	Rose
Callahan	Lewis (CA)	Sanders
Chapman	Manton	Seastrand
Clay	Martinez	Shaw
Collins (IL)	Meyers	Wilson
Filner	Mfume	Wynn
Gibbons	Ortiz	

□ 1922

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 28 on House Resolution 355 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2657. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Ruth and Billy Graham.

REQUEST TO DISCHARGE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2854, AGRICULTURE MARKET TRANSITION ACT

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Agriculture and Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the bill H.R. 2854, the Agriculture Market Transition Act, and that it shall be in order today to consider the bill in the House, and that all points of order against the bill and against its consideration be waived; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture; (2) one amendment, if offered, by Representative DE LA GARZA of Texas or his designee, said amendment to be debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be

equally divided and controlled by the proponent and a Member opposed thereto, and all points of order against the amendment be waived; and (3) one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive speakers and recorded on page 534 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Agriculture Market Transition Act, H.R. 2854, has been cleared for floor consideration by the Republican side. Am I to understand that the Democrat side has objection to consideration of this bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot respond to that. That is not an appropriate parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. ROBERTS. It may not be appropriate, but it sure as hell is true.

Mr. VOLKMER. Regular order, Mr. Speaker, Regular order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is attempting to keep order. The gentleman from Missouri and his comrades are not helping at the moment.

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE FROM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996, TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1996, AND ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE FROM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996, OR THEREAFTER, TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 141) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 141

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, February 1, 1996, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 1996, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, February 1, 1996, Tuesday, February 6, 1996, Wednesday, February 7, 1996, Thursday, February 8, 1996, Tuesday, February 13, 1996, Wednesday, February 14, 1996, or Thursday, February 15, 1996, pursuant to a motion made by the majority leader or his designee in accordance with this resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 1996, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the majority leader of the Senate, acting jointly