

western nations. All of us can take a full measure of satisfaction in Poland's many accomplishments. I look forward to the continuing close work between the United States and Poland on behalf of our many shared interests. Together we can further peace and prosperity in Europe.

I urge adoption of the resolution.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate with the Polish people the 205th anniversary of the adoption of Poland's first Constitution. As the first liberal Constitution in Europe in 1791, it was preceded only by our own Constitution in 1787. This Polish document established a constitutional monarch and recognized the peasants for the first time as members of the nation. Mirroring our constitution, it too established three independent branches of government. It also carries the honor of being the first constitution established through a peaceful revolution.

Unfortunately, this expression of liberty to all, by rule by majority, and religious freedom survived for less than 2 years as it became a moral threat to the neighboring absolute monarchies. Poland lost its independence that year when it was partitioned by Imperial Russia and Prussia. Only in the last 5 years has Poland again emerged as an independent nation through the fall of communism.

Currently, free Poland enjoys open elections and economic success. The return of democratic principles to this nation has elevated its hopes for inclusion in the North American Treaty Organization [NATO] and full incorporation into the European Union.

With Chicago the largest Polish city next to Warsaw, and with many of her immigrants residing in my district, I am pleased to support this resolution which honors the advancement of democracy in a country close to my heart and the hearts of my constituents.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 165, which congratulates the Polish people around the world as they commemorate the 205th anniversary of Poland's first Constitution. I am proud to join Representatives QUINN, KLECZKA, FLANAGAN, and HOKE as an original cosponsor of this resolution.

Inspired by our landmark Constitution, the people of Poland in 1791 adopted a constitution with guarantees of individual and religious freedoms, and the creation of distinct legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The concepts of constitutional democracy that were embodied in the Polish Constitution were introduced to Poland by American Revolutionary War hero Thaddeus Kosciuszko. Designed to create a progressive constitutional monarchy, the 1791 Constitution was the first liberal constitution in Europe and represented Central Europe's first attempt to end feudal government.

Unfortunately, this historic and ground breaking Constitution survived for less than 2 years. In 1793, Russia and Prussia partitioned Poland, and Poland's Constitution was abolished. This loss, however, did not diminish the Polish people's will for achieving the freedoms embodied in the Constitution. For two centuries, the principles of the 1791 Constitution endured and inspired a powerful new national consciousness. Poland suffered greatly under imperial and communist rule, but its people never lost sight of the freedoms and rights embodied in the Constitution.

Today, Poland is enjoying its new-found freedoms, pursuing the principles first drafted

in the 1791 Constitution. Poland has emerged from an oppressive Communist state to a vigorous, free-market democracy. Poland is pursuing complete inclusion in the institutions of the western community, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The United States Congress must continue to express its support of Poland as it takes these bold steps into the 21st century.

This month marks the 205th anniversary of the historic Polish Constitution. House Concurrent Resolution 165 demonstrates to the people of Poland, and Polish people around the world, that the United States recognizes Poland's rebirth as a free and independent nation, and will continue its commitment to foster democracy throughout central Europe. This resolution salutes Poland for its patience in realizing the long-awaited principles of the 1791 Constitution, and expresses support for Poland's challenges in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution. The Polish people will be grateful to know that the United States House of Representatives stands shoulder-to-shoulder with them as they enjoy the freedoms that were so eloquently declared in the 1791 Polish Constitution.

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 165 commemorating the 205th anniversary of the Polish Constitution.

In the two centuries that have passed since this Constitution was adopted, Poland and its people have endured great tragedy and turmoil. But through these years—from the partition of Poland at the end of the 18th century, to the Napoleonic Wars, which resulted in the disappearance of the country until the end of World War I, the tragedies of World War II, and over 40 years of Communist rule, the love of the Polish people for freedom and democracy has never diminished.

It is fitting that the nation with the first liberal constitution in Europe, and the first modern constitution established through a peaceful revolution, was also the first nation to break free from the Soviet empire and establish the first of the new democracies in Europe.

As Poland was a leader more than 200 years ago, so it is a leader now. Its example of a successful transition to democracy in 1989 is a beacon of hope not only for other nations of Eastern Europe but for nations around the world. I congratulate the Polish people on the 205th anniversary of their Constitution and share their confidence that its successful democracy will continue to flourish into the 21st century.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 165.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 165, concurrent resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 167) recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear powerplant.

The clerk read as follows:

### H. CON. RES. 167

Whereas April 26, 1996, marks the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/134 declares April 26, 1996, as the International Day Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident and encourages member states to commemorate this tragic event;

Whereas serious radiological, health, and socioeconomic consequences for the populations of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, as well as for the populations of other affected areas, have been identified since the disaster;

Whereas over 3,500,000 inhabitants of the affected areas, including over 1,000,000 children, were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation;

Whereas the populations of the affected areas, especially children, have experienced significant increases in thyroid cancer, immune deficiency diseases, birth defects, and other conditions, and these trends have accelerated over the 10 years since the disaster;

Whereas the lives and health of people in the affected areas continue to be heavily burdened by the ongoing effects of the Chernobyl accident;

Whereas numerous charitable, humanitarian, and environmental organizations from the United States and the international community have committed to overcome the extensive consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

Whereas the United States has sought to help the people of Ukraine through various forms of assistance;

Whereas humanitarian assistance and public health research into Chernobyl's consequences will be needed in the coming decades when the greatest number of latent health effects is expected to emerge;

Whereas on December 20, 1995, the Ukrainian Government, the governments of the G-7 countries, and the Commission of the European Communities signed a memorandum of understanding to support the decision of Ukraine to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000 with adequate support from the G-7 countries and international financial institutions;

Whereas the United States strongly supports the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear

power plant and improving nuclear safety in Ukraine; and

Whereas representatives of Ukraine, the G-7 countries, and international financial institutions will meet at least annually to monitor implementation of the program to close Chernobyl: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) recognizes April 26, 1996, as the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster;

(2) urges the Government of Ukraine to continue its negotiations with the G-7 countries to implement the December 20, 1995, memorandum of understanding which calls for all nuclear reactors at Chernobyl to be shut down in a safe and expeditious manner; and

(3) calls upon the President—

(A) to support continued and enhanced United States assistance to provide medical relief, humanitarian assistance, social impact planning, and hospital development for Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and other nations most heavily afflicted by Chernobyl's aftermath;

(B) to encourage national and international health organizations to expand the scope of research into the public health consequences of Chernobyl, so that the global community can benefit from the findings of such research;

(C) to support the process of closing the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in an expeditious manner as envisioned by the December 20, 1995, memorandum of understanding; and

(D) to support the broadening of Ukraine's regional energy sources which will reduce its dependence on any individual country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 167, a resolution noting the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor explosion.

At 1:23 a.m. on April 26, 1986, a test conducted on reactor No. 4 at the nuclear facility at Chernobyl, Ukraine, resulted in catastrophe. An explosion in the reactor core destroyed a large part of the reactor building.

Since the entire facility had been built without any containment dome, there was no way for the reactor personnel to prevent the release into the atmosphere—and into the wind—of huge amounts of radioactive materials. The total amount of radiation released in the course of this terrible incident is estimated by many to exceed that released by the atomic bomb blast at Hiroshima, Japan in 1945.

Mr. Speaker, as we note the passage of the 10th anniversary of this catastrophe, I would like to provide my colleagues with some estimates of the damage caused over the last 10 years in the countries of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia by the catastrophe of April 26, 1986:

Millions of residents of the countries of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia live on lands contaminated by radiation;

Thyroid cancers have risen dramatically among children of the surrounding region; and

Radiation continues to work its way into the food chain, and the danger of the further spread of radiation from the site of the destroyed reactor is growing—even now, the concrete sarcophagus surrounding the destroyed reactor is believed to be in danger of collapse.

Meanwhile, energy-starved Ukraine continues to operate two remaining reactors at the site, dependent on their electrical output to make it through the difficult time of economic transformation through which that country is now going.

The danger at Chernobyl continues, however. As recently as November of last year, a serious radiation leak occurred when a nuclear fuel rod split open during refueling of reactor No. 1.

Mr. Speaker, this is a grave situation, and one that requires the world's attention and concern.

I am, therefore, pleased to support and cosponsor this resolution, which not only notes the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl reactor explosion, but reminds us that the problem of unsafe reactors remains with us today at Chernobyl and at other sites across the former Soviet Union.

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

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

We rise in strong support of this resolution and commend the chairman for bringing it before the House. We want to commend the humanitarian relief organizations and the individuals who have cared for the victims of the Chernobyl disaster. Their work has been supported by U.S., European and other international assistance.

Over the last 4 years, the United States has sent \$100 million worth of humanitarian and medical assistance to Ukraine. U.S. assistance has also helped provide Ukraine with alternative energy sources that would facilitate the closing of nuclear power stations.

On this anniversary, the United States also garnered private donations for a combined government-private package of humanitarian and medical assistance for the region's victims. The international community, including G-7, obligated \$3 billion in grants and loans for power sector restructuring, least-cost energy investments, nuclear safety and a plan addressing the social impact of Chernobyl's closure.

We are also pleased with the Government of Ukraine's commitment to closing the Chernobyl power station in a safe manner by the year 2000. Ukraine faces tremendous concerns with regard to finding energy sources. Yet, achieving nuclear safety is key for Ukraine. It is also one of the most important goals for its European neighbors and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the chairman mentioned that the destructive power of Chernobyl was greater than Hiroshima. I understand it was 400 times as large and that nuclear radiation has actually gone up into the atmosphere and may very well be affecting all of us. So this is a very important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE].

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl explosion. Although one decade has passed since this deadly explosion, the aftermath and the truth remain very clouded. The 7.6 tons of 200 different radioactive substances released into the atmosphere over Ukraine and neighboring nations continue to cause sickness and misery.

I am especially concerned about the state of the millions of children who suffered and continue to suffer from the long-term effects of radiation. The highly toxic heavy metals have caused an increase in children's thyroid gland cancer, children's diabetes and anemia. The medical effects still plague the affected regions which include parts of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia. Scientists discovered inherited genetic damage in victims exposed to Chernobyl's radiation spillage. In fact a study in the *Nature* journal states that children born in Belarus in 1994 to parents who lived in the area during the meltdown suffered from twice the normal rate of a specific type of mutation.

I should say, Mr. Speaker, particularly the point about Chernobyl and, as the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] mentioned the fact, that there has been so much support and humanitarian relief provided to the countries effected by private citizens, really mostly here in the United States, was brought home to me very vividly a few years ago when in my own district, that has a large Ukraine and Belarussian population, there was a fund raiser, basically a relief fund raiser to help the victims of Chernobyl.

I had been to some of those efforts that have been held in my district, again by private citizens and organizations over the last 5 or 6 years. I was particularly impressed with the efforts on the part of some of the Belarussian organizations in my district. My wife happens to be of Belarussian descent. She also has been very concerned to make sure that we continue to help those victims of Chernobyl.

In addition to the medical effects, the impact of the environmental damage is still felt today. The 1986 meltdown contaminated 100,000 square miles of once arable lands in Belarus. That is about 20 percent of the agricultural land; in Ukraine, 8 percent; and even within the Russian Federation, 1 percent. This irradiated soil poses seemingly endless problems for these countries' agrarian communities.

On April 26, 1991, the fifth anniversary of the meltdown, I introduced a

resolution in the House urging the Soviet Government to take steps to evacuate people still living in the affected areas to decontaminate the Kiev reservoir, cease the planning, construction, and operation of other nuclear facilities in the Ukraine and asked for international supervision of existing facilities.

In an effort to build cooperation between the United States and Ukraine, I believe our country should provide technical and medical expertise to assist the people who continue to suffer while working with all of the newly independent states of the former USSR to make sure that a disaster on the order of Chernobyl never happens again.

As world leaders, we must continue to urge the United States to lead international efforts to prevent future disasters. Last year our Government joined with Ukraine and several other G-7 nations in a memorandum of understanding to close the Chernobyl plant by the year 2000.

I just want to say that this action in the memorandum will not only close the nuclear plant but it will assist Ukraine in developing a safer, more vibrant self-sustaining energy sector. I think it is very important to help Ukraine in trying to find alternatives to nuclear power and to eventually close the Chernobyl plant.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], the original sponsor of this measure, who is also the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of our full Committee on International Relations of yielding time to me and for expeditiously moving this legislation through our full committee and bringing it to the floor today.

House Concurrent Resolution 167 is an important and timely resolution which recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the worst in recorded history, and supports the closing of the remaining reactors in that plant.

Several weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, on April 23, I chaired a Helsinki Commission hearing that examined the devastating consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. Four experts on the subject of Chernobyl, including the ambassadors of Ukraine and Belarus, the two countries most gravely affected by the disaster, gave sobering accounts of the profound medical, environmental, economic, and political consequences of the disaster.

Mr. Speaker, as I think most Members know, in the early morning of April 26, 1986 10 years ago, reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded, releasing massive quantities of radioactive substances into the atmosphere. As a matter of fact, some of the experts who have looked at this

carefully have suggested that as much as 200 times the amount of radiation released at both Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined was released as a result of that explosion.

□ 1515

The highest level of radioactive fallout was registered in the vicinity immediately surrounding Chernobyl, near the Ukrainian-Belorussian border.

This expression of Congress draws attention to the ongoing tragedy. Ten years ago, Mr. Speaker, millions of people, including about 1 million children, were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation. Since then children, in particular, have experienced alarming increases in thyroid cancer and other conditions, including early childhood diabetes, anemia, and illnesses associated with general fatigue. One World Health Organization expert recently forecast that the total number of thyroid cancers among children in the contaminated zones may ultimately reach 10,000. These trends have accelerated since the disaster and are expected to increase well into the future.

One of the witnesses at our hearing talked about the fact that many of the people who moved out of the affected areas who used to have farms there have grown impatient and have moved back to farm. Many are not eating the produce and selling some of it in Kiev putting some at risk of contamination. Indeed, stomach cancers are now beginning to manifest themselves among the people in these affected areas.

Mr. Speaker, given these devastating consequences, House Concurrent Resolution 167 calls upon the President to support continued and enhanced United States assistance to provide medical relief, humanitarian assistance, social impact planning and hospital development for the Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia and encourages national and international health organizations to expand the scope of research into the public health consequences of Chernobyl.

Let me just remind Members as well that there are still scattered throughout Russia some 15 different sites where Chernobyl-type reactors are today in operation. So the prospects and the specter of this kind of thing happening not just on the Chernobyl side itself, where the reactors continued to be used, but also throughout Russia, leading to what I would consider to be a unmitigated disaster should this happen again.

So we need, I think, to be encouraging the closure of those as well and upgrading if they need nuclear power, doing it in a way that is environmentally sound and safe.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important components of this resolution is that it does indeed urge the Ukraine to continue its negotiations with the G-7 to implement the December 20, 1995, memorandum of understanding which calls for all nuclear reactors at

Chernobyl to be shut down in a safe and expeditious manner by the year 2000. The resolution calls upon the President to support the process of closing Chernobyl, as envisioned by the MOU, recognizing, of course, the tremendous costs involved and its impact on the country that is undergoing a transition from a Communist state to a market oriented economy. They do have energy needs. We need to take that into consideration and assist them in every way we can.

Among the most important components of the MOU is the G-7 financial commitment, mostly in loans, as well as some grants, to help Ukrainians impose market discipline on that country's very inefficient energy sector and make it more rational and self-sustaining.

Finally, the resolution supports the broadening of Ukraine's regional energy resources, which will reduce its dependence on an individual country.

Mr. Speaker, the international community, including the U.S. Government and many nongovernmental organizations, are indeed responding to the consequences of Chernobyl, but more needs to be done, especially as Ukraine and the Belarus, the countries again that bore the brunt of Chernobyl, are undergoing this transitional period.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Members to support this measure and then, when we get down to appropriate humanitarian aid later on in the year, to support the kind of resources that will help make the mitigation of this crisis a reality.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH] for his sponsorship of this measure and his eloquent remarks in support of the resolution.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished chief Democratic whip of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR], who is also a very strong supporter of the resolution commemorating the 205th anniversary of the adoption of Poland's first constitution.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Virginia, Mr. MORAN, for yielding me the time and for his concern of the peoples of Eastern Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and commend my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, for bringing it to the floor of the House of Representatives.

Many of us joined in commemorations of this anniversary over the past month in churches and town halls in our communities and at a very special event at the White House.

Mr. Speaker, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster was a silent killer, and people will continue to feel its direct effects well into the next millennium.

Millions of lives have been unalterably changed by it.

Sickness, death and dispossession arrived, stayed, and have yet to leave.

On April 26, 1986, reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl atomic energy station ignited, causing an explosion, fire, and partial meltdown of the reactor core.

Ten years have now passed since that terrible day.

Today, the ghosts of history's worst nuclear disaster cannot be avoided in the pines and the farmland, now overgrown, that surround Chernobyl.

The city of Pripyat, once home to 40,000, sits empty.

Dozens of villages have been abandoned.

The 134,000 people who were evacuated from the area won't be returning to their homes.

An area the size of Rhode Island is now a dead zone.

The health effects are equally astonishing.

Sadly, cancer among children has tripled.

Ukraine now has the highest rate of infertility in the world.

Birth defects have nearly doubled.

Mr. Speaker, our government, many charitable organizations and individuals have contributed to efforts to recover from the disaster.

We must continue those efforts, and we must enhance them for the people of Ukraine.

Ukraine faces many challenges, not the least of which are the human and economic costs of coping with the effects of Chernobyl.

Today we must pause to remember those who lost their lives and those whose lives were changed forever.

We learned many lessons from that tragedy ten years ago, and now we must move forward and help our friends in Ukraine prepare for the future.

That is why supporting this resolution is so important.

We remember the past and learn from the past.

But we also look forward to a future in which Ukraine and the United States will enjoy even closer ties, and the people of Ukraine will be able to build a new future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join us in passing this resolution today.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding humanitarian work that has been done over the last few years by a group of high school students in my district in New York.

The Ramapo High School Children of Chernobyl fund has provided \$12 million in medicines and other contributions to children in Belarus who were affected by exposure to the Chornobyl radiation.

I am so pleased to note for my colleagues such thoughtful, charitable young people.

I am certain those children in Belarus who have benefitted from these students' humanitarian efforts would want this Congress to know of their helping hand and hearts.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 167.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all members have five legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 67, the measure just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3415, REPEAL OF 4.3-CENT INCREASE IN TRANSPORTATION FUEL TAXES

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 436 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 436

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3415) to amend to Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent increase in the transportation motor fuels excise tax rates enacted by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and dedicated to the general fund of the Treasury. All points of order against the bill and against its consideration are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, 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, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend, the gentleman from south Boston, MA [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3415, legislation to repeal the 4.3 cent increase in the motor fuel excise tax that was instituted back in 1993. This is closed rule providing for 1 hour of debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against the bill and its consideration.

The rule provides for adoption of the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report. The amendment which was crafted by the chairman of the Committee on Commerce is intended to ensure that the revenue loss from the repeal of the Clinton gas tax is fully offset.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton has had a somewhat spotty and inconsistent record of aligning words with deeds, particularly when it comes to the issues of both taxes and balancing the budget. It began with promises that he made during that 1992 presidential campaign. He promised to provide middle-income families with a tax cut as well as balance the Federal budget. Upon election, his tax cut proposal changed as fast as the calendar turned. The budget deal he struck with the Democrat-controlled Congress in 1993 raised taxes by \$275 billion over 5 years. It was clearly the largest tax increase in history. Incredibly, it also allowed Federal spending to increase by \$300 billion. His so-called deficit reduction was projected to add \$1 trillion to the national debt.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there was no tax cut for middle-income families in the President's 1993 budget.

□ 1600

That budget was a tax increase, plain and simple. It was a \$275 billion tax increase needed for two reasons: so the President could spend money on new Federal programs and cut less waste from old Federal programs.

In light of the President's promise of a middle-class tax cut, the most egregious tax increase in the President's 1993 tax increase bill was a 4.3 cent a gallon increase in the Federal motor fuel excise tax. President Clinton enacted, without a single vote from Republicans in the Congress, the first increase in the gas tax that was not directly tied to spending on highways and bridges. Let me repeat that. It was the first time ever that a gasoline tax increase was imposed that was not tied directly towards spending on highways and bridges.

Mr. Speaker, this tax increase targeted middle-income working families, placing a bull's-eye on the wallet of every American that drives to work, goes to the mall, or packs the family into the car to take a vacation.