

use the market system to give people a choice and let them decide what is best for them. We can aggressively fight waste and abuse, which cost billions of dollars to the Medicare fund every year.

Mr. Speaker, such a plan was successfully passed in the last Congress. Unfortunately, the President chose to veto it. We have a unique opportunity in this Congress to produce such a solution again. Let us work together on a bipartisan basis, let us seize the day, let us save Medicare.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON K. SEARCY

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the citizens of Atlanta to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of Brandon Searcy. Brandon Searcy was just 8 years old. He was the victim of a senseless and hideous crime.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of world do we live in when an 8-year-old child is stalked and preyed upon, when it is no longer safe for a child to walk a block to a school bus stop?

Brandon Searcy was a special child, a gifted child. He was the light and the joy of his mother Kimala Searcy. He loved school and he loved the Lord, and he was dedicated to both.

Brandon was a member of the First Norman Grove Baptist Church in Scottdale, GA. He often took notes during the pastor's sermons, and he and sister, Algerica, would sing with joy their favorite song, "Shake the Devil Off."

Brandon was a second grade student at Cleveland Avenue Elementary School where he excelled as an honor student on the principal's list. He loved to play baseball and his ambition was to go to college and then become a professional baseball player.

Mr. Speaker, Brandon Searcy's favorite passage from the Bible was the 23d Psalm. It reads in part, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Brandon Searcy, Mr. Speaker, will surely dwell in the house of the Lord forever. He will be remembered and he will be missed by all who knew him and many who never had the good fortune. God bless Brandon Searcy.

WE NEED TRUTH IN LENDING AND TRUTH IN LEGISLATING

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed that so far in this Congress we have not yet seen any sincere effort to cut any spending. The latest ploy has been the Treasury report that claims the deficit is shrinking up to

nothing. In the first 6 months of this year we are in deficit of \$101 billion and this is claimed to be a victory, thus taking off the pressure to work harder to cut spending. How did they do this?

The first thing we did was we sent the IRS agents out and hounded the American people and collected \$28 billion more than they did in the first 6 months of the last fiscal year. But they did something else. They keep borrowing from the trust funds. They borrow from the Social Security fund, further jeopardizing that whole program. Looking at the statistics more carefully, they claim the deficit is \$111, but during the past 12 months our national debt went up \$241 billion. There is no way to predict what the next 6 months will bring. Interest rates may rise, revenues may dwindle if the markets and the economy slumps.

I think that we ought to have some truth in lending and truth in legislating here by honestly telling the American people that there is something wrong here that could and should be adjusted with decreased spending, not raising taxes and not further robbing the Social Security trust fund.

MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT DUE TODAY

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Today, the Medicare trustees are due to report on the projected solvency of the Medicare part A trust fund. As we all recall, last year's report predicted the part A trust fund would be insolvent by the year 2001 without reform. We also know that in 1996 the trust fund lost \$25 million a day and is now losing over \$30 million a day.

Ladies and gentlemen of this House, this is unacceptable. The state of the Medicare Program warrants serious discussion proposing genuine solutions. A recent proposal introduced in the House would add provider-sponsored organizations to the managed care options available to Medicare beneficiaries. By allowing groups of affiliated providers to organize and deliver a broad base of health care services, we can offer new choices for quality care that is community based. For a rural district like mine, increased choice is a welcome opportunity. Whether your district is rural, urban, or suburban, we all know that localized solutions work best.

I ask Members to support that measure.

DEFENSE DIVERSIFICATION ON DISPLAY IN NEW FILM

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, this last Friday we celebrated Steven

Spielberg's filming at a former defense facility, not a war movie but a movie about slaves who revolted and freed themselves. As exciting as the topic of the story is, it was exciting to see defense diversification at work. Sonalyst Studios has the best sound stage in America. It used the sound technology it developed during the cold war with submarines and submarine quieting to build a sound stage.

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Now a company is diversified, helping the economy of eastern Connecticut, providing jobs and then entertainment for the country. While we are still suffering some of the effects of the defense downsizing and the bad economy of the early nineties, small companies like Sonalyst Studios Ship Analysis and Technologies are taking their defense technologies and diversifying, expanding our economy and building the economy of the entire country. This event Friday night was spectacular to see some of the best in the entertainment industry coming to eastern Connecticut. Using our facilities at Sonalyst Studios is hopefully going to set a pattern for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, we have still got pains in defense downsizing but it is exciting to see these companies using their own resources and investment to broaden their economic activity, benefiting the entire community.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for one moment?

Mr. GEJDENSON. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say to my friend that we are happy to see the entertainment industry moving to Connecticut partially, but we want them to know that their home continues to be in southern California, and we hope very much they will continue to make base there.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would say that we are happy at this stage to just have a small piece of what is happening in southern California, and we will fight over the larger share later.

DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY COMPLETELY MISSES THE POINT ON DEATH TAXES

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

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Deputy Treasury Secretary, Lawrence Summers, condemned efforts to ease Federal death taxes saying these were motivated by, and I am quoting him here, selfishness. I believe it is nothing short of an outrage for an administrative official who has such important influence over tax policy to make a statement like this.

Secretary Summers completely misses the point on death taxes. The fact is whether it is small business or family farmers or others, they spend

thousands of hours and tens of thousands of dollars, in many cases a year, on estate planning to forestall the selloff of that family farm or that small business which results in the loss of jobs back at home in our districts. This is time and money that would be far better spent on buying new equipment and expanding operations so new jobs and more jobs and better wages can be created.

Now as we continue this debate we cannot lose sight of the heavy costs that death taxes impose each and every year on our communities and our country. If we stress this enough here in Congress, hopefully the folks down at Treasury will finally open their eyes and ears to the real world.

JOIN IN COSPONSORING H.R. 14

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to once again encourage my colleagues to join as cosponsors of H.R. 14, the bill that a number of Democrats and Republicans introduced on the opening day, to put 14 percent as the top rate on capital gains. My friend from New York was just talking about the administration's opposition to dealing with our attempt to repeal the death tax. I am happy to say on capital gains, the job creation and savings encouragement measure, that we have an indication of some support coming from the White House.

I hope very much that we can move beyond our 130-plus Democrats and Republicans as cosponsors because reducing the top rate on capital gains will clearly create jobs, increase the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury, and by \$1,500 a year increase the take-home pay for working Americans. Reducing the top rate on capital is in fact a family, permanent family tax cut, and I hope everyone will join in cosponsoring H.R. 14.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1274, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 127 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 127

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1274) to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consid-

eration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. BURTON of Indiana). The gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Ms. SLAUGHTER], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 127 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1274, the National Institute of Standards Technology Authorization Act of 1997. The purpose of the legislation is to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 1998 and 1999. House Resolution 127 waives points of order against the consideration of the bill for failure to comply with the 3 day availability of committee reports rule. In addition the rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science.

After general debate, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill. Each section shall be considered as read. Further, the Chair would be authorized to grant priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the National Institute of Standards and Technology is the Nation's oldest Federal laboratory, serving as the Nation's dispute arbiter of standards in complex technologies. I look forward to an open and full debate and will defer to the Committee on Science for an indepth explanation as to the bill's merits and complexities. The Committee on Rules' hearing on this bill was extremely cordial and bipartisan, which I believe is an accurate reflection of the manner in which the Committee on Science handled this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the rule before us, I believe, is an exemplary rule, it is fair, it is completely open, and I would urge its adoption.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I support this open rule which will allow us to consider H.R. 1274, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act. NIST, as it is called is an essential institution because it works with the U.S. industries to develop and implement innovative technologies and electronics, supercomputers, and microwave communications for other agencies and private business.

H.R. 1274 includes two important programs which are not funded in last year's bill: the advanced technology program, ATP, and the manufacturing extension partnership. ATP encourages public-private cooperation in the development of technologies with broad application across industries. In my own district in upstate New York, ATP funds allow businesses like TROPEL Corp. and Eastman Kodak to produce new technologies that benefit our entire Nation. While I might have hoped for an authorization level closer to the President's request, I am encouraged that this year's bill does authorize ATP.

High technology of Rochester and another countless projects benefit from NIST's manufacturing extension program. This program helps small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies to utilize the technologies developed under the auspices of NIST. Manufacturing extension partnerships benefit all 50 States and Puerto Rico.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill which will continue authorization for the NIST, the Nation's oldest Federal laboratory. I hope they will join me in supporting this open rule.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on the rule.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and