

Thursday. But I would rather wait until then to determine the level of intensity on our side.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. If I could just reclaim my time, is the gentleman saying that an hour would not be an appropriate amount of time to debate the substitute?

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. I am hopeful we can reach agreement on an hour, but I would like to reserve that right until Thursday and make that determination at that time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support for H.R. 2, the Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act. As a cosponsor of this important legislation I believe that it will go a long way toward reforming our current public housing system. I am particularly enthusiastic about Title IV, the Home Rule Flexible Grant Option, portion of the overall legislation. The provisions included in Title IV would provide local government leaders with the flexibility to implement new locally developed proposals for meeting the specific housing needs of their communities.

Whereas under our current system Public Housing Authorities administer all aspects of sometimes highly regulated Federal housing programs, this new grant would give interested localities the flexibility to implement new innovative programs targeted to meet the housing needs of their own citizens.

In the city of Lima, a town in my district, a situation has developed recently that has divided local housing authorities and local government leaders. The situation began when the city's Public Housing Authority went forward with plans to build 28 scattered-site low-income public housing units. With city officials contending that these units are not scattered, and in fact concentrated in one particular area of the city, they filed suit contending that the Public Housing Authority broke Ohio law by not presenting the project to the Lima Planning Commission before going ahead with construction. In an effort to bring both sides together and resolve their differences, at my request, a meeting was set up between HUD officials and officials from the Lima City Council. In fact, a public meeting was also held on this issue, again with HUD officials being present. While HUD officials soon agreed with city officials that indeed they had some legitimate concerns on the 28 scattered-site housing units being congested in one area, ultimately no concrete resolutions came out of these meetings.

Unfortunately, the situation worsened. With no resolution from the meetings, and with the city proceeding with the lawsuit, city officials soon found themselves receiving a letter of warning from HUD. The letter stated that as a result of the city's lawsuit against the Public Housing Authority, the department would therefore be withholding funds for both the city's Community Development Block Grant and HOME Programs.

Clearly this situation should never have developed to the point where HUD bureaucrats would feel the need to threaten to withhold funds for programs that have absolutely nothing to do with the city's initial lawsuit. In fact, had all sides sat down and actually addressed each others concerns in the first place, all of this could have possibly been resolved.

It is this exact situation that Title IV of H.R. 2 aims to address. By encouraging city offi-

cials and Public Housing Authorities to work together to meet the housing needs of their community, conflicts such as the one taking place in Lima today can be averted. While both sides in this dispute clearly have the best interests of community in mind, it is the current housing program framework itself that has pitted both sides against one another. It is clear to me that the Home Rule Flexible Grant Option provisions in this bill would help to encourage greater cooperation between Public Housing Authorities and local elected officials.

As one who has witnessed first-hand the negative consequences of having local Public Housing Authorities and local government leaders work at odds with each other, it is clear to me that this new approach is needed. For these reasons I urge all Members to support passage of the Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. KOLBE] having assumed the chair, Mr. LAHOOD, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2) to repeal the United States Housing Act of 1937, deregulate the public housing program and the program for rental housing assistance for low-income families, and increase community control over such programs, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 590

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. JOHNSON] be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 590.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 695

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 695.

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

There was no objection.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 5, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] that

the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 3, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 124]

YEAS—420

Abercrombie	DeGette	Hostettler
Ackerman	Delahunt	Houghton
Aderholt	DeLauro	Hoyer
Allen	DeLay	Hulshof
Andrews	Dellums	Hunter
Archer	Deutscher	Hutchinson
Armey	Diaz-Balart	Hyde
Bachus	Dickey	Inglis
Baesler	Dicks	Istook
Baker	Dingell	Jackson (IL)
Baldacci	Dixon	Jackson-Lee
Ballenger	Doggett	(TX)
Barcia	Dooley	Jefferson
Barr	Doolittle	Jenkins
Barrett (NE)	Doyle	John
Barrett (WI)	Dreier	Johnson (CT)
Bartlett	Duncan	Johnson (WI)
Barton	Dunn	Johnson, E.B.
Bass	Edwards	Johnson, Sam
Bentsen	Ehlers	Jones
Bereuter	Ehrlich	Kanjorski
Berman	Emerson	Kaptur
Berry	Engel	Kasich
Bilbray	English	Kelly
Bilirakis	Ensign	Kennedy (MA)
Bishop	Eshoo	Kennedy (RI)
Bliley	Etheridge	Kennelly
Blumenauer	Evans	Kildee
Blunt	Everett	Kilpatrick
Boehlert	Ewing	Kim
Boehner	Farr	Kind (WI)
Bonilla	Fattah	King (NY)
Bonior	Fawell	Kingston
Bono	Fazio	Klecza
Borski	Filner	Klink
Boswell	Flake	Klug
Boucher	Foglietta	Knollenberg
Boyd	Foley	Kolbe
Brady	Forbes	Kucinich
Brown (CA)	Ford	LaFalce
Brown (FL)	Fowler	Lampson
Brown (OH)	Fox	Lantos
Bryant	Frank (MA)	Largent
Bunning	Franks (NJ)	Latham
Burr	Frelinghuysen	LaTourette
Burton	Frost	Lazio
Buyer	Furse	Leach
Callahan	Gallegly	Levin
Calvert	Ganske	Lewis (CA)
Camp	Gejdenson	Lewis (GA)
Campbell	Gekas	Lewis (KY)
Canady	Gephardt	Linder
Cannon	Gibbons	Lipinski
Capps	Gilchrest	Livingston
Cardin	Gillmor	LoBiondo
Carson	Gilman	Lofgren
Castle	Gonzalez	Lowe
Chabot	Goode	Lucas
Chambliss	Goodlatte	Luther
Chenoweth	Goodling	Maloney (CT)
Christensen	Gordon	Maloney (NY)
Clay	Goss	Manton
Clayton	Graham	Manzullo
Clement	Granger	Markey
Clyburn	Green	Martinez
Coble	Greenwood	Mascara
Coburn	Gutknecht	Matsui
Collins	Hall (OH)	McCarthy (MO)
Combest	Hall (TX)	McCarthy (NY)
Condit	Hamilton	McCollum
Conyers	Hansen	McCrery
Cook	Harman	McDade
Cooksey	Hastert	McDermott
Costello	Hastings (FL)	McGovern
Cox	Hastings (WA)	McHale
Coyne	Hayworth	McHugh
Cramer	Hefley	McInnis
Crane	Herger	McIntosh
Crapo	Hill	McIntyre
Cubin	Hilleary	McKeon
Cummings	Hilliard	McKinney
Cunningham	Hinchey	McNulty
Danner	Hinojosa	Meehan
Davis (FL)	Hobson	Meek
Davis (IL)	Hoekstra	Menendez
Davis (VA)	Holden	Metcalfe
Deal	Hoolley	Mica
DeFazio	Horn	

Millender-	Ramstad	Spence
McDonald	Rangel	Spratt
Miller (CA)	Regula	Stabenow
Miller (FL)	Reyes	Stark
Minge	Riggs	Stearns
Mink	Riley	Stenholm
Moakley	Rivers	Stokes
Molinari	Rodriguez	Strickland
Mollohan	Roemer	Stump
Moran (KS)	Rogan	Stupak
Moran (VA)	Rogers	Sununu
Morella	Rohrabacher	Talent
Murtha	Ros-Lehtinen	Tanner
Myrick	Rothman	Tauscher
Nadler	Roukema	Tauzin
Neal	Roybal-Allard	Taylor (MS)
Nethercutt	Royce	Taylor (NC)
Neumann	Ryun	Thomas
Ney	Sabo	Thompson
Northup	Salmon	Thornberry
Norwood	Sanchez	Thune
Nussle	Sanders	Thurman
Oberstar	Sandlin	Tiahrt
Obey	Sanford	Tierney
Olver	Sawyer	Torres
Ortiz	Saxton	Towns
Owens	Scarborough	Trafficant
Oxley	Schaefer, Dan	Turner
Packard	Schaffer, Bob	Upton
Pallone	Scott	Velazquez
Pappas	Sensenbrenner	Vento
Parker	Serrano	Visclosky
Pascrell	Sessions	Walsh
Paxon	Shadegg	Wamp
Payne	Shaw	Waters
Pease	Shays	Watkins
Pelosi	Sherman	Watt (NC)
Peterson (MN)	Shimkus	Watts (OK)
Peterson (PA)	Shuster	Waxman
Petri	Sisisky	Weldon (FL)
Pickering	Skaggs	Weldon (PA)
Pickett	Skeen	Weller
Pitts	Slaughter	Wexler
Pombo	Smith (MI)	Weygand
Pomeroy	Smith (NJ)	White
Porter	Smith (OR)	Whitfield
Portman	Smith (TX)	Wicker
Poshard	Smith, Adam	Wise
Price (NC)	Smith, Linda	Wolf
Pryce (OH)	Snowbarger	Woolsey
Quinn	Snyder	Wynn
Radanovich	Solomon	Yates
Rahall	Souder	Young (FL)

NAYS—3

Bateman	LaHood	Paul
---------	--------	------

NOT VOTING—10

Becerra	Pastor	Skelton
Blagojevich	Rush	Young (AK)
Gutierrez	Schiff	
Hefner	Schumer	

□ 1828

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 124, I was detained at a meeting with Mr. Bob Nash of the White House personnel office. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HULSHOF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HULSHOF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REPUBLICAN TACTICS HURT
WEAKEST OF OUR CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, this week the Republican Congress will officially take food out of the mouths of babies when they follow the lead of the House Committee on Appropriations. Last week this Republican-controlled committee cut the women, infants and children nutrition program. If the Congress follows their lead, many poor, helpless, underrepresented and overly persecuted American citizens will be without the necessities of life.

Mr. Speaker, the full House of Representatives will soon vote on this bill which, if passed, will cause a cut in WIC nutrition programs of 180,000 women, infants and children who would have to go without food and medicine. These proposed cuts in this program are not fancy frills, but basic staples of life: food and medicine.

I understand the desire of certain Members of this Congress who believe in cutting programs to balance the budget. However, let me assure my colleagues that this is one of the most noble Federal programs that we have ever funded.

Mr. Speaker, I would understand the opposition if the WIC Program were a typical pork barrel project, but it is not. It is not even the equivalent of the recent legislative luxuries proposed by the Republican's own plan to grant a monstrously large and obscene tax break for the Nation's most wealthy.

The WIC Program allocates nothing but bottom line necessities of life: food, nutritious programs and, yes, medicine, the very essential necessities of life.

What on Earth could be objectionable about these programs? It is not a program for the able, it is not a program that feeds foreign kids. It is a program that feeds hungry children here in America. It is a program that protects pregnant women here in America. It is a program that benefits Americans.

Mr. Speaker, these infants who are on the WIC Program do not need to be hurt or harassed by this Congress. They need help. Not only is the House Committee on Appropriations' decision cruel and unusual, but it is ill-advised.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priority, their executive director, Mr. Robert Greenstein stated:

The Appropriation Committee's decision to allow WIC participation levels to be cut by 180,000 low-income women, children and infants is extremely ill-advised.

□ 1845

To agree with cutbacks to the number of poor women and children who

are aided in what is probably known as the singly most successful program which is run in any level of our government is hard to understand.

It may be hard for him to understand, but those of us who have been around in politics for a while understand the realities of the Republican strategy: To take the food out of the mouths of those 180,000 men and women, little kids, to give a tax break, once again, to the wealthy.

My friends on the radical Republican side of this Congress are misjudging, once again, the American people, as they did with the Medicare and Medicaid cuts of last year. I do not believe our citizens will sit by while the service of big business and the wealthy, the Republicans, send 180,000 poor people into the streets begging for food and medical care. It should not happen here in America.

How many more children must suffer before we retain the moral conscience of our Nation? How many more babies must cry through the night before we remember the golden rule? How many more mothers will go full term through a pregnancy without seeing a physician?

The weak, the poor, the least of those in our society are those we should always protect. It is the cornerstone of our Nation to look out for those who are lost and those who are least able to fend for themselves. If we have feelings, if we are compassionate, if we have a heart, we will take care of our young. Please vote to take care of the infants, the pregnant women, and the little kids.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. NEUMANN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

DEMOCRATS LAUNCH HEALTH
PLAN FOR CHILDREN, WHILE
GOP LEADERS DENY CHILDREN
BASIC NUTRITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last month Democrats urged Republican leaders to move forward on legislation to help provide health care coverage for America's uninsured children by Mother's Day. Instead of developing a plan for the more than 10 million uninsured children, Republican leaders have been outspoken in denying milk, formula, and other basic nutrition needs for approximately 180,000 children in the Women, Infants and Children, or WIC Program, that my colleague from Alabama just previously spoke about.

Since the Republicans have failed in developing a plan to assist the Nation's