

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, after weeks of resistance the Republican leadership yesterday finally allowed the House to vote to provide the full \$76 million in funding needed to keep thousands of children and pregnant women enrolled in the Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC, nutrition program.

I must say, we are far from home free on this issue. The Senate, unfortunately, has provided only \$58 million for WIC, and Democrats today will offer a resolution on the House floor stating that the House should stand firm in its negotiations and demand that the Senate agree to restore funding for the remaining 85,000 at-risk women and children.

Republicans also voted yesterday for automatic cuts that could undermine the commitment for WIC by freezing funding for it at current levels, this year's level. The President has made it clear he will veto this funding bill if that is what it includes, but I have to say that we still have a lot of work to do to make sure that the full funding is provided for WIC. The Democrats are determined that we will see that through and there will be full funding for the WIC Program.

THE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RIGHT TO KNOW ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain a bill that was introduced late yesterday afternoon, which already has almost 100 cosponsors. It is called the Children's Environmental Protection and Right to Know Act of 1997.

One of the reasons this bill has been so successful already in attracting support is that we did not try to reinvent the wheel. We borrowed one idea from a law in California and another idea from a law in New Jersey.

First, the California law provides further information about toxins present in children's consumer products and eventually in consumer products for adults, based on this very successful 10-year-old program and law in California.

Second, we borrowed from New Jersey a bill which builds upon a very successful 10-year-old New Jersey law that expands the toxic release inventory to include a once a year accounting of toxic materials used and stored in industrial facilities.

I would like this morning to invite and urge my fellow Members of Congress to support this legislation, and join the nearly 100 cosponsors that have already signed on.

WE NEED SOME COMMON SENSE AT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Labor Department says there are more jobs than ever. I would like to discuss a few.

Ear muff assembler, dog food mixer, vibrator tester, worm picker, belly builder, dog washer, diaper machine tender-supervisor, hooker inspector, and a pantyhose crotch closer machine operator supervisor.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The truth is I think we need some common sense at the Labor Department. Sun Apparel just laid off 600 workers, moving to Mexico; Johnson & Johnson laid off 100 workers, moving to Mexico.

The truth of the matter is that I think we should move the Labor Department to Mexico, and create some good jobs in America. I yield back all these jobs.

URGING MEMBERS TO VOTE "NO" ON INTERIM STORAGE NUCLEAR WASTE SITE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the environment and safety of America is in danger. Two bills have been introduced to Congress, S. 104 and H.R. 1270, that would establish an interim storage facility at Yucca Mountain, NV. Several problems become very evident when the legislation is examined.

First, moving 80,000 tons of waste from 109 reactor sites will traverse 43 States.

Second, in the last 20 years there have been more than 621 earthquakes within a 50-mile radius of Yucca Mountain.

Third, the Congressional Budget Office estimates a central interim storage facility will cost taxpayers \$2.3 billion from 1997 to the year 2002, seven times more than on-site storage.

Finally, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, a bipartisan organization created by Congress, concluded that "There is no compelling technical or safety reason to move spent fuel to a central facility."

This issue is not just a Nevada safety issue. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote no on interim storage.

DEMOCRATS INSIST THAT THE BUDGET BENEFIT THE MIDDLE-CLASS AS MUCH AS THE WEALTHY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today House Democrats sent a letter to the Republican chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means in support of middle class families.

The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER] has announced that the proposed

capital gains tax cuts contained in the budget agreement will be effective no later than May 7, 1997, even though there is no tax cut plan yet. This would allow investors to be able to think ahead as to how they might deal with their further investments.

Over 100 Democrats are going to ask the gentleman from Texas today to show the same consideration to the President's education tax cuts. The majority of the benefits from the Republicans' proposed capital gains tax cut will go to the richest 1 percent of the population. Democrats are standing up for the folks who are not making the 6-figure incomes, the families who could use some tax relief. Let us help working families make the decisions about whether or not their kids can go to college.

House Democrats are going to stand up to make sure that the deal includes a budget that is balanced in a way that is consistent with our priorities and our values as a Nation, and that includes showing, at the very least, the same consideration to working families as we show the richest of Americans.

ANNOUNCING AN OPEN HOUSE IN NEW JERSEY'S TWELFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FLEMINGTON OFFICE

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that for New Jersey's 12th Congressional District there will be an open house in one of my two district offices in Flemington, NJ, this afternoon from 3 to 5:30 p.m., in hopes that many residents of the district will come to meet with members of my staff.

Mr. Speaker, my district, for at least New Jersey, is very large geographically. It runs from the Delaware River on the west to almost the Atlantic Ocean on the east. The efforts that my staff and I have been taking to reach out to and be of service to the people of the 12th District we believe will be highlighted by this open house.

I spent a majority of my time back in New Jersey to meet with the people that I represent from central New Jersey, and today is what we believe to be an important step in advertising the location of at least one of the district offices.

The schedule here in Washington may preclude me from being at the open house this afternoon, but I look forward to meeting with those people who may be attending.

NEED FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, Americans are working harder than ever before to

provide for their families and to save for the future.

It is not fair that Washington continues to take such a large share of the family's earnings, and at the same time continues to increase the deficit at the same time. The people of the Third District of North Carolina sent me to Washington to look out for their interests. That is why I feel so strongly about the need to balance the budget.

The balanced budget plan assumes a gross tax relief of \$135 billion over 5 years, which can provide families with a child tax credit and relief from burdensome taxes such as the death tax and capital gains tax.

The plan also helps parents who want to send their children to college. It has been 16 years, it has been 16 years since the American people have had tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Congress to pass a balanced budget for the people of America.

□ 0915

EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND LITERACY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 150 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 150

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. 1385) to consolidate, coordinate, and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs in the United States, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. 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 Education and the Workforce. 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 Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by division rather than by section. Each division shall be considered as read. Points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 5(a) of rule XXI are waived. Before consideration of any other amendment it shall be in order to consider the amendment numbered 1 pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXIII, if offered by Representative McKeon or his designee. That amendment shall be considered as read, may amend portions of the bill not yet read for amendment, shall be debatable for ten minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. If that amendment is adopted, the bill, as amended, shall be considered as the

original bill for the purpose of further amendment. During consideration of the bill for further 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 made in order as original text. 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. FOLEY). The gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL] 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. Speaker, this is a very simple resolution. The proposed rule is an open rule providing for 1 hour of general debate equally divided, controlled by the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. Furthermore 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 Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 150 provides that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by division rather than section. Moreover, points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 5(a) of rule XXI are waived.

Mr. Speaker, the rule also provides for consideration of a manager's amendment, if offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. MCKEON] or his designee, which shall be debatable for a period of 10 minutes. If this amendment is adopted, the amendment will be considered as part of the base text for further amendment purposes. Furthermore, this rule provides that the Chair may accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, 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. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the rule pro-

vides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, under the proposed rule each Member has an opportunity to have their concerns addressed, debated and ultimately voted up or down by this body. House Resolution 150 was passed out of the Committee on Rules by voice vote. I urge my colleagues to support the open rule.

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] for yielding me the time. House Resolution 150 is an open rule. It will allow for full and fair debate on H.R. 1385, which is the Employment Training and Literacy Enhancement Act of 1997.

This bill consolidates more than 60 existing employment training and literacy programs and establishes three block grants to States and localities. It is needed to improve Federal education and job training programs to meet more effectively the needs of States and local communities. These programs have provided valuable assistance to dislocated workers and disadvantaged adults and young people. The goal is to improve a system which has already demonstrated its importance to our Nation's work force.

As my colleague from Colorado described, this rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Under this rule, amendments will be allowed under the 5-minute rule, the normal amending process in the House. All Members will have the opportunity to offer amendments.

It is my understanding that, before the Committee on Rules met last night, an agreement between the majority and minority had been reached on the manager's amendment to drop certain provisions dealing with special demonstrations. Subsequently the rule was approved unanimously by the Committee on Rules on a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this open rule and the bill.

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 150 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1385.