

I would ask Members to support this resolution when it comes to the floor.

PASS A STRAIGHTFORWARD DISASTER RELIEF BILL NOW

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans decided to go home for Memorial Day vacation last week, even though they still have not provided disaster-stricken families with the emergency funds needed to rebuild their lives. It has now been more than 2 months since the President sent disaster relief legislation to Congress; yet Republicans still have not finished their work and passed the bill.

Last month Republicans loaded the bill up with provisions to freeze spending on education and other priorities for working families, a provision the President warned them would force him to veto the bill.

This emergency disaster relief bill that Republicans are holding hostage would help thousands of families rebuild their lives after a massive flood devastating their homes, businesses, and farms. It also included in the bill emergency funds to keep 360,000 women and children from being kicked out of the WIC child nutrition program.

Mr. Speaker, Democratic leaders and Members of Congress from States hardest hit by this flooding will be gathering today to deliver a simple message to the Republican leadership: Just do it, pass a straightforward disaster relief bill now.

GO FLYERS

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker:

There is a place down in Philly called Broad Street.

Where opponents were once turned into minced meat,

These bullies, they skated and were generally hated

By all of those whom they routinely deflated;

The Spectrum was home to these champions of ice,

The Stanley Cup was made theirs not once, but twice,

With Clarkie and Leach and Parent in the net,

Their blood, sweat, and tears we will never forget;

But now here we are in 1997,

The Flyers approaching ice hockey heaven, Eric the Great has shown us the way,

His heart, speed, and talent on constant display;

With well-seasoned Coffee and a Legion of Doom,

The orange and black have shown opponents their tomb,

Super Mario was valiant but nevertheless, He just couldn't beat power with pretty finesse;

Over the Sabers they rode on Snow's bulging shoulder,

And then back to Hextall both wiser and older,

The Rangers and Great One were just out of place,

The only "Mess" that we saw was of Robitaille's face;

The heroics of Brind'Amour, Klatt, and Podein,

Have made all us Flyers' fans stand up and scream,

Here we are in the finals with sights set on the Cup,

Like the 70's, no Russians will mess this dream up;

Big Joel Otto and Therien have merely begun,

To pummel the Wings til their Red starts to run,

And just like the days when the Broad Street Bullies did reign,

The Stanley Cup will belong to the Flyers again.

TIMOTHY McVEIGH HAS ONLY ONE RIGHT LEFT

(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, Timothy McVeigh has been convicted of mass murder. A jury will now deliberate whether McVeigh gets life in prison or the death sentence. I say, did McVeigh give any of those 168 innocent victims an opportunity to plea bargain? Did McVeigh give any of those 19 murdered children an opportunity for a life sentence? I ask, did McVeigh in fact give any consideration at all to the innocent victims and the families of those victims? No, Mr. Speaker.

I say that Timothy McVeigh has only one right left. The jury should read Timothy McVeigh his "last rites." Timothy McVeigh should be put to death, period.

Mr. Speaker, an America that allows mass murderers to plea bargain is an America that is turning its back consistently on innocent victims and citizens. I say it is time to stop the record number of graves and cemeteries all over our country.

THOUSANDS OF HIGHER PAYING JOBS: A POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE GAMING INDUSTRY

(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, recently the National Gambling and Impact Policy Commission was formed. I am here today to speak about one of the positive impacts the gaming industry has had on our society.

An article recently published in the Las Vegas Sun illustrates gaming's positive involvement in the important issue of welfare reform. Two of gaming's corporate citizens have been producing thousands of jobs for welfare recipients. These companies have been giving American families the confidence of being able to make ends meet without depending on public assistance.

A recent Arthur Andersen study of gaming establishments in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Illinois disclosed that gaming has had a dramatic role in decreasing public assistance in these areas. According to the study, casino companies and the industries that support them paid \$21 billion in wages to more than 700,000 men and women in 1995.

The average casino wage was \$26,000 compared to \$20,000 in other amusement and recreation sectors, \$16,000 in the hotel-motel industry, \$22,000 in the motion picture industry. This means that the men and women working in the small casinos to the large mega resorts and riverboats receive better wages and higher-paying jobs in exchange for their hard work.

This is not just a Nevada issue, Mr. Speaker, this is a national issue. I urge Members' support.

IT IS TIME TO PASS THE EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

(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, it has now been more than 2 months since the President sent disaster relief legislation to the Congress, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have chosen to dilly-dally, to delay, instead of passing this important bill. They even voted to send the Congress home for 10 days instead of working to get this emergency aid to the families who so desperately need it.

Even worse, the majority has played politics with the disaster relief legislation. Last month they added a poison pill to the bill, a provision that would freeze spending on education and other important budget priorities that in fact help working families in this country. The President has stated that he cannot sign this bill if this provision is included. Yet, the majority has refused to remove it.

It is time to stop playing politics with the lives of American families. It is time to help those victims who are in fact desperately waiting for disaster relief funds. It is time to pass the emergency supplemental bill.

A BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT THAT IS DIFFERENT

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, in 1985 a balanced budget deal was agreed to amid great fanfare. In 1990 a balanced budget deal was agreed to amid similar exuberance. In 1993 a balanced budget deal was agreed to that was greeted with more high praise from the liberal media. The budget is still not in balance.

Mr. Speaker, what is it about this balanced budget agreement that is different? First, under a Republican Congress, the economic assumptions are

conservative and realistic. Second, this budget includes the strongest step in entitlement reform since our welfare reform proposals of last year. Third, the resolve of the Republican Congress to balance the budget is the strongest this country has seen since 1954.

Conservative economic assumptions, entitlement reforms, and Republican resolve, those are the keys to this balanced budget agreement. That, Mr. Speaker, separates this budget agreement from the failed promises of previous balanced budget deals.

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SILVER CHARM

(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, from the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds in Pomona to the Santa Anita race track in Arcadia, California's San Gabriel Valley is totally charmed by our Triple Crown contender and favorite son, Silver Charm, but it is owners Bob and Beverly Lewis who have captured our hearts. Their generous spirit of giving is evident throughout southern California. We celebrate with them as their Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner makes his bid to add the final jewel to his crown.

Silver Charm represents the spirit of America. He is a street fighter who rose to the top through sheer hard work, ability and talent. He is what America is all about. We all root for him because in essence he represents us. He has come not from the royal barns of Kentucky but has become a champion in spite of it.

The son of Silver Buck and Bonnie's Poker continues to fascinate us as he heads to the Belmont Stakes.

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday Californians will be very proud as we celebrate our first Triple Crown winner.

ESTATE TAXES

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about estate taxes, sometimes called inheritance taxes and more recently referred to as death taxes. This is often designated as a tax on the rich, and some therefore say we should not cut it. But I wish to clarify some of the issues.

Ninety-three percent of the businesses in my area of west Michigan are small businesses, having under 50 employees. Estate taxes, contrary to the public's perception, do not apply just to Bill Gates and others of that sort, but they apply to a majority of the small businesses and farmers in this Nation because, when they die, they have substantial assets in their businesses.

The saying is that farmers are always cash poor but land rich. That is certainly true. And it is unfortunate that today many farmers are not able to pass their farms on to their children. Part of the farm must be sold in order to pay the estate taxes before the farm can be passed on to their children.

Even modest family owned businesses and farms can fall into the range of estate taxable assets, causing great financial hardship. Ironically the truly wealthy families are generally better able to avoid estate tax liability because they can afford to hire experts to reduce their estate taxes, while the small business people and the farmers do not have the money to hire that kind of expertise.

Furthermore, the top estate tax rate of 55 percent is taxing money which has already been taxed, giving a high tax rate of approximately 73 percent.

I believe the estate tax is too high. It is unjust and we should change this so that those who own small businesses and farms can in fact retain them and pass them on to their children upon their death.

CUTTING TAXES

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I must say, I get a little irritated when the folks on the other side resort to the only card in their deck: class envy.

Yes, America, the land of class envy.

In the liberal vision, America is not a land of unlimited opportunity, a land where all Americans are encouraged to become as prosperous as their God-given talents and hard work will take them. No; in the liberal vision we do not encourage people to become rich. We must tear them down.

No; in the liberal vision of success, it must not be considered the just rewards of hard work; success must be attacked.

No; in the liberal vision, instead of serving as a spur to your own success, government must expropriate wealth that others have produced.

Mr. Speaker, we reject that liberal vision. Pitting one class against another is destructive, counterproductive and just plain wrong.

Cutting taxes on Americans, rich or poor, is nothing more than the belief that Americans should get to keep more of the wealth that they produce.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 30, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 5 of rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 30, 1997 at 3:26 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress of modifications of duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences.

With warm regards,
ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

DESIGNATION OF CAMBODIA UNDER GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-88)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program offers duty-free treatment to specified products that are imported from designated developing countries. The program is authorized by title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

Pursuant to title V, I have determined that Cambodia should be designated as a least developed beneficiary developing country under the GSP program because it has taken steps to improve worker rights and the protection of intellectual property. I have also determined, as a result of the 1995 Annual Review of petitions for changes that three products should be added to the GSP list of eligible products and that the competitive need limits on 22 products should be waived. As a result of a review of 1996 imports of GSP products, I have determined that de minimis limits on 79 products be waived and 11 products, whose imports no longer exceed the program's competitive need limits, should be redesignated as GSP eligible. Finally as a result of certain provisions of the legislation enacted in August 1996 reauthorizing GSP, I am granting GSP eligibility to an additional 1,783 articles not previously included under GSP, provided that they are imported directly from the least developed beneficiary developing countries.

This notice is submitted in accordance with the requirements of title V of the Trade Act of 1974.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 30, 1997.