

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the real issue is, I believe, my Republican colleagues have lost their way to school. Rather than filling up the Labor-HHS bill with all kinds of distracting issues dealing with education, they do not realize that our children are in crumbling schools, our children are in schools that are overcrowded.

School enrollment in the United States last year broke the all time high record set by baby boomers in 1971 and has continued to grow. A new Department of Education report found more than 52 million children enrolled in our schools, and yet Republicans rejected the idea of Democrats that wanted to infuse infrastructure money into our communities so that we could rebuild our schools.

Do my colleagues realize that our schools in America need extensive repair, that our children are being threatened by peeling paint, falling ceiling tiles, and crumbling walls? Our Republican friends will mess up the Labor-HHS bill and fill it with all kinds of amendments that are not relevant to providing protection for our children.

Yes, our Republican friends have lost their way to school. We, the Democrats, will find our way, continue to support public education, provide for moneys to improve and encourage our children to learn the right way, the safe way, and rebuild the falling infrastructure in our public schools. That is finding our way to schools in America and that is the side Democrats will be on.

LIMIT USE OF TAX DOLLARS FOR FREE NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

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

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, coming before us today is a bill that has an allowable thing for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to control, and it is called free needle exchange programs.

The reason I am up here talking about it is we know a whole lot about how to help people succeed. Our Government is getting ready to spend our tax dollars to help people fail by enabling drug addicts to have needles available to them, to violate the law, to use our tax dollars to have clean needles.

There have been two studies in North America on this subject. Both of them show there is an increased transmission of HIV associated with free needle exchange programs and that there is an increased usage of drugs. We know that that happens. We know that in alcoholism.

One of the precepts in treating alcoholism today in our country is do not enable the patient to fail by enabling their alcoholism. We need to apply that

same thing when it comes to drug addiction in this country.

I hope that my colleagues will support this limitation on using American tax dollars for free needle exchange.

STOP THE ATTACK ON WORKERS' SAFETY IN THE COUNTRY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am amazed at the continuous efforts to cut occupational safety and health, efforts to scale back protection for workers in dangerous, hazardous, and unsafe situations, efforts to take back and turn around those hard-won gains which have only come about as a result of tragedy after tragedy.

I have even heard individuals on the floor of this House talking about taking money from OSHA in order to help disabled children. And surely disabled children need all of the help that we can give them, but why run the risk of injuring, maiming, or even killing workers in order to help children?

I say let us stop the attack on workers' safety in this country.

SOCIAL SECURITY WILL BE SHORT OF FUNDS AS EARLY AS 2005

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about what I consider one mistake in our balanced budget agreement. I would start by asking the question: What tax has this Government increased 36 times since 1971? The answer is the Social Security tax.

More often than once a year we have been increasing the Social Security tax on American workers. It needs explanation. When Congress enacted the Social Security law in 1935, it was financed by a pay-as-you-go program, where existing workers pay in their tax to support the benefits of existing retirees. It has always been so. As there are fewer and fewer workers contributing their taxes to more and more retirees, Social Security keeps running short of money, and the tax is increased. It is not a sustainable program. That is why it is a mistake for this Congress, for this Government, for this President not to start working on long-term solutions for Social Security.

Dorcas Hardy, a former Commissioner, says we are going to be short again of enough money coming in from those workers as early as 2005. Last year I introduced the Social Security Solvency Act that holds seniors harmless and does not increase taxes on workers. The Social Security Administration predicts that the legislation would keep the System solvent for at least the next 75 years. Let us do something about it Social Security.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD PARTNER WITH STATE AND LOCAL SCHOOLS TO SOLVE EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, there are 52 million students in public schools today. Fifty-two million students. That is more than at the height of the baby boom generation. The question is are these students receiving the best education?

Students from kindergarten to high school need a positive learning environment, an environment where students can ask questions, and teachers are accessible for individual tutoring, where students and teachers want to teach and want to learn. Students are not receiving enough help and enough support to learn at an adequate level.

This is not the fault of the teachers. Look at the numbers. Fifty-two million students. There is a serious overcrowding problem. Schools are overcrowded, the buildings are unsafe. Thousands of students across our Nation go to school in buildings with leaky roofs and broken windows while students in the District of Columbia here wait until the roofs are fixed to start school.

Teachers are stretched to their limits. In some classrooms teachers are teaching more than 40 students. We need more teachers and more help for teachers. Teachers provide that personal contact and that mentorship. With an increase in teachers, they can accurately assess the needs of their students and focus on that learning.

These are concerns affecting children every day. We need to partner with our local schools and our States to make sure we solve our educational problems.

LOW-DOSE IRRADIATION FOR RED MEAT

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about something important to the health of our citizens. In 1994, the Food and Drug Administration was asked to approve the use of low-dose irradiation for red meat. Irradiation kills bacteria like E. coli. It could prevent meat recalls and public scares like that we witnessed for Hudson Beef last month.

Statutorily, the FDA had 180 days to act on this petition. To date, they have failed to do so.

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, I have a personal interest in this. As a physician, I know that low-dose irradiation is safe and it could prevent a lot of illness relating to ground beef. I also was sick from food poisoning last summer and I can tell Members that had I been

immunosuppressed or an elderly person, the result may not have been as good as it was.

Mr. Speaker, I will soon introduce legislation to protect American consumers by giving approval for the use of low-dose irradiation for red meat, hamburger, so that you can cook your hamburgers medium rare if you would like. It would amend the labeling requirements so that people would know that the are buying low-dose irradiated meat, and it would require restaurants to notify consumers of that choice. This is something we ought to do for the health of all of the people of our country.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, in view of the Speaker's failure to schedule campaign finance reform, I offer a privileged motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DOGGETT moves that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT].

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 29, nays 367, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 372]

YEAS—29

Allen	Farr	Miller (CA)
Berry	Filner	Mink
Conyers	Frank (MA)	Pallone
Coyne	Gejdenson	Pelosi
Davis (FL)	Hastings (FL)	Slaughter
DeFazio	Lewis (GA)	Stark
DeLauro	Lowey	Thurman
Dingell	Manton	Torres
Doggett	McDermott	Woolsey
Eshoo	McNulty	

NAYS—367

Abercrombie	Blagojevich	Campbell
Ackerman	Bliley	Canady
Aderholt	Blumenauer	Cannon
Andrews	Blunt	Capps
Armey	Boehlert	Cardin
Bachus	Boehner	Castle
Baldacci	Bonilla	Chabot
Ballenger	Bonior	Chambliss
Barcia	Borski	Chenoweth
Barr	Boswell	Christensen
Barrett (NE)	Boucher	Clay
Barrett (WI)	Boyd	Clayton
Bartlett	Brady	Clement
Barton	Brown (FL)	Clyburn
Bass	Brown (OH)	Coble
Becerra	Bryant	Coburn
Bentsen	Bunning	Collins
Bereuter	Burton	Combest
Berman	Buyer	Condit
Bilbray	Callahan	Cook
Bilirakis	Calvert	Cooksey
Bishop	Camp	Costello

Cox	Johnson (WI)	Pombo
Cramer	Johnson, E. B.	Porter
Crane	Johnson, Sam	Portman
Crapo	Jones	Poshard
Cubin	Kanjorski	Price (NC)
Cummings	Kaptur	Pryce (OH)
Cunningham	Kasich	Radanovich
Danner	Kelly	Rahall
Davis (IL)	Kennedy (RI)	Ramstad
Davis (VA)	Kennelly	Redmond
Deal	Kildee	Regula
DeGette	Kilpatrick	Riley
DeLay	Kim	Rivers
Deutsch	Kind (WI)	Rodriguez
Diaz-Balart	King (NY)	Roemer
Dickey	Kingston	Rogan
Dicks	Kleczka	Rogers
Dixon	Klink	Rohrabacher
Dooley	Klug	Ros-Lehtinen
Doolittle	Knollenberg	Rothman
Doyle	Kolbe	Roukema
Dreier	Kucinich	Roybal-Allard
Duncan	LaFalce	Royce
Dunn	LaHood	Rush
Edwards	Lampson	Ryun
Ehlers	Lantos	Sabo
Ehrlich	Largent	Salmon
Emerson	Latham	Sanchez
English	LaTourette	Sandlin
Ensign	Lazio	Sanford
Etheridge	Leach	Sawyer
Evans	Levin	Saxton
Everett	Lewis (CA)	Scarborough
Ewing	Lewis (KY)	Schaefer, Dan
Fattah	Linder	Schaffer, Bob
Fawell	Lipinski	Scott
Fazio	Livingston	Sensenbrenner
Flake	LoBiondo	Sessions
Foley	Lofgren	Shadegg
Forbes	Lucas	Shaw
Ford	Luther	Shays
Fowler	Maloney (CT)	Sherman
Fox	Maloney (NY)	Shimkus
Franks (NJ)	Manzullo	Shuster
Frelinghuysen	Markey	Sisisky
Frost	Martinez	Skaggs
Furse	Mascara	Skeen
Gallegly	McCarthy (MO)	Skelton
Ganske	McCarthy (NY)	Smith (MI)
Gekas	McCollum	Smith (NJ)
Gibbons	McCrery	Smith (OR)
Gilchrest	McDade	Smith (TX)
Gillmor	McGovern	Smith, Adam
Gilman	McHale	Smith, Linda
Goode	McHugh	Snowbarger
Goodlatte	McInnis	Snyder
Goodling	McIntosh	Solomon
Gordon	McIntyre	Souder
Goss	McKeon	Spence
Graham	McKinney	Spratt
Granger	Meehan	Stabenow
Green	Menendez	Stearns
Greenwood	Metcalfe	Stenholm
Gutierrez	Mica	Stokes
Gutknecht	Millender-McDonald	Strickland
Hall (OH)	Miller (FL)	Stump
Hall (TX)	Minge	Stupak
Hamilton	Moakley	Sununu
Hansen	Mollohan	Talent
Harman	Moran (KS)	Tanner
Hastert	Morella	Tauscher
Hastings (WA)	Murtha	Tauzin
Hayworth	Myrick	Taylor (MS)
Hefley	Nadler	Taylor (NC)
Hefner	Neal	Thomas
Herger	Nethercutt	Thompson
Hill	Neumann	Thornberry
Hilleary	Ney	Thune
Hinchev	Northup	Tiahrt
Hinojosa	Nussle	Traficant
Hobson	Obey	Turner
Hoekstra	Oliver	Upton
Holden	Ortiz	Vento
Hoolley	Oxley	Visclosky
Horn	Packard	Walsh
Houghton	Pappas	Wamp
Hulshof	Parker	Waters
Hunter	Pastor	Watkins
Hutchinson	Paul	Watt (NC)
Hyde	Paxon	Watts (OK)
Inglis	Payne	Waxman
Istook	Pease	Weldon (FL)
Jackson (IL)	Peterson (MN)	Weldon (PA)
Jackson-Lee	Peterson (PA)	Weller
(TX)	Petri	Wexler
Jefferson	Pickering	Weygand
Jenkins	Pickett	White
John	Pitts	Whitfield
Johnson (CT)		Wicker

Wise	Wynn	Young (AK)
Wolf	Yates	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—37

Archer	Gonzalez	Quinn
Baessler	Hilliard	Rangel
Baker	Hostettler	Reyes
Bateman	Hoyer	Riggs
Bono	Kennedy (MA)	Sanders
Brown (CA)	Matsui	Schiff
Burr	Meek	Schumer
Carson	Moran (VA)	Serrano
Delahunt	Norwood	Tierney
Dellums	Oberstar	Towns
Engel	Owens	Velazquez
Foglietta	Pascarell	
Gephardt	Pomeroy	

□ 1121

Mr. HEFNER changed his from "yea" to "nay."

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the further consideration of H.R. 2264, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House on Thursday, July 31, 1997, and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2264.

□ 1124

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. BEREUTER, Chairman pro tempore, in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Monday, September 8, 1997, the bill was open for amendments from page 11, line 1, through page 25, line 8, and pending was the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana, [Mr. SOUDER].

Is there further debate on the amendment?

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to strike the requisite number of words.