

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last November polls in Minnesota said it was a two-man race for governor. Beam me up. Who were they polling? Bullwinkle? Jesse Ventura, the third candidate, actually won due to the debates and quite frankly he is a breath of fresh air in our country.

That is the reason, another reason, why I have reintroduced my bill that would require that all presidential debates must include every candidate that has a mathematical chance of winning. They qualify on enough State ballots. They qualify for matching funds. They give the American people a choice, and they make the two major party candidates tell us what they really feel.

I yield back Bullwinkle, and I yield back the fact that the Federal Election Commission can do this without my bill.

□ 1015

U.S. MISSES BOAT ON LATIN AMERICAN TRADE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the old expression, "You snooze, you lose." An article in yesterday's Washington Times brings that old expression to mind. It was entitled, EU, that is European Union, Latin Trade Zone Doesn't Include U.S.

It seems that while our government has dawdled, European governments have worked hard to cultivate trade relationships in our own backyard. Latin American countries and the European Union worked toward lowering trade barriers, and our government stands idly by.

Trade means jobs. Trade means economic growth. Trade means a higher standard of living for the American people. Let us not continue to sit back and watch while Europe and Latin America reap the benefits of an aggressive trade policy. Let us work with our trading partners to tear down barriers and open up markets for American products around the world. Mr. Speaker, we can ill afford to be pushed out of the international trade markets. Let us get back in the game.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I would simply like to congratulate the gentleman on his remarks; and I would like to associate myself with the gentleman's statement.

THE PRESIDENT'S MEDICARE PROPOSAL

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time that this Congress gets smart and starts to invest in our 39 million Medicare beneficiaries. I urge my colleagues

to stop hemming and hawing and take heed of the needs of our seniors.

Plainly speaking, the President has a plan to save Medicare by dedicating 15 percent of the Federal budget surplus. The plan modernizes Medicare by adding a vital drug benefit, eliminating the copay on preventive services, providing a buy-in option for the vulnerable and offering needed assistance for low-income beneficiaries. The Republican leadership has no Medicare plan and really has only one choice. Roll up your sleeves, work with the Democrats, save Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, we need to protect our seniors. We can do it and we can do it now.

COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATISM

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Joseph Jacobs wrote an exceptional book about "compassionate conservatism," a slogan today adopted by the distinguished governor of Texas, George W. Bush. The concept reminds me that many liberals go through their lives thinking that they are compassionate because of their willingness to spend other people's money.

So often there is absolutely no recognition from liberals that conservatives share many of the same ultimate goals. But we certainly disagree over the best ways in which to achieve them. That is why we hear day after day on the House floor the motives of conservatives attacked. In my view, the liberal version of compassion has done more harm and has had more devastating consequences on the less fortunate than the most fiscally conservative lawmaker ever could have. Theirs is the philosophy of dependence on government. We conservatives share the philosophy of celebrating individual self-reliance. Compassion is not a product of policy. It is a product of the human heart. There is no compassion in destroying the motivation of the less fortunate to achieve, to grow and to prosper.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, since the bipartisan Medicare Commission met, the Medicare debate has come front and center. Republicans want to improve the access of seniors to prescription drugs. No senior should have to worry about whether they can afford the medicines they need to stay healthy. We need to work in a bipartisan manner to solve this problem, putting politics aside. This issue is too important.

The President has recently entered this debate, and we are awaiting bill

language, but it brings up some interesting questions. What does the President's plan do? Does it target those most in need? Does it threaten the solvency of Medicare? Does it take money out of the Social Security Trust Fund? Who pays? Will seniors pay higher premiums? Will the Government set price controls? Will all Americans face higher taxes? Will payments to hospitals, doctors and other health care providers be cut? Does the plan address holistic medicine and Medicare fraud, waste and abuse? Will Medicare innovation be threatened? Will seniors be able to participate based upon their choice?

What we need to focus on is providing drug coverage, solvency and choice to our seniors. That is what we will be working for.

PASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is July. Half a year is gone. Next week we will go home to tell our constituents what the House has accomplished. What will we say? If we are candid, we will have to say, not enough.

We have not acted to protect patients' rights. We have not acted to reform campaign finance. We have not acted to help communities respond to growth and sprawl. We have not even done an easy thing like renewing the research and development tax credit. It expired last night.

We need to do better. In fact, we need to make the credit permanent and broaden it. A temporary credit like the one that expired last night is a less effective credit because researchers cannot count on it. Making it permanent would end this uncertainty. A broader credit would benefit small businesses and high-tech entrepreneurial startups. Under the law that just expired, these firms did not benefit. We should go further and use the credit to promote collaboration between the Federal Government, the private sector and universities like the University of Colorado in my district.

Half the year is gone, but half remains. We need to stop wasting time and missing deadlines. Let us pass this tax credit as soon as possible.

TOP TEN TERRIBLE TAX ACT

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon consider legislation to implement the budget resolution's call for \$778 billion in tax relief over the next 10 years. While I believe today's complicated and cumbersome Tax Code needs to be completely replaced, this will take time as the American people debate alternative tax systems. In the meantime, we can take a major step

toward tax simplification by eliminating 10 of the worst taxes in the Tax Code today. We should pull these taxes out by their roots, not just reduce them, trim them or cut them back or decrease them. This will make it more difficult for them ever to grow back again.

That is why I am introducing the Top Ten Terrible Tax Act today—boy, that is quite alliterative—which would completely eliminate 10 of the most egregious taxes on the American people, including estate and gift taxes, the tax on telephone calls, capital gains taxes and the tax increase on Social Security beneficiaries. The American people deserve to keep more of their hard-earned money and the Top Ten Terrible Tax Act would provide much-needed tangible tax relief to every American.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

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

Mr. MCNULTY. 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 358, nays 56, answered "present" 1, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 262]

YEAS—358

Abercrombie	Boswell	Coyne
Ackerman	Boucher	Cramer
Allen	Boyd	Crowley
Andrews	Brady (PA)	Cunningham
Arney	Brady (TX)	Danner
Bachus	Brown (FL)	Davis (FL)
Baker	Brown (OH)	Davis (IL)
Baldacci	Bryant	Davis (VA)
Baldwin	Burr	Deal
Ballenger	Burton	DeGette
Barcia	Buyer	Delahunt
Barr	Callahan	DeLauro
Barrett (NE)	Calvert	DeLay
Barrett (WI)	Camp	DeMint
Bartlett	Campbell	Deutsch
Barton	Canady	Diaz-Balart
Bass	Cannon	Dickey
Bateman	Capps	Dicks
Becerra	Capuano	Dingell
Bentsen	Cardin	Dixon
Bereuter	Castle	Doggett
Berkley	Chabot	Dooley
Berman	Chambliss	Doollittle
Berry	Chenoweth	Doyle
Biggart	Clayton	Dreier
Bilirakis	Clement	Duncan
Bishop	Clyburn	Dunn
Blagojevich	Coble	Edwards
Bliley	Coburn	Ehlers
Blumenauer	Collins	Emerson
Boehlert	Combest	Engel
Boehner	Condit	Eshoo
Bonilla	Cook	Etheridge
Bono	Cooksey	Everett

Ewing	LaTourette	Rohrabacher
Farr	Lazio	Ros-Lehtinen
Fattah	Leach	Rothman
Fletcher	Levin	Roukema
Foley	Lewis (CA)	Roybal-Allard
Forbes	Lewis (GA)	Royce
Fowler	Lewis (KY)	Rush
Franks (NJ)	Linder	Ryan (WI)
Frelinghuysen	Lipinski	Ryun (KS)
Frost	Lofgren	Salmon
Gallegly	Lowey	Sanchez
Ganske	Lucas (KY)	Sanders
Gejdenson	Lucas (OK)	Sandlin
Gekas	Luther	Sanford
Gibbons	Maloney (CT)	Sawyer
Gilchrest	Maloney (NY)	Saxton
Gilman	Manzullo	Scarborough
Gonzalez	Martinez	Sensenbrenner
Goode	Mascara	Serrano
Goodlatte	Matsui	Sessions
Goodling	McCarthy (MO)	Shadegg
Gordon	McCarthy (NY)	Shaw
Goss	McCollum	Shays
Graham	McCrery	Sherman
Granger	McHugh	Sherwood
Green (WI)	McInnis	Shimkus
Greenwood	McIntosh	Shows
Gutierrez	McIntyre	Shuster
Gutknecht	McKeon	Simpson
Hall (TX)	McKinney	Sisisky
Hansen	Meehan	Skeen
Hastings (WA)	Menendez	Skelton
Hayes	Metcalfe	Slaughter
Hayworth	Mica	Smith (MI)
Herger	Millender-McDonald	Smith (NJ)
Hill (IN)	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)
Hill (MT)	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)
Hilleary	Minge	Snyder
Hinojosa	Mink	Souder
Hobson	Moakley	Spence
Hoeffel	Mollohan	Spratt
Hoekstra	Moore	Stabenow
Holden	Moran (VA)	Stark
Holt	Morella	Stearns
Hooley	Murtha	Stenholm
Horn	Myrick	Strickland
Hostettler	Napolitano	Stump
Houghton	Nethercutt	Sununu
Hoyer	Ney	Talent
Hulshof	Northup	Tancredo
Hunter	Norwood	Tanner
Inslee	Nussle	Tauzin
Isakson	Obey	Taylor (NC)
Istook	Oliver	Terry
Jackson (IL)	Ortiz	Thomas
Jackson-Lee	Ose	Thornberry
(TX)	Owens	Thune
Jefferson	Oxley	Thurman
Jenkins	Packard	Tiahrt
John	Pascrell	Toomey
Johnson (CT)	Paul	Towns
Johnson, E. B.	Payne	Traficant
Johnson, Sam	Pease	Turner
Jones (NC)	Pelosi	Upton
Jones (OH)	Peterson (PA)	Vento
Kanjorski	Petri	Vitter
Kaptur	Phelps	Walden
Kasich	Pickering	Walsh
Kelly	Pitts	Wamp
Kennedy	Pombo	Watkins
Kildee	Porter	Watt (NC)
Kilpatrick	Portman	Watts (OK)
Kind (WI)	Price (NC)	Waxman
King (NY)	Pryce (OH)	Weiner
Kingston	Quinn	Weldon (FL)
Klecza	Radanovich	Weldon (PA)
Klink	Rahall	Wexler
Knollenberg	Regula	Weygand
Kolbe	Reyes	Whitfield
Kuykendall	Reynolds	Wicker
LaHood	Rivers	Wilson
Lampson	Rodriguez	Wolf
Lantos	Roemer	Woolsey
Largent	Rogan	Wu
Larson	Rogers	Wynn
Latham		Young (FL)

NAYS—56

Aderholt	Ford	Lee
Baird	Frank (MA)	LoBiondo
Bilbray	Gephardt	Markey
Bonior	Gillmor	McDermott
Borski	Hall (OH)	McGovern
Clay	Hastings (FL)	McNulty
Costello	Hefley	Meek (FL)
Crane	Hilliard	Meeks (NY)
DeFazio	Hinchey	Miller, George
English	Kucinich	Moran (KS)
Filner	LaFalce	Neal

Oberstar	Sabo	Thompson (MS)
Pallone	Schaffer	Udall (CO)
Pastor	Schakowsky	Udall (NM)
Peterson (MN)	Stupak	Velazquez
Pickett	Sweeney	Visclosky
Pomeroy	Tauscher	Waters
Ramstad	Taylor (MS)	Weller
Riley	Thompson (CA)	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Carson

NOT VOTING—19

Archer	Ehrlich	Rangel
Blunt	Evans	Scott
Brown (CA)	Fossella	Tierney
Conyers	Green (TX)	Wise
Cox	Hutchinson	Young (AK)
Cubin	Hyde	
Cummings	Nadler	

□ 1106

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 775, YEAR 2000 READINESS AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 234 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 234

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 775) to establish certain procedures for civil actions brought for damages relating to the failure of any device or system to process or otherwise deal with the transition from the year 1999 to the year 2000, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from South Boston, Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), the distinguished ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I might consume. During consideration of this rule, all time that I will be yielding is for debate purposes only.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution provides for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 775, the Y2K Act. The rule waives points of order against the conference report and its consideration. The rule further provides that the conference report be considered as read. This rule is a fair rule which will enable the House to expeditiously consider this important and very timely matter.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the year 2000 is right around the corner, and most Americans have heard that some computers may, I underscore may, have a problem dealing with this historic date change. Now, I am not an alarmist, and I hope that we will not suffer major problems, but that does