

to continue on the path of fiscal responsibility.

**H.R. 2439, PREVENTING EXHAUSTION OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND SAVING MONEY**

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, for all Americans who are struggling with new telephone area codes, I have introduced a bill, H.R. 2439, to prevent the exhaustion of telephone numbers and save the economy about \$150 billion in emergency remedial measures.

If the rate at which new telephone area codes are being introduced continues, we may run out of area codes as soon as the year 2007. If that occurs, we would be forced to add one more digit to all U.S. phone numbers. The FCC and other reliable sources estimates that the cost to the economy of adding an extra digit to all telephone numbers and reprogramming all computer networks and databases to recognize the expanded numbering format could be as high as \$150 billion, which is about the same cost as fixing the Y2K bug.

□ 1030

But unlike the Y2K problem, the coming crisis in telephone number allocation is entirely preventable. My bill requires the telephone company to stop wasting potential telephone numbers. It promotes competition by ensuring that consumers can take their telephone numbers with them if they choose to switch carriers. It restores the ability of consumers to dial only seven digits and reach anyone in their area code. And it will save the economy \$150 billion in unproductive emergency and preventable remedial action.

**AMERICA SCREAMS OUT FOR US TO PROTECT OUR YOUTH**

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is troubling, and there is a difference between the two parties. The Democrats want to try to solve Social Security, improve Medicare, and try to secure our youth from guns.

Each day in America 14 kids age 19 and under are killed by guns. In 1996, almost 5,000 juveniles were killed with a firearm. In 1997, 84 percent of the murder victims age 13 to 19 were killed with guns.

Mr. Speaker, 59 percent of the students in grades six through twelve know where to get guns if they want one. And it seems that no one cares about how many they get. Two-thirds of these students say they can acquire a firearm within 24 hours.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, that we address this issue and get on with the

concerns of the American people. Kids and guns do not mix, yet Republicans refuse to consider common sense gun safety measures that would only serve to protect kids. It is time for us to do it, Mr. Speaker. America screams out for us to protect our youth.

**NO REASON FOR DEMOCRATS TO VOTE DOWN GUN CONTROL BILL**

(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 follow up the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) on the gun issue.

Many of us felt that it was important to close the loophole at gun shows. The question and the argument centered around the question—Is 24 hours reasonable to have a criminal history check?

I am from Michigan. In Michigan we have required a criminal history check to purchase a hand gun for the last 50 years. So the reasonableness of keeping guns out of the hands of felons is something I think most of us should agree on.

To close the loophole, at gun shows where individuals that are not licensed gun dealers sell guns to other individuals at the show, a law change is necessary. The suggestion that came from the Democratic side of the aisle to require 24 hours for a criminal history check.

I called the FBI. They reported that with the current 3 days, sometimes they miss that an individual has committed a felony. But what happens is the FBI immediately call the ATF, the local law enforcement, because they have committed two felonies. Once in their certification and once taking possession of a gun. They immediately go after them. They prosecute them. They confiscate the gun.

There was no reason for the Democrats to have voted down this gun control bill that would have closed this gun show loop-hole.

**REPUBLICAN TRILLION-DOLLAR TAX BILL IS A DISGRACE**

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republican trillion-dollar tax bill is a disgrace. It is the height of irresponsibility. It is a trillion-dollar giveaway to the special interests and the high-rollers.

The Republican plan does nothing to protect Social Security. The Republican plan does nothing to strengthen Medicare. The Republican tax scheme does nothing to reduce our national debt.

We are at a crossroads in America. We have an historic opportunity to preserve and protect Social Security, to

strengthen Medicare, and to pay down this awful national debt. We should not, we cannot, and we must not let this historic opportunity pass us by.

We have balanced our national budget. We have put our economic house in order. The Republican tax scheme is irresponsible. It does not address our needs, and it will lead us down the road to economic disaster. The Republican plan is a dangerous and dark step backwards. It should be and it must be defeated, Mr. Speaker.

**REPUBLICANS BELIEVE AMERICANS CAN BEST DECIDE HOW TO SPEND THEIR MONEY**

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to simply say, my colleague is wrong. My colleague is questioning the motives of his friends and mine on the other side of the aisle.

We simply say this is the American people's money. They deserve to have it back. It is a very simple story. It is not about motives. It is about the fact that it is their money, they should have it back. It is not where it goes. It is whose it is. It is the American people's money. We have taken it from them.

We firmly believe on our side of the aisle that the American people can best decide how to spend their money, not the Government, not a group of bureaucrats in Washington.

**HMO REFORM**

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to ask my colleagues to stop lollygagging around and to pass meaningful HMO reform as quickly as possible.

Hundreds of Medicare beneficiaries have been dumped by their Medicare HMOs in Texas. Three healthcare plans that I know of, and there could easily be more, have decided not to renew their contracts with the Healthcare Financing Administration.

This is why Medicare HMO reform is needed ASAP. Congress needs to step up to the plate and enact legislation that ensures quality healthcare coverage for all our Nation's elderly. We need to make sure that treatment decisions are made by doctors, like my brother, not insurance company bureaucrats. Plus, we need to hold HMOs accountable for healthcare decisions that people or their doctors disagree with. We must keep Medicare HMOs at the forefront of this Congressional agenda.

**LET US NOT GO OVERBOARD WITH IRRATIONAL TAX CUTS**

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, our message today is really directed at the majority. We are asking them not to shoot themselves in the foot, not to let this wonderful economy be dissipated by policies that are contrary to the public interest, tax cut policies that are counterproductive at best and severely damaging to our economy at worst.

We know that we are enjoying the finest economy that this country has ever experienced. And it can be a sustainable economy. We have had a decade of unprecedented profits and productivity with low inflation and high employment.

The only thing that could kill that prosperity now is a tax cut that was too deep, that was irrational, that gave relatively small amounts of benefit to a lot of people who need them the least. The fact is that too deep a tax cut will arrest the kind of controlled inflation and low unemployment that we are now experiencing. An \$800-billion tax cut is too deep.

We can responsibly target our tax cuts and achieve more at 1/3 the revenue cost. We can keep this economy going. We can keep inflation low. Do not give Mr. Greenspan reason to increase interest rates. We have got a good thing going. Let us keep it going. Do not go overboard with an irrational tax cut.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to 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. HAYES. 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 346, nays 53, answered "present" 2, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 297]

YEAS—346

Abercrombie	Barrett (WI)	Blagojevich
Ackerman	Bartlett	Bliley
Allen	Barton	Blumenauer
Andrews	Bass	Blunt
Armey	Bateman	Boehlert
Bachus	Becerra	Boehner
Baird	Bentsen	Bonilla
Baker	Bereuter	Bono
Baldacci	Berkley	Boswell
Ballenger	Berman	Boucher
Barcia	Berry	Boyce
Barr	Biggart	Brady (PA)
Barrett (NE)	Bishop	Brady (TX)

Brown (FL)	Hinojosa	Ortiz
Brown (OH)	Hobson	Ose
Bryant	Hoeffel	Owens
Burton	Hoekstra	Oxley
Buyer	Holden	Packard
Callahan	Holt	Pascrell
Calvert	Hooley	Paul
Camp	Horn	Payne
Campbell	Hostettler	Pease
Canady	Houghton	Pelosi
Cannon	Hoyer	Peterson (PA)
Capps	Hyde	Petri
Cardin	Inslee	Pickering
Castle	Isakson	Pitts
Chabot	Istook	Pomeroy
Chambliss	Jackson (IL)	Portman
Clayton	Jackson-Lee	Price (NC)
Clement	(TX)	Pryce (OH)
Coble	Jefferson	Quinn
Coburn	Jenkins	Radanovich
Collins	John	Rahall
Combest	Johnson, E. B.	Rangel
Condit	Johnson, Sam	Reyes
Conyers	Jones (NC)	Reynolds
Cook	Kanjorski	Riley
Cooksey	Kaptur	Rodriguez
Cox	Kelly	Roemer
Coyne	Kildee	Rogers
Cramer	Kilpatrick	Rohrabacher
Crowley	Kind (WI)	Ros-Lehtinen
Cubin	King (NY)	Rothman
Cunningham	Kingston	Roukema
Danner	Klecza	Roybal-Allard
Davis (FL)	Klink	Royce
Davis (IL)	Knollenberg	Ryan (WI)
Davis (VA)	Kolbe	Salmon
Deal	Kuykendall	Sanchez
DeGette	LaHood	Sanders
DeLauro	Lampson	Sandlin
DeLay	Lantos	Sanford
DeMint	Largent	Sawyer
Deutsch	Larson	Saxton
Diaz-Balart	LaTourrette	Scarborough
Dickey	Lazio	Schakowsky
Dicks	Leach	Scott
Doggett	Lee	Sensenbrenner
Dooley	Levin	Serrano
Doolittle	Lewis (GA)	Sessions
Doyle	Lewis (KY)	Shadegg
Dreier	Linder	Shaw
Duncan	Lipinski	Shays
Dunn	Lofgren	Sherman
Edwards	Lowe	Sherwood
Ehlers	Lucas (KY)	Shimkus
Ehrlich	Lucas (OK)	Shows
Emerson	Luther	Shuster
Engel	Maloney (CT)	Simpson
Eshoo	Maloney (NY)	Sisisky
Etheridge	Manzullo	Skeean
Evans	Markey	Skelton
Everett	Martinez	Smith (MI)
Ewing	Mascara	Smith (NJ)
Farr	Matsui	Smith (TX)
Fletcher	McCarthy (MO)	Smith (WA)
Foley	McCarthy (NY)	Snyder
Forbes	McCollum	Souder
Ford	McCrery	Spence
Fossella	McHugh	Spratt
Fowler	McInnis	Stark
Frank (MA)	McIntosh	Stearns
Franks (NJ)	McIntyre	Stenholm
Frelinghuysen	McKeon	Stump
Gallegly	Meehan	Stupak
Ganske	MEEKS (NY)	Sununu
Gejdenson	Menendez	Talent
Gekas	Metcalf	Tauscher
Gilchrest	Mica	Tauzin
Gilman	Millender-	Taylor (NC)
Gonzalez	McDonald	Terry
Goode	Miller (FL)	Thomas
Goodlatte	Miller, Gary	Thornberry
Goodling	Minge	Thune
Gordon	Mink	Tiahrt
Goss	Moakley	Tierney
Graham	Mollohan	Toomey
Granger	Moore	Towns
Green (TX)	Moran (VA)	Traficant
Green (WI)	Morella	Turner
Greenwood	Murtha	Upton
Hall (OH)	Myrick	Velazquez
Hall (TX)	Nadler	Vento
Hansen	Napolitano	Vitter
Hastings (FL)	Nethercutt	Walden
Hastings (WA)	Ney	Walsh
Hayes	Northup	Wamp
Hayworth	Norwood	Watkins
Hefley	Nussle	Watt (NC)
Herger	Obey	Waxman
Hill (IN)	Olver	Weiner

Weldon (FL)	Wicker	Woolsey
Wexler	Wilson	Wynn
Weygand	Wise	Young (AK)
Whitfield	Wolf	Young (FL)

#### NAYS—53

Aderholt	Hilliard	Ramstad
Bilbray	Hinchey	Rogan
Bilirakis	Hulshof	Sabo
Bonior	Hutchinson	Schaffer
Borski	Kucinich	Slaughter
Clay	LaFalce	Strickland
Clyburn	LoBiondo	Sweeney
Costello	McGovern	Tanner
Crane	McKinney	Taylor (MS)
DeFazio	Moran (KS)	Thompson (CA)
Fattah	Neal	Thompson (MS)
Filner	Oberstar	Udall (CO)
Gephardt	Pallone	Udall (NM)
Gibbons	Pastor	Visclosky
Gillmor	Peterson (MN)	Waters
Gutknecht	Phelps	Weller
Hill (MT)	Pickett	Wu
Hilleary	Pombo	

#### ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Carson	Tancredo
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#### NOT VOTING—33

Archer	Frost	Meek (FL)
Baldwin	Gutierrez	Miller, George
Brown (CA)	Hunter	Porter
Burr	Johnson (CT)	Regula
Capuano	Jones (OH)	Rivers
Chenoweth	Kasich	Rush
Cummings	Kennedy	Ryan (KS)
Delahunt	Latham	Stabenow
Dingell	Lewis (CA)	Thurman
Dixon	McDermott	Watts (OK)
English	McNulty	Weldon (PA)

□ 1101

Mr. PHELPS changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

#### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 245 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 245

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1691) to protect religious liberty. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; (2) a further amendment printed in the Congressional Record pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII, if offered by Representative Conyers of Michigan or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman