

that Congress laid on the administration, it was not measured against what the Senate or the House felt we needed in ammunition, it was measured against what the administration itself analyzed that we needed to be able to fight the so-called two regional contingency conflict. That is the kind of conflict where we might get involved in a Desert Storm operation against Saddam Hussein, or we might have a Kosovo operation, and, at the same time, the North Koreans, for example, might take advantage of that and try to come south on the peninsula, so American forces might have to deploy to two different areas of the world. We feel that to be safe and to give our service people the best chance of returning alive, we need to have the equipment, the ammunition and the capability of handling those two conflicts at about the same time, because it could happen. Well, that \$3 billion ammunition shortage that General Shinseki spoke about is with respect to the two MRC contingency.

So let us rebuild national defense. Madam Speaker, I think help is on the way.

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me follow my colleague. It is interesting though if our armed services are in such bad shape, they have received more funding every year, and it has passed overwhelmingly. In fact, we have a lot of appropriations bills that have not been sent to the President yet, but the Department of Defense was the first one and has had the big plus-up every year compared to other Federal agencies.

Madam Speaker, after sitting here and listening to my colleagues this morning talk about it, I heard that the Department of Education could not be audited. Well, when is the last time the Department of Defense was audited successfully?

Madam Speaker, I think that is a good topic for debate, but this House and this Senate and the President signed the Department of Defense appropriations bill, the first one, and it is there, and it passed overwhelmingly on both sides. So I do not think the United States is going to hell in a handbasket on the Department of Defense, because we make sure we try to provide that funding.

Here we are October 30, and Congress is still in session, and we have heard my colleagues blame the President or blame different folks, Republicans. But it is interesting, because next Tuesday the voters all over the country will go to the polls and make some decisions.

Now, they will look at lots of issues, but one of the ones I wanted to talk

about this morning, one of the most major issues, is providing prescription drugs for our senior citizens under Medicare.

Prescription drugs have always been a problem, not just for seniors, but for everyone. When those of us go buy pharmaceuticals for ourselves or our children, we realize how high the cost is. But it seems like in the last 3 years, it has gone up dramatically.

I know senior citizens do not always have the choices we have. Sometimes, if we are working, we can earn more overtime, we can cut some other areas, we can actually increase our income. But seniors do not have that option. Seniors do not have that option, if they are required to take so many prescriptions and they just cannot go out and work more overtime.

I was worried earlier this year, and I am glad the House passed it, that between 65 and 70, I was cosponsor of the bill, let seniors work for those years. I was worried that was only going to be our effort this session, let seniors be able to go out and work and pay for their prescription drugs that are not covered under Medicare.

I know this is my fourth term and in 1993, 1994 and 1995 at our town hall meetings and community meetings, we have dozens every year, we would have one or two people come up and talk about prescription drugs. But in the last 2 or 3 years, it seems like I cannot have a town hall meeting or community meeting without either a senior citizen or someone my age saying, my parents cannot afford it, or even someone my children's age saying, my grandparents cannot afford their prescription drugs.

So, you know, in the early nineties you would only hear one or two, but in the last 2 or 3 years, because it seems like the cost of escalation has been so much, and it hits seniors so much more than it does anyone else.

We asked 2 years ago, and our Committee on Government Reform staff, the minority staff, actually conducted studies around the country for a lot of members of Congress. One of them they did in my own district in Houston, and we did three of them starting about 2 years ago.

One, we compared prices for large purchasers, for example, whether it is Blue Cross-Blue Shield or the Veterans, what can they do if the average citizen goes down compared to what the larger purchaser can do. We found out the large purchasers actually save about half of what my seniors going to their local drugstore would pay as compared if they could get it through some large purchaser.

We also, because I am in Houston, Texas, and it is a 6½ hour drive to Mexico, what it would be for seniors who can drive to Mexico, who can both lower their prices by bulk purchasing, but they have also price controls. So we found out that people can drive from Houston to Mexico and save half, at least, on their prescription drugs.

These are studies conducted not by my office, but by the minority office of the Committee on Government Reform. So, again, seniors could save half.

The last thing we did this last spring is we picked out certain pharmaceuticals that are also used for animals. I remember very well in East End Houston at the magnolia Multipurpose Center, we had a good crowd of seniors there, and we had a young lady, I guess in her early 20's, and she had a beautiful German shepherd.

She had that dog, and we started listing pharmaceuticals that my seniors in Houston take, like seniors all over the country, and animals take. Well, it just so happened this dog, this German shepherd, also had asthma, and so did one of my seniors. She talked about how it was tough.

I looked at that dog and I thought it was a purebred German shepherd, Madam Speaker, but it turned out she got it real cheap at the SPCA, and it was a beautiful animal.

But this senior citizen came up and said, I know this dog has asthma, and this is what I pay for my asthma medicine, and it was outrageous. Again, it was more than double for seniors as compared to what we do for our own animals.

That is why it was frustrating that this House has not addressed it, except for one bill that passed earlier. We compare the House plan and the Democratic plan and Governor Bush's plan and the House plan, and it just looks like it is giving more money to insurance companies who, under our current HMO system are not even covering seniors.

Madam Speaker, I know next Tuesday a lot of people, no matter what their age, will go to the polls. I know prescription drugs are important, and I hope they look at the Democratic plan.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

At the beginning of a new work week, Lord God, be with us. Fill us with a freshness and a renewed energy as we face the tasks here set before us today.

May our minds be bathed in the light of Your spirit and our hearts be set free to discern clearly the ways of justice and integrity.

Bring to this Nation a true sense of purpose as it interprets the signs of the

times and seeks to be an instrument of peace in the world.

God of all grace, guide us now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker pro tempore's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

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 298, nays 47, not voting 87, as follows:

[Roll No. 577]

YEAS—298

Andrews	Coble	Goodlatte
Archer	Coburn	Goodling
Army	Collins	Gordon
Baca	Combest	Goss
Bachus	Cook	Graham
Baker	Coyne	Granger
Baldacci	Cramer	Green (TX)
Baldwin	Cubin	Green (WI)
Ballenger	Cummings	Greenwood
Barcia	Cunningham	Gutknecht
Barrett (NE)	Davis (FL)	Hall (OH)
Barrett (WI)	Davis (VA)	Hall (TX)
Bartlett	Deal	Hansen
Bass	DeGette	Hastings (WA)
Bentsen	DeLauro	Hayes
Bereuter	DeLay	Hayworth
Berkley	DeMint	Herger
Berman	Deutsch	Hill (IN)
Berry	Diaz-Balart	Hill (MT)
Biggert	Dicks	Hilleary
Bilirakis	Dixon	Hinojosa
Bishop	Doggett	Hobson
Blagojevich	Dooley	Hoefel
Bliley	Doolittle	Hoekstra
Blumenauer	Doyle	Holden
Blunt	Dreier	Horn
Boehlert	Duncan	Hostettler
Boehner	Dunn	Houghton
Bonilla	Ehlers	Hoyer
Bonior	Ehrlich	Hunter
Bono	Emerson	Hutchinson
Boswell	Engel	Hyde
Boyd	Eshoo	Inslee
Brady (TX)	Etheridge	Isakson
Brown (OH)	Evans	Istook
Bryant	Ewing	Jackson (IL)
Burr	Farr	Jackson-Lee
Buyer	Fletcher	(TX)
Callahan	Foley	Jenkins
Calvert	Fossella	John
Camp	Frelinghuysen	Johnson (CT)
Canady	Frost	Jones (NC)
Cannon	Gallegly	Kelly
Capps	Ganske	Kennedy
Carson	Gekas	Kildee
Castle	Gibbons	Kind (WI)
Chabot	Gilchrest	Kingston
Chambliss	Gillmor	Klecza
Chenoweth-Hage	Gilman	Knollenberg
Clayton	Gonzalez	Kuykendall
Clement	Goode	LaHood

Lampson	Ose	Shimkus
Largent	Owens	Shows
Larson	Packard	Simpson
LaTourette	Pastor	Sisisky
Leach	Paul	Skeen
Lee	Payne	Skelton
Levin	Pease	Smith (MI)
Lewis (CA)	Pelosi	Smith (NJ)
Lewis (GA)	Peterson (PA)	Smith (TX)
Lewis (KY)	Petri	Smith (WA)
Linder	Pitts	Souder
Lofgren	Pombo	Spence
Lowe	Pomeroy	Stearns
Lucas (KY)	Portman	Stump
Lucas (OK)	Price (NC)	Sununu
Luther	Pryce (OH)	Tancredo
Maloney (CT)	Quinn	Tanner
Manzullo	Radanovich	Tauscher
Mascara	Rahall	Tauzin
Matsui	Rangel	Taylor (NC)
McCarthy (MO)	Regula	Terry
McCarthy (NY)	Reyes	Thomas
McCrery	Reynolds	Thornberry
McHugh	Rivers	Thune
McKeon	Rodriguez	Thurman
McKinney	Roemer	Tiahrt
McNulty	Rogers	Tierney
Meeks (NY)	Rohrabacher	Toomey
Mica	Ros-Lehtinen	Towns
Millender-McDonald	Roukema	Trafficant
Miller (FL)	Roybal-Allard	Turner
Miller, Gary	Royce	Upton
Minge	Rush	Vitter
Mink	Ryan (WI)	Walden
Moakley	Ryun (KS)	Walsh
Mollohan	Salmon	Wamp
Moore	Sanders	Watt (NC)
Moran (VA)	Sandlin	Waxman
Murtha	Sanford	Weiner
Myrick	Sawyer	Weldon (FL)
Nadler	Saxton	Weldon (PA)
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Wexler
Nethercutt	Scott	Whitfield
Ney	Sensenbrenner	Wicker
Northup	Serrano	Wilson
Norwood	Sessions	Wolf
Nussle	Shadegg	Woolsey
Ortiz	Sherman	Wynn
	Sherwood	Young (FL)

NAYS—47

Aderholt	Latham	Sabo
Baird	LoBiondo	Sanchez
Bilbray	Markey	Schaffer
Borski	McDermott	Slaughter
Capuano	McGovern	Stenholm
Clyburn	Miller, George	Strickland
Condit	Moran (KS)	Stupak
Costello	Oberstar	Sweeney
DeFazio	Obey	Taylor (MS)
English	Olver	Thompson (CA)
Filner	Pallone	Udall (CO)
Ford	Peterson (MN)	Udall (NM)
Gejdenson	Phelps	Velazquez
Holt	Ramstad	Weller
Hooley	Rogan	Wu
Kucinich	Rothman	

NOT VOTING—87

Abercrombie	Franks (NJ)	Meehan
Ackerman	Gephardt	Meek (FL)
Allen	Gutierrez	Menendez
Barr	Hastings (FL)	Metcalfe
Barton	Hefley	Morella
Becerra	Hilliard	Neal
Boucher	Hinche	Oxley
Brady (PA)	Hulshof	Pascrell
Brown (FL)	Jefferson	Pickering
Burton	Johnson, E. B.	Pickett
Campbell	Johnson, Sam	Porter
Cardin	Jones (OH)	Riley
Clay	Kanjorski	Scarborough
Conyers	Kaptur	Shaw
Cooksey	Kasich	Shays
Cox	Kilpatrick	Shuster
Crane	King (NY)	Snyder
Crowley	Klink	Spratt
Danner	Kolbe	Stabenow
Davis (IL)	LaFalce	Stark
Delahunt	Lantos	Talent
Dickey	Lazio	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	Lipinski	Visclosky
Edwards	Maloney (NY)	Waters
Everett	Martinez	Watkins
Fattah	McCollum	Watts (OK)
Forbes	McInnis	Weygand
Fowler	McIntosh	Wise
Frank (MA)	McIntyre	Young (AK)

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Mrs. CUBIN changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed due to the late arrival of the airplane I was traveling on from New York because of poor weather conditions. Accordingly, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 574, a Journal vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of House rule XXII, I hereby notify the House of my intention tomorrow to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on H.R. 4577, a bill making appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4577, be instructed, in resolving the differences between the two Houses on the funding level for program management in carrying out titles XI, XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act, to choose a level that reflects a requirement that State plans for medical assistance under such title XIX provide for adequate reimbursement of physicians, providers of services, and suppliers furnishing items and services under the plan in the State.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 120.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.