

to Congress until 2 years after the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was established. He took credit for it, but he was not even in Congress when it happened.

Two days ago in the Presidential debates, GORE claimed that he was at a Florida high school when a student had to stand in class because the classroom was so overcrowded.

The principal of that school laughed when he heard the claim and said, "We have never allowed a student to stand in the back of a classroom or to stand in a classroom." He also added that the classroom in question, a science lab, has about \$150,000 this year alone in new equipment.

Why does he have to keep making these things up? What drives him to take credit for so many things that he clearly had nothing to do with?

Mr. GORE has a problem with the truth. We need leadership that knows the difference between self-serving fantasy and reality. Our country is hungry for integrity.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Members are reminded not to make personal references to the Vice President.

ASKING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE AMBER ALERT PROGRAM

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) introduced a resolution that recognizes the importance of a community initiative, a successful and effective way to combat child abduction called the Amber Alert Plan.

The Amber Alert is named after Amber Hagerman, a 9-year-old girl who was tragically abducted and murdered in Arlington, Texas, in 1996. The tragedy of Amber's case was felt throughout north Texas, and it led to a search for new and innovative community responses to help law enforcement officials find missing children.

The Amber Alert is a partnership between broadcasters and law enforcement agencies. When law enforcement determines a child is missing, they activate the Amber Alert, by notifying area-participating radio stations. The stations agree to interrupt their programming and broadcast an emergency report, much like an emergency broadcast system. Their report gives details, like the description of a child or any cars involved. TV stations would broadcast Amber Alert crawlers across the front of their screen, which would resemble severe weather warnings.

I unveiled the Amber Alert in my district. Please join me and the gentlewoman from New Mexico in our efforts to recover missing children and curb

abductions as a cosponsor of the bill. The health and safety of our children is in Members' hands.

THE DEMOCRAT EDUCATION AGENDA

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), delivered an important address outlining the education agenda our party will pursue next year under a Democratic Congress. This agenda reflects our commitments to take bold action to make public schools strong and effective and to add, not replace, the efforts being made at the local level.

I applaud the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), for his efforts that began more than a year ago in a series of meetings at the Madison Building over dinners and good conversations.

Here is what we as Democrats propose on education: establish a major new partnership with States to lower class size and assure that every child has a qualified teacher; offer new investments while holding schools accountable for the results; make quality preschool available to every child; and provide direct grants and tax breaks to upgrade and modernize school facilities.

We have set down our marker. I look forward to working with the then Speaker, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), in a Democratic House to move it forward.

PASS THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT BEFORE THE END OF SESSION

(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, the women of America want the other body to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. This landmark legislation, which the House has reauthorized, has saved lives and rescued countless women from the vicious cycle of family violence.

From 1993, when the act was enacted, to 1997, the rate of intimate partner violence fell and the number of female victims of intimate violence dropped. American women have VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act, to thank for these gains.

But there is so much more that needs to be done. In 1998, three out of four victims of intimate-partner homicide were women. The number of women killed by an intimate partner increased 8 percent between 1997 and 1998. Women need VAWA so they can protect themselves and their children from domestic violence.

The Violence Against Women Act saves lives. I urge our colleagues in the other body, pass VAWA before the end of this session.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should avoid urging action by the other body.

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT MUST BE REAUTHORIZED NOW

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is just unthinkable that we should leave Washington and end this session without reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act.

Last week, by a powerful 415 to 3, this body overwhelmingly affirmed our responsibility to addressing and protecting the needs of all victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. Every 15 seconds someone in our country is battered. Every day, four women die in this country as a result of domestic violence.

Every person, woman, man, or child, should feel safe at home and in their neighborhoods. We must ensure that all victims, including immigrant women, are able to report and flee from domestic violence without threats of persecution or deportation.

We have the opportunity in these remaining days to pass VAWA. We should do it now.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO PASS VAWA

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I will follow the Speaker's instructions in terms of not admonishing any other entity of the United States Congress. I would simply rise today to say that we need to have the Violence Against Women Act passed by the Congress and sent to the President for his signature.

Last Wednesday this House unanimously passed VAWA by a vote of 415 to 3. We must urge anyone else who can do that to do that.

VAWA expired on September 30. On September 30, the light went out on justice across this country on behalf of all of the women and children who are victims of violence or who are potential victims, including immigrant women.

Without this critical funding, programs serving women and their children will cease to exist. This is not a political game. It is the lives and well-being of women and children across

this country that are at stake, that are vulnerable.

I would urge further consideration of VAWA by the United States Congress.

ON THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE, CONGRESS SHOULD REPAIR GAPS IN COVERAGE

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

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, this year we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Medicare. The program has benefited over 93 million Americans since it was signed into law on July 30, 1965, by President Johnson.

Yet, our health care system has changed dramatically since then, with medical technology in many ways leading the way, and Medicare has not kept pace with that. I am concerned about the widening gap between the Medicare program and the cutting edge of medical technology.

I am concerned because it means that more than 90,000 Medicare-aged people in my district cannot gain access to advanced treatment and technologies they need. As Congress looks at adjustments to the program, we must act now to repair the gaps in Medicare for the next 35 years of medical innovation.

Medicare's procedure for adding new technologies to the program involve coverage, coding, and payment decisions. Unfortunately, problems and delays have occurred at each of these stages. The result is that now it can take more than 4½ years or more to make the latest breakthrough treatments available to beneficiaries.

I believe that Medicare patients have waited long enough for a program that gives them access to the advanced medical technologies they need. That is why I am pleased to lend full support of H.R. 4395, the Medicare Patient Access to Technology Act, a bipartisan bill which hopefully we will pass this session, and which will lead to 21st century medicine for Medicare beneficiaries.

SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 26th anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant Program. This program put local development decisions in the hands of those who know best, those who live and work in our community.

This long-term commitment to responsible flexibility has paid off. The average housing program leverage is \$2.31 for every Federal dollar spent.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership has chosen to commemorate 26 years of job creation and increased affordable housing and water improvements by stripping the block grant program of \$300 million in the fiscal year 2001 VA-HUD bill.

In Lorais, Ohio, a community in my district struggling with the loss of industry and experiencing rents as much as 50 percent of income, these cuts translate into a loss of jobs, jobs that would have been created next year through construction projects, small business developments, and retraining programs.

This program is simple, it is effective, it is efficient. Communities in northeast Ohio and across the country are depending on it. Proposed 2001 funding levels will, unfortunately, hang them out to dry.

I urge my colleagues to continue our commitment to improving people's quality of life. Let us support the President's request and increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

RYAN WHITE CARE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2000

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 611 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 611

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 (S. 2311) to revise and extend the Ryan White CARE Act programs under title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, to improve access to health care and the quality of care under such programs, and to provide for the development of increased capacity to provide health care and related support services to individuals and families with HIV disease, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 1 pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, 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 Commerce; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I am pleased to yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fair and straightforward closed rule for a very important piece of legislation. The rule waives all points of order against con-

sideration of the bill and provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD shall be considered as adopted.

1030

This is largely a noncontroversial bill. As no members of the minority testified differently last night at the Committee on Rules, this rule should receive unanimous support, and I urge support.

This reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act recognizes the changing demographics of the AIDS epidemic in our country in a way that truly honors the memory of the courageous young boy for which the bill was originally named. Today, there are between 800,000 and 900,000 persons living with HIV in the United States of America with some 40,000 new infections annually. This conference report seeks to shift resources to the most needy areas while preserving the best features of the current programs.

The gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY) should be commended for his leadership and attention to this critical public health issue which is of concern to every Member of this body. I am hopeful that the progress made on this authorization will spur funding for another essential program for individuals afflicted with the HIV virus.

As my colleagues remember and well know, this House led the way and adopted the Ricky Ray Authorization Act in the last Congress. It authorized \$750 million for compassion assistance and recognition to hemophiliacs who contracted AIDS through no fault of their own because of contaminated blood products in the 1980s.

Now, the first installment was provided last year, and this year the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) of the Committee on Appropriations should be commended for exceeding the President's request in the House version of the Fiscal Year 2001 Labor-HHS appropriation bill for the next installment.

As negotiations continue and we near the end of this Congress, I am hopeful that the White House will become fully engaged on the Ricky Ray funding problem and work with leadership and Congress to provide full funding for these victims as soon as humanly possible. The need is great and the time is now.

I am confident that, if the White House shows true leadership and demonstrates that this problem is really a top priority for them, we will be able to move further toward full funding this year. Obviously we cannot undo the tragic events of the 1980s, but we can work to provide assistance to these individuals before it is any later.

Mr. Speaker, this rule should engender little debate. It is a fair rule for a good bill. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from