

NAYS—50

Aderholt	Johnson, E. B.	Sanchez
Baird	Jones (OH)	Schaffer
Baldwin	Kennedy (MN)	Slaughter
Borski	Kucinich	Stark
Brady (PA)	Larsen (WA)	Strickland
Brown (OH)	LoBiondo	Stupak
Capuano	McDermott	Sweeney
Costello	McNulty	Taylor (MS)
DeFazio	Menendez	Thompson (CA)
English	Moran (KS)	Thompson (MS)
Filner	Neal	Udall (CO)
Gutknecht	Oberstar	Udall (NM)
Hart	Olver	Visclosky
Hefley	Otter	Waters
Hinchey	Peterson (MN)	Weller
Holt	Ramstad	Wu
Israel	Sabo	

NOT VOTING—32

Baldacci	Isakson	Smith (NJ)
Chambliss	Kingston	Smith (TX)
Conyers	Lewis (GA)	Stump
Cox	McInnis	Tancred
Crane	Pomeroy	Traficant
Cummings	Roukema	Weiner
Doyle	Royce	Weldon (PA)
Ehrlich	Rush	Wexler
Gordon	Ryun (KS)	Wynn
Hilliard	Shays	Young (AK)
Hyde	Simpson	

□ 1028

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

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Will the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BALDWIN 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 110. Concurrent resolution honoring the heroism and courage displayed by airline flight attendants on a daily basis.

S. Con. Res. 114. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding North Korean refugees in China and those who are returned to North Korea where they face torture, imprisonment, and execution.

□ 1030

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PRESIDENT'S EXPORT COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Without objection, and pursuant to Executive Order 12131, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the President's Export Council:

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania;
Mr. PICKERING of Mississippi;
Mr. HAYES of North Carolina;

Mr. INSLEE of Washington; and
Mr. WU of Oregon.

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA FOR DEDICATION TO PROMOTING COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF EPILEPSY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Epilepsy Foundation of South Florida for its dedication to promoting a community awareness of this disorder, and for its work to improve the lives of individuals afflicted with this terrible disease.

Epilepsy affects 2.3 million Americans, and over 180,000 individuals develop epilepsy each year. In my area alone, over 60,000 people suffer from this disease. The foundation, however, believes that epilepsy should not keep people from achieving a productive life.

With this goal in mind, the foundation has raised funds to help provide medical evaluations, treatments, and employment training tailored to meet the needs of these individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Epilepsy Foundation of South Florida for its use of innovative programs and services that improve the lives of so many in our community.

URGING STATE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO HELP BRING AMERICA'S ABDUCTED CHILDREN HOME

(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, last week the Committee on Government Reform held a hearing on women and children who are being held in Saudi Arabia. It was an emotional hearing on a situation that unfortunately exists in countries all over the world, not just in the Middle East right now.

I have been telling the story of trying to help a father whose son is being held in Italy, one of our supposed closest friends. His son, Ludwig Koons, has been in Italy for 8 years and is being held in a pornographic compound by his abductor mother, and the Italian authorities and our State Department let it happen.

I applaud the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON) for bringing this issue to light in his strong statement to his committee. For years I have been working with left-behind parents who are trying to get their children back to where they belong. For years I have witnessed a State Department that does nothing tangible to help.

We need a State Department that fights for U.S. citizens, not an idle information agency. This issue is one

that none of us can afford to ignore. We need to be aware, and we need to put pressure on other countries that are not sending American children home.

American parents are asking for someone to take action and help them bring their children home. The State Department is not stepping up to the plate for Ludwig Koons or for anyone else. Bring our children home.

URGING IMMEDIATE ACTION ON INS REFORM

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, House rules prohibit me from urging the other body to act on pending legislation, so let me just take a moment to tell of a very important piece of legislation that left this Chamber some time ago, and that was INS reform.

Our borders are vulnerable. We have been picking up absconders who have orders against them to be deported, and yet they are not sent out of the country. We have potential terrorists living in our country, and the INS is in a shambles. We have asked, through this body, that this agency reorganize.

Somewhere between here and the other end of the building, legislation awaits action. We demand action on that bill, and we urge action on that bill for whoever is listening to this conversation. This is a critical issue. It is critical for the safety and security of this country, and I cannot fathom why we wait and delay getting that important piece of legislation to the President's desk for signature.

CUTTING FUNDING FOR A GROWING AMTRAK IS WORST POSSIBLE RESPONSE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as we speak this morning, the administration is distributing a statement that will cut ground out from underneath the efforts of Amtrak to deal with its \$200 million shortfall. They are ignoring the wishes of over 160 Members of this House who have joined with us, and a majority of the Senate, to support the bipartisan compromise that has been worked out by the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT).

We can long debate the merits of their destructive proposals to gut long runs across the country, to privatize the most profitable lines, and to abandon any semblance of a rail system in this country, but every Member should push back now to protect Amtrak.

The irony of our giving \$5 billion to the airlines after we give them \$11 billion in subsidy, despite declining passengers, yet we are going to cut Amtrak off when it is growing, is the

worst possible message at the worst possible time. I hope this House will reject the proposals from the administration.

NATIONAL MONUMENT FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong support for the passage of the National Monuments Fairness Act, which ensures the people's rights to public land are protected. For too many years the executive branch has abused the Antiquities Act by proclaiming thousands upon thousands of square miles of land as national monuments. Such actions do not reflect the original intention of the Antiquities Act, which was aimed to protect small areas of land and specific items of historical importance which were in imminent danger of destruction.

The National Monument Fairness Act will restore balance to the national monument designation process by requiring congressional approval and public input.

The people of America deserve input as to how their public lands are managed, and Nevadans can no longer afford to be left out of this process. Close to 90 percent of the State of Nevada is owned by the Federal Government. It is time to ensure the rights of the people to their land. I encourage my colleagues to support the National Monuments Fairness Act.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, as of now, Medicare does not cover the cost of prescription drugs. Approximately 10 million Medicare recipients nationwide lack any prescription drug coverage. I want Members to support the Democratic plan for strengthening Medicare. The Democratic plan uses the collective bargaining power of Medicare's 40 million beneficiaries to guarantee lower drug prices. Medicare contractors will compete for enrollees by negotiating discounts. Drug prices will be reduced for everyone by stopping big drug company patent abuses.

Mr. Speaker, the plan the House adopts must lower the cost of drugs for all seniors. It must ensure senior coverage for all drugs their doctor prescribes. The plan should be an affordable and guaranteed Medicare drug benefit. It must not force seniors into HMOs or predatory private insurance. The Democratic proposal addresses each of these points.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic plan guarantees choice on prescription

drugs. I urge my colleagues to honor our seniors.

THE MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2002

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002. This bill is important and overdue for our seniors.

An article in today's Minneapolis Star Tribune says that prescription drug prices in Minnesota are among the Nation's highest. For Minnesotans, and indeed for all Americans, we need to pass a prescription drug coverage bill now.

Yesterday Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson released a study showing that our plan would save seniors more money than our friends on the other side of the aisle's proposal. Our plan would give seniors immediately a 30 percent discount off the top on their overall drug costs, and, combined with traditional front-loaded insurance coverage, it would reduce the cost of prescriptions by half for the average senior.

But, in addition, we provide catastrophic coverage so that seniors do not have to deplete a lifetime of savings in order to be able to afford life-giving prescriptions, and we give 100 percent prescription drug coverage for low-income seniors, and give more Medicare and senior choices.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, what are the priorities of this Congress? Recently, it seems that the primary concern of the majority is passing tax cuts costing trillions of dollars that benefit the very wealthy and do not even go into effect for 10 years from now.

Next week, the majority will finally bring to the floor a bill that is the ultimate concern of thousands of seniors in the United States, the Medicare prescription drug bill. Unfortunately, the Republican bill is such a sham that it will not even stand up to the scrutiny of a truth-in-advertising law.

If we put the concerns of seniors who desperately need help in paying for their prescriptions first, then we must pass a benefit that is affordable.

I recently received a letter from Donna O'Keefe, a retiree who lives in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Her drug bills total \$400 a month, and she receives only \$640 a month from Social Security. Seniors like Donna need a com-

prehensive prescription drug benefit that has no gaps and no gimmicks. They need real drug coverage under Medicare.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, the problem of the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs is one that requires both a short-term and a long-term solution. It is clear that seniors need a permanent, universal, and voluntary Medicare-based prescription drug benefit that provides more savings and more choice.

My hope is that Congress will implement what I call a two-tiered approach to the problem, immediate relief through a prescription drug discount card, in addition to a long-term benefit through Medicare.

The House Committee on Ways and Means has already passed a bill that uses this approach. Through a generous Medicare benefit and the use of an interim drug discount card, Congress will be able to provide seniors the savings that they need and deserve now and in the future. With the national Medicare-endorsed prescription drug card, seniors will be able to realize a savings between 10 and 20 percent, and once the more comprehensive Medicare benefit is fully implemented, seniors will be able to save 70 percent of their out-of-pocket costs.

America's seniors deserve a long-term benefit. An interim measure would help keep the cost down.

MAJORITY LEADER EXCUSES CORPORATIONS WHO FLEE AMERICA TO AVOID PAYING TAXES

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, many Americans wonder why this Congress has taken no effective action to stop another Enron debacle, and no effective action to prevent one multinational corporation after another from fleeing America in order to evade its taxes.

Yesterday, we received the explanation, with all of its customary sensitivity, from the Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), who attacked those of us who have initiatives to stop these acts of disloyalty to America by saying, "This is akin to punishing a taxpayer for choosing to itemize instead of taking the standard deduction."

Most Americans may own a few pairs of Bermuda shorts, but they cannot become "Bermudan" on April 15 and remain American the other days of the year to enjoy the benefits of our American citizenship. I believe this Congress needs to speak and act firmly to prevent those who forget the maxim of