

While I welcome the President's comments during his visit to Wall Street last week, this looming crisis requires a firm commitment from our administration to seriously address this problem. But words, like stocks, lose their value when actions do not back them up.

We must hold those irresponsible few accountable for their actions now and enact safeguards to protect our markets, our workers, our consumers and reputations of companies who do play by the rules. Our economic recovery and the future of millions of American families depend on it.

CONGRATULATING HOUSE FOR EARLY ACTION IN ADDRESSING CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(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 of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the House for their early action in addressing corporate responsibility and encourage the conferees to finish their work quickly so that we can get a bill to the President's desk before the August break.

In April, we acted on a strong bipartisan bill to strengthen the accounting oversight of corporate America and punish corporate wrongdoing. Now, finally, the Senate has acted.

Corporate criminals must understand that they will be prosecuted, we will increase their jail time, we will take away their ill-gotten gains. And the money we recover will go to workers and investors who were cheated, not to a trial lawyer windfall.

Our economy is built on confidence, and because of a few dishonest executives, confidence in the market has eroded. But let our actions send a signal to corporate America and the American people: The era of "everything goes" is over. There is a new sheriff in town.

Let me also say to those that I read today and hear today would drag this out as a partisan attempt for gain: Playing politics with the lives, the jobs and the retirement savings of millions of Americans is shameful and will not earn you people's votes; only their contempt.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the most important issues this Congress is faced with. We must get our economy back on track. This is an important step in the process.

CORPORATE GREED

(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, blatant acts of fraud and misgovernance by executives of some of America's largest companies, most of them large contributors to President

Bush, have destroyed the retirement accounts of millions of Americans. But rather than focus on legislation that will increase corporate account bills, the President and House Republicans are pushing for another huge giveaway to corporate America, Fast Track trade legislation.

The Fast Track agreement opens the door to expansion of NAFTA-style investor rules that empower foreign corporations to sue State and local governments for billions of dollars if consumer and environmental laws interfere with their profits.

A Canadian chemical company has used NAFTA to attack clean water laws in California. A U.S. toxic waste handler successfully challenged the right of a desperately poor Mexican community to block the company from building a toxic dump on top of their water supply.

A new study from Tufts University says NAFTA-style corporate lawsuits will eventually line the pocket of global corporations with \$32 billion per year in U.S. taxpayer funds.

I urge this House to oppose Fast Track when it returns to the House.

LET DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEFEND AMERICA

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, this morning's Wall Street Journal has an editorial which says this about the proposed Homeland Security Department: "It seemed like a good idea at the time. But the more we look at the hash Washington is making of President Bush's proposal for a new Department of Homeland Security, the more we think we would be wiser to call the whole thing off."

Steven Moore, in a column in today's Philadelphia Inquirer, said the new Department would probably cost \$4 billion just in reorganization costs. Then he said, "There are, however, a number of problems with the proposal. First, and most important, we already have a Department of Homeland Security and it is called the Department of Defense. If Defense, which spends about \$350 billion a year, more than almost all of the other nations combined, if Defense isn't spending money on protecting the homeland, what is it spending these funds on? The very reason we had a 9/11 attack was that our government wasn't doing the one thing it is supposed to do: Keep us safe from foreign harm."

This new department will simply make the Federal Government bigger, more bureaucratic and much more expensive, and it will not make it any safer. We should not have to create a Cabinet level department just to get government agencies to cooperate with each other. If we do, the Federal Government is much worse than even I thought it was.

DO NOT EASE TRADE EMBARGO ON CUBA

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about a proposal that we may have on the floor today to terminate some of the trade embargo between the United States and Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, Cuba is not exactly your stereotypical, friendly next-door neighbor, and there are certain reasons why this island nation has the honor, a very dubious honor, I want to say, of being one of the seven terrorist-supporting nations in the world by the State Department.

In fact, let me quote what our intelligence community says. "The U.S. believes that Cuba has at least a limited, developmentally offensive biological warfare research and development effort. Cuba has provided dual use technology to rogue states. We are concerned that such technology could support biological warfare programs in these states."

Now, easing this trade embargo would merely provide Castro the financial capital he needs to fund his reign of terrorism and abuse. It would be tragic if the legislative actions of this Congress helped finance any attack on its own citizens or any of the citizens around the world.

Now is not the time for us to succumb to the wishes of a maniacal ruler and give in on our trade embargo. We have to keep the bar very, very high, because with the terrorist threat around the world, this is one neighbor we have to be mindful of.

AIRPORT SCREENING FOR AVIATION EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I propose and ask the Transportation Secretary to put in place a separate aviation employee screening process by September 1 of this year that will allow airlines to safely and efficiently comply with Federal law.

This separate aviation employee screening process would be uniform from airport to airport, performed by TSA personnel at separate portals from passenger screening, and must take advantage of the new aviation employee credentials that are presently under development.

I ask Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta to appoint a task force to include airline, labor and airport representatives to provide necessary and helpful real-world input and resources in creating and implementing this process.

This task force can greatly enhance the government's ability to meet the proposed September 1 implementation

deadline and facilitate acceptance in the aviation community.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 23 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1252

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR) at 12 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5121, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 489 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 489

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5121) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read through page 61, line 16. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: beginning with "Provided" on page 11, line 4, through line 9; page 16, line 21, through page 21, line 17. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and except pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate. The amendment printed in the report may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendment as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and the amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one mo-

tion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER); 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. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 489 is a structured rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 5121, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2003. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule further provides that the amendment offered by the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), be made in order.

This is a fair rule that will allow all Members ample opportunity to debate the important issues associated with this bill. I want to point out again, Mr. Speaker, that the gentleman from Virginia had an amendment that he wished to make in order with regard to the issue of the Joint Committee on Taxation reducing some funds, I believe it is \$590,000, and even though this is a structured rule, we made it in order in the interest of absolute fairness.

The underlying legislation funds many important programs that work to keep our government functioning. Some of these programs include \$219 million for the Capitol Police, \$422 million for the Library of Congress, \$86 million for the Congressional Research Service, and \$457 million for the General Accounting Office.

At this time I think it is important we highlight a particular item of this bill. Since September 11, the Capitol Police have worked incredibly, tirelessly, to ensure that we, the Members and all the staff here, and the Capitol itself be safe. Their efforts have allowed us to do our jobs without any safety concerns and worries, and I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Capitol Hill Police, all of the officers in that distinguished body, for their courage and their dedication.

I would also like to thank the Committee on Appropriations for ensuring that the brave men and women of the Capitol Police will receive pay at least equal to other Federal law enforcement agencies.

I would also like to thank the chairman of this subcommittee, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR), and all the members of the subcommittee. Mr. Speaker, this bill gives us the tools to serve our constituents

in an effective and efficient manner, and I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank my colleague for yielding me the customary half hour.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule. The measure leaves unprotected a provision of the underlying bill authored by my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN). The unprotected provision withholds the release of \$590,000, the amount the Joint Committee on Taxation requested above its fiscal 2002 budget until the Joint Committee releases its Report on Expatriates.

My colleagues may remember this report. It was requested by one of our former chairs, Mr. Archer, in 1999, to study the scope and the impact of wealthy U.S. taxpayers who renounce their citizenship to avoid paying their U.S. taxes.

In the wake of recent corporate scandals and in the wake of assertions by members of the majority leadership that corporations moving their corporations abroad do it only to avoid taxes, which was the fault of our Tax Code and not of the corporations, the report has taken on an added importance.

Earlier this year, the Wall Street Journal ran a story suggesting the report was largely completed. But despite repeated requests, the report has yet to be released. Last night, the Committee on Rules could easily have removed this potential roadblock to obtaining this report, but it chose not to.

Mr. Speaker, this, unfortunately, has become a pattern with the majority leadership. Reports in recent days have suggested that the majority leadership is joining forces with corporations who abuse tax avoidance schemes in an effort to kill our attempts to close major tax loopholes, with the help of the Treasury.

Specifically, the GOP leadership attempted earlier this week to strip out a provision passed by Democrats in the Committee on Appropriations that would prohibit government contracts from being issued to companies that have reincorporated overseas specifically to avoid paying taxes.

□ 1300

Accenture, formerly Andersen Consulting, is spearheading a lobbying campaign, as their \$43 million contract with the IRS could be affected. Accenture recently moved its headquarters to Bermuda to avoid paying U.S. taxes. The amendment to curtail this practice is the first in a campaign by the Committee on Appropriations to force the majority to confront corporate wrongdoing, worker pension