

bill but were dropped in conference will not be receiving a check. That is largely because we have yet to pass a bill. It is now almost 37 days since we appointed conferees, and the checks for those who will get the credit go out next Friday. What is the status of that piece of legislation?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, we did have a good debate on the floor the last night, the night before that, and I understand we may have another this afternoon. Some of the points made in those debates would reflect some of the difficulties of coming together with regard to this conference.

The House bill, we believe, is more appropriate because it covers more families and more children, and we think it is fairer than the Senate bill. The Senate has a different point of view. We are still working out those differences. I cannot tell the gentleman when the conference will resolve those differences, but, as with Medicare, we are certainly hoping for a resolution as soon as possible, perhaps before the recess, but it is certainly not guaranteed.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend, I know the differences that the chairman pointed to and you have pointed to in terms of making this either permanent or at least 10 years in authorization. I do not, frankly, think there would be opposition to making this permanent on our side. However, we are concerned that in the effort to make it permanent we will fail to make it at least temporary, which we could then follow up by making it permanent. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

Drug reimportation is an issue. Which day does the gentleman expect to have the drug reimportation bill on the floor? Do you know when it will be on the floor?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, it would appear because of the appropriations schedule we are going to have to play that by ear. We expect to bring the drug reimportation legislation to the floor next week, probably late next week, given the appropriations schedule. We are hoping to have as many as four appropriations bills on the floor next week, and so the timing of the drug reimportation bill will depend on the progress we make in the first few days in regard to the appropriations bills.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, lastly, the gentleman indicated that we may be meeting Friday night. Is the gentleman pretty confident that our Members need to make definite plans to be here on Friday, or is there an expectation that we could get our work done on Thursday? Is Friday a contingency or is the majority sure that we are going to be meeting on Friday?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, it looks now as though it would be very difficult to avoid a Friday session. Looking at the legislation laid out, even if we are in late, it looks like Friday is more likely. It is likely that we will be here, and they should make travel plans accordingly.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his information.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1308, TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN moves that the managers on the part of the House in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1308 be instructed as follows:

1. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides immediate payments to taxpayers receiving an additional credit by reason of the bill in the same manner as other taxpayers were entitled to immediate payments under the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

2. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides families of military personnel serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones a child credit based on the earnings of the individuals serving in the combat zone.

3. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report all of the other provisions of the Senate amendment and shall not report back a conference report that includes additional tax benefits not offset by other provisions.

4. To the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, the House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report other tax benefit for military personnel and the families of the astronauts who died in the Columbia disaster.

5. The House conferees shall, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this motion, meet in open session with the Senate conferees and the House conferees shall file a conference report consistent with the preceding provisions of this instruction, not later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

□ 1615

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this motion instructs the House conferees to adopt the child tax credit bill that was passed by the Senate more than a month ago, a bill that the President said he is eager to have on his desk and to sign. This motion before the House is identical to the motion passed by this House June 12, a motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) at the time. It is 36 days later, more than a month. Yet we have seen no action. The time has come for the House Republicans to stop playing

politics with the child tax credit. The people who are going to suffer are the 12 million children from 6.5 million low-income working families, families who earn an annual income of between \$10,500 and \$26,600 a year, families out there working very hard day in and day out to make ends meet.

What happened? How did they get cut out? Let us just go back a little over a month just to review a little history here. During the recent conference on the tax bill, that was the tax bill passed out of this House, \$350 billion-plus, a package that disproportionately benefits the very wealthiest in our country, during the House-Senate conference on that tax bill, a provision was removed. It was a provision that was originally offered by a Democratic Senator in the United States Senate. It was a provision for basic fairness and basic decency. Indeed, it was one of the only provisions in that tax cut bill that benefits low-income, working families.

While that bill accelerated tax cuts that had been previously passed by this Congress, while that bill accelerated the cut in the tax rates for the very wealthiest Americans, and while we accelerated the child tax credit for millions of other Americans, the Republican conferees on the House and the Senate side decided to remove that one provision in the bill that helped those low-income working families, that provided a child tax credit to those families with under \$26,000 in income.

It was a shameful moment. But at least the Senate recognized the problem and Democrats and Republicans on the Senate side passed a bill very quickly to fix that particular problem, to make sure that we restored the child tax credit for those low-income Americans who had been taken out of the bill. The President, who originally through the Vice President, DICK CHENEY, had agreed with the plan to remove that provision that helped low-income families with a child tax credit, reversed position as well and the President said, I want to sign that tax bill, the child tax credit fix that was passed by the Senate. And then the bill came over to this body. We actually had, as I said, a motion to instruct conferees 36 days ago where we told the House conferees, let us go with the Senate bill. Yet the House leadership has prevented that from happening.

Next Friday, as the Democratic whip indicated, next Friday, July 25, many Americans are going to go to their mailboxes, and they are going to find a tax rebate check there. Because of the nature of this bill, the wealthiest in our country are going to find some very big checks. In fact, the wealthiest 1 percent will receive on average \$100,000 in tax cuts. Many other Americans will receive much smaller checks. But there is one group of Americans that is going to go to their mailboxes and find nothing at all and that is the low-income working families who were cut out of the bill and for whom the

Republican leadership in the House refuses to provide relief right now, families whom we know are struggling each day as hard as every American.

There is also another group that was left out. It was a group of Americans who have been fighting for our country overseas, 200,000 men and women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan in combat operations and in other combat around the world. The House bill left them out, the Senate bill provided a fix, and yet this House Republican leadership will not allow us to provide that fix now. The House bill contains bad news for the children of those 200,000 men and women. It leaves in place current law and under current law many families will have tax increases because combat pay for their services is not counted for the purposes of the child tax credit. So under current law, an E-5 or an E-6 sergeant with 6 years of service and two children is paid \$29,000 a year. If he did not serve in combat, both of his children would be entitled to the full \$1,000 child tax credit. But if he goes to combat for 6 months, his credit would be dropped to approximately \$450 under the House bill. The Senate bill, which the President says he wants to sign, is designed to fix it. Let us get on with it.

Let me just quote from the former White House press secretary, Ari Fleischer, back in the week of June 12. Mr. Fleischer said he, the President, "wants to sign that legislation, hopes that the Congress will get it to him quickly. He believes what the Senate has done is the right thing to do, a good thing to do, and he wants to sign it."

Let us get on with the business. Let us make sure that we treat those families, those hardworking families fairly. There is no reason at a time when the very wealthiest in our country are getting huge tax breaks that we should not provide the child tax credit for those low-income working Americans. It is the right thing to do. It is the decent thing to do. Let us adopt this resolution.

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

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I respect the gentleman from Maryland as an individual, I hear what he has to say; but I must say I disagree with some of these points that he has made. We have passed our own bill. Why should we go and pass the Senate bill? Our own bill is our own bill. That is what we want.

This is not a new issue or a new motion from our colleagues in the House. I once again urge my associates and my Members here to reject the motion to instruct conferees. We have debated this issue for several days now. I will not prolong the debate, particularly with the lateness of this hour and the discussion, the turmoil we had earlier for those who are seeking to return to their districts.

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this motion, and I wanted just to say thank you to my colleague from Maryland for his outstanding leadership on the issue and for offering this motion today.

Our colleague on the other side of the aisle asked a question: We passed our bill over here, why would we want to deal with the Senate bill? I think that therein lies the issue. It is probably very cynical what the thoughts on the other side of the aisle have expressed about the child tax credit; and keeping that in mind, the child tax credit to working families who work hard, pay their taxes and they are not going to get the benefit of this tax break where the millionaires, about 184,000 of them, are going to get \$93,000 in a tax break come next week. The cynicism lies here, that, in fact, the majority leader on the Republican side of the aisle said about this child tax credit, that ain't nothing going to happen. As a matter of fact, the editorial page in the Wall Street Journal just a couple of weeks ago commended the majority leader for his action which in fact would be that the bill that passed here in the House would never be accepted by the United States Senate, the other body, and, therefore, nothing would happen, it would die. So what they did here was a political ploy to do nothing. That is what is so sad about this.

Further, the majority leader here, the majority leader in the Senate said, We don't have time to do this. We don't have time to do this and it's not that important. And then the other night when we debated this motion on the floor and it was because this motion, as my colleague from Maryland pointed out passed, this very motion passed on June 12 with a bipartisan majority, 205-201, that meant that Democrats and Republicans together voted to do what the other body had done. And the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means said, Well, that's not a binding resolution. We don't have to do anything about that, so that the will of the majority is thwarted once again. That is what is so sad about this.

Let me just say, it has been 7 weeks. We have discussed how the extension of the child tax credit was stolen from 6.5 million families, 12 million children, a million of whom are in military and veterans families. We have discussed how these low-wage-earning families pay more in taxes than Enron, a multi-billion dollar company who paid no taxes in the last 4 or 5 years. It is incredible.

But this injustice has affected women disproportionately. Two-thirds of the parents who will not be receiving this tax cut are women. Fifty-six percent of single parents will receive no tax assistance from the tax cut passed in May, including almost 4 million single mothers representing 54 percent of all

families that have been left out. Stay-at-home moms fare little better. More than a million married couples with a stay-at-home mom, 55 percent of all married-couple families, were left out. They have been left out by this Republican majority. On average, the families of these women would have received \$276 in this year alone had the tax credit been extended to them.

As I said the other night when we were discussing how families in the military and Head Start and teaching in Head Start were left out of this tax cut, that might not sound like a lot of money to some, particularly those millionaires who are going to get \$93,000, what do they care about \$276, but it can be a difference between a child going to school with or without school supplies, it helps the families of the 9 million children in this country without health insurance pay for the health care services that they need.

Assisting these families, these 12 million children, is a moral issue. It is a matter of values. The President said a month ago that he wants this House to act on this, to accept the other body's bill, bring justice to 6.5 million families. Let us give them that. I would just say, I call on the President, because his leadership here in the House has seen it and left the field. They do not want to do anything about this. So I call on the President, use your moral authority, do something about those 6.5 million working families. Yes, they pay taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, payroll taxes. They deserve to get that child tax credit as well as those millions of others who next Friday are going to get their check. And why is it because they make \$10,500 a year up to \$26,000 a year that they are not deserving? It is wrong. We should pass this motion to instruct.

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the gentleman from Maryland's thoughtful motion to instruct conferees. I thank him for his vigilance in standing up for hardworking, lower-income families.

□ 1630

This instruction tells the conferees to ignore the bogus Republican child tax credit fix passed in this House and urges them to follow the Senate provisions that would extend the child tax credit to lower-income families to make sure they receive a rebate check when they start going out on July 25, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate has already passed a bill that would make sure that our working families, those earning between \$10,500 and \$26,000, would receive their share of one of the largest tax cuts in this Nation's history. That bill costs \$9.7 billion; and, unlike the huge \$80 billion Republican tax credit rammed through the House, the Senate bill is paid for.

Mr. Speaker, what I find truly astounding by this entire process is what it says about our values in this House. We should be trying to help all Americans, those with means and those without.

The Office of Management and Budget recently announced that this year's Federal deficit will hit \$455 billion. I do not think it is any secret that this record deficit is a direct result of tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. And yet I ask my colleagues can we not spend \$3.5 billion of money, money that is offset in the Senate bill to let the men and women of our Armed Forces who fight bravely for our country and the men and women who serve our food, who provide day care for our kids, who drive our buses, collect our garbage, to tell them that they matter?

Because, Mr. Speaker, \$3.5 billion is all it would take of the trillion dollar-plus tax cut to help 6.5 million working families, including families of the brave men and women who served our country so heroically in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. Is it too much to give these families their minuscule piece of a tax cut to let them know they matter as much as a millionaire and that their children matter as much as the children of big political donors? Are these questions we should really have to answer?

Instead of helping, the Republican leadership designed a child tax credit that was overpriced and not paid for. They loaded it up with extra goodies so that it cost a whopping \$82 billion. Without Senate support they knew it would be nearly impossible to pass out of conference and may fail altogether.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans did not vote to expand the tax credit. They voted to kill it. But I urge my compassionate conservative friends to put the money where their rhetoric is.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Mr. VAN HOLLEN of Maryland's thoughtful Motion to Instruct Conferees. This instruction tells the conferees to ignore the bogus Republican Child Tax Credit "fix" passed in this House and urges them to follow the Senate provisions that will extend the child tax credit to lower-income families to make sure they receive a rebate check when they start going out on July 25, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate has already passed a bill that would make sure that our working families, those earning between \$10,500 and \$26,000 will receive their share of one of the largest tax cuts in history. That bill costs \$9.7 billion and unlike the gargantuan \$80 billion Republican tax credit rammed through the House—the Senate bill is paid for.

Mr. Speaker, what I find truly astounding about this entire process is what it says about our values in this House. We should be trying to help all Americans—those with means and those without.

The Office of Management and Budget recently announced that this year's federal deficit will hit \$455 billion. I don't think it's any secret that this record deficit is a direct result of tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthiest one percent of Americans.

And yet, I ask my colleagues, can we not spend \$3.5 billion—money that is offset in the Senate bill—to let the men and women of our Armed Forces, who fight bravely for our country—and the men and women who serve our food, who provide day care help for our kids, who drive our buses, collect our garbage—to tell them that they matter.

Because, Mr. Speaker, \$3.5 billion is all it would take of the trillion-plus dollar tax cut to help 6.5 million working families—including families of the brave men and women who served our country so heroically in Iraq, in Afghanistan and around the globe.

Is it too much to give these families their minuscule piece of the tax cut—to let them know they matter as much as a millionaire and that their children matter as much as the children of big political donors. Are these questions we should really have to answer?

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Mr. Speaker, the Republicans did not vote to expand the child tax credit, they voted to kill it.

But, I urge my compassionate conservative friends to put the money where your rhetoric is. Correct your intentional mistake. Pass the Senate provisions. These families need the help now.

Mr. Speaker, that is money well spent.

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this important motion to instruct conferees must be considered in context of what has happened here today and what has happened here this year. Today we have seen arrogance boil over with the order from the Committee on Ways and Means chairman to have the Capitol Police remove some of our colleagues and me from a committee room where we were attempting to develop our alternatives to pension protection for every worker in the United States. It is that same committee from which this child tax credit arose.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) has made clear that one of the groups that will be most significantly impacted by the decision on this motion to instruct are the children of our military families. In fact, it is a very significant amount. According to the Children's Defense Fund, a quarter of a million children are in active-duty military families who will not qualify for this child tax credit unless the gentleman from Maryland's (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) motion is not only approved today but followed by the conference committee.

But this is not the first time that the Committee on Ways and Means, the same committee whose chairman sent the police out after Democratic colleagues on the committee today, has shown disinterest in the plight of our military families. Indeed, there is a bill

that has been sitting on this desk since March 27 of this year called the "Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act." That bill passed the United States Senate unanimously, 97 to nothing. That bill would ensure that there would be no taxes applied to the small \$6,000 death benefit payable to the families of those who are killed in conflict such as in Iraq, and it would provide certain other benefits to military families.

When that measure came before the House Committee on Ways and Means, proceeded to do things like stick on an amendment to help foreign gamblers who bet off track at American racetracks, to help companies that make tackle boxes, to help a variety of other special interests, and they loaded it up. And to add the final indignity, they added to that bill called the "Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act" a provision to grant amnesty to those corporations that renounced their American citizenship and posted their mailbox in Bermuda to dodge their fairshare taxes to pay for what is happening in Iraq and what is happening in America.

That bill, that disinterest Republicans show here against the instant bill we now consider, the child tax credit, and the fact that children in 200,000 military families have been left out by this Republican majority, by their refusal to accept the thinking in the gentleman from Maryland's (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) motion, it is somewhat ironic that this very week when the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) makes his motion, I understand that the United States Government has decided that it will expend money to pay about 200,000 to 250,000 Iraqi military officers. The Members heard that right. Iraqi military officers, to pay them 200,000 of 250,000 a stipend, with either our tax dollars or money they find over in Iraq, I guess.

Why not do something for the children of 200,000 of our military families who have been left out by the same Republican majority that showed the callous indifference to let the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act sit up here since March 27? Because they want to use legislation like this to advance another agenda. And what is that agenda? It is an agenda that says if we sap the strength of the Federal Treasury enough, we can totally dismantle our Government.

We know this week that America has, even according to the White House, the largest deficit in the history of the United States, that we are headed toward a debt ceiling that keeps going up, \$10 trillion of debt, and instead of targeting the relief to these military families and to these civilian families that are out there working in our hospitals, in our nursing homes, picking up the garbage, doing the dirty work of our society but working, trying to advance themselves and provide for their children, many single-mother households trying to provide for their children and work at the same time, why do those people get left out?

What the Republicans propose at this time is to add to the largest deficit in the history of the United States about another \$80 billion to address the child tax credit because they say if we cannot provide most of this relief to the people that make well over \$100,000, we are not going to do anything for those thousands of military children. We are not going to do anything for the person who is out working in the nursing home. They do not deserve this benefit.

The truth of the matter is it has become very clear listening to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the same person who called out the police today, that he is not really concerned whether this bill passes or not. He made it clear when he talked to the Wall Street Journal stating that "there are worse things than the [child tax credit bill] not happening." There may be worse things than in a single week deciding to pay Iraqi military officers, 250,000 of them, at the same time we deny relief to children in 200,000 military families, but it is hard to conceive what he has in mind.

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) for a very sensitive motion to instruct, recognition that my good friends on the other side of the aisle, many of whom really want to support this motion to instruct, many of whom find great credibility in our arguments; and I appreciate that, having great respect for the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), the manager of the motion on the other side of the aisle.

But what I would say is wanting to do so and not doing is a travesty. Frankly, we heard this week that our deficit is almost \$500 billion, created by the Republicans. The tax plan that they have put forward, instead of the child tax credit, costs \$80 billion. The tax credit to take care of 6.5 million families, some 200,000 to 300,000 children, costs only \$3.5 billion. I know we can add. I realize that Members in this body can add, and they can also subtract. A \$450 billion plus, \$500 billion deficit, the Republicans put a plan on the floor of the House costing \$80 billion, leaving out 4 million children from a child tax credit when all they have to do is turn and go to this well and take up the Senate bill that costs only \$3.5 billion. It will take care of 6.5 million families, including our men and women who are in Afghanistan and Iraq. And yet we find a travesty that is occurring when our Republican friends refuse to address these concerns.

I could give all the arguments of who pays taxes and who does not. Just take out a calculator. Families that make between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year pay

sales tax and payroll tax. How dare you say they pay no tax. More importantly, they are the lowest-paid workers. Our men and women in the military get \$1,000 a month. The war in Iraq is costing \$4 billion a month. What a difference. And this Republican leadership, when their own Members would like to vote for a straight-up vote on the child tax credit, refuses to allow them to vote, casting then a pall over this particular House.

On July 25, next Friday, checks will go out to only 2 million families. Four million families will go longing for a refund that could help energize this economy. It is well-known that the \$90,000 that has been given to the richest of Americans will not infuse energy into the economy. They are not consumers. In essence, they are hoarders of money. And they will put it in all kinds of investments, that they will buy nothing. But those who have to get school children supplies and clothing will make a difference.

For all of you who think you are rich and can turn a head and smile and look one way or the other as if this does not impact you, I am glad that I am standing for the least of those, and I would hope that most Americans would be concerned because you are sitting in great comfort. You are allowed to come, freedom of movement, freedom of rights because men and women are on the front lines fighting for your rights. And it is an insult, an absolute insult that we do not have Americans that can embrace the concept we do care about the least of those.

I would argue that my colleagues join together and vote for a stand-alone child tax credit. I ask them to support the motion to instruct.

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I think we are going to have to come here almost every night to make the point of how outraged we are on the Democratic side that the House has not resolved this issue and that once again 12 million children are being excluded from the child tax credit. I do not know how many times the Democrats are going to have to get up here and tell the Republicans that they are not doing anything about this issue.

It is amazing to me, because times are tough. And I said last night, and I will say again, in my own family I have young children and I am not worried about being able to provide for them.

□ 1645

But I know that in my district there are a lot of families, parents who have difficult times. When we tell them that they are going to be excluded from this child tax credit and the checks are going to go out next Friday to people who are a little higher income but not to them because they happen to be a lower income, it just does not seem

fair. It is tough for them to get along. Times are tough. There is a high unemployment rate.

The Republicans keep saying that their tax cuts and their tax policies are going to turn the economy around, but they are not. Certainly not in my State, in my district. And for the Republican leadership to keep talking about how they are going to give all of these tax breaks to wealthy individuals, even millionaires, but, at the same time, do not want to give tax breaks to the parents of these 12 million children who are earning between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year is really heartless. I feel for the families, that they are not able to take advantage of this and somehow help out. We should be making an effort to help them out.

The worst part of it, too, is when we hear about the fact that some of these parents are people that may be in combat or in Iraq and facing the potential every day of being killed or seriously injured and yet, for some reason, this other piece of legislation that might help them out, even if this does not, even if the Republicans do not want to give the child tax credit to them, this other piece of legislation that would help them out, I guess, is now in conference; but the conference has never met.

The Republicans do not want to address this issue. They just want to go home. We are not going to let them go home until they give this tax credit to these 12 million children.

Mr. HOUGHTON. How much time remains, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) has 29 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) has 3 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, if I may inquire of my friend, the gentleman from New York, and I have great respect for the gentleman, whether he intends to use any of his time. We are obviously getting near the end.

Mr. HOUGHTON. No, I do not, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, do my colleagues know that my district is one of the most affluent districts in this Nation? In fact, they are the people who benefit the most from the Republican tax cuts. But do my colleagues know what they are asking me, Mr. Speaker? They are saying, why in the world are the 12 million children that belong to the hardest-working families and the most struggling families in this Nation not benefiting from the child tax credit? They do not understand how these low-income families, those who work hard to make ends meet, why they cannot get a little bit so they can buy something extra for

their children, so they can possibly take a vacation, so that they can have enough money to buy shoes when the school year begins.

Mr. Speaker, I was a single mom on welfare 35 years ago, and I had three very small children, 1, 3, and 5 years old. I was working. When my kids would outgrow their shoes, two boys and a girl, and those boys grew like weeds, I am telling you, my heart would stop, because I was scared to death I might not have the money to buy them decent shoes. The people I work for who elected me, women who had been on welfare and who have walked my walk, they know, they know the difference between having it all and having enough and making sure that other people have what they need to survive also.

My constituents support the child tax credit. They want to hear just why the Republicans refuse to bring it to the floor, and they want it debated; and so do I, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time. This is a question of basic fairness. It is a question of priorities.

This House recently passed a \$350 billion tax bill, weighted disproportionately to the very wealthiest in this country. And in the conference on that bill, we cut out the child tax credit for 12 million low-income working families.

The Senate solution is to take \$3.5 billion and address that issue to make sure that we treat those children with decency. The House Republican leadership has said no. They said, we will only accept that \$3.5 billion addition if you pass an additional \$83 billion tax cut package. So they are holding those kids hostage to this other package at the same time that we have a record \$450 billion deficit in this country. As a result of those deficits which have been fueled by the tax cuts to the wealthiest, this past week we were \$8 billion short on the No Child Left Behind bill.

Mr. Speaker, we are being unfair to the basic priorities of the people of the country. We should adopt this motion to instruct.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 21, 2003

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE CLEAR ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid to say that it has happened and happened again. A week ago, I rose to tell my colleagues the case of a brutal crime committed by criminal illegal aliens in New York. This time it happened near a small town in southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, near Cobden, Illinois, in the congressional district of my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), three men, two of them illegal aliens, sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl and a 15-year-old girl.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are 400,000 individuals who have received their final deportation orders; 400,000. That means they have been apprehended, they have been told to depart, and they have been released and are somewhere in America. They cannot be found within our borders. Of those 400,000, 20 percent, 80,000, of them have criminal convictions; and I am not talking about running a stop sign. They have been in the hands of our law enforcement and have slipped away. Mr. Speaker, I only pray that I am not reporting one of their crimes standing here next week.

Mr. Speaker, not only are the residents of this country continually falling victim to these brutal crimes of criminal illegal aliens, we are also paying for them out of our own pockets. Criminal aliens put an incredible strain on America's law enforcement

and criminal justice resources every day. Taxpayers are footing the bill for the imprisonment of Mazimiliano Silerio Esparza, a 33-year-old criminal alien who brutally raped two nuns, killing one in Oregon. He copped a plea agreement to avoid execution and taxpayers in Oregon now will be paying for his life imprisonment.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we introduced the CLEAR Act, the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act, last Wednesday, to give our local police the authority that they need to detain criminal illegal aliens. I would like to review quickly just a few of the highlights tonight, and we will do it night after night until this becomes clear.

First and foremost, we are going to make it very clear in our law in what it says in regards to the 700,000 local law enforcement officials around the country. They have the inherent authority to enforce immigration laws, period. But it is confusing. We are going to straighten that out so no one will be confused. This is the only major set of Federal laws that local law enforcement are not actively helping to enforce. That is only the first page of a 22-page bill. The rest of the bill provides resources and tools for our local law enforcement people to actually get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, the CLEAR Act will add a new category to the National Crime and Information Center database so that police across the Nation can access the information simply from their patrol cars. Also, Mr. Speaker, once and for all, we are going to make sure that these violent criminal aliens are in the hands of law enforcement and will be deported from this country the day they complete their jail time. We are going to do this by mandating the expansion of the Institutional Removal Program, and one night next week we will talk about that.

But, Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, I encourage my colleagues to take a really close look at this landmark legislation and let us help each other put an end to these tragic events that have plagued our country. We cannot do it with 2,000 INS agents. That simply is not in the ability or within the realm of possibility to get these criminals. Some of them who have crossed this border may well be terrorists; 2,000 Federal agents cannot do it. We have to call on the 700,000 local law enforcement agencies to come together and help the Federal Government lock up and then deport these 80,000 violent criminal illegal aliens. I am not sure, and neither is this government, exactly how many of those 400,000 that have slipped across our border, how many of those may be terrorists. Do we not want to know? Is that not what part of homeland security is all about? And my colleagues are telling me we are going to protect this homeland from people who slip across our border with 2,000 Federal agents? It cannot be done, Mr. Speaker.