

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in today's New York Times we learned about Trudy LeBlue, an employee of a hair salon outside of New Orleans. Ms. LeBlue's story is like that of many hard-working Americans. While she struggles to make ends meet, her employer forces her to work off the clock just to avoid paying overtime.

Across this country American families are working toward a better life, yet find their climb getting tougher. Just this week we learned wholesale inflation is up 1.7 percent last month alone, the sharpest monthly increase in 15 years. Since 2001 health care costs are up by a third, college tuition costs up by 32 percent, personal bankruptcies up by 38 percent.

But what is the Congress doing to reduce the burdens on American families? A tax policy that has shifted the burden onto working families off of wealth, failed to pass a higher education legislation, failed to pass legislation on comprehensive health care or on energy policy. And just last night alone we voted to increase our Nation's debt to \$8 trillion, a 40 percent increase in the past 4 years. This vote was a fitting end to this Congress's record on the economy and what it has done for working families. Rather than making the right choices, we pass the buck.

Mr. Speaker, the American people look to the Congress to solve their problems, not add to them. Yet more than often than not, the 108th Congress has chosen to pass our responsibilities on to future generations. Mr. Speaker, passing the buck is not leadership. It is a Ponzi scheme.

ACCUTANE

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Graham, medical review officer of the FDA, told the Senate that there are a number of drugs that should be pulled from the market. One of the drugs that should be pulled from the market is the drug Accutane. This devastating drug has crippled America for some time and its youth. Not only has Dr. Graham called for the pulling of Accutane, but Dr. Huene, one of the first medical review officers to look at Accutane when it first came on the market, found serious problems with Accutane and asked for help and was ignored by the FDA. Dr. O'Connell, who suggested severe restrictions of the use of the drug Accutane, again was ignored by the FDA management. Dr. Graham has now come out against this drug, again being ignored by FDA management.

Not only are these three medical review officers in the FDA calling for severe restrictions or pulling the drug from the market, but also the CDC backed in 1990 because of birth defects said this drug should be pulled from

the market. The March of Dimes has said this drug should be severely restricted when used because of birth defects. Two FDA panels have come out and told the FDA, their own advisory panels, to severely restrict the use and distribution of this drug. Again they were ignored.

It is time we pulled this drug Accutane from the market.

HONORING TOM FOGLIETTA

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a former Member of this body and friend who passed away this week, someone who left a profound mark on his community, his Nation, and this institution. Whether it was his dedication to our friends in the international community or the working people in his own community, Tom Foglietta was special, a man with a common touch and high ideals. With Tom we always knew he was someone who would fight, who was with us to the end regardless of the odds or the politics of the matter. His fight to keep the Philadelphia Navy Yard open is legendary.

As I reflect on his time in the Congress, I remember a man who understood what it meant to bring the values of his constituents to Washington. A fellow Italian American, Tom and I often discussed how it was our parents' example serving on respective city councils, his in Philadelphia, mine in New Haven, that inspired us to enter a life of politics and give back to the communities that had given us so much.

Living out his lifelong dream as an ambassador to Italy, I will never forget how he knelt down in prayer for the victims in the Cavalese cable car tragedy, sending a powerful message to the world that America weeps for the sons and daughters of its allies as if they were our very own. In turn, the Italian people loved him as he loved them.

Throughout his career, whether it was his work in Italy, to secure the peace in Haiti, to forge a democracy in South Korea, Tom Foglietta understood that America's role in the world was rooted in moral leadership, in common values, humility and humanity.

I will miss so many things about our friendship, dinners with the gang, eating pasta with gravy, his cooking in my kitchen.

I will miss his friendship, his moral leadership. We all will. Grazi, Don Tomaso. His passion for people knew no bounds. For that he will forever be in our hearts.

TAX RELIEF AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE ARE COMPLEMENTARY, NOT CONFLICTING, OBJECTIVES

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

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, as we enter a new Congress with the American people's mandate to extend tax relief and reduce the deficit, I wish to remind my colleagues of the following wisdom: "Our true choice is not between tax reduction on the one hand and the avoidance of large Federal deficits on the other . . . It is a paradoxical truth that tax rates are far too high today and tax revenues are too low and the soundest way to raise the revenues in the long run is to cut rates now."

□ 0915

Who articulated this simple but powerful case for the economic policies of this President and this Congress? Not George W. Bush. Not even Ronald Reagan. President John F. Kennedy made these remarks just a month and a half following the hottest moment of the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Kennedy and Reagan launched two of the longest economic booms in American history by cutting taxes. They also increased Federal revenues, more than double during the decade of President Kennedy's across-the-board tax cuts, and more than 75 percent over the 10 years following President Reagan's Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

But from 1981 to 1991, Federal spending increased a whopping 95 percent. Thus, the deficit quadrupled because of runaway government spending, not because the American people got to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Once again, we have arrived at the moment of truth. This time, we cannot make excuses for the failure to restrain spending. This time, our philosophy of low taxes and limited government is on the line. This time, let us show the American people that tax relief and fiscal discipline are complementary, not conflicting objectives.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 859 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 859

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Friday, November 19, 2004, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

This rule provides that suspensions will be in order at any time on the legislative day of Friday, November 19, 2004. It also provides that the Speaker or his designee will consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on any suspension considered under the rule.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership of this House has sent out a positive legislative plan for this week and the balance of the 108th Congress on behalf of the American people. The goal of this plan is to clean up this Congress's legislative calendar by passing a number of bills before we adjourn that will improve America's economic and national security.

Over the past year, Congress has passed a number of important new education, trade, tax, and national security bills that will keep Americans safer, create new jobs, and improve our economy. Later today, and for the rest of the week, we will consider legislation to improve the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and provide for consideration of outstanding spending measures to ensure that Congress can complete its work before we adjourn.

I understand that Members on either side of our aisle may have different views about how to address these issues, and we have had and will continue to have the opportunity to hear a great deal of debate from both sides not only on these issues but also on other issues that are important to this Nation.

However, some of this legislation that the Republican House leadership has also scheduled for consideration on behalf of America has broad support from Members of both the majority and the minority. And, in an attempt to make sure that this important work is finished by the end of the 108th Congress, we are here today to pass this rule to provide for consideration of these bills under rules that will require them to pass by a two-thirds majority.

This balanced rule provides the minority with the ability to consult with the Speaker on any suspension that is offered, ensuring that their input and views are duly considered before any legislation is considered under this rule brought to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this uncontroversial and balanced rule.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) for yielding me this time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as has already been explained, under Rule 15 of the House rules, bills may be considered under suspension of the rules only on Mondays and Tuesdays. The 108th Congress has approved the consideration of legislation under suspension of the rules on Wednesdays. Therefore, this resolution is required in order for the House to

consider any bill under suspension of the rules today.

Let me be clear from the onset, Mr. Speaker. The first day of the session or last day of the session, it does not really matter. I and so many others in this body on both sides of the aisle have grave concerns about handling bills outside the normal parameters of the way the House should conduct its business. When the House does operate this way, it effectively curtails our rights and responsibilities as serious legislators. Frankly, Members should be very wary of allowing the leadership to usurp our rights.

I understand the circumstances and the end-of-the-session deadline of which the majority speaks, but their plan is for us to leave today or tomorrow without passing 11 of the 13 bare essential appropriations bills that each Congress is constitutionally mandated to pass into law. Shame on us.

We are planning on leaving today or tomorrow without passing a highway reauthorization bill, the only legislation this Congress would have considered that actually had the potential to create jobs. Shame on us.

We are planning on leaving today or tomorrow without passing comprehensive energy legislation. We are planning on leaving tomorrow or today without extending the child care tax credit to all working families. Shame on us.

We are planning on leaving today or tomorrow without increasing the minimum wage. Shame on us.

We are planning on leaving today while 44 million or more Americans remain uninsured. Shame on us.

We are planning on leaving today or tomorrow without extending unemployment benefits for 1.9 million Americans who lost their jobs during President Bush's first term in office. Shame on us.

We are planning on leaving tomorrow or today without doing anything to extend the solvency of Social Security. Shame on us.

Just yesterday, my friends in the majority voted to again raise the debt limit. They added billions and possibly trillions more to our national debt, leaving our children and grandchildren to pick up the tab for generations to come, and they call themselves the party of fiscal responsibility. Shame on them.

Footnote right there: Something that is not discussed in this body very much, nor was it discussed in the national debate that just concluded with President Bush and Senator KERRY, is the fact that the dollar around the world is troubled, to say the least, and that can have implications for the globe. Somewhere in all of this deficit-building, some of us are going to have to begin to do more than green-eye-shade talk in explaining to the American public the implications of the deficits that we are running on the currency that is the currency of the realm of the world.

For the last 2 years, the majority has been so busy trying to keep its job that it has not done its job. Shame on them.

The Republican leadership has also assured us that the Minority Leader will receive no less than 2 hours notice of any bill before it comes to the House floor. We expect that this assurance will be honored by the majority as well as previous agreements that have been reached between both sides of the aisle on the practices of considering legislation as a suspension. This includes the unwritten rule of not bringing controversial legislation to the floor under suspension of the rules.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the American people understood exactly what the parties stood for, the accomplishments of those parties, and that is what the election was about. I am pleased today to be back in the United States Congress on the floor of the House of Representatives touting not the things that the gentleman from Florida talked about that did not get done but rather the things that did get done, accomplishments that occurred during this year.

I am very proud of the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) our Speaker, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) who have provided this body with the leadership to ensure that the things that were done in the 108th Congress got done.

Mr. Speaker, I hold up 15 pages worth of bills, of accomplishments that this body was a part of. Mr. Speaker, this body was a part of making sure that we would answer the question about how Medicare would address the needs of senior citizens and low-income seniors, and we understood and we understand today that 95 percent of all of the money that is spent in Medicare is spent on major, critical, life-threatening issues that people have. We have changed that now to, instead of dealing with a person once they are sick, we are going to change that to preventative type of spending. That is what we believe Medicare should be doing. That is not something that we should be ashamed of. That is something we should be proud of.

We are proud that we will have in place this next year again, once again, for low-income seniors, the ability for this government to help them not have to make a decision in buying and receiving their prescription drugs. That is something I am proud of.

I am proud to know that we, once again, had a tax bill, a tax bill that would make sure that we become competitive with this marketplace. Mr. Speaker, when we cut taxes, business gets that money, and they do a bunch of things that are great for this country. They buy more equipment, they

employ more people, and we become competitive with the world.

I would say that Republicans have a different philosophy than Democrats. We believe that we should do a few things and do them well, and that is what this Republican Congress has done this year. We have not just rushed out and tried to tackle every single issue. We have done the things that will make a huge difference for the American public.

I believe that that is what this election was about, and I believe that this President stood before the American people and talked about what his policies had been and will be. I think they are accomplishments that I am proud of, I think that this body is proud of them, and I darn sure know that the American people turned out in record numbers to say thank you so much for the service to this great Nation.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise only to engage my colleague in a colloquy. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) says the words "American people." Well, there are 55 million American people that probably have some differences with some of the things that the gentleman has discussed. Let me join my good friend in saying to him unequivocally that all of the things that he says that passed this body doubtless are good things from his point of view. But there are some that are not good things from other people's points of view.

Now, I would ask the gentleman a question: Did the President of the United States sign all 13 appropriations bills as is mandated in the United States Constitution to be done by this body by October 1 of each fiscal year? Did the President sign 13 appropriations measures? And answer the next question: How many did he sign?

□ 0930

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Florida engaging in this wonderful discussion. I have been here for 8 years. During those 8 years as a Member of Congress, I believe 5 of those years I have been here at Christmas time, the week of Christmas, doing the job that needed to be done.

I do understand that we do have these 13 spending bills that need to be done. I also recognize we have a process. The gentleman and I sit up late at night in the Committee on Rules attempting to work through those processes to make sure the President does get the needed legislation before him. But we have the underpinnings of the Constitution where we have two bodies, the Senate and the House. If we do our work, it does not mean they have to do

their work. Likewise, if they do their work, it does not mean we have to. So we have to come to an agreement and those agreements sometimes take a little longer, but what we have avoided is shutting down the government.

The government has done its business. We have been very successful to make sure that we address those issues. So I would say that, well, yes, the President is supposed to sign those bills, but at least we have not gone home before he will get a chance to do that.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I might comment that I thought perhaps my friend was on a talk show where one of the hosts asked him a question, and as is typical of us, we give nice long answers without specifically answering the question.

I just put out again for my friend that the President has signed two of the appropriation measures. We have been here, you and I, late into the year doing our work, and there have been other times when this has not been done pursuant to the Constitution. That does not make it right. Basically, what we have done, we have borrowed money from foreign investors in order that we might go about giving tax cuts, which ultimately will allow that we will pay greater interest on the deficit over a period of time, and your children and mine, and their children, are going to pay this debt.

Now, my colleague can name it anything he wants to, but we have a responsibility here in this body to pass those 13 appropriation measures. And the real reason we cannot pass them is because we have decided that we want to give tax cuts, and we cannot do the things that are necessary for highway transportation and child tax care; and I could go on and on.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman for his observations about our not being able to do the things that need to be done because of tax cuts. Mr. Speaker, there is a difference between our parties. One of the differences is taxing and spending. We, as Republicans, believe that if we give the American people back more of their own money that they earned that we will create a circumstance, an environment, an economy in this country that grows to where people become employed, we become competitive with the world, and we do the things ultimately to give people, the American public, more of their own money so they can live their own dreams and make their own dreams happen.

I do recognize we have a difference in our opinions. I do recognize that one party wants to tax and spend. I do understand that one party wants to give tax cuts and grow the economy. But at some point we also have to get our work done, and that is what we are trying to do today by saying that this rule

is about allowing that necessary business when the minority leader, when the majority leader, and Speaker agree on legislation that can come to this floor.

We are waiting here for other business to be finished and done, but it does not mean we should shut off debate or for other very important legislation if there is complete bipartisan agreement about moving forward. So I am proud today once again to stand here before the American public and to say we are ready to do business here in the House of Representatives, and in a few minutes we will have more work that needs to be done.

We will handle legislation dealing with what is called IDEA, the Individuals With Disabilities Act, that deals with important education changes that have also been worked on and have bipartisan agreement that the gentleman and I heard about last night in the Committee on Rules.

So for us to say we are not doing our work, that we are a failure is simply not, I do not believe, a correct enunciation of what this House of Representatives has stood for these last few years or stands for today. We are ready, capable, and able to work and reach out across the aisle to bring legislation that is important to the American people and for it to be sound legislation, for it to make a difference to the American people, but more importantly that it be done in a proper, cautious fashion that creates health and opportunity for the American economy and for the American family.

That is what this United States Congress should be all about, producing a product that are accomplishments that we can be proud of.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 464. Concurrent resolution honoring the 10 communities selected to receive the 2004 All-America City Award.

The message also announced that Mr. COCHRAN be added as a conferee in Lieu of Mr. SPECTER, on the part of the Senate, on the bill (H.R. 4818) "An Act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in