

we thank her, and we wish her much success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

ARE WE BETTER OFF NOW?

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I often ask the question, Are we better off than we were? And I think that that question needs to be posed today and for the next few months with regard to the Bush administration and the Republican majority here in the Congress.

If we think about 4 years ago, we were in a surplus situation. Now we have a huge deficit. If we think about 4 years ago, we were basically at peace. Now in the midst of a war, a war which I think most people realize was essentially fought for the wrong reasons and which is costing us a tremendous amount of resources as well as costing us lives and wounded soldiers. And if we also think about 4 years ago, the economy was doing very well. Jobs were being created. Four years later under the Bush administration and the Republican majority, we have a situation where something like 2.5 million jobs have been lost and many Americans are having a hard time making ends meet.

So when the Republicans say to us, or anybody says to us, Are we better off than we were 4 years ago under this administration, the answer is clearly, no.

REPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last year illegal aliens cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion in hospital costs.

I support H.R. 3722, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER), which requires hospitals to report the immigration status of the individuals they treat. This bill also makes employers responsible for these medical costs if they employ the illegal alien.

Hospitals already collect information from patients. Reporting immigration status as a condition for receiving Federal funds is not overly burdensome.

We cannot afford to ignore the growing costs associated with illegal immigration. In my home State of Texas, health care for illegal immigrants costs taxpayers at least \$170 million every year.

If we are serious about reducing illegal immigration, we need to support this legislation.

QUESTIONING THE HOUSE SCHEDULE

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this is, since April 1, the 16th day the House has been in session. And here is a sample of what we have done: we have named 11 post offices, recognized the Garden Club of America, recognized the importance of music education in America, and authorized the use of the Capitol grounds for the Soap Box Derby.

What has happened to our troops in Iraq in that time? We lost 184 Americans, our loved ones, bringing the total to 785. As we name post offices, our constituents are asking questions of the whys and hows of Iraq and want us to get the answers.

This week how are we handling the controversies in Iraq? We are going to name three more post offices; authorize the use of the Capitol grounds, appropriately, for the World War II memorial services; and consider the Paperwork Reduction Act. Then we are going on recess.

This House has surrendered its oversight role, which is constitutionally enacted and guaranteed, by rubber-stamping the policy in Iraq without asking the questions our constituents are asking and not seeking the answers they need.

As President Kennedy once said, "To govern is to choose." We need to make choices here.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, for months we have heard opponents of the war in Iraq come to the floor of this Congress and ask the question again and again, where are the weapons of mass destruction?

And yesterday the answer came in part, and the silence on the left is deafening. Yesterday the Coalition Provisional Authority announced the discovery of two separate Iraqi munitions wired by terrorists to serve as IEDs in Baghdad which date to the regime of Saddam Hussein and contain weapons of mass destruction, sarin and mustard gas.

Where are the weapons of mass destruction? Mr. Speaker, the answer is becoming more clear by the hour. The weapons of mass destruction are where they have always been, hidden in Baghdad, within the reach of terrorists, a threat to U.S. troops, the region, and the wider world, and more than enough justification for our deeds and the courage of our troops in that region.

THE BUDGET DEFICIT AND THE NEXT ELECTION

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, my remarks are 1 minute long. During this

minute, the economic policies put into place by the President and Republican leaders will force America to spend almost \$1 million more than it takes in. That is right. We are free-spending \$1 million a minute we do not have.

This President has created the worst budget deficit in history and the worst economic climate since the Depression. The administration keeps rewarding its friends with seven-figure incomes. They are doing it by mortgaging America's future.

There is a payment coming due this November, and America has saved up. It is called an election. Soon a new President and Democratic leadership will restore fiscal sanity to this house of cards. It is not soon enough to send George Bush back to Crawford, Texas.

IN SUPPORT OF MAJOR MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this week is a good week. The American College of Surgeons is in town visiting us in our offices on Capitol Hill, and so it is of some note that we passed again a measure for liability reform last week in this House. We did that a year ago and unfortunately got stalled over somewhere by the rotunda. I hope this year it can indeed go forward because, Mr. Speaker, it is so important for people to realize and for my friends at the American College of Surgeons to realize that right now we have got a President who will sign major medical liability reform. We have a candidate running for that office who has either voted "no" or been absent when that vote has been taken in the other body.

We can no longer afford the crippling costs of defensive medicine that are layered upon our existing health care system. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Americans to sit up and take notice of this problem. Our professional people and our patients are indeed in peril.

SENIORS WILL NOT BE SCARED BY PARTISAN RHETORIC

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, after years of rhetoric and empty promises on improving health care, on June 1 seniors will finally be able to save money on their prescription drugs by choosing a drug discount card that best suits them. This is only possible because the Republican Congress and President Bush passed bipartisan legislation that modernizes Medicare and provided a real prescription drug benefit that means immediate savings for seniors across the Nation.

While some Members are engaging in partisan scare tactics in an election year, they cannot stop seniors from

discovering true savings through the discount cards in less than a month. Seniors can choose with confidence because each card program will be monitored by the Department of Health and Human Services and can expect savings from 10 to 25 percent on drug costs.

Seniors who want more information on the drug discount cards can log into www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

SUPPORT H.R. 3722

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on H.R. 3722, and we have heard a lot of bogus arguments that are based on just total misrepresentations of this bill. I would hope the people go to the basics of this.

We cannot be the HMO of the world and expect to take care of our own people. And if Congress does not act, if H.R. 3722 is not passed, illegal immigrants will have priority in America's emergency rooms because the Federal Government will be picking up the tab for illegals, but not for U.S. citizens. That is a travesty.

Furthermore, we all know we have limited dollars here to take care of our seniors and our children. Those limited dollars should not be squandered on illegal immigrants.

People have come here illegally and thumbed their noses at our law. Why are we spending billions of dollars to take care of their health care while we cannot provide any medicine to our seniors? This is a travesty.

H.R. 3722 will help correct the situation, at least get us back to going in the right direction rather than allocating more and more resources to the care of illegal immigrants. Vote for H.R. 3722.

□ 1030

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2728, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SMALL BUSINESS DAY IN COURT ACT OF 2004, H.R. 2729, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2004, H.R. 2730, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF OSHA CITATIONS ACT OF 2004, H.R. 2731, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SMALL EMPLOYER ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 2004, AND H.R. 2432, PAPERWORK AND REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 645 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 645

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2728) to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for adjudicative flexibility with regard to an employer filing of a notice of contest following the issuance of a citation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2729) to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for greater efficiency at the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2730) to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for an independent review of citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 4. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2731) to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for the award of attorney's fees and costs to very small employers when they prevail in litigation prompted by the issuance of citations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall

be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 5. 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. 2432) to amend the Paperwork Reduction Act and titles 5 and 31, United States Code, to reform Federal paperwork and regulatory processes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. 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 Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Government Reform now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part D of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order 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, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 6. (a) In the engrossment of H.R. 2728, the Clerk shall—

(1) await the disposition of all the bills contemplated in sections 2-5;

(2) add the respective texts of all the bills contemplated in sections 2-5, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 2728;

(3) conform the title of H.R. 2728 to reflect the addition to the engrossment of the text of all the bills contemplated in sections 2-5 that have passed the House;

(4) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(5) conform provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

(b) Upon the addition to the engrossment of H.R. 2728 of the text of the bills contemplated in sections 2-5 that have passed the House, such bills shall be laid on the table.

(c) If H.R. 2728 is disposed of without reaching the stage on engrossment as contemplated in subsection (a), the bill that