

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The gentlewoman from Minnesota has 4½ minutes remaining.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers in the room.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to use the words of the Red Lake Band of the Chippewa, and I quote from a document that they shared with us today: “The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians is experiencing the worst crisis in our history. Throughout this ordeal, our law enforcement officers, teachers, students, medical personnel, our people have acted with great courage and honor. Our people are strong, our children are strong, and our hope is strong.

“Our greatest hope is that you, our President, Senators, and Representatives and Department officials, will be our partners as we undertake the task of making these essential improvements towards a better way of life for the people of Red Lake.”

Mr. Speaker, 1 month ago a disturbed young man took the lives of nine people on the Red Lake Reservation, and then he took his own. This violent act devastated the Red Lake community, and once again tragically demonstrates to all of America how violence can happen by our children, against our children and educators, and it can happen anywhere at any time.

This tragedy, along with other school shootings that have occurred over the past several years leave no question that we still have much work to do in addressing the needs of our youth in this country. Too many of our children are in crisis, unable to find the help that they need from either families or communities.

As policymakers, we have a responsibility to invest the resources, and more importantly, the attention into the lives of our young people and in their families' lives as well before tragedy occurs.

All Americans and Minnesotans extend our prayers, our condolences, and support for the families of the Red Lake Nation as they heal and rebuild their community.

I would like to close with just once again saying that this resolution deserves our support. The Red Lake Band of Chippewa have our deepest condolences at this time of enormous grief. Our prayers are with you.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want again to thank my colleagues in the Minnesota delegation for their words today and my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), for offering this resolution. And I would just urge all of my

colleagues in the House to support H. Con. Res 126.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 126. Today, I join my colleagues in expressing my deepest sympathies to the people of the Red Lake Reservation.

This tragedy reveals the sad truth that school-related violence can occur anywhere in this country regardless the socio-economic conditions of a community.

In Indian country, however, the statistics show that Indian children face greater barriers than non-Indian youth. Indian youth suffer from the highest rates of suicide. They have the highest rates of school victimization and use alcohol, drugs and tobacco more than their counterparts. Indian youth also drop out of school at higher rates than other students.

What can we do? For starters, we can reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act which will provide significant improvements to the delivery of health care services for Indian people and authorize funding for health programs, projects, and facilities.

We can increase funding for Indian country law enforcement, public safety and victim assistance programs to help combat the problems of juvenile crime and violence on our Indian lands.

We can also increase funding for schools and colleges located on Indian reservations that were the subject of significant decreases in the president's 2006 budget.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to identify how we can help the Red Lake Community specifically.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of all Minnesotans to extend my heartfelt sympathy to the families, friends and loved ones of the victims of the school shootings at Red Lake High School and to the entire Red Lake community.

On March 21, 2005, tragedy struck Red Lake, Minnesota and left a community devastated and a Nation shocked.

Mr. Speaker, we are all deeply saddened by this horrific event, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the victims and the entire Red Lake community.

We commend the Red Lake tribal leaders and members, local law enforcement officers, school officials and medical support staff for their heroism and courage in response to this tragedy.

Now, we must use this occasion to mourn the loss of loved ones and prevent similar tragedies in the future. The people of Minnesota will never forget this terrible loss of innocent lives. May those who died be remembered forever in our hearts.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 126.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AND DR. JONAS SALK ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE SALK POLIO VACCINE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 208) recognizing the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Jonas Salk on the fiftieth anniversary of the milestone discovery of the Salk polio vaccine, which has virtually eliminated the disease and its harmful effects, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 208

Whereas Dr. William S. McEllroy, Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, in 1947 recruited Dr. Jonas Salk to develop a virus research program at the University of Pittsburgh;

Whereas Dr. Salk, the first member of his family to attend college, had prior to moving to the University of Pittsburgh served in an appointment at the University of Michigan for 5½ years, and during this period at the University of Michigan, which was during World War II, Dr. Salk became known for his expertise on the immunology of influenza and developed the vaccine that continues to be used against influenza;

Whereas Dr. Salk set up a research laboratory in The Municipal Hospital for Contagious Diseases, now Salk Hall at the University of Pittsburgh;

Whereas the epidemic of polio peaked in 1952, having affected nearly 58,000 people, mainly children and young adults;

Whereas many of those affected were confined to mechanical ventilators known as iron lungs to breathe while many others were crippled and needed crutches for mobility;

Whereas University of Pittsburgh faculty member Dr. Jonas Salk and his team of researchers developed the first vaccine against polio;

Whereas in April 1955, at the University of Michigan's Racham Auditorium, Dr. Francis announced the results of the most comprehensive field trial ever conducted in the history of public health, involving 1,830,000 children in 217 areas of the United States, Canada, and Finland, indicating the vaccine was safe and effective;

Whereas the Salk polio vaccine was approved for widespread public use and the incidence of polio in the United States fell by 85-90 percent during the first 3 years of widespread use of Salk's polio vaccine (1955-1957);

Whereas the Salk polio vaccine developed at the University of Pittsburgh is considered one of the most significant medical achievements of the twentieth century;

Whereas the international immunization of children and young adults at that time resulted in the worldwide eradication of polio by 1962 and since that time has prevented any significant re-emergence of the disease;

Whereas in 1963 Dr. Salk founded the Jonas Salk Institute for Biological Studies, an innovative center for medical and scientific research; and

Whereas Dr. Salk's last years were spent searching for a vaccine against AIDS: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Michigan on the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery and the declaration that the Salk polio vaccine was potent, virtually eliminating the disease and its harmful effects;

(2) recognizes the pioneering achievement of Dr. Jonas Salk and his team of researchers at the University of Pittsburgh in the development of the Salk polio vaccine;

(3) recognizes the unprecedented scope and magnitude of the field trials conducted by Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., and his team of more than 100 statisticians and epidemiologists at the University of Michigan; and

(4) states its appreciation to—

(A) the University of Pittsburgh for the elimination of a disease that caused countless deaths and disabling consequences;

(B) the members of Dr. Salk's research team;

(C) the individuals, a majority of whom were residents of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, who generously agreed to participate in clinical trials to validate the efficacy of the polio vaccine;

(D) the family members of Dr. Salk for their participation in medical history;

(E) the University of Michigan for its efforts in proving the Salk polio vaccine was safe and effective; and

(F) the members of Dr. Francis' team of statisticians and epidemiologists.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on a resolution that I have introduced with my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE), and the honorable ranking member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), to recognize the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Salk polio vaccine and the efforts of the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Salk, the University of Michigan, Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., which has virtually eliminated the disease and its devastating effects.

Polio is a disease that can attack the motor nerves and the spinal cord leaving one paralyzed. In the most severe cases, the muscle of the respiratory system and throat are affected, impairing speech, swallowing and breathing which can lead to paralysis or even death.

While polio is still present in varying degrees in at least six countries, the discovery of the Salk polio vaccine was a monumental achievement in reduc-

ing the effects of the disease and preventing any significant reemergence of the disease in the Western Hemisphere.

Prior to moving to the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Jonas Salk, who was the first member of his family to attend college, served in an appointment at the University of Michigan for 5½ years during World War II, where he became known for his expertise on the immunology of influenza.

In 1947, Dr. William McEllroy, dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine at the time, recruited Dr. Salk to develop a virus research program at the University of Pittsburgh where Dr. Salk set up a research laboratory in a municipal hospital for contagious diseases, now Salk Hall at the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1952, a marked increase in polio saw tens of thousands confined to iron lungs unable to breathe. Others were confined to wheelchairs and could only walk with the assistance of steel braces and crutches. Along with the spreading disease each summer, there was an increasing spreading fear in many parents and also within communities to close down theatres, public swimming pools, and other public places in hopes of reducing this disease.

During this time, Dr. Salk's research continued. And in 1953 human trials of the developing Salk polio vaccine were extended to include almost 500 children and adults, the majority of whom were residents of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

It was not until 1955 that Dr. Salk and his researchers discovered the actual polio vaccine at the University of Pittsburgh. That same year at the University of Michigan's Rachkam Auditorium, Dr. Salk's mentor, Dr. Francis, announced the results of the most comprehensive field trial ever conducted in the history of public health, involving 1,830,000 children in 217 areas of the United States, Canada and Finland, indicating the vaccine was safe and effective.

As a result of Dr. Salk's innovative vaccine, the incidence of polio in the United States fell by 85 to 90 percent during the first 3 years of vaccination use. Some 450 million dosages were administered worldwide. And the effectiveness of this vaccine is responsible for not only international immunization but also for the suppression of polio in most of the world, even by 1962.

Dr. Salk's team brought under control an escalating health problem and a dreaded virus, which is why the Salk polio vaccine is considered one of the most significant medical achievements of the 20th century, and has effectively safeguarded the world from the menacing virus for 50 years.

The March of Dimes has raised millions of dollars for research of polio. In addition, Rotary International initially pledged 125 million back in 1985 to fund the Polio Plus program to immunize the world. But the money the Rotary has contributed so far exceeds 600 million.

These models of public-private partnership to eradicate polio worldwide, Polio Plus and the March of Dimes, have delivered vaccine across the globe on camel, helicopter, and motor bike.

Arguably, the Salk polio vaccine and the public-private efforts in the eradication of polio rank among the greatest public health achievements in the history of humankind.

As we celebrate this 50th anniversary, I am particularly pleased that I remain an adjutant associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health. I am particularly proud of the role my alma mater has played in this great public health achievement, and we in Congress join in this celebration.

I would also like to express my high esteem and appreciation to the chairman of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON); and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), for agreeing to consider this important resolution to recognize Dr. Salk, Dr. Francis, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Michigan on the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Salk polio vaccine.

In addition, I would like to thank my colleagues for their support in helping to bring this resolution to the House floor to recognize this medical breakthrough that has protected, prevented, and saved countless numbers of lives from the ravages of polio.

I encourage my colleagues to adopt the resolution.

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

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Michigan to develop the first vaccine against polio.

Before I do that, though, I do want to thank my colleague and good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY), for introducing this resolution and for managing the time on his side, as well as to thank our chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), for their support in this effort.

A devastating polio epidemic struck the United States in the early 1950s, causing thousands of cases of lingering paralysis and death.

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By 1952 the epidemic had affected nearly 58,000 people, mainly children and young adults. Many of those affected were confined to mechanical ventilators known as iron lungs, while others were crippled and needed crutches to get around.

Dr. Jonas Salk, Dr. Julius Youngner, and a team of dedicated researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine worked diligently for years to

find a vaccine against this terrible disease, despite the belief by many of their colleagues that vaccination would never prevent polio. Nevertheless, thousands of Pittsburgh schoolchildren offered up their arms to be injected with the experimental vaccine providing enough evidence of its effectiveness to launch a large-scale trial of 1.8 million children.

On April 12, 1955, at a convocation held at the University of Michigan, Dr. Thomas Francis, Jonas Salk's former mentor, announced that the massive field trial of the Salk vaccine, which he had overseen, had been successful. The announcement that the vaccine was safe, effective and potent cleared the way for widespread use of the vaccine and made Dr. Salk one of the Nation's most revered figures. Subsequent inoculations of children and young adults virtually eradicated polio from the United States by 1962.

In light of this momentous achievement it is appropriate that the House recognize the many individuals who were involved in the effort, including those who generously agreed to participate in the clinical trials that validated the efficacy of this vaccine.

The importance of the pioneering work of Dr. Jonas Salk and his team of researchers at the University of Pittsburgh cannot be overstated. Their work saved countless lives and had a monumental impact on the quality of life around the globe. Consequently, I want to take the opportunity of this anniversary to recognize the University of Pittsburgh for its vital contribution to eliminating this devastating threat to public health; and I want to commend Dr. Youngner, now professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh, for his hard work and dedication those many years ago.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Murphy resolution. I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives MURPHY and DOYLE, for offering this resolution today, commemorating the development and the field trials of the Salk polio vaccine 50 years ago.

Fifty years ago, Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr. announced from the University of Michigan's Rackham Auditorium words that people around the globe were waiting to hear: the Salk polio vaccine works. With those simple words, eradication efforts began in earnest to rid the world of this terrible disease.

Mr. Speaker, in the early 1950s, Dr. Jonas Salk, a postdoctoral student of Dr. Francis' at the University of Michigan, developed a promising vaccine against poliomyelitis in his laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. In what has been called the largest cooperative effort undertaken in peacetime, the Salk vaccine was tested in the most comprehensive field trials ever conducted. Overseeing those trials was Dr. Francis, Director of the Poliomyelitis Vaccine Evaluation Center and founding chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Mr. Speaker, the polio field trials were unprecedented in scope and magnitude. Dr. Francis and his team of more than 100 statisti-

cians and epidemiologists tabulated data received from hundreds of public health officials and doctors who participated in the study. The trials involved 1,830,000 children in 217 areas of the United States, Canada and Finland. No field trial of this scale has been conducted since.

This historic event is a source of pride for the University of Michigan and the state of Michigan as a whole. Since that day 50 years ago, polio has been nearly eradicated. In August 2002, there were no confirmed cases reported in the United States, and only 483 confirmed cases of acute poliomyelitis reported to authorities worldwide.

I would like to thank Representatives MURPHY and DOYLE for their work on this resolution and congratulate the University of Michigan and the University of Pittsburgh on the 50th anniversary of the Salk polio vaccine.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on a resolution that I have introduced with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Congressman MICHAEL DOYLE, and the Honorable Ranking Member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman JOHN DINGELL of Michigan, to recognize the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Salk polio vaccine and the efforts of the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Jonas Salk, the University of Michigan, and Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., which has virtually eliminated the disease and its devastating effects.

Polio is a disease that can attack the motor nerves in the spinal cord, leaving one paralyzed. In the most severe cases, the muscles of the respiratory system and throat are affected, impairing speech, swallowing and breathing, which can lead to paralysis or even death. While polio is still present in varying degrees, the discovery of the Salk polio vaccine was a monumental achievement in reducing the effects of the disease and preventing any significant reemergence of the disease in the western hemisphere.

Prior to moving to the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Jonas Salk, who was the first member of his family to attend college, served in an appointment at the University of Michigan for 5½ years during World War II, where he became known for his expertise on the immunology of influenza.

In 1947, Dr. William S. McEllroy, Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, recruited Dr. Salk to develop a virus research program at the University of Pittsburgh where Dr. Salk set up a research laboratory in the Municipal Hospital for Contagious Diseases, now Salk Hall at the University of Pittsburgh.

Others were confined to wheelchairs or could only walk with the assistance of steel braces and crutches. Along with the disease fear spread in many parents which led communities to close down theaters, public swimming pools and other public places. In 1952, a marked increase in polio saw tens of thousands confined to iron lungs to be able to breathe.

During this time, Dr. Salk's research continued. In 1953, human trials of the developing Salk polio vaccine were extended to include almost 500 children and adults, the majority of whom were residents of Allegheny County, PA.

It was not until 1955 that Dr. Salk and his researchers discovered the actual polio vaccine at the University of Pittsburgh. That same

year, at the University of Michigan's Racham Auditorium, Dr. Salk's mentor, Dr. Francis, announced the results of the most comprehensive field trial ever conducted in the history of public health, involving 1,830,000 children in 217 areas of the United States, Canada, and Finland, indicating the vaccine was safe and effective.

As a result of Dr. Salk's innovative vaccine, the incidence of polio in the United States fell by 85–90 percent during the first 3 years of vaccination use. Some 450 million doses were administered worldwide.

The effectiveness of this vaccine is responsible for not only international immunization, but also for the suppression of polio in most of the world in 1962. Dr. Salk's team brought under control an escalating health problem and a dreaded virus, which is why the Salk polio vaccine is considered one of the most significant medical achievements of the twentieth century and has effectively safeguarded the world from the menacing virus for 50 years.

The March of Dimes raised millions for research and treatment of Polio. In addition, Rotary International pledged \$120 million in 1985 to fund the Polio Plus program to immunize the world. The money the Rotary has contributed so far exceeds \$600 million. A model of public-private partnership to eradicate polio worldwide, Polio Plus delivered vaccine across the globe on camel, by helicopter and motor-bike.

Arguably, the Salk Polio vaccine and the public-private efforts to eradicate polio are among the greatest public health achievements in the history of the world. I am particularly proud of the role my alma mater has played in this great public health achievement and we in Congress join in this celebration.

I would also like to express my high esteem and appreciation to the Chairman of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from Texas Mr. JOE BARTON (R-TX) and the Ranking Member, the gentlemen from Michigan Mr. JOHN DINGELL (D-MI), for agreeing to consider this important resolution to recognize Dr. Salk, Dr. Francis, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Michigan on the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the Salk polio vaccine.

In addition, I would also like to thank my colleagues for their support in helping to bring this resolution to the House floor to recognize this medical breakthrough that has protected, prevented and saved countless numbers of lives from the ravages of polio.

I encourage my colleagues to adopt the resolution, and Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to express strong support for the resolution before the House today. I thank Representative MURPHY for introducing this bill.

Immunizations have been the most successful medical intervention in terms of saving lives and sparing mankind from life-long disabilities resulting from infectious disease.

Fifty years ago we began using the Salk polio vaccine discovered by Dr. Jonas Salk. In 1957, three years after the first widespread use of Dr. Salk's vaccine in the United States, polio in the U.S. fell by 85–90 percent. Polio, which annually ravaged communities across this nation and the world, causing death and permanent disability, has been virtually absent in the United States for quite some time now.

Polio and its harmful effects have been virtually eliminated in nation after nation. Presently, there are less than a handful of nations that are plagued by polio in largely isolated communities. We are on the brink of elimination of this scourge.

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 208, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MURPHY. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 219 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 219

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. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour and 30 minutes, with 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of each of the Committees on Science, Resources, and Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in 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 except as specified in the report, 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. 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.

UNFUNDED MANDATE POINT OF ORDER

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 426 on the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I make a point of order against consideration of the rule, H. Res. 219.

Page 1, line 7, through page 2, line 1, of H. Res. 219 states, "All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived." The rule makes in order H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which contains a large unfunded mandate on State and local governments in violation of Section 425 of the Budget Act. Section 426 of the Budget Act specifically states that the Committee on Rules may not waive Section 425, and therefore this rule violates section 426.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In accordance with section 426(b)(2) of that Act, the gentleman has met the threshold burden to identify the specific language in the resolution on which the point of order is predicated.

Under section 426(B)(4) of the act, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration.

Pursuant to section 426(b)(3) of the act, after that debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration, to wit: "Will the House now consider the resolution?"

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN).

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

Mr. Speaker, back in 1995, my Republican colleagues, the so-called champions of States' rights, led the fight to pass the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, a bill they claimed would stop the Federal Government from imposing the costs of federally mandated programs on States and localities.

Well, here we are 10 years later and the tables have turned. My Republican colleagues are bringing a bill to the floor that imposes a multibillion dollar unfunded mandate on communities around the country whose water supplies have been tainted by the fuel additive MTBE. This additive, a known brown water contaminant used by oil companies for nearly two decades, has seeped into our Nation's water supply. In all, MTBE has been detected in over 1,800 water systems, which serve 45 million Americans. This is the water that our constituents, our communities and our families use, and it has been contaminated with a potential human carcinogen.

Despite knowing all of this, the Republican leadership has no reservations

about shielding oil companies from any liability to the damages caused by MTBE. And then if that were not bad enough, they have included a nearly \$2 billion bailout for these same companies. So while communities will be left to cover the overwhelming costs of cleanup, not only will these oil companies get a free pass, but they will also get another kickback at the expense of taxpayers.

Here the Republican leadership is once again weighing the interests of big oil above the health and safety of our communities.

Specifically, Section 1502 of the energy bill we are talking about today creates a safe harbor for MTBE manufacturers against lawsuits that attempt to hold them accountable for the damage their product has wrought on the water supplies of communities all over the country.

As the letter the Congressional Budget Office sent to the gentleman from California (Chairman DREIER) yesterday explains, while the bill creates a safe harbor for the MTBE manufacturers, it sticks our State and local governments with a bill that could be as large as \$29 billion.

During these bad economic times, how many States and local communities can afford that?

By blocking the claims of local governments against the MTBE manufacturers, this bill will force communities to come up with hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up their water. CBO concludes that the annual cost of this mandate over the next 5 years is likely to exceed \$62 million, which accordingly triggers the unfunded mandate law Republicans so proudly backed in 1995.

The fact is that the rule waives all points of order against the bill. The Budget Act specifically says that the Committee on Rules cannot waive points of order against unfunded mandates, yet the Republican leadership blatantly ignores this.

Mr. Speaker, the House can either choose to consider this bill in spite of the bill's unfunded mandate, or it can send this bill back to committee and strike the MTBE section from the bill, eliminating the violation of this point of order. At the end of this debate, therefore, I will call for a vote on a motion to continue consideration or fix this problem.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) bringing this issue up. In fact, the issue about the MTBE liability safe harbor is part of the bill. We believe that we are responsibly dealing with a problem that exists, has existed for quite some time.

Years ago the EPA made a very clear decision about not only MTBE, they understood some of the effects of MTBE, they understood some of the