

to grant a rule which would limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 1817, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006. The bill was reported by the Committee on Homeland Security on May 3, 2005, and it received sequential referrals to the committees on Energy and Commerce, Government Reform, Judiciary, Science, Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means and Intelligence.

Members should draft their amendments to the text of an amendment in the nature of a substitute that is intended to reflect the work of all the committees of jurisdiction. This amendment in the nature of a substitute will be posted on the Web sites of the Rules and Homeland Security Committees on Friday, May 13, 2005.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in Room H-312 in the Capitol by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2005.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy:

Mr. CUNNINGHAM of California;

Mr. WICKER of Mississippi.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation:

Mr. AKIN of Missouri;

Mr. SKELTON of Missouri.

HONORING KELSEY RYAN

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kelsey Ryan, a 9-year old little girl from Celebration, Florida, my home district. Kelsey is a true hero to her community and her country. We are honored that she is here with us today.

Kelsey possesses a life-threatening allergy to peanuts. She is not alone; 4 percent of our population has some form of life threatening allergy, either to peanuts, shellfish, insects or other items.

Kelsey decided to do something about it and took action. She traveled to Tallahassee, Florida, where she testified before six separate committees of the Florida legislature. She explained that by allowing her and other school children to use this EpiPen it would help save the lives of 100,000 different school children in Florida who also suffer from life-threatening allergies.

She was so effective that the Florida House and Florida Senate unanimously passed the Kelsey Ryan Act, and it will be signed into law by the Governor of Florida, Jeb Bush, in a matter of days.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I was pleased today to present Ms. Kelsey Ryan with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, an award we humbly give to true American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of Kelsey in Florida. And today we honor the achievements of an amazing 9-year-old lady who has selflessly helped save the lives of up to 100,000 different school children in my home State of Florida. We are proud of her in Congress. We are proud of her in Florida. We are proud of her back in Celebration.

ABUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL POWER

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it boggles my mind that Republicans continue to criticize Democrats for blocking judicial nominations. Their facts are deceiving. Their facts are inaccurate, and their actions to force through extremist judges are just one example of their abuse of power in the Congressional Chamber.

□ 1430

The fact is that 208 judges have been confirmed and 10 have been turned down because of extremist positions. That represents a 95 percent approval rating. These same Members, by the way, blocked 65 of President Bill Clinton's nominees. These same Senators would like you to believe that the only way to get the judicial process moving is to eliminate the 200-year-old filibuster rule that grants Senators the ability to speak their minds if they feel an action is not right for the country.

The Republican greed for power is eroding our political system. They should remember that a democracy is not a one-sided body of government. It is time for my Republican colleagues to respect that basic notion and end their abuse and their bullying in the Congress.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JINDAL). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SMART SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the ink has hardly dried on the latest supplemental spending bill for military operations in Iraq, but that has not stopped top officials in the Pentagon from starting preparations for the next supplemental bill.

It was reported yesterday that the Pentagon has begun laying the groundwork for the next supplemental requests which may come as early as this August. The Pentagon will likely request more than \$25 billion more, but some in Congress have indicated that they will ask for as much as \$50 billion more.

The Pentagon which receives over \$400 billion annually from the United States Treasury acts like 25 or 50 billion is a mere drop in the bucket. Likewise, when supplemental requests are doled out in these smaller, ha-ha smaller, \$50 billion increments, many Members of Congress and much of the Nation have absolutely no concept of the true cost of the war in Iraq, which at the moment adds up to over \$200 billion. But when you think about the financial strain being felt at home like the fact that we are not fully funding the No Child Left Behind Act or that we are not paying for adequate health care for our returning veterans, it does not take long to realize that \$50 billion more for Iraq takes a toll on the American people here at home.

Mr. Speaker, why are we funding a war, especially one that was entered into on false pretenses, through repeated supplemental spending bills? This method of funding underscores both a fundamental lack of planning for the war in Iraq, as well as a hostile contempt for the financial strain on the citizens of the United States.

If the President and his administration had a strategy to peacefully resolve this war in Iraq, they would submit to Congress a plan, a plan detailing the further U.S. military operations there. This plan would indicate how long they expect troops to remain in Iraq and at what levels and in what capacity, how much the war will cost, and exactly how they plan to finance this burdensome cost. This plan would define when and how we are planning to bring our troops home.

Anything less than a comprehensive strategy is a slap in the face to all the hard-working American people in this country whose tax dollars are financing this misguided mission. Sadly, I think the real reason the administration has failed to provide such a strategy is because they apparently have no plan to end the war in Iraq. Americans

have a right to know where their money is being spent. For instance, why did the Army recently award Kellogg, Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton, with \$72 million in bonuses for "the company's excellent performance"?

Perhaps the definition of excellence has changed since I attended school, because in my day excellence meant working hard and achieving positive results, not conning the American people out of millions, even billions, of dollars while failing to secure Iraq.

And why have \$9 billion in supplemental funds gone unaccounted for? How does \$9 billion just vanish? Given the administration's poor track record for spending American taxpayers' money, why does our Congress continually fail to demand accountability for how the supplemental funds are being spent?

Mr. Speaker, there must be a better way than this, because the current system is broken. That is why I have developed a SMART Security platform for the 21st century. SMART is a Sensible Multi-lateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART will help reinvigorate America's foreign policy by focusing our spending priorities on conflict prevention, international diplomacy, and multi-lateralism.

Instead of Congress's current open check book policy we have for Iraq, SMART Security wisely invests U.S. dollars in development funding. It invests in peacekeeping and reconstruction, adequately funding these important programs because then that will go a long way towards ensuring long-term peace and stability in troubled countries and troubled regions.

If we had invested in SMART Security in the first place, we would not have become embroiled in a war that has cost the lives of more than 1,600 American soldiers and at least 24,000 Iraqi civilians. This shameful war has also permanently injured over 25,000 American soldiers whose lives will be changed forever. We must focus America's efforts on a smarter strategy for our national security instead of continuing our shameful policy of preemptive military combat.

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

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

VETOING AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION FUTURE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, finally, blatantly, 18½ months after the expiration of the Surface Transportation Act which provides cru-

cial funding for all of the road, bridge, highway mass transit and related work of the Federal Government, spending our gas taxes which are collected day in and day out and being underspent by this administration, the Senate acted to increase funding.

Strangely, this is the one bill, the only place that George Bush in over 5 years in office has said he is going to veto a bill if it spends more money. Now, he will not do that for agriculture subsidies to pay big corporate farms not to pay things. He wanted to cut their subsidies, but the Republicans have refused to do it, and he is not threatening to veto that bill.

He is not threatening to veto bills that are doing wasteful things like the Star Wars Project in Alaska that does not work, has not met a single parameter of its goal. He cannot threaten vetoes there. But when it is spending our gas tax money, this is the only bill where we are in the borrowing money. We are borrowing \$1.3 million a minute to run the Federal Government under the Bush budget, but we do not have to borrow money to have a robust highway bill. We just need to spend the taxes we are all paying every time we tank up our car or truck.

This is money that will put people to work. This is money that will maintain and improve our crumbling infrastructure. It will help mitigate congestion, people sitting in traffic, idling, wasting gas, wasting their time. It could better fund mass transit, alternate transportation, all these things; but somehow the President has drawn the line in the sand.

He said last year, not a penny over \$256 billion. He wants to underspend the trust fund so he can borrow that money to pay for tax cuts for rich people. Plain and simple. That is what he wants to do with our gas tax money.

We pay money at the pump to improve our roads, bridges, and highways. We have to pay it right there at the pump. He wants to underspend that trust fund, and then he wants to take and divert that money over here to give rich people tax cuts. Now, is that a better way to stimulate the economy of the United States, to improve the business climate, to help the traveling public?

I do not think so. It might help them pay for their corporate jets, but it is not going to help the rest of us who are down there mired in traffic.

So the Senate voted yesterday 76 to 22 to increase funding substantially above the levels the President says he will veto. Well, an override of a veto is 66 votes in the United States Senate. Maybe this will send a message that we have been trying to send to the White House for 2 years.

There is a huge bipartisan coalition, Republican and Democrat in the House and the Senate, who want to invest in our roads, bridges, highways, mass transit, alternative transportation, put Americans to work, help Americans get to work, and help improve the effi-

ciency of our business. Hopefully, they will change their tone down at the White House and stop threatening to veto needed investment.

The President's own Department of Transportation, the people he politically appointed and controls, says this bill should be \$376 billion. And the President says not a penny over 256. Now he has come up a little bit to the House level of 284, but that is not adequate to meet the needs of the system. And the Senate wants to spend more of our gas tax dollars on what they were collected for, projects to rebuild and improve the efficiency of the Nation's infrastructure.

So I take this as a very positive move. Hopefully, the Republican leadership can move with dispatch to have a conference committee and get a bill done by May 31. That is when the fifth extension of the long-expired highway bill expires. Because if we do not, hundreds of projects across America will not get built this summer, those jobs will not be created, those bottlenecks will not be solved, those bridges will not be repaired, the traveling public will be impaired.

The White House will be happy with that because then they get to take more money, divert it from the gas tax, and spend it on more tax cuts for rich people. But I do not think the rest of America will be amused by that. So I am hoping the American public will demand that Congress act quickly to resolve the differences between the House and the Senate and get a bill now 18 months overdue to the President's desk. And if he chooses to veto it, then pressure the Congress to override that ill-intentioned veto.

Let him veto something wasteful. Let him veto something that we are borrowing money to pay for, but do not veto a paid-for highway bill with vital investment in America's transportation future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)