

Wolf	Wu	Young (AK)
Woolsey	Wynn	Young (FL)
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Ackerman	Granger	Payne
Baird	Gutierrez	Sabo
Cardoza	Hinchey	Snyder
Clyburn	Holt	Stearns
DeGette	Kirk	Stupak
Emerson	LoBiondo	Taylor (NC)
Eshoo	Lynch	Watson
Etheridge	Napolitano	Wexler
Feeney	Neugebauer	Wilson (SC)
Gerlach	Ney	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1924

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent today from this Chamber. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 20, 21 and 22.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I offer a resolution (H.R. 68), and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 68

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Simpson to rank after Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. McCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. McCARTHY 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 gen-

tleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

PELL GRANT FUNDING

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of a part of President Bush's budget that receives no fanfare or publicity, and that is Pell grants. Pell grants are dollars that we give to children from low- and moderate-income families to help them go to college. I personally would not have been able to go to college without Pell grants, and I serve as chairman of the Congressional Pell Grant Caucus.

When I was elected to Congress in 2000, I made increasing Pell grant funding my top priority, and with this budget, President Bush has done his part, too.

Now, I have heard some people complain that maybe the President and Congress are not doing enough to increase Pell grants, so I am here today to provide a little straight talk regarding Pell grant funding.

Let us begin by comparing funding situations in 2000 with the President's current budget proposal. As Members can see, we have increased Pell grant funding overall by 137 percent since the year 2000 from \$7.6 billion to \$18 billion. We have also increased the individual awards from \$3,300 to \$4,150 with an extra \$1,000 for those smart kids who qualify under the Pell Grant Plus Program by taking rigorous courses. And we also have an additional 1.6 million students who are now eligible for Pell grants, an increase of 41 percent.

Some say that maybe we should be doing even more than this. Well, let us compare the history. Over the past 20 years, we have had Pell grants, demonstrated here based on the Democratic-controlled Congress in yellow from 1986 to 1995, and the Republican Congress afterwards. As Members can see before Republican control of Congress, the Pell grant level remained flat at or around \$2,300, and increased dramatically up to \$4,150 today, with an extra \$1,000 for those who qualify for the Pell Grant Plus Program.

Some say, why just a \$100 increase for students, why not more? Well, for every \$100, it costs the taxpayers \$400 billion to pay for it. We also have the especially large challenge of having the

largest number of high school graduates in history, and it is going up and up and up until the year 2008, and then it will decline.

The third challenge is we face a Pell grant deficit of \$4.3 billion that made these increases hard. President Bush's budget pays that Pell grant deficit off.

The final chart I would like to show is showing the overall Pell grant funding for the past 10 years. As Members can see, in 1996 Pell grants were funded at \$4.9 billion. Under this budget just announced by the President, Pell grants are funded at almost \$18 billion. In other words, we have more than tripled funding for Pell grants over the past 10 years.

Members will also note that the amount we spent last year, \$12.4 billion, has been increased 45 percent to \$18 billion, the largest increase in any domestic program.

As we look to the future, the President's budget indicates that we are going to raise Pell grants by \$500 over a 5-year period, and an additional \$1,000 will be funded through the Pell Grant Plus Act, legislation I filed, and which President Bush's budget fully funds.

Mr. Speaker, Pell grants are truly the passport out of poverty for so many worthy young people. Not only is increasing Pell grants the right think to do for young people, to help low-income college kids fulfill their American Dream; it is the right thing to do for the Treasury. By investing \$13 billion in Pell grants, it helps generate over \$85 billion a year in additional revenue because the average college graduate makes 75 percent more than the average high school graduate.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will understand and appreciate our efforts to increase funding for Pell grants and will vote "yes" on this budget.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

REVERSE ROBIN HOOD

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this budget is another example of reverse Robin Hood, robbing

from the veterans, the homeless, public education, public transportation, the poor and the elderly, to give away huge tax breaks to those who contributed to President Bush's reelection campaign.

□ 1930

Let me be clear. This budget is another clear example of reverse Robin Hood: robbing from the veterans, the homeless, public education, public transportation, the poor and the elderly, to give away huge tax breaks to those who contributed to President Bush's reelection campaign.

This administration is cutting the programs that our Nation and its citizens need most, while dissolving the safety nets created to protect the elderly and less fortunate in this wealthy Nation. This budget cuts \$500 million in job training at a time when outsourcing has left many Americans without work; slashes hundreds of millions in funding for police and firefighters used to protect local communities from terrorists.

And let me add that since this administration has been in place, we have not funded the COPS program at all.

It doubles drug copayments for veterans as they struggle to get the health care they need. Let me repeat, doubles drug copayments for veterans as they struggle to get the health care that they need. It cuts funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention while we are under the threat of a bioterrorist attack. I do not understand it. Cuts funding to the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program as fuel prices soar.

Now this is a real gimmick here: It zeroes out funding for Amtrak, zeroes out funding for Amtrak, which is the Nation's only mass transportation system. And it totally destroys the Medicaid program, which protects the poor and elderly.

Veterans continue to get the short end of the stick when it comes to this administration. And let me point out, today's veterans are yesterday's soldiers. Those are the people who are fighting to protect this country. They are the ones who are getting the short end of the stick.

The budget raises health care costs for hundreds of thousands of veterans, imposing new copayments on prescription drugs and enrollment fees that will cost veterans hundreds of millions of dollars. As America prepares to welcome a new generation of veterans home from Iraq, it is short-changing health care programs, providing about \$2 billion less than veterans' service organizations believe is needed.

And the budget once again fails to repeal the disabled veterans tax, which forces disabled military retirees to give up \$1 of their pension for every \$1 of disability pay they receive. We owe it to the soldiers, airmen, sailors, and Marines who have served as a source of pride in our Nation to begin enrolling Priority 8 veterans into the VA health care system. However, charging each of

them an annual \$250 fee and doubling the copayment on prescription drugs for the privilege is unacceptable. These men and women have already paid their deduction in their service protecting this country's freedom. Most of the "increase" this administration claims for veterans' medical needs come from these fees.

This budget is completely unrealistic because it leaves out countless items. Once administration initiatives like additional costs for military operations in Iraq; Social Security privatization, which is unacceptable; and permanent tax cuts for the wealthy are included, the Nation's deficit, which is the highest in the history of this country, will spiral even higher. This is an administration that not only does not have a plan to erase the deficit, but by proposing to make their tax cuts permanent, they will push the current deficits to sky-high levels.

This is a terrible budget for the American people. The President's budget is the people's budget, and I will fight to ensure that my constituents' priorities are reflected in this budget.

The current issues concerning Amtrak brings up a fundamental question of where this Nation stands on public Transportation. We have an opportunity to improve a system that serves our need for passenger rail service, or we can let it fall apart, and leave this country's travelers and businesses with absolutely no alternative form of public transportation.

Without the funding Amtrak needs to keep operating, we will soon see people that rely on Amtrak to get them to work each day, waiting for a train that isn't coming.

We continue to subsidize highways and aviation, but when it comes to our passenger rail system, we refuse to provide the money Amtrak needs to survive.

This issue is so much bigger than just transportation. This is about safety and national security. Not only should we be giving Amtrak the money it needs to continue providing service, we should be providing security money to upgrade their tracks and improve safety and security measures in the entire rail system.

Once again we see the Bush Administrations paying for its failed policies by cutting funds to vital public services and jeopardizing more American jobs. This Administration sees nothing wrong with taking money from the hard working Amtrak employees who work day and night to provide top quality service to their passengers. These folks are trying to make a living for their families, and they don't deserve this shabby treatment from the President.

It's time for this Administration to step up to the plate and make a decision about Amtrak based on what's best for the traveling public, not what's best for the right wing of the Republican party and the bean counters at OMB.

I represent Central Florida, which depends on tourism for its economy, and we need people to be able to get to the state to enjoy it. Ever since September 11th, more and more people are turning from the airlines to Amtrak, and they deserve safe and dependable service.

Some people think that the solution to the problem is to privatize the system. If we privatize, we will see the same thing we saw

when we deregulated the airline industry. Only the lucrative routes would be maintained, and routes to Rural locations will be expensive and few.

I was in New York shortly after September 11th when the plane leaving JFK airport crash into the Bronx. I, along with many of my colleagues in both the House and Senate took AMTRAK back to Washington. I realized once again just how important AMTRAK is to the American people, and how important it is for this Nation to have alternative modes of Transportation.

This isn't about fiscal policy, this is about providing a safe and reliable public transportation system that the citizens of this Nation need and deserve.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, 109TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, I respectfully submit the rules of the Committee on Ways and Means for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. On February 2, 2005, the Committee on Ways and Means adopted by voice vote, a quorum being present, the following committee rules.

PART I

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS

Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, provides in part:

* * * 1.(a)(1)(A) The Rules of the House are the rules of its committees and subcommittees so far as applicable.

(B) Each subcommittee is a part of its committee and is subject to the authority and direction of that committee and to its rules, so far as applicable.

(2)(A) In a committee or subcommittee—

(i) a motion to recess from day to day, or to recess subject to the call of the Chair (within 24 hours), shall be privileged; and

(ii) a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution shall be privileged if printed copies are available.

(B) A motion accorded privilege under this subparagraph shall be decided without debate. * * *

* * * 2.(a)(1) Each standing committee shall adopt written rules governing its procedure.

Such rules—

(A) Shall be adopted in a meeting that is open to the public unless the committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by record vote that all or part of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public;

(B) may not be inconsistent with the Rules of the House or with those provisions of law having the force and effect of Rules of the House * * *

In accordance with the foregoing, the Committee on Ways and Means, on February 2, 2005, adopted the following as the Rules of the Committee for the 109th Congress.

A. GENERAL

Rule 1. Application of Rules

Except where the terms "full Committee" and "Subcommittee" are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittees as well as to the respective Chairmen.