operating from the same playbook as President Bush.

Over the first 5 months of this year, this new Democratic Congress has approved more than 45 key measures, most of them with strong bipartisan support. Unfortunately, President Bush has been a stubborn opponent of our efforts to move this Nation in a new direction. He opposes or has threatened to veto 60 percent of the House's work.

The President threatened to veto a Defense authorization bill because he believed it gave our brave soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan too big a pay raise. His administration opposes a bill that would make college more affordable by cutting student interest rates in half. And he has once again threatened to veto legislation promoting life-saving embryonic stem cell research.

While the President has been obstructing our agenda for months, House Republicans have jumped on the bandwagon and are now delaying critical appropriations bills. Rather than obstructing the process, Republicans should join us in passing bills that will help us better secure the homeland and better serve our veterans.

TRANSPARENCY IN EARMARKS

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 days, I've sat on the floor waiting to introduce and have debated an amendment that I have.

And what that amendment does is that amendment provides an additional $89 million to go toward building the border fence. That fence is to keep out those people who may be criminals, who may be terrorists, who America was promised that we would build the fence.

What has all of the delay been? Let me tell you what the delay has been. The delay has been about your tax dollars.

I've got a dollar bill here in a clear transparent folder. It's about transparency of earmarks. It's about the fact that we should be voting on bills where we know what that earmark is, what those earmarks are, regardless.

Now, here's the way it was last year when we voted on appropriations bills. We knew where those earmarks were. We knew who introduced them.

This is what it is this year. It is a hidden appropriation pool that we will not know who this money's going to.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO PROVIDE OUR VETERANS HISTORIC FUNDING; REPUBLICANS JUST OBSTRUCT

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, this week Democrats are trying to honor our Nation's veterans and servicemembers by fulfilling our sacred obligation to provide for their care.

We would like to bring a bill on the floor today that includes the largest increase in veterans' health care funding in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration. It is enthusiastically endorsed in its current form by the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and countless other veterans' service organizations. It should have been on the floor yesterday, but House Republicans continue to obstruct the process.

I ask my colleagues across the aisle to join us in supporting bills that will secure America by better providing for our veterans. Forcing meaningless procedural motions does nothing. Think of all the great things we can accomplish on the House floor for our veterans if we just simply work for the greater good.

Last week, every single member, Republican and Democrat, of the House Appropriations Committee supported the Military Construction and veterans funding bill. They all supported it because it provides for our veterans, as we promised.

I would hope today that Republicans would stop obstructing the process so that we can produce real results. Our veterans deserve nothing less, and they are watching.

CONSERVATIVES ARE RETURNING TO THEIR ROOTS

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, my Democrat colleague is misinformed. We've had a big debate this week between Republicans and Democrats about the size and scope of government, whether or not there should be a secret slush fund for earmarks. And you know what? Today, what's happening here today is that this body is coming in the conservative direction.

My voice is weary, but my spirit is strong because conservatives have a victory that we're very close to achieving here today because we've brought pressure on the Democrat leadership to free up, to make public, to be honest about the earmarks they have put in and a slush fund they have put into this appropriations bill.

And the American people should be proud because finally conservatives are returning to their roots and talking about restraining government spending.

I'm very proud of the actions that my conservative friends are taking on this House floor to hold the Democrats accountable for their slush fund, their secret earmarks and their pork-barrel projects. And I urge the body to move in the conservative direction.

REPUBLICANS ARE ALL ABOUT DELAY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth than the Republican claims of increased spending. The fact of the matter is, during the 12 years that they were in the majority spending on the budget on appropriations bills increased every year. It was a free-spending Congress. It was a Republican Congress that continued to put this country further and further into debt.

And now that the Democratic majority is trying to pass bills, what is happening on the other side? They're trying to delay it. That's all they're about is delay.

They couldn't pass a budget in the last Congress. They couldn't pass the appropriations bills before they lost control. They increased spending every year. Don't believe their rhetoric.

When Democrats took control, we vowed to do things differently. We vowed to pass a budget, and we did that earlier this year. We also vowed to pass every appropriations bill in a timely fashion, and that's what we're trying to do.

But rather than joining us and making this institution run more smoothly, congressional Republicans have chosen to constantly bring forward procedural motions to delay action on the spending bills that help us protect our homeland and help the veterans.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARE NEEDED IN SPENDING

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on this Flag Day we celebrate liberty. On this Flag Day, we celebrate democracy. And on this Flag Day, we're hopeful that the majority party will recognize and honor democracy and liberty by allowing all Members of the House, Republican and Democrat, the right to see and to know everything in appropriations bills, spending bills, before we vote. That's what our constituents expect, and that's what they demand.

These past 2 days have been an eye-opener for America, clearly demonstrating that Republicans are the champions of fiscal responsibility and honest debate as we've fought for democracy on the floor of this House.

Transparency and accountability in spending will confirm for the American people that new leadership is needed to preserve not just the Federal budget, but the family budget as well; and the American people are watching.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1925

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 7 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

PERMISSION TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS ON H.R. 2641, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008; H.R. 2643, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008; AND PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2638, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that:

(1) the Committee on Appropriations be permitted to file supplemental reports to accompany H.R. 2641 and H.R. 2643, respectively; and

(2) during further consideration of H.R. 2638 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 473, the pending amendment offered by Mrs. DRAKE shall be debatable for 10 further minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no further amendment to the bill may be offered except:

pro forma amendments offered at any point in the reading by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate;

An amendment by Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida regarding funding for border fencing and technology;

An amendment by Mr. MCHENRY regarding funding for Citizenship and Immigration Services;

An amendment by Mr. FERGUSON regarding funding for Buffer Zone Protection, which shall be debatable for 5 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. BURGESS regarding funding for Secure Flight, which shall be debatable for 5 minutes;

An amendment by Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida regarding funding for the Office of Inspector General;

An amendment by Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida regarding funding for FEMA management and administration;

An amendment by Mr. KING of Iowa regarding funding for Drug Smuggler Lookout Posts;

An amendment by Mr. PEARCE regarding funding for Customs and Border Protection;

An amendment by Mr. SHAYS regarding funding for sharing information with Interpol;

An amendment by Mr. KUHL of New York regarding a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative study;

An amendment by Mr. KUHL of New York regarding a northern border study;

An amendment by Mr. CONAWAY regarding funding for invasive species removal;

An amendment by Mr. HUNTER or Mr. ROYCE, Mr. KING of Iowa or Mr. FRANKS of Arizona regarding the Secure Fence Act;

An amendment by Mr. CARTER regarding border fencing requirements;

An amendment by Mr. SOUDER regarding a report on use of air and marine interdiction assets;

An amendment by Mr. MCCAUL of Texas regarding unmanned aerial systems;

An amendment by Mr. KING of Iowa regarding funding for worksite enforcement;

An amendment by Mr. SOUDER regarding funding for Deepwater;

An amendment for Mr. BILBRAY regarding funding for REAL ID;

An amendment by Mr. DENT regarding funding for Secret Service protective missions;

An amendment by Mr. JINDAL regarding funding for FEMA disaster relief for hurricane preparedness;

An amendment by Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky regarding funding for Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance grants;

An amendment by Mr. LANGEVIN regarding funding for cybersecurity research and development;

An amendment by Mr. KING of New York regarding funding for domestic nuclear detection;

An amendment by Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida regarding airport employee screening pilot program;

An amendment by Mr. MCCAUL of Texas regarding the MAX-HR project;

An amendment by Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi to strike section 537(b) relating to small business;

An amendment by Mr. DEAL of Georgia regarding limitation on use of funds to put out to pasture horses and mules;

An amendment by Mr. ELLSWORTH regarding limitation on use of funds for contractors delinquent on Federal debt;

An amendment by Mr. HENSARLING regarding limitation on use of certain FEMA grant funds;

An amendment by Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas regarding a report on pipeline and refinery vulnerability;

An amendment by Mr. LATOURETTE regarding the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative;

An amendment by Mr. ORTIZ regarding limitation on funding for border fencing;

An amendment by Mr. POE regarding limitation on use of funds to implement plans under section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act;

An amendment by Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky regarding a reduction in funding;

An amendment by Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky regarding limitation of total number of airport screeners;

An amendment by Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky regarding the Davis-Bacon Act;

An amendment by Mr. TANCREDO regarding limitation on use of funds to carry out visa waiver program;

An amendment by Mr. TANCREDO regarding limitation on use of funds in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Reform and Responsibility Act;

An amendment by Mr. PRICE of Georgia regarding limitation on use of funds for research on global warming;

An amendment or amendments by Mr. PRICE of North Carolina regarding funding levels;

An amendment by Mr. OBEY prohibiting funding for earmarks; and

An amendment by Mr. FORBES prohibiting use of funds for temporary protective status.

□ 1930

Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member named in this request or a designee, or by the Member who caused it to be printed in the RECORD or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of debate; and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Except as otherwise specified, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. An amendment shall be considered to fit the description stated in this request if it addresses in whole or in part the object described.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, reserving the right to object, if the gentleman would join in a colloquy, a question has arisen as to whether or not when this bill goes to conference with the other body and there should be items that are included in the conference report that comes back to the House, items that were not included in either the Senate-passed version or the House-passed version, would those items be subject to a point of order when the conference report hits the House floor?

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, my understanding, and if the gentleman will shortly yield to the distinguished minority leader and the distinguished majority leader, but my understanding of this provision is that it seeks to assure that there are two kinds of remedies available to items that are in conference. My understanding is that if