

uncertainty. That is why the bill takes steps to ensure parents are not automatically denied a PLUS loan simply because they're struggling with the same mortgage troubles facing so many other families in the country.

This amendment is consistent with the spirit of our bill because it recognizes that families also may be grappling with medical bills. And as the chairman explained, sometimes you are hit with a bill, and that shows up as a liability which would put you out of reach of getting another loan, and, in fact, you may not have that liability. And until that is clarified, you are held in abeyance. And students can't wait.

So this is a very important amendment that the gentlelady has presented. I thank Representative CASTOR for her amendment. It makes the bill better.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR. I would like to thank, again, the gentlemen from California for their work on this legislation and their work on behalf of students and parents across this country.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR) having assumed the chair, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, had come to no resolution thereon.

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 11 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1321

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CROWLEY) at 1 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.

ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in

the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5715.

□ 1322

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, with Mr. BLUMENAUER (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 110-590 offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 413, noes 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 203]

AYES—413

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (PA)

Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin

Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney

Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)

Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Norton
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pascarell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)

Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—23

Berkley	Fortuño	Peterson (PA)
Bishop (GA)	Hulshof	Rush
Brown, Corrine	Lynch	Scott (GA)
Brown-Waite,	Mack	Shadegg
Ginny	Mahoney (FL)	Towns
Butterfield	Marchant	Wilson (NM)
Cole (OK)	Markey	Wynn
Faleomavaega	Pallone	Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN. There are 2 minutes left in this vote.

□ 1345

Messrs. LINDER, GINGREY and TANCREDO changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, on Thursday, April 17, 2008, I missed the first vote in a series of two votes. I missed rollcall vote No. 203.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 203: “aye” (On agreeing to the Miller, George amendment to H.R. 5715).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER) having assumed the chair, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, pursuant to House Resolution 1107, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 383, nays 27, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 204]

YEAS—383

Abercrombie	Aderholt	Allen
Ackerman	Alexander	Altmire

Andrews	Emanuel	Lewis (KY)
Arcuri	Emerson	Linder
Baca	Engel	Lipinski
Bachmann	English (PA)	LoBiondo
Bachus	Eshoo	Loeb
Baird	Etheridge	Lofgren, Zoe
Baldwin	Everett	Lowe
Barrow	Fallin	Lucas
Bartlett (MD)	Farr	Lungren, Daniel
Barton (TX)	Fattah	E.
Bean	Feeney	Lynch
Becerra	Ferguson	Maloney (NY)
Berman	Filner	Manzullo
Berry	Forbes	Matheson
Biggert	Fortenberry	Matsui
Bilbray	Fossella	McCarthy (CA)
Bilirakis	Foster	McCarthy (NY)
Bishop (NY)	Frank (MA)	McCaul (TX)
Bishop (UT)	Frelinghuysen	McCollum (MN)
Blackburn	Gallegly	McCotter
Blumenauer	Garrett (NJ)	McCrery
Blunt	Gerlach	McDermott
Boehner	Giffords	McGovern
Bonner	Gilchrest	McIntyre
Bono Mack	Gillibrand	McKeon
Boozman	Gohmert	McMorris
Boren	Gonzalez	Rodgers
Boswell	Goode	McNerney
Boucher	Goodlatte	McNulty
Boustany	Gordon	Meek (FL)
Boyd (FL)	Granger	Meeks (NY)
Boyd (KS)	Graves	Melancon
Brady (PA)	Green, Al	Mica
Braley (IA)	Green, Gene	Michaud
Brown (SC)	Grijalva	Miller (MI)
Buchanan	Gutierrez	Miller (NC)
Burgess	Hall (NY)	Miller, Gary
Burton (IN)	Hall (TX)	Miller, George
Buyer	Hare	Mitchell
Calvert	Harman	Mollohan
Camp (MI)	Hastings (FL)	Moore (KS)
Cantor	Hastings (WA)	Moore (WI)
Capito	Hayes	Moran (KS)
Capps	Heller	Moran (VA)
Capuano	Herseth Sandlin	Murphy (CT)
Cardoza	Higgins	Murphy, Patrick
Carnahan	Hill	Murphy, Tim
Carney	Hinche	Murtha
Carson	Hinojosa	Musgrave
Carter	Hirono	Myrick
Castle	Hobson	Nadler
Castor	Hodes	Napolitano
Chabot	Hoekstra	Neal (MA)
Chandler	Holden	Neugebauer
Clarke	Holt	Nunes
Clay	Honda	Oberstar
Cleaver	Hooley	Obey
Clyburn	Hoyer	Oliver
Coble	Hunter	Ortiz
Cohen	Inglis (SC)	Pascarell
Cole (OK)	Inslee	Pastor
Conaway	Israel	Payne
Conyers	Issa	Pearce
Cooper	Jackson (IL)	Perlmutter
Costa	Jackson-Lee	Peterson (MN)
Costello	(TX)	Petri
Courtney	Jefferson	Pickering
Cramer	Johnson (GA)	Pitts
Crenshaw	Johnson (IL)	Platts
Crowley	Johnson, E. B.	Pomeroy
Cuellar	Jones (NC)	Porter
Culberson	Jones (OH)	Price (NC)
Cummings	Kagen	Pryce (OH)
Davis (AL)	Kanjorski	Putnam
Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Radanovich
Davis (IL)	Keller	Rahall
Davis (KY)	Kennedy	Ramstad
Davis, David	Kildee	Rangel
Davis, Lincoln	Kilpatrick	Regula
Davis, Tom	Kind	Rehberg
DeFazio	King (NY)	Reichert
DeGette	Kirk	Renzi
Delahunt	Klein (FL)	Reyes
DeLauro	Kline (MN)	Reynolds
Dent	Knollenberg	Richardson
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kucinich	Rodriguez
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kuhl (NY)	Rogers (AL)
Dicks	LaHood	Rogers (KY)
Dingell	Lampson	Rogers (MI)
Doggett	Langevin	Rohrabacher
Donnelly	Larsen (WA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Doolittle	Larson (CT)	Roskam
Doyle	Latham	Ross
Drake	LaTourette	Rothman
Dreier	Latta	Roybal-Allard
Edwards	Lee	Royce
Ehlers	Levin	Ruppersberger
Ellison	Lewis (CA)	Ryan (OH)
Ellsworth	Lewis (GA)	Ryan (WI)

Salazar	Smith (TX)	Velázquez
Sali	Smith (WA)	Visclosky
Sánchez, Linda	Snyder	Walberg
T.	Solis	Walden (OR)
Sanchez, Loretta	Souder	Walsh (NY)
Sarbanes	Space	Walz (MN)
Saxton	Speier	Wamp
Schakowsky	Stark	Wasserman
Schiff	Stearns	Schultz
Schmidt	Stupak	Waters
Schwartz	Sullivan	Watson
Scott (GA)	Sutton	Watt
Scott (VA)	Tanner	Waxman
Sensenbrenner	Tauscher	Weiner
Serrano	Taylor	Welch (VT)
Sessions	Terry	Weldon (FL)
Sestak	Thompson (CA)	Weller
Shays	Thompson (MS)	Wexler
Shea-Porter	Thornberry	Whitfield (KY)
Sherman	Tiahrt	Wilson (OH)
Shimkus	Tiberi	Wilson (SC)
Shuler	Tierney	Wittman (VA)
Shuster	Towns	Wolf
Simpson	Tsongas	Woolsey
Sires	Turner	Wu
Skelton	Udall (CO)	Yarmuth
Slaughter	Udall (NM)	Young (FL)
Smith (NE)	Upton	
Smith (NJ)	Van Hollen	

NAYS—27

Akin	Foxx	Lamborn
Barrett (SC)	Franks (AZ)	McHenry
Brady (TX)	Gingrey	Miller (FL)
Campbell (CA)	Hensarling	Paul
Cannon	Herger	Pence
Cubin	Johnson, Sam	Poe
Deal (GA)	Jordan	Price (GA)
Duncan	King (IA)	Tancredo
Flake	Kingston	Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—21

Berkley	Mack	Rush
Bishop (GA)	Mahoney (FL)	Shadegg
Broun (GA)	Marchant	Spratt
Brown, Corrine	Markey	Wilson (NM)
Brown-Waite,	Marshall	Wynn
Ginny	McHugh	Young (AK)
Butterfield	Pallone	
Hulshof	Peterson (PA)	

□ 1409

Mr. AKIN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 204. At this time, I wish to note that had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Stated for:

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 204, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, on April 17, 2008, I missed votes.

Listed below are the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been present.

Miller of California Amendment to H.R. 5715, rollcall No. 203, I would have voted “aye.”

Final Passage of H.R. 5715, rollcall No. 204, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008, I would have voted “yea.”

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of the bill H.R. 5715, the Clerk be authorized to correct the table of contents, section numbers, punctuation, citations, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming

changes as may be appropriate to reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TSONGAS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Reserving my right to object, I am just not fully aware of this. I understand that a very important vote that was taken yesterday has been negated and that there is some objection to correcting the situation, which was a clerical error, apparently, by unanimous consent on our side.

I am just wondering where that stands in comparison to the unanimous consent objections that were being expected of us today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I withdraw my unanimous consent request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The request is withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5813. An act to amend Public Law 110-196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond April 18, 2008.

ON THE PASSING OF LOU COSTANTINO

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, we have some extraordinary people who work for us. At times this is a very stressful job. They remain even-tempered. They remain gentle and kind and good humored. We have lost one of those just recently. Maybe you did not know his name, but you saw him, usually through the center door, or sometimes other doors. His name was Lou Costantino.

As a member of the House security team for over 28 years, Lou Costantino has been a fixture at the House Chamber's front door and was beloved by Members and staff who were greeted by him every day. I never failed to come through that door that he did not have a kind and gentle world.

He was a "purveyor of pork," if you will. He loved sausage, and he allowed some of us to share in that sausage.

I am very sad to report to all of you that Lou died of a heart attack last Saturday. He was young, 71 years of age. Many of you will remember Lou for the homemade sausage he made for his friends and colleagues every day.

We will miss Lou. He made this institution a better place.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

I would ask you therefore to join me in a moment of silence in remembrance

of a part of this institution who will be sorely missed, Lou Costantino.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, before I yield to my friend from Maryland, I would like to join him in his comments regarding Lou Costantino, who served us well and ably for a long time.

Lou Costantino was always proud of his job, he was proud of his family and proud of our country. To his wife, Doris; his daughter, Edie; and to his son, Louis, Jr., who we got relatively regular reports on, I am sure that the sympathy of the House goes out to them.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my friend from Maryland, the majority leader, for information about next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his words about Lou Costantino. All of us will miss Lou. He was a wonderful, good, human being who loved this institution and showed great affection to all of our Members.

On Monday, the House is not in session. On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules, including an important bill from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, H.R. 5712, Close the Contractor Fraud Loop-hole Act. A final list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business tomorrow.

In addition, Mr. Whip, we will consider H.R. 5819, a bill to improve the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard authorization bill.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that.

I have a couple of inquiries about other legislation. The 1974 Budget Act set a budget deadline of April 15. I am well aware that the Congress has seldom met that deadline, I think maybe four times. The latest three were in 1999, 2001 and 2003. But with that deadline in mind, I wonder if the gentleman has any sense when a budget might be on the floor.

I would yield.

□ 1415

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

My hope is sooner rather than later. However, as the gentleman knows, we are having, as is so often the case, difficulty reaching agreement with the Senate, mainly because the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee has a

very close vote structure there, as you know, and so he is trying to figure out the votes in the Senate on a budget.

As is too often the case, one of the issues is whether we pay for things that we are doing. The House feels strongly about that issue, and I think the chairman of the Budget Committee in the Senate feels strongly about that issue, but he is not sure that he can get the votes. That is the discussion. There is some discrepancy, not much, between the figures, and we are hopeful that we can get a budget conference committee done. As soon as a conference committee is done, we will report it to the floor. If that is next week, it will be on the floor next week.

I am in regular communication with Mr. SPRATT, the chairman of the Budget Committee, and he is working at it.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that information. Of course it is a challenge, but it is a challenge that we need to meet in some way usually before we can move with the appropriations process. But on appropriations on the supplemental, there were conflicting reports this week that there might be a supplemental for Afghanistan and another supplemental for Iraq, and then there were reports that no, the committee would report out one supplemental bill. I am wondering if the gentleman knows whether there will be one or two bills, and are we still anticipating a markup of that bill next week and then floor action following next week?

I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I still anticipate that. With reference to the gentleman's question regarding the number of bills, based upon the comments of Mr. MURTHA, I have not talked to him personally but that have been reported, it is my understanding that he is thinking of one bill, not both an Afghanistan and an Iraq.

The problem is while there is, I think, pretty universal support for the effort in Afghanistan as being critical to our fight on terrorism, there is more disagreement on the Iraq component and what we ought to be doing there. But the way the budget is structured, it would be very difficult to consider them discretely, Afghanistan and Iraq. So it is my understanding that Mr. MURTHA has recommended and intends to pursue it as one bill.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that. That bill needs to be out of the way, along with the budget, before we can get on with the other appropriating process. And thinking about that appropriations calendar, I know that the majority leader was quoted last week as saying that it is likely we won't have a lame duck session, a post-election session this year. I wonder if you can comment on that a little more. I know privately we have discussed this, but I saw you in print suggesting that we might not be back after the election. I am wondering what your thoughts are on that.