

Today's raise in the minimum wage provides an important boost for the millions of workers who have been left behind in this administration's economy.

□ 1030

NEW YORK TIMES SHOWS FAVORITISM

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, in a blatant show of partisanship, the New York Times this week refused to publish an op-ed by Senator JOHN MCCAIN about Iraq just days after publishing an op-ed on the same subject by Senator BARACK OBAMA. The Times' op-ed editor, a former staff member in the Clinton administration, said he wanted something from MCCAIN that "mirrors Senator OBAMA's piece."

Instead of permitting one candidate to set the rules, maybe the Times should allow equal opportunity for the Presidential candidates to both express their views on major issues like Iraq.

The American people should demand more fairness and less favoritism from the New York Times. Voters deserve the highest standards of journalism both during this important election and afterwards.

BIG OIL SPENDS MORE ON STOCK, LESS ON EXPLORATION

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, Americans are driving out of their way to fill up on the cheapest gas and are skipping summer vacations and important appointments because gas prices today are just too high.

And while Americans are paying record-high prices, Big Oil is reaping record-high profits. But instead of investing those profits for exploration on the 311 million acres of land open to new energy production, Big Oil spends their money on stock buybacks and dividends.

In 1993, oil companies spent only 1 percent of their profits on stocks. Last year, that number rose to 55 percent. And yet Big Oil continues to spend only in the single digits on finding new oil. It's no wonder that 68 million acres of land already leased to Big Oil sits undeveloped because Big Oil is spending all of its profits buying back its stock rather than searching for new oil. And yet House Republicans continue to allow Big Oil to get away with this.

Last week, for the second time, House Republicans could have forced Big Oil to use it or lose it, but once again, they sided with Big Oil. How high do prices have to get before House Republicans will join us in providing relief for the consumer?

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5501, TOM LANTOS AND HENRY J. HYDE UNITED STATES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1362 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1362

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 5501) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI, a motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

SEC. 2. During consideration of the motion to concur pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the motion to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. For the purpose of debate only, Madam Speaker, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague, classmate and good friend, Representative DIAZ-BALART. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1362.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1362 provides for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate on the motion controlled by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Madam Speaker, the Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act is a comprehensive and fiscally responsible way to continue and advance America's leadership in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

I might add that the two persons for whom this act is named were persons that exemplified and manifested throughout their careers the need for the Foreign Affairs Committee to proceed in a comprehensive and responsible manner.

The bill authorizes \$48 billion to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria for fiscal year 09 through fiscal year 2013, and includes guidelines and goals for reducing the burden of these diseases.

The bill supports culturally competent prevention and treatment measures that are based on empirical evidence rather than ideology.

Additionally, the underlying bill includes provisions that support a multifaceted approach to treating and preventing the three diseases, and encourages foreign and domestic health care entities to collaborate.

The bill prevents foreign governments from unjustly profiting from U.S. aid and prohibits them from taxing the funds that the bill authorizes.

Lastly, the bill seeks to improve oversight, transparency and accountability in assessing the progress of United States global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria programs.

Madam Speaker, the United States has become an important player in combating these global epidemics. However, although the underlying bill has bipartisan support, some have argued that it is imprudent to invest in global health programs while we are experiencing so many problems domestically. Nothing, in my opinion, could be further from the truth. Investing in global health ultimately leads to communities and countries that are more economically, socially and politically stable. In this globally connected era, it is imperative that we address health and development in foreign countries.

Malaria was virtually eradicated in most of the West more than 50 years ago. In fact, the Washington D.C. area was particularly vulnerable to this disease. Effectively resolving this health threat undoubtedly contributed to the ability of our country and other Western countries to thrive and prosper. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the 40 percent of men, women and children who are at risk for contracting malaria live in poorer countries, with less access to education, preventative health care, and treatment.

As we consider this important bill, we would be remiss if we did not look at it as an opportunity to think about how we can improve our response to HIV/AIDS and other debilitating diseases that affect people in this country.

The fight against HIV/AIDS is also a fight against the health, economic and educational disparities that continue to exist in communities that have been historically underprivileged.

Nearly three decades after the first national reports on HIV/AIDS, the disease has reached every corner of the world and has claimed an estimated 25 million lives.

Although the scope of HIV/AIDS has changed, the link between socioeconomic disparity and those who contract and die from the disease remains consistent around the world. In our hemisphere alone, whether you're talking about Honduras or Haiti or my home State of Florida, people of African, indigenous, and Hispanic ancestry are disproportionately contracting and dying from HIV/AIDS.

Madam Speaker, this issue hits close to home for me, as Florida has consistently ranked third in the Nation in the number of reported cases of HIV/AIDS. In 2006, blacks accounted for 45 percent of all AIDS cases in men and 69 percent in women, which is more than any other racial or ethnic group in the State of Florida. Sadly, in that same year, the HIV/AIDS case rate among black women was 17 times higher than among white women.

In the absence of a cure, education and increased access to medication are the most powerful and cost-effective ways to treat and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS around the world. Yet the resistance of antiretroviral drugs and other treatment has not translated into accessibility. Less than 25 percent of patients in developing countries and 30 percent of patients domestically receive antiretroviral treatment. Even more, the consequences of allowing people to remain ignorant about HIV/AIDS has proven to be just as deadly as the virus itself.

Consider this: Political leaders of countries particularly stricken by HIV/AIDS have told their citizens that HIV/AIDS can be controlled by consuming garlic, lemon juice, and beet root. Such a statement sounds unquestionably absurd to most. However, around the world, people continue to be misinformed about preventing and treating this disease. They allow fear to halt open and honest discussions about this disease.

Personally, I have hosted three town hall meetings in the last year and a half in the congressional district that I'm privileged to represent. At each of them, activists, specialists, religious leaders and the general public have openly discussed and asked questions about how to address HIV/AIDS in their community. These fora have been educational and meaningful tools in fighting this disease, and more are needed.

I might add that at those fora, Madam Speaker, some courageous young women that are HIV/AIDS infected appeared and gave their testimonies, compelling in respect to their own issues, and informative as to those that were in the audience to hear people who are living with this disease actually put forward ideas about the need for greater education, information and treatment.

As a leader in global health and human rights, Madam Speaker, this country, all of us, must not allow ignorance, stigmatization, and unequal access to medication to continue in this

country or abroad. By supporting this bill and the underlying bill, we're investing in global health, the global economy, and our global community as a whole.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank my good friend and fellow co-chairman of the Florida congressional delegation, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), for the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During his 2003 State of the Union speech, President Bush outlined a bold new plan to confront and combat the scourge of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Congress followed through and passed the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act, commonly known as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), authorizing \$15 billion in assistance to combat these diseases for fiscal years 2004 through 2008. That was the largest commitment ever by any Nation for an international health initiative.

Since its enactment in 2003, the programs created by this landmark legislation have made admirable progress in combating these horrible diseases.

□ 1045

So far more than 1.4 million people have received life-preserving antiretroviral treatment, over 2.7 million HIV/AIDS-affected orphans have received care, and many millions more have received instruction on how to protect themselves from infection. Tens of millions of people have received malaria and tuberculosis prevention or treatment services.

Even though this program has achieved remarkable successes, there is more that we can do. Tuberculosis still kills an estimated 2 million people each year and is the leading cause of death for people with AIDS; 1 million people die from malaria each year; and AIDS is the world's fourth leading cause of death.

The devastating consequences of these diseases are plaguing sub-Saharan Africa. Over 22 million people are living with HIV, and approximately 1.7 million additional sub-Saharan Africans were infected with HIV last year. That represents about 68 percent of the world's HIV positive population and 90 percent of all HIV-infected children. Just last year the horrible AIDS epidemic claimed the lives of an estimated 1.6 million people in that region. More than 11 million children have been orphaned by AIDS. Many families are losing their income earners. Health services are overburdened. Life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa is now 47 years. Economic activity and social progress has been impeded. We must do all we can to prevent those tragedies.

The underlying legislation, justly and appropriately named the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States

Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, will augment our commitment to fight those horrible diseases with an increase of approximately \$35 billion in funding over the next 5 years. This landmark legislation will help prevent 12 million new HIV infections and treat at least 3 million people living with HIV/AIDS. It will also provide supporting care for 12 million people infected with HIV/AIDS, including 5 million orphans and children.

Some of my constituents, Madam Speaker, are from Haiti and have families and friends in their land of origin. I often hear about the disastrous effects that HIV/AIDS is having on that noble country. As of 2007, Haiti had an HIV rate of almost 4 percent, and according to the World Bank, continued increases in HIV prevalence in the Caribbean will negatively affect economic growth. Fortunately, since Congress first passed PEPFAR, we have invested over \$300 million to help Haiti combat the AIDS pandemic by building on existing clinic- and community-based health resources; expanding a network of satellite connections to the Centers of Excellence to permit instant review of difficult cases; training staff members of health care facilities that provide prenatal, gynecological, and maternity care and prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission; and enhancing the lab network for clinical sites to support the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and other associated infections. I am pleased that the legislation will also now cover several other countries that previously were not part of PEPFAR.

I believe that when we look upon our work in this Congress, Madam Speaker, many years from now, I can think of nothing that we or anyone else will be able to point to that is of more importance than this admirable effort by the great and generous American people. This extraordinary effort proposed by President Bush here in the U.S. House of Representatives during his state of the Union address of 2003, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROSLEHTINEN for their bipartisan work on this important issue. I also wish to thank them for naming this landmark program for two ultimately respected colleagues of ours who have recently left us, Henry Hyde and Tom Lantos. This is truly a fitting tribute for two remarkable human beings in public service.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to my good friend and fellow Rules Committee member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying bill.

Madam Speaker, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act is one of the most important foreign policy and global health bills this Congress will pass. We have literally gone from 5 years ago from standing helplessly by and watching people die of HIV/AIDS to watching people live and take up productive lives in their communities. The impact is far-reaching, and it wasn't a miracle. It is the result of presidential leadership and broad bipartisan support, and the bill that we take up later today, the Senate amendment to H.R. 5501, continues and strengthens this legacy. And it merits the support of every single Member of this House.

Madam Speaker, on April 2, when the House first debated H.R. 5501, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman BERMAN, Africa and Global Health Subcommittee Chairman PAYNE, Congresswoman EMERSON, and I entered into a bipartisan colloquy on the importance of food and nutrition for successful HIV/AIDS programs. The colloquy also emphasized how funding for such initiatives needs to be provided for PEPFAR programs but without taking money away from other global food aid and nutrition programs and priorities.

It is my understanding that later today when the House takes up the Senate amendment to H.R. 5501, Chairman BERMAN will enter into the RECORD a Statement of Legislative Intent reiterating the conclusions of that April colloquy. I want to thank Chairman BERMAN for his important Statement of Legislative Intent. I also want to express my appreciation for his leadership and his commitment to food and nutrition as important health initiatives and for his determination to safeguard the scarce resources already dedicated to carrying out other U.S. global food aid and nutrition programs.

Again, Madam Speaker, I urge that every single Member support the rule and especially the underlying bill.

COLLOQUY: FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN H.R. 5501—PEPFAR REAUTHORIZATION—APRIL 2, 2008

BERMAN: I yield three minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. McGovern, for purposes of a colloquy.

McGOVERN: I thank the Chairman and for time for the gentlelady from Missouri and I to enter into a colloquy with the Chairman on the importance of integrating food and nutrition programs with the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV/AIDS affected individuals, families, and communities.

McGOVERN: As the Chairman is aware, last year I traveled to Africa and had the opportunity to see first-hand many of our programs related to food security. In Ethiopia and Kenya, I visited HIV/AIDS programs to look at how food and nutrition were included. At that time, I heard from local communities, NGO partners, and our embassy staff how restrictive guidance for global HIV/AIDS assistance often hindered their ability to design and carry out effective food and

nutrition programs targeted at HIV/AIDS affected individuals, families, and communities. The lack of resources available for food and nutrition programs within global HIV/AIDS assistance and from other sources also posed a significant barrier.

I very much appreciate and support the work of the Committee in ensuring H.R. 5501 addresses these concerns throughout the bill, and especially in the section entitled "Food Security and Nutrition Support." The bill recognizes that strengthening the linkages and enhancing coordination among HIV/AIDS programs and other vital development programs, like food and nutrition programs, will significantly increase our effectiveness in the fight against HIV/AIDS while we advance other essential U.S. development priorities. I remain concerned, however, that the bill is less clear on where or how such funding will be provided for these purposes. It is not clear on how much funding will come from the Global HIV/AIDS program, versus other sources of funding. I am concerned that without adequate resources through the global HIV/AIDS program or necessary increases for current food and nutrition services through programs like Food for Peace, USAID will be faced with the possibility of having to divert funding from programs that address long-term chronic hunger and food insecurity to meet the enhanced mandates of H.R. 5501.

I know the Chairman will agree that we want to avoid the scenario of robbing Peter to pay Paul, so that we do not end up short-changing other communities suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity. I yield to the gentlelady from Missouri in this regard.

EMERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am also concerned that the situation will become even worse because the cost of food, commodities, and transportation is skyrocketing. Just last month, on February 12th, USAID's Office of Food for Peace announced that the cost of wheat and other food the United States donates to poor countries jumped 41% in the first half of Fiscal Year 2008. According to USAID, this means \$120 million in food assistance will not be available for people who are malnourished or food insecure.

I would ask the Chairman to work on strengthening the language in the bill as it moves through the legislative process and into conference negotiations to clarify how the necessary level of funding for food security and nutrition will be provided, especially in light of rising food and transportation costs, so that funds will not be diverted from U.S. programs addressing chronic hunger and emergency operations. I would yield back to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

McGOVERN: I yield back to the Chairman to express his views.

BERMAN: I yield one minute to the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Payne to express his views on this matter.

PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, as you know, the provision on food and nutrition security in the bill currently under consideration is drawn directly from a bill that I introduced in December, H.R. 4914, the Global HIV/AIDS Food Security, and Nutrition Support Act of 2007. I introduced the bill after chairing a hearing in the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health to determine whether the Global HIV/AIDS program was adequately addressing the nutritional needs of its beneficiaries.

The hearing corroborated what I have heard in the field during numerous visits to Africa over the past five years: PEPFAR is falling short in this critical area. I share the concerns of the gentleman from Massachusetts and the gentle lady from Missouri about the increasing cost of food aid. Just

last week the World Food Program had to issue an appeal for an additional \$500 million to offset the increased cost of food and fuel. Without the extra funds, 73 million people who rely on WFP for their daily sustenance may have their rations cut. This is a truly alarming situation, and it is not my intent for the provisions in this bill to exacerbate it. The language under consideration very clearly states that these activities are to be funded from amounts authorized under section 401 of the bill. I used this language deliberately, as I strongly believe that the food assistance and nutritional support we are providing under the Global HIV/AIDS program must be on top of the food aid we are already providing.

PAYNE: I thank the Chairman and yield back to him.

BERMAN: I yield myself one minute. I thank my colleagues for raising these important concerns. H.R. 5501 provides clear and specific instructions to the USAID Administrator and the Global AIDS Coordinator to address the food and nutrition needs of individuals with HIV/AIDS and other affected individuals, including orphans and vulnerable children; and to fully integrate food and nutrition support in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care programs carried out under this Act.

I would like to emphasize that the Committee and I, personally, share our colleagues' concerns about the negative effect rising costs are having on our long-term and emergency food aid programs. This is a matter that has our most serious attention because it affects a wide array of our food aid and development programs, including the effectiveness and success of our Global HIV/AIDS programs.

I want to reassure my colleagues that I will be working over the coming weeks to strengthen and clarify in the bill that food security and nutrition programs, especially those referred to as wraparound services, are not to be funded with monies diverted from other standing commitments to address food insecurity elsewhere in the world or in these countries. I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

McGOVERN: I thank the Chairman for that assurance. I know many Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, stand ready to support him in these efforts. I yield back.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my good friend, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN).

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry Hyde HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act. I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member for their work on this important legislation authorizing \$50 billion to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria overseas. I also support a provision added by the Senate to authorize \$2 billion to fund essential programs and infrastructure development for Native American tribes, sovereign nations within our own borders.

The United States has a special government-to-government relationship to the federally recognized American Indian tribes, as established in the U.S.

Constitution. The \$750 million for tribal law enforcement and public safety would provide funding for detention facilities, police officers, tribal courts, and other crucial services.

In June of 2007, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on the Lower Brule Reservation in South Dakota entitled "The Needs and Challenges of Tribal Law Enforcement on Indian Reservations." At the hearing tribal leaders shared examples of police departments stretched too thin. They spoke of how a lack of law enforcement personnel negatively impacts victims of crime and undermines the sense of security across their communities. The funding in today's bill will empower tribes to improve the law enforcement and judicial systems on their reservations.

Additionally, I support the \$250 million for the Indian Health Service included in the bill. The Indian Health Service is the Federal health care provider for approximately 1.5 million American Indians and Alaskan Natives. Across the country tribal leaders agree that health care is one of their top concerns. American Indians in my region of the country die from cancer at a rate approximately 40 percent greater than the general United States population. American Indians are over two times more likely than non-Indians to be diagnosed with diabetes. The \$250 million in the bill is one important step towards addressing the great needs for health care across Indian country.

And, finally, Native American reservations are often located in remote rural areas where the basic water and sewer infrastructure many of us take for granted is not well developed. The \$1 billion helps address the need for safe, clean, reliable sources of water.

Again I thank the chairman and ranking member for their work on the bill. I look forward to supporting this bill that addresses the needs of populations both overseas and on Native American reservations.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to compliment the speaker, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, for pointing out the needs that Native Americans have. It is extremely important, the issues that she spoke to. And at another point in time, I am hopeful that we will address the diabetes question with greater strength in this body's involvement.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to my good friend from the Virgin Islands, Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, who has been involved in not just this particular issue but all of our health care issues in a fashion that few Members are involved in this body.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in full support of the rule and the bill to adopt the

Senate version of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, which will reauthorize, expand, and strengthen the PEPFAR program.

First, I want to thank and applaud Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for her steadfast leadership. We would not be here today were it not for her hard work. And also our colleague Congressman LUIS FORTUÑO for his successful efforts to include all Caribbean countries for the first time. I am proud to have been a part of that effort. And let me also thank the Honorable John Maginley, the Health Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, who played a pivotal role in our efforts here as well.

This is very important because the Caribbean is second in prevalence to sub-Saharan Africa. In fact, last year in the Caribbean, there were 230,000 adults and children infected with HIV, a prevalence rate of 1 to over 3 percent, depending on the nation, and there were 11,000 deaths. Without support from PEPFAR, the Caribbean will continue to experience noted and detrimental economic, public health, and sociopolitical repercussions that this bill will help to thwart.

I have had the opportunity to see the work of PEPFAR firsthand. With this bill we will be able to do so much more: prevent 12 million new cases, treat and support millions of newly infected individuals, and expand the health care workforce that we need. So today I rise in strong support of this rule and the bill and for this program that saves countless lives and a program that, with the strengthened focus and increased funding, let the millions of innocent human beings with HIV around the globe know that they will be able to live healthier and more productive lives. This bill represents our country at its best.

I am proud to support the rule and the bill and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this resolution and play a key role in ensuring that we do our part to bring this world one step closer towards beating the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, at this time I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), my good friend who on yesterday and days previous led the fight on having us get relief in this country in foreclosure and cities having an opportunity to participate in a meaningful way in trying to help those in the need area of affordable housing.

Ms. WATERS. I truly thank the gentleman from Florida for the time.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support the rule for H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry Hyde Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008. This bill authorizes \$48 billion over the next 5 years for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Madam Speaker and Members, on June 27 stars of the screen, stage, and studio paid tribute to former South African leader Nelson Mandela.

□ 1100

Hollywood star Will Smith hosted a birthday celebration concert honoring Mr. Mandela who turned 90, along with nearly 50,000 cheering fans, in London's Hyde Park.

The event was organized to support Mandela's HIV/AIDS charity 46664, named for the number assigned him as a onetime political prisoner, and comes 20 years after another London concert on his behalf while he was still behind bars for his stand against apartheid.

"Twenty years ago, London hosted a historic concert which called for our freedom," a frail-looking Mr. Mandela told a waving crowd. "Your voices carried across the water and inspired us in our prison cells far away," he said. "As we celebrate, let us remind ourselves that our work is far from complete. Where there is poverty and sickness, especially including AIDS, where human beings are being oppressed, there is more work to be done."

Indeed there is more work to be done. I was in South Africa a short while ago, and everywhere I went in South Africa, people told me about the terrible problems they have trying to fill professional positions. The shortage of educated professionals is a result of the fact that so many South African professionals have died of AIDS or are too sick to work.

The involvement of doctors, nurses, teachers and other professionals is critical to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS. That is why I'm pleased that this bill includes provisions to strengthen the health care infrastructure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman from California has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield the gentlelady 30 additional seconds.

Ms. WATERS. This bill will strengthen the health care infrastructure in countries like South Africa and train at least 140,000 new health care professionals and workers for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care. The bill also includes prevention funds to stop the spread of HIV and treatment funds to allow infected individuals to live productive lives and continue to serve their communities.

This is an important bill. I thank again all of our leaders for the work that they have done to bring this bill before us.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, it's my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER).

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on this rule and rise in strong support for the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act, legislation that I note

is named after two very distinguished and respected leaders who served our Nation, as well as this Congress, so well.

And I want to commend the current leadership of Foreign Affairs Committee, the bipartisan leadership of Chairman BERMAN and the ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for their leadership in moving this legislation to the floor in a bipartisan way. I also note that no President in history has done more for addressing the global AIDS crisis than our current President, President Bush.

Almost 33 million citizens of this planet today suffer from the consequences of HIV/AIDS. We have a moral responsibility to demonstrate leadership in addressing this crisis, which not only is a health issue, but it's a security issue for this globe.

We often think of Africa when we talk about global AIDS, but of the 33 million, there are also many living in our own hemisphere in Latin America and the Caribbean who suffer from HIV/AIDS as well.

In Latin America today, there are over 1.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS. That is up from 1.3 million in 2001. And we have lost 58,000 citizens of Latin America who have lost their lives to HIV/AIDS. In the Caribbean, 230,000 adults and children are currently known to be infected with HIV/AIDS. That is up from 190,000 in 2001. In the Caribbean, 11,000 citizens of the Caribbean have lost their lives. In Haiti alone, a large recipient of aid as a result of this initiative, almost 4 percent of the population of Haiti is infected with HIV/AIDS. Think about that, 190,000 people. Since 2004, thanks to this initiative, the number of people receiving care and support has grown from 30,000 to 125,000, and an anticipated 150,000 people will be reached this year because of this initiative in Haiti. Haiti has received almost \$85 million from this program in the past year to address this crisis which affects many in the Caribbean.

This AIDS initiative has allowed us to reach almost every person in Haiti struggling with HIV/AIDS. And the continued support is necessary to make sure we reach every person struggling with HIV/AIDS throughout the world. That is why this legislation today is so very important.

Elsewhere in Latin America, let me give you another example in Bolivia. Bolivia is now able to use data to combat HIV/AIDS thanks to this legislation. In fact, real-time data is helping Bolivian health officials carry out more HIV/AIDS prevention education, including HIV counseling and testing services. And thanks to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, prevalence rates in Bolivia's general population has remained at one-tenth of 1 percent, which is a remarkable success compared to some of its neighbors.

This is good legislation. It is bipartisan legislation. I commend President Bush for his leadership. I commend the

leadership of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their leadership making this a bipartisan initiative. I urge an "aye" vote on final adoption and passage of this important legislation today.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I would inquire of the gentleman from Florida if he has any remaining speakers.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I am the last speaker.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I'm the last speaker for this side, Madam Speaker, and I'll reserve my time until the gentleman from Florida has closed for his side and has yielded back his time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, again I thank my good friend, Mr. HASTINGS, for having yielded me the time and all of those who have participated in this important debate with regard to the critically important legislation that is being brought to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, as Americans throughout the country are taking their summer family vacations, they're continually shocked by the record prices of gasoline. Part of the reason that we're seeing increases continuously in the price of gasoline is because we have become more and more dependent on oil, on foreign oil, while we avoid developing domestic energy sources.

One important source of domestic energy is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. However, efforts to develop just a tiny portion of that section of ANWR have been fought and blocked to the detriment of America's energy independence, even though the people of Alaska are overwhelmingly in favor of searching for energy in ANWR, both of their Senators and their Representative, in representation of really a societal consensus in that State. With the price of gasoline at \$4 a gallon, we should be looking to do all we can to lower the price of gasoline. And that includes domestic exploration when the people of a State wish to search for it.

Today I will be asking each of my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question to the rule. If the previous question is defeated, I will amend the rule to make it in order for the House to consider an amendment that would have the effect of lowering the national average price per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel by increasing the domestic supply of oil by permitting the extraction of oil in that section of Alaska, in the Arctic National Refuge, as the people of that State, their Senators and their Representative, wish to do.

I remind Members that defeating the previous question will not stop debate on this important underlying legislation. It simply would allow debate on an amendment to permit the Congress to consider another very important issue.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment and extraneous materials

immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. By voting "no" on the previous question, Members can take a stand against the high fuel prices and our reliance on foreign energy sources.

I ask for a "no" vote on the previous question.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, this is a good rule for a critically important bill. The sooner that the House approves this rule, the sooner the U.S. can continue to save and improve millions of lives around the world and here at home.

The Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act has received overwhelming support across the political spectrum because it balances fiscal responsibility, oversight and comprehensive health care programs.

I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting a bill that uses scientifically proven strategies, international cooperation and cultural competence to combat some of the most devastating diseases in recent history.

We executed an aggressive response to the tuberculosis and malaria epidemics in this country because we understood that it would allow us to be a stronger and better Nation. Although we have made tremendous progress in our country, the battle is far from over.

As the richest nation in the world, we now have the privilege of helping other countries on their road to development. We must use the knowledge that we gain from these partnerships to address the disparities that continue to deprive countless men, women and children in this country and abroad of a healthy and productive life.

I urge a "yes" vote on the previous question and on the rule that brings the underlying bill to the House.

Madam Speaker, before I close, I want to address this request of my good friend and colleague from Florida about energy. What he is saying is, and the people on his side of the aisle, is immediately upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall, without intervention of any point of order, consider in the House the bill, H.R. 6107, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish and implement a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in an environmentally sound program for the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain of Alaska, and for other purposes.

Now this bill that we're here on, Madam Speaker, is named after two of the most distinguished persons that have ever served in this body. My colleague from Florida and all of us that are here knew both of these men and

knew their seriousness when they came to this floor about matters. We commemorate their memory with this bill. But what we do is we denigrate their memory by bringing up political hyperbole, political grandstanding, exhausting political hyperbole and bumper stickerism. Enough of this.

Everybody knows that we have put forward, on the side that I am privileged to represent as Democrats, numerous measures dealing with these matters. We all know that there are 68 million acres off the shore that are leased already to oil companies. Footnote. Has anybody asked any of these oil companies whether or not they want to drill in these areas? And in ANWR there are 23 million acres that are available.

How dare we come here with this pitiful excuse for a previous question and say to the American people that on a matter of this consequence, on a matter of dealing with malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS that we would come here and denigrate the name of the two persons that we commemorate with such a foolish proposition. It makes absolutely no sense.

Now we will hear, obviously from now until the time that we're out of session, from my Republican colleagues about energy. And I have said to them repeatedly and over and over and over again, that all the hyperbole, switchgrass, deed exhaustion, coal, shale, offshore, ANWR, all of those things, geothermal, I can name them. All of us in here can name them. Many of those are things in the future. All of us know that we have a crisis in this country. Every man and woman in the House of Representatives and in the United States would like to solve that crisis. We know that speculators are involved in this. We put forward energy legislation. NANCY PELOSI led with energy legislation. Markey and Dingell have been on the floor repeatedly with energy legislation. We are here about AIDS, and someone would dare come here and talk about energy. That's crazy.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde U.S. Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act.

Five years ago, Congress passed the first U.S. Leadership Act aimed at combating HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria worldwide. Since that time, U.S. assistance has enabled 33 million HIV counseling and testing sessions, provided antiretroviral treatment to 1.45 million people, and prevented 157,000 infants from contracting HIV through mother-to-child infection. In addition to combating HIV/AIDS, the U.S. Leadership Act has contributed to the treatment of millions of people with TB, and to the distribution of millions of bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria.

But there is so much more work to be done. There are currently about 39 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS, more than the population of California. Each year, 2 million people die from tuberculosis. Every 30 seconds, a child dies from malaria, a fully preventable disease.

From both a moral and self-interested perspective, we simply cannot afford to let the epidemics of HIV, TB, and malaria grow. Our long-term prosperity and security are inextricably linked to our commitment to help build stronger economies and reduce poverty around the world. Promoting public health is a critical component of this effort. Disease cripples not only individuals, but economies as well, preventing parents from supporting their families, and leaving children orphaned with no financial security, limited opportunities for education, and narrow prospects for future contributions.

We must also recognize that in a global society, we ourselves are not immune to these diseases. Malaria was rampant in parts of the United States as little as 60 years ago. The World Health Organization estimates that worldwide, more than one third of the world's population is infected with the tuberculosis bacteria. Poorly supervised or incomplete treatment of tuberculosis can be more harmful than no treatment at all, allowing the bacteria to develop resistance to drugs and increasing the hazards of contracting the bacteria for the whole planet. In an ever more integrated world, we cannot wall ourselves off from the reach of these diseases.

This bill reflects our commitment to contribute to the treatment, prevention, and ultimate elimination of these diseases worldwide. It ensures a balanced approach to the prevention of HIV/AIDS that includes abstinence, faithfulness, and condom promotion as the three-tiered strategy to prevent HIV infection. The bill also includes key provisions that recognize the inherent link between disease treatment and support of basic needs, such as food, shelter, and economic opportunity.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1362 OFFERED BY MR. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall, without intervention of any point of order, consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6107) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish and implement a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in an environmentally sound program for the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain of Alaska, and for other purposes. All points of order against the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources, and (2) an amendment in the nature of a substitute if offered by Representative Rahall of West Virginia or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

(The information contained herein was provided by Democratic Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 109th Congress.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Democratic majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives*, (VI, 308-311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the *Floor Procedures Manual* published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress, (page 56). Here's how the Rules Committee described the rule using information from *Congressional Quarterly's* "American Congressional Dictionary": "If the previous question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business."

Deschler's *Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives*, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1115

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1367 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1367

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Thursday, July 24, 2008, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the bill (H.R. 6578) to provide for the sale of light grade petroleum from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and its replacement with heavy grade petroleum.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Vermont is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1367 provides that it shall be in order on the legislative day of Thursday, July 24, 2008, for the Speaker to entertain motions to suspend the rules relating to energy.

Today, a barrel of oil costs \$124. Last week it was \$134. In June, it was over \$140 a barrel. Congress is acting, and the market is reacting. Many factors, we know, contribute to the price of a barrel of oil: demand, supply, our economy, speculation, actions that Congress does or doesn't take. But make no mistake, the actions that this Congress has taken and will take are having an impact, a positive impact, to bring down the price of a barrel of oil.

To just remind my colleagues what this Congress did, on May 13, we passed H.R. 6022, a bill I sponsored, to halt shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. That bill was signed into law by the President.

On June 26, we passed H.R. 6377 to squeeze speculation out of the market

by directing that the CFTC, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, utilize its authority to better regulate the energy markets.

On July 17, a strong majority of the House supported H.R. 6515, the DRILL Act. This bill would actually open up 22 million acres in Alaska for drilling and direct oil companies to either use the leases they have on the remaining 68 million acres, or lose them. They have the opportunity to increase production. We are asking them to do it.

Every time the price of oil declines, consumers and businesses save money. Let me just give one example. The airline industry alone, it costs them \$430 million every time the price of a barrel of oil goes up \$1. In the past 20 days, the price of oil has come down nearly \$20. That is approximately an \$860 million savings for the airline industry and our traveling public.

The energy crisis that we face is real, and it requires long-term action, but it also requires immediate action. And the actions that we can take to take the pressure off the price, we should take. Although the price has recently fallen, we have much more we can do, and we must today take this opportunity to provide the immediate relief that will occur by releasing 10 percent of the oil now in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve into the market. That would get relief to the American consuming public within 2 weeks.

Incidentally, this is not an unprecedented action by Congress. It is smart policy, it is nimble policy. It has been done in the past by Republican and by Democratic Presidents. A few examples: on January 16, 1991, the first President Bush released fuel from the SPR. That was in conjunction with the start of the Gulf War. President Bush said this will send an important message to the American people that their \$20 million investment in an emergency supply of crude oil has produced a system that can respond rapidly.

A second time, September 22, 2000, President Clinton released 30 million barrels from the SPR into the market. President Clinton said, "This is the right thing to do. It is good energy policy. It is good national security policy, and good family policy." The market responded immediately with prices dropping 18.7 percent.

Incidentally, when the first President Bush did it, the price went down 33 percent. Our own President Bush, August 31, 2005, he authorized a drawdown of crude oil from the SPR. This was after Hurricane Katrina. Prices dropped 9.1 percent.

So what we have within our grasp is the opportunity to take an action recently taken by three Presidents that immediately resulted in the reduction of the price of gasoline. In one case 9 percent, in another case 18 percent, and in a third case 33 percent. This is a time-tested action that will help Americans now address the crippling cost of fuel.

Many of my colleagues have joined together urging the President to use

his authority to release fuel from the SPR. The President can do that with a stroke of the pen. But if the President refuses to act, Congress must act. We know, incidentally, Madam Speaker, that this bill will not solve our energy problems. It is going to take a long-term change in our energy policies to release ourselves from our addiction to oil. Releasing fuel from the SPR is not a substitute for a long-term policy, but it is a necessary action and a practical action to provide immediate relief now by using a resource that does belong to the American people.

Let's keep in mind that we do need a change in direction on our energy policy. Our country has 2 percent of the proven reserves of energy in the world. We are about 4 percent of the population, and we are consuming 25 percent of the world's energy. That is not sustainable. It is not good for our long-term security. We know we can do better by having a policy that includes higher mileage standards for our vehicles, higher energy efficiency standards, tax incentives for clean energy alternatives, better construction designs, and restoration of mass transit and rail. By doing that, we can create jobs, improve our environment, develop affordable energy, and strengthen our national security. But let's take the immediate short-term actions that are within our grasp to take that will provide immediate relief to our airline industry, to our businesses, and to our consumers and American families. Take the actions that we can take, and take them now.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule which is a cynical attempt to cover political Members of this body who have chosen to elevate partisanship and politics above a real energy solution for American consumers and this economy.

Let me start by answering my good friend regarding the issues that he brought up and the things that he said.

First of all, the bottom line is that there could be 10 million acres or 20 or 50 million acres that could be, quote, "given to or leased" by oil companies. They don't want to drill every bit of acreage they have; they only want to drill where the oil is. Dry holes are not good for anybody.

Secondly, when you look at what the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is all about, it is there to protect this country. We should view that ANWR is also a strategic petroleum reserve here for the United States. There are 19 million acres in ANWR. Oil companies aren't after all 19 million acres, they are only after 2,000, just 2,000. That's where the oil is.

And perhaps number three, the gentleman needs to understand this, that energy companies are there to be in the business of providing energy. They are not there for any other reason. They are there to help the American consumer, to support our economy, and to