

In the case of the stimulus, what we have is not that process. We have sort of the opposite, where this basically compromise, which is a zero sum game, as opposed to collaboration, which uses the strengths of both parties to come together and solve problems that America faces.

So, it's with excitement that I vote for the nanotechnology bill. It's with real disappointment that I vote against the stimulus package.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 631.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1330

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 117) supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 117

Whereas engineers use their professional, scientific, and technical knowledge and skills in creative and innovative ways to fulfill society's needs;

Whereas engineers have helped meet the major technological challenges of our time—from rebuilding towns devastated by natural disasters to designing an information superhighway that will speed our country into the future;

Whereas engineers are a crucial link in research, development, and demonstration and in transforming scientific discoveries into useful products, and we will look more than ever to engineers and their knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of the future;

Whereas engineers play a crucial role in developing the consensus engineering standards that permit modern economies and societies to exist;

Whereas the 2006 National Academy of Sciences report entitled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" highlighted the worrisome trend that fewer students are now focusing on engineering in college at a time when increasing numbers of today's 2,000,000 United States engineers are nearing retirement;

Whereas the National Society of Professional Engineers through National Engineers Week and other activities is raising public awareness of engineers' significant, positive contributions to societal needs;

Whereas National Engineers Week activities at engineering schools and in other forums are encouraging our young math and science students to see themselves as possible future engineers and to realize the practical power of their knowledge;

Whereas National Engineers Week has grown into a formal coalition of more than 70 engineering, education, and cultural societies, and more than 50 major corporations and government agencies;

Whereas National Engineers Week is celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday to honor the contributions that our first President, a military engineer and land surveyor, made to engineering; and

Whereas February 15 to 21, 2009, has been designated by the President as National Engineers Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week and its aims to increase understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers and to promote literacy in math and science; and

(2) will work with the engineering community to make sure that the creativity and contribution of that community can be expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 117, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 117, supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week. And I would first like to thank my colleague, Mr. LIPINSKI from Illinois, for introducing this resolution. As one of the only handful of engineers in Congress, Mr. LIPINSKI has and will continue to be a strong advocate for engineers and engineering on the Science and Technology Committee and here in the Congress.

As the sponsor of the bill, I now yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I rise today in support of H. Res. 117, supporting the goals and ideals of the National Engineers Week.

As an engineer, I am proud to sponsor this resolution again honoring National Engineers Week, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) for working

with me on this resolution and on so many other important issues. Mr. EHLERS and I are the coauthors of the STEM Ed, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Caucus. STEM Ed is really critical to the future of our country and the future of American technology and leadership in the world. And promoting STEM Ed, especially in engineering, is a big part of what National Engineers Week is all about.

I want to begin by sharing a few statistics: Three hours, 44 percent, and 45,000 teachers. Three hours is the average amount of weekly science instruction currently received by early elementary school students in the United States, 3 hours; 44 percent of districts cut the time devoted to elementary science education since the enactment of No Child Left Behind; and, at the end of 2000, the last year that we have good statistics for, 45,000 math and science teachers left the teaching profession.

Couple these statistics with the projection that, by 2012, about 46 percent of all engineering jobs could become vacant due to retirement by the aging workforce, and it becomes clear we need a renewed emphasis on educating and exciting America's youth about engineering and science.

Next week is the 18th annual Engineers Week, a week which features events aimed at educating youth and fostering public awareness about the vital contributions made by engineers to our quality of life and our economic prosperity. Through programs like the Future City Competition, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, and the first robotics competition, the National Engineers Week Foundation confronts the challenge of plugging the leaky pipeline and encouraging more students to pursue careers in engineering. We lose far too many students through this leaky pipeline, and we are not producing enough engineers right now through our educational system.

Engineers Week comprises numerous events. For example, students learn the value of teamwork as they work in groups to develop creative and practical solutions to some of the most important problems facing our world. Projects like designing future cities make engineering come alive for students, planting a seed that can lead to further studies or a career in engineering. Indeed, research shows that children's early experiences with science and engineering are a stronger predictor of long-lasting interest in science fields than aptitude tests.

I can attest that my own childhood experiences with science and engineering captivated me. As a child growing up in Chicago, I was fascinated with figuring out how mechanical devices worked. I remember that my high school calculus and physics teachers at St. Ignatius, Father Thul and Father Fergus, were the ones who helped mold this childhood fascination into an interest in engineering.

As a child, I also remember going to the Museum of Science and Industry. I

remember touring the coal mine exhibit. I remember seeing the enormous train set teaching about trains and setting out the tracks and about how locomotives work. I remember all the exhibits there, and how much that excited and captivated me. And all these experiences instilled in me the knowledge, confidence, and intellectual curiosity needed to pursue an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at Northwestern University and then a master's degree in engineering from Stanford. One of the central goals of National Engineers Week is to provide this kind of inspiration for the next generation of students.

Engineers have played a critical role throughout our history, and there are numerous challenges facing our world that require immediate engineering solutions, including developing American energy independence, finding solutions to confront global climate change, and making our Nation more secure. We need to make sure that our country remains capable of designing, planning, and building these projects. We need to help grow the next generation of talent by removing the social, educational, and economic barriers that deter young students from careers in engineering and technology. Now more than ever we need to recognize the many contributions that engineers have made to our country and the role that they must continue to play if we are to remain competitive in an increasingly connected global economy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), I would like to thank Ranking Member HALL, as well as the 37 other cosponsors of H. Res. 117. I would like to especially thank the engineers who have contributed so much to America. I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 117 supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, which will be celebrated this year in just a few days, starting on February 15.

The National Society of Professional Engineers established one of America's oldest professional outreach efforts, National Engineers Week, in the year 1951.

During this week coming up, a wide range of activities are planned in order to increase the understanding of and the interest in engineering and technology careers, and to promote K-12 literacy in math and science. Among these activities is the Future City competition, which has engaged more than 30,000 middle school students in more than 1,000 schools across the Nation to tackle water conservation issues. The finals for this competition will be held during National Engineers Week.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is another activity during the week, intended to help spark enthusiasm for science and engineering in our daughters and our granddaughters. Currently, less than 20 percent of engineer-

ing undergraduates are women, and only 10 percent of our professional engineering workforce is women.

These activities and many others will also highlight the contributions that engineers have made to our society. The innovation path that our country has trail blazed would not be possible without the work of engineers. From designing satellites to help us predict the weather to creating bandages that don't hurt when you pull them off, engineers play a role in nearly every facet of our lives. It is essential that we capitalize on opportunities such as National Engineers Week to raise awareness of the valuable work and contributions of engineers to society, and to attract young people of all ages to this very rewarding profession.

I commend the corporate sponsors of the week, who recognize that their future depends on our engineers of tomorrow. I support the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this support.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK CORPORATE SPONSORS

3M; Bechtel Group Foundation; Bentley; Boeing; BP; CH2MHill; Conoco Phillips; DuPont; ExxonMobil; Fluor; Hitachi; IBM; Intel; Lockheed Martin; Motorola; Northrop Grumman; Raytheon's Math Moves; Rockwell Collins; Symantec.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I commend the House today for taking up the important issue of engineers.

I was talking just recently in my district in Michigan; we are hit incredibly hard, 11 percent unemployment and growing.

A single mom, college educated, lost her job. She was a marketing manager for a large retailer, went to work for a small cafe. She found out last week her hours are being cut because they didn't have enough traffic. It is pretty difficult for her to even make ends meet. We just got an announcement that 10,000 General Motors white collar employees will be out by May 1. Some of them will be engineers. It is incredibly devastating.

And when you think about what we are talking about today and how important it is laid over the fact that we are having a discussion about the most massive spending bill in the history of the United States, these people are hurting. And if I could for just one minute look in their eyes and say, "This is the bill that will save you and your children's future," I could be on board. But what we are telling them is that it is more important for fancy golf carts here for bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., billions of dollars spent in this town, in this town, when people living in places like Lansing and Howell and Brighton, Michigan, and Holt are fighting to keep their jobs today.

And, by the way, I am going to have to go to that eighth grade class and say, you know, we are going to go to the market for the first time in American history with something on the order of \$2.6 trillion. And do you know what that means for you? Maybe you can't get a loan for a car that you would like to buy some day. You probably will be crowded out when you are trying to get a student loan, or paying maybe double digit, close to 20 percent interest. Your milk will be more expensive, your bread will be more expensive. And, guess what. We will have the most massive debt in the United States history to show for it.

So if we want to encourage people to go into engineering, and I think we should, we ought do smart things. And, oh, by the way, something else in this bill for our engineers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ROGERS. I thank the gentleman.

If you do really great stuff and you innovate our way out of this problem and we start using less energy and become more energy independent, guess what. In this bill, it says: Utility companies, to make up the difference, you can charge your customers more.

So you know what, people who are losing their job, go out and buy really fancy light bulbs that save you money. And when you do, the utility gets to come in and charge you more for your electricity.

This is a sham and it is unconscionable what we are doing to real working Americans. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that we would take a moment to stop and think about the people that we are impacting. This isn't about a political victory. It is about people who right today are getting pink slips from General Motors. Or maybe they already have, and are hoping and praying that they will get a chance at a job in the future.

This bill is wrongheaded. It is dangerous to the future of this country. And we are telling our children: Guess what, we are sentencing you to debtors prison, and foreign governments are going to be the jailers. Good luck.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, I find it amazing that we are in the middle of a debate of a good resolution. We are all for engineers. We like the innovation and the creativity that they bring forward. But, Mr. Speaker, what we are faced with is, is this the appropriate time for this type discussion? Or, is the time now to try to read through this, let's see, 1,500 pages that we have had laid before us? The spending bill that is masquerading under the title of stimulus, when we are told by the Congressional Budget Office that, at best, 10 percent of this bill would be spent this year?

We know that stimulus is to be timely, it is to be targeted. But we also know that this bill is going to spend money for 10 years. And I will tell you what. It is of great concern to me that our children and our grandchildren are the ones that are going to be paying for this, because we are heaping on their head another \$1.2 trillion. And that doesn't include the interest, another \$1.2 trillion of debt.

Now, I am told that this bill spends, per page, \$1,206,185,569 per page.

□ 1345

That is how much is being spent in this legislation that has not gone through regular order, that has not been debated. All the programmatic spending that is in here, there is not time for that. And we are hearing one of the reasons is because there are coders that are leaving at 6 o'clock on Friday. Now a coder is a congressional delegation.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield the gentlewoman 1 additional minute.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. So because we have to hurry up and finish and get to recess, we can't get inside the numbers and figure out what we're going to do with this bill.

Now some of it we have found out, if you're into golf carts, there is \$300 million for green golf carts. We have also \$125 million for sewers in D.C. We have \$500 million for NASA exploration activities. We have \$2 billion for FutureGen. We have \$70 million for an energy-efficient visitors centers program.

These are all items that may be worthy of standing on their own merit. The problem is this is not a stimulus bill. It is a spending bill. It has become the biggest pork barrel bill that we have ever seen. It is full of special interest earmarks and favors that will go to specific industries.

I urge everyone to vote "no" on this, and I urge us to take our time to debate.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield 2 minutes to my friend from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this resolution as I appreciate his leadership in these areas.

As I listened to my colleague a moment ago conclude her comments, one could be confused a little bit about why we are here. We are here celebrating the engineering profession. But it is interesting in the context of stimulating the economy and rebuilding and renewing America the role that our engineers have played. Just last week, the American Society of Civil Engineers introduced their report card. Every 5 years they provide a snapshot of the role that infrastructure plays in this country. Last week, their report card graded infrastructure in the United States as a D. And the gap of meeting the infrastructure needs just for the next 5 years has increased from \$1.6 trillion to \$2.2 trillion.

I have appreciated over the years working with the engineering profession. One of the most rewarding portions of my career was 10 years as Portland, Oregon's Commissioner of Public Works, where working with people in the engineering profession to deal with long-term value, environmental protection, and the infrastructure for transportation, safety, environmental protection are invaluable.

For us to take a little time recognizing on the floor of the House the role that this profession has played in helping us do our job, if each Member of this body would spend time at home working with their local engineers, thinking about the challenges that they face with clean air, clean water and transportation in their own communities, they would have greater confidence in coming back and supporting a robust economic stimulus package, but one that deals with the future of this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I hope that people take the time to listen to the men and women who are working with local business and with local governments to understand the fix that we are in. If we're ever going to restore a robust economy and prepare with protecting the future of the planet while we deal with the liveability of our communities now and making our families safe, healthy and economically secure, it will be in large measure because we're able to link with and to utilize the power of this profession, people who are there working with us to try and get it right.

So I rise in support of this resolution. I salute the engineers that I have had the privilege to work with over the years. And I strongly urge my colleagues not just to vote for the resolution, but to go home and work with and listen to the engineers at home, because they have got a prescription for restoring our economy, rebuilding America's future and making all our families safer, healthier and more economically secure.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield my neighbor from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) 2 minutes.

Mr. FLEMING. From my neck of the woods, north Louisiana, we have quite a number of engineers. And right now I'm very concerned about engineers because of our current economic situation. President Obama just mentioned that his stimulus bill is better than no bill at all. However, I have to point out that we Republicans have submitted H.R. 470, which is a far better version and far more stimulative. We talk in increments of billions and trillions of dollars, \$1 billion here, \$100 million there. But I want to put a real face on the stimulus bill. A few days ago, we were contacted by Michael Moss, a constituent. He is a small business owner in Shreveport, Louisiana. Michael is 51.

He owns a financial services business that has been operating in our community for over 30 years. Michael called and asked, where is the bailout for his small business? Everybody else is getting a bailout. He employs six hard-working Louisianans. And they work themselves to death. Also he employs elderly parents who rely on him or his business for their income. Michael doesn't own a jet plane. Yet he gets no bailout. He owns a used Ford Explorer instead. He doesn't own a home. He merely rents one. But he is still working his small business. He discussed the stimulus package. And what he is saying is, look, the small businesses are creating the jobs and need the help. Small businesses create jobs so families have stable incomes in order to go out and spend. He suggests, and I agree with him, that we need to expedite depreciation schedules, eliminate capital gains tax and eliminate payroll deductions immediately. Remember that we make plans based on what we expect our tax situation to be, especially my fellow business owners. We know that the tax returns are going to be there, and we go ahead and plan to spend the money.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time. We have no further requests.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Again, I urge and encourage support for this bipartisan good bill and resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 117.

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

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. 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.

PRODUCED WATER UTILIZATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 469) to encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 469

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,