

to see my friend from Texas without a little bit of a twinkle in his eye, which is so commonly there. But this is a very serious subject. We try not to yell and scream too much about it, but we know that economically what's being done is going to harm our constituents. It's getting rid of jobs. It's making the small businessmen have to basically shutter down and to keep his operation small, which is exactly the wrong thing for what we should be doing.

And why is it that we need all of this money? That is the question that I think we need to be asking. Why is it that we have to be spending all this money on government programs? And the answer seems to me to be, again, we're not learning very well from history. Just bear with me for a second. I'd like to get your perspective on this.

A certain number of years ago, there was a thing called the Soviet Union, and they were bad guys. And they were a bunch communists and they were socialists. And what was it that they thought? They thought the job of the government should be to provide you, first of all, with a job, and then they wanted the government to give you health care and food and housing and an education. And one thing particular about them, they didn't want you to talk about God ever.

Now, in our country, let's see, we've got all this government spending going on so the government can provide you with health care and a job and food and housing and an education and it's politically correct not to talk about God because if you did that, gentlemen, you'd realize your rights come from God. Life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, not big government nanny state. And I just wanted to toss that out to you to see if I could get a response from my good friend from Texas.

I yield.

Mr. GOHMERT. If we have time, when I was an exchange student in the Soviet Union back in 1973, I went out to a collective farm, and I've worked on farms and ranches. It was about mid morning. The farmers obviously hadn't been working. The field was suffering. And I said in what Russian I could speak back then, "When do you work in the field?"

And they all laughed. And one spoke for them in Russian and said, "I make the same number of rubles if I'm out there in the field or if I'm here in the shade."

That is why socialism doesn't work.

Mr. AKIN. So reclaiming my time once again, the problem with socialism is sooner or later we run out of other people's money.

That concludes our 1 hour. I just thank all of my colleagues from all over the country joining us tonight. Next week we will try to get into freedom a little more heavily, but the economy is certainly a top topic and that's why we have given it a lot of attention this evening.

God bless you all. Good night.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. ELLISON (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of constituent business in the district.

Mr. PERRIELLO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. KING of Iowa (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of the birth of his grandson.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PRICE of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, March 4 and 5.

Mr. CALVERT, for 5 minutes, March 4.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 10.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today and March 9.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today, March 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 10.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today, March 4 and 5.

Mr. OLSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A joint resolution and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the fol-

lowing titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S.J. Res. 12. Joint resolution proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

754. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy, transmitting notification of the Department's decision to cancel the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 public-private competition for the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Safety Support Services competition at locations nationwide; to the Committee on Armed Services.

755. A letter from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting the Office's report on allegations involving the Department of Defense Office of Public Affairs Outreach Program, pursuant to Public Law 110-417, section 1056(c); to the Committee on Armed Services.

756. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; 2009 Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Boston-Manchester-Portsmouth (SE), New Hampshire, 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area. [EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0485; A-1-FRL-8771-3] received February 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

757. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Nevada: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R09-RCRA-2008-0726; FRL-8771-8] received February 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

758. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for Florida [EPA-R04-OAR-2008-0605; FRL-8769-5] received February 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

759. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for North Carolina [EPA-R04-OAR-2008-0681; FRL-8769-6] received February 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

760. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting

the Board's report entitled, "Report to The U.S. Congress and The Secretary of Energy," pursuant to Public Law 100-203; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

761. A letter from the Executive Director, Human Rights in China, transmitting a background report relating to the recent Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of China's human rights record at the United Nations in Geneva; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

762. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Alabama Advisory Committee, pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.70; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

763. A letter from the Project Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Consolidation of Merchant Mariner Qualification Credentials [Docket No.: USCG-2006-24371] (RIN: 1625-AB02) received February 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

764. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Fuel Cell School Buses," pursuant to Public Law 109-58, section 743(c); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

765. A letter from the Chairman, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's report on the Board of Veterans' Appeals' activities during Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

766. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Automatic Contribution Arrangement [TD 9447] (RIN: 1545-BG80) received February 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

767. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Critical Skills Retention Bonus program for military personnel, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 323(h); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. STUPAK):

H.R. 1253. A bill to require that limitations and restrictions on coverage under group health plans be timely disclosed to group health plan sponsors and timely communicated to participants and beneficiaries under such plans in a form that is easily understandable; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. DENT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. GERLACH):

H.R. 1254. A bill to make the Census Bureau an independent establishment; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr.

POE of Texas, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. KANJORSKI, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 1255. A bill to protect the interests of each resident of intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded in class action lawsuits on behalf of such resident; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr.

PLATTS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. BONO MACK, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTLE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HINCHAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILROY, Mr. KIND, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LOESACK, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MAFFEI, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. REYES, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. STARK, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WU, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 1256. A bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEARNS (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 1257. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to require the disclosure of information relating to the fair market value and safety of damaged motor

vehicles; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. BARTON of Texas):

H.R. 1258. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit manipulation of caller identification information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. UPTON (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. BONO MACK, and Mr. GORDON of Tennessee):

H.R. 1259. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the distribution of the drug dextromethorphan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 1260. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. SHULER):

H.R. 1261. A bill to protect the public health by establishing the Tobacco Harm Reduction Center within the Department of Health and Human Services with certain authority to regulate tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OBERSTAR (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 1262. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 1263. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the automatic enrollment of new participants in the Thrift Savings Plan, and to clarify the method for computing certain annuities based on part-time service; to allow certain employees of the District of Columbia to have certain periods of service credited for purposes relating to retirement eligibility; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAYLOR (for himself, Ms. WALTERS, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BARROW, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BERRY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan):

H.R. 1264. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the national flood insurance program to make available multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms or floods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of