

said, We sent them out in pairs of two. And then I asked, Well, then was it a good idea that the last inspection team of two was a unionized father-and-son team that went out there to carefully watch each other to make sure each other did the right thing? This is outrageous.

And then we had the investigation going on as to what gifts may have been given to the people doing the inspections.

This thing stinks, and it needs to be cleaned up.

THE PENTAGON BUDGET

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Today, the House will finally turn from naming sports teams' accomplishments to the Pentagon budget, a budget that's top heavy with more generals and admirals than we had at the height of World War II, a broken procurement system that's gold-plating dysfunctional weapon systems while our troops lack basics.

But, today, Congress will finally answer a question that is a puzzle perhaps only inside the Washington, DC beltway: How many engines does a single-engine jet fighter need? Now, where I come from it's pretty simple, the answer is one; but you've got to tune in later today to find out the judgment of Congress because some think you need two engines for a single-engine jet fighter. Hey, it will only cost another \$15 billion or \$20 billion.

CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, each Memorial Day Americans pause to remember the tremendous commitment and sacrifice made by our men and women in our Armed Forces. I'm proud that this Congress continues to honor our military by making veterans a top priority.

In the last 2 years, we have invested in our veterans health care and worked hard to improve the benefits available once they return home. For instance, we passed a new GI Bill so our troops have access to a quality education. We also increased the gas mileage reimbursement rate, which is important for our veterans in rural areas like mine.

I recently introduced another piece of legislation to help rural veterans, the Appalachian Veterans Outreach Improvement Act. This bill will improve access to services and benefits for veterans in Appalachia. With Memorial Day right around the corner, I ask my colleagues to join me in continuing to fight for our veterans.

BAN BP

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, this is from BP's Web site. It says: "Our code of conduct is the cornerstone of our commitment to integrity." And just what is the code of conduct? The code of conduct is: "We aim for no accidents, no harm to people, and no damage to the environment." This is from their Web site. Well, BP is zero for three.

So I ask everyone, Where is the integrity if they don't even meet their own guidelines? This has been the worst ecological disaster, and we know that they don't have solutions ready when a disaster occurs.

Now, under our purchasing agreements, we have to have a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics when we grant someone a contract. So today I have an amendment to end the \$2 billion that we purchase each and every year with taxpayer dollars from BP for our department. Let's disbar them because they should be banned permanently.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS: THE COST OF INACTION FOR DISABLED WORKERS

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the Joint Economic Committee released a report this week which shows the staggering cost to the government of failing to extend unemployment benefits. The report focuses on unemployed disabled workers.

By the end of 2010, the JEC estimates that 290,000 unemployed disabled workers will exhaust their unemployment benefits. Without extension of unemployment benefits, the JEC estimates that two-thirds of these workers will leave the labor force and move on to Social Security disability insurance. Shifting these workers from the labor market and onto the SSDI rolls—the cost of inaction—is a \$24.2 billion lifetime cost.

By contrast, extending unemployment insurance benefits and COBRA premium benefits is \$721 million in 2010. Not only is an extension of unemployment benefits the morally right thing to do; it is fiscally responsible, saving the government over \$23 billion.

WE MUST DO MORE FOR OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, in my 16 months in Congress, the most challenging thing I have had to do has not had to do with energy or health care or our economy. The hardest thing I have had to do has been to stand in front of 700 Connecticut National Guard troops

who are deploying to Afghanistan, 18, 19, 20, 21 years old, young people who had raised their hand and said, I will serve my country. I will die for you and for your freedoms. And I thought, how can we thank a young person who will say that and who will do that? The answer is we can't, we can't possibly. But we can thank them through our actions. We can do what we did in passing the GI Bill to provide college education to our troops, to give businesses a \$2,400 tax credit for hiring unemployment veterans, providing nearly 2 million disabled veterans with a \$250 economic recovery payment.

I am proud of what this House has done for our veterans in the last 16 months and, as we approach Memorial Day, remind my colleagues of the need to do more for those who say that they will sacrifice for us.

MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for this Congress to come to grips with the serious crisis in our health care system, the reimbursement of our doctors for treating our Medicare patients. Unless we act, there will be a 21 percent cut in Medicare reimbursement to those doctors that treat our senior citizens.

We are in danger of creating a situation that may very well cause the collapse of our Medicare system. I favor a permanent fix; that's what we promised the doctors. We are now considering a 19-month fix. I'm not happy with it; I'm going to support it. Let everybody in this House vote for that Medicare reimbursement fix for the doctors so they can continue to treat senior citizens until we figure out a way of permanently fixing this discrepancy.

Unless we're prepared to go to medical school and go back home to our districts to treat our senior citizens, we better make sure that our doctors get adequately reimbursed so this system will continue.

□ 1030

A TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND H. RATHMELL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this spring, in a small town in my district called Renovo, the Bucktail Area Junior/Senior High School dedicated its campus to another educational institution: Raymond H. Rathmell.

Mr. Rathmell was involved with the school for 42 years, first as a teacher, as assistant principal and then as principal. There are countless students and

parents whose lives he touched during his career.

The former principal is 87 years old, and he retired in 1986. He started out his education at Lock Haven State Teachers College in 1938, but served from 1942 through 1945 with the Army in World War II. Rathmell served in Europe for 9 months and became active in his American Legion post on his return. He returned to college and finished his bachelor's degree in 1947. It was that year that he began teaching at Renovo High School.

Over the years, he taught physical education, English, civics, history, arithmetic, biology and related sciences. As principal, he was the person who was involved in nearly all aspects of the design and construction of both Bucktail Area High School and of Renovo Elementary.

Naming the campus after Rathmell is a fitting tribute to his life dedicated to educating children.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5136, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1404 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1404

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule.

SEC. 2. (a) It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI.

(b) Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee

amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(c) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report (except as specified in section 4 of this resolution), may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

(d) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of or germane modifications of any such amendments. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read (except that modifications shall be reported), shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. For the purpose of inclusion in such amendments en bloc, an amendment printed in the form of a motion to strike may be modified to the form of a germane perfecting amendment to the text originally proposed to be stricken. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

SEC. 4. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole may recognize for consideration of any amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution out of the order printed, but not sooner than 30 minutes after the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee announces from the floor a request to that effect.

SEC. 5. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

SEC. 6. The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

SEC. 7. In the engrossment of H.R. 5136, the Clerk shall—

(a) add the text of H.R. 5013, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 5136;

(b) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(c) conform provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

SEC. 8. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution re-

ported through the legislative day of June 1, 2010.

SEC. 9. It shall be in order at any time through the calendar day of May 30, 2010, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois). The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague from the Rules Committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART).

All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentlewoman from Maine?

There was no objection.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1404 provides for consideration of H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, under a structured rule.

The rule makes in order 82 amendments and provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services.

The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee may offer amendments en bloc, debatable for 20 minutes, and may offer germane modifications of amendments. The rule allows the Chair to recognize for consideration amendments out of order printed in the Rules Committee report if 30-minutes' notice is given by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee.

The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions, provides that the Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee, and provides that the Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill.

The rule provides that, in engrossment, the text of H.R. 5013, the IMPROVE Act, as passed by the House, will be added as new matter at the end of H.R. 5136.

The rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII, requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee, against rules reported from the Rules Committee through June 1, 2010.

Finally, the rule provides that measures may be considered under suspension of the rules at any time through May 30, 2010, and that the Speaker or her designee will consult with the minority leader or his designee on the