

Federal health plans. Passed unanimously in the Senate, passed twice in the House, we must not tolerate Soviet-style reversals of noncontroversial provisions.

I am outraged at a substitute that would allow only the diaphragm to be required in plans. Women need options. Some do not work. Some make us sick. There is no more sensitive issue for women than contraception. The bipartisan Women's Caucus supports the Lowey provision, and so do the majority of the House, the majority of the Senate and the majority of the American people.

ON TAX CUTS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Americans pay on the average about 40 percent of their total household income in taxes. In 1996, recognizing this, the Republican leadership pushed for a middle class tax cut, despite the President's and most of the Democrats' objections that people who want to pay less taxes are just selfish.

Well, we are back at it again, another middle class tax cut. It has already passed the House. Marriage tax relief, ending the marriage tax penalty, relief for farmers and tax relief for the death tax penalty.

And what are the Democrats and the President saying? They are saying this is going to adversely affect Social Security. Well, what does the Director of the Congressional Budget Office say? That the tax plan has no effect on Social Security. This is a Democrat chart so the word "effect" is misspelled. But then, again, we knew Democrats would be reading this and we wanted to share the information with them so we had to put it in their language.

But the fact is, the point is right. The tax cut does not affect Social Security. Just how much is this? In the total budget scheme, Mr. Speaker, of \$9.6 trillion, it is barely a slither of a slither of \$80 billion in middle class tax relief over a 5-year period of time.

TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, people in America understand that they need tax relief. They understand that it is only fair, as we begin to balance the budget, that they get to keep part of the money they are sending to Washington. We see these two charts here that clearly point out that the amount of tax relief has no impact on Social Security.

They cannot imagine why we would possibly let the marriage penalty stay in the tax code one year longer, let alone forever. They cannot imagine

why we would not do everything necessary to go ahead and make health insurance automatically deductible for small business people, once we have decided that needs to be done, rather than to wait 6 or 7 years in the future.

□ 1415

They cannot imagine why, out of \$1.6 trillion in surplus, that \$80 billion of that cannot go to tax relief and go to tax relief right now.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in my district in Western Pennsylvania people are concerned with real pocketbook issues, like having the money to send their kids to college. The Taxpayer Protection Act, which we passed last week, provides much needed tax relief for working families and middle class taxpayers by building on our previous accomplishments.

Last year, this Republican Congress provided tax exempt status to qualified state prepaid tuition account programs. These programs will allow families to buy college credits at today's prices and bank them for the future, avoiding tuition inflation and making college costs more manageable for many families on tight budgets.

The Republican tax bill goes one step further than last year's bill by leveling the playing field and awarding the same preferential tax treatment to private prepaid programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Taxpayer Relief Act helps students achieve their dream of a college education and, through it, the American dream. This is good legislation that lifts some of the tax burden on the middle class and gives them the opportunity to save for their children's college education.

THERE IS NO SURPLUS

(Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a reality check. The President claims the government has a surplus. All Americans need to know that this just is not true. There is no surplus.

The President was going to borrow \$100 billion from Social Security to pay for his proposed current level of spending, but our good economy means now he will only borrow \$35 billion. Now, the \$65 billion difference that the Republicans said must be left in the Social Security Trust Fund is what the President now claims is a surplus. It is not a surplus. It is payroll taxes that the government collects to pay for Social Security checks each month.

We need to save Social Security, not spend it. That is why I voted against

the tax plan, not an easy vote, because it borrows still from Social Security. Believe me, I do support tax cuts, but we need to do it without compromising Social Security.

Now, we may have a true surplus by next year. Then we can make sure that Social Security will be there when people need it. Then we can have tax cuts, too. That is my goal, Mr. Speaker.

CENSUS SAMPLING

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, from day 1, this administration has conducted affairs of state more like King George than George Washington. Its ethic has been summed up in the book title by Clinton hit-man James Carvel: "We're Right and You're Wrong."

Now, in the latest census sampling wrinkle, the Clinton people show they are willing to ignore Federal Court rulings in pursuit of their agenda. Two separate decisions have declared it illegal to sample the population for the purposes of congressional reapportionment. Yet administration officials continue to forge ahead anyway with plans to sample in the next census, spending millions on a discredited idea at a time when preparations for the 2000 Census are at a very critical stage.

It is almost as if the Clinton Commerce Department wants the next census to fail so that the political pressure for their sampling agenda will be even greater in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, it is past time for the President to begin enforcing the laws, even those he does not like.

PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT GO TO WAR WITHOUT CONSENT OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, a letter is presently being circulated that has been authored by my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS), and myself. I would ask for my colleagues' attention to it, please, if they could sign it.

The letter is addressed to the President of the United States and it vindicates the most important obligation that we have, and that is in the area of warmaking. The Constitution says that we do not go to war unless the representatives of the people, in this House and in the other body, vote for it. It does not give the President the right to go to war on his own.

My colleagues, we are about to go to war. We are about to go to war in Kosovo. If it is the right thing, so be it. The President should make the case it is the right thing here in the people's House. Have us approve it or not. But

to go ahead without the approval of the Congress violates the Constitution and, almost as important, undercuts the sense of resolve for the important work that we may be able to accomplish in Kosovo.

I ask my colleagues to please sign the Skaggs-Campbell letter and ask the President to abide by the Constitution. Do not go to war without the approval of the American people.

REREFERRAL OF H.R. 2349, AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING, TO COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2349) to redesignate the Federal building located at 10301 South Compton Avenue, in Los Angeles, California, and known as the Watts Finance Office, as the "Augustus F. Hawkins Post Office Building," and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

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

There was no objection.

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 558 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 558

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI 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 reported from that committee on the legislative day of October 1 or October 2, 1998, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany a bill or joint resolution making general appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, or any amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 558 would waive clause 4(b) of Rule XI against certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules. Clause 4(b) requires a two-thirds vote of the House to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Committee on Rules.

This resolution would apply the waiver to a special rule reported on October 1st or October 2nd, 1998, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany a bill or a joint resolution making general appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1999, or any amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed waiver is essential in order for the House to consider, in a timely fashion, one or more appropriations conference reports that may be available later today or tomorrow.

I know all of my colleagues share a desire to move as expeditiously as possible through the remaining legislative matters that must be completed prior to our adjournment. Therefore, I encourage Members on both sides of the aisle to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank my dear friend, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), for yielding me the customary half-hour.

Mr. Speaker, today is the beginning of the fiscal year and, once again, my Republican colleagues have not finished their appropriations bills. As many people know, in order to keep the government open for business, President Clinton had to sign a continuing resolution last week, but we still have to pass eight appropriations bills and send them to the White House for signature. Mr. Speaker, that is a tall order. By the end of next week we have to do this.

Normally, conference reports have to be available at least 3 days before they are considered on the House floor. The idea behind that rule is very simple. It is that appropriations bills are very important spending bills and Members have to have enough time to look at them and consider them very carefully.

So although we must hurry and finish these bills before they are any more overdue, I hesitate to support such rules except in the case of extreme circumstances. Martial law rules nearly always diminish the rights of the minority, and I think my Republican colleagues have really had plenty of time to finish the appropriations process. But, Mr. Speaker, in this case the rule is narrowly focused to apply only to appropriations conference reports, and it is only in effect until the end of this week.

In all likelihood, Mr. Speaker, the Agriculture and Treasury Postal appropriations conference reports, which came before the Committee on Rules

the other day, will be brought to the floor under this scenario. That means that they could be on the floor later today. These bills contain very important spending on programs from Federal drug control programs to badly needed disaster assistance for American farmers who have been very hard hit by severe weather conditions this summer. So we need to pass these bills and get them signed into law as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain special orders without prejudice to the resumption of legislative business until 4:30 p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

BAD CONDUCT IS NOT GROUNDS FOR IMPEACHMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense not of the President but rather of the Presidency.

TRENT LOTT, the majority leader of the Senate, has just spun to the press that, quote-unquote, bad conduct is grounds for impeachment. To me, this is shocking. I actually could not believe that he was serious. But, sadly, he was.

Today, we are at a turning point in this debate and we have to put this thing in park and take a break.

□ 1430

The removal of the President of the United States is different from the removal of a judge, is different from the removal of a Member of Congress or a college president. The situation cannot be equated, as it often is, with the CEO or a college president who would be removed for similar types of acts that the President is accused of.

To remove the President of the United States would be to paralyze the entire government. Because, whereas a judge, a legislator, and certainly not a private citizen represents an entire branch of government, the President is