

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida? There was no objection.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 662, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 123) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 123 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 123

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 106-275, is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(c) and inserting "November 3, 2000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 662, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume merely to point out that this is a 1-day continuing resolution. In addition to having this resolution before the House, after the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) makes his opening statement, I will be asking unanimous consent to consider an amendment that I have at the desk.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose there is virtually no reason for anyone to say anything, given what the reality is around here. But I would, nonetheless, like to make a few observations about why we are going through this surreal exercise this week, this evening, tomorrow and for God knows how long.

We were told at the beginning of the year by the majority party leadership that they were going to restore regular order to the House. Then this House proceeded to pass a phony budget resolution and a series of phony appropriation bills which pretended to fit within that budget resolution.

It did that, not because of any fault of any of the majority members of the Committee on Appropriations; we did it because they, in fact, had no choice but to proceed under that phony budget resolution.

The result is that, for 10 months, this House pretended to the public that it was going to spend about \$40 billion less than virtually everyone in this House on both sides of the aisle knew we would in the end wind up spending.

The purpose of passing those fraudulently shrunken appropriation bills was

to open up enough room in that phony budget so that the majority leadership could pretend that there was enough room in that budget for the huge tax cuts which they then proceeded to pass, the majority of benefits which went to those in our society who make \$300,000 a year or more.

The leadership of the majority preached bipartisanship; but in fact, they blocked bipartisan majorities from passing the Patients' Bill of Rights. They held the minimum wage hostage to tax benefits that were nine times as large as the benefits afforded to workers under those minimum wage increases. They even refused to reform the so-called Freedom to Farm Act, which is the single biggest failure of farm policy in this country since the days of Ezra Taft Benson, and that is going some.

Lastly, the leadership of the majority party blocked a bipartisan conference on the Labor, Health and Education bill that would have taken us a long way toward reducing class size, strengthening teacher training, providing larger Pell Grants for struggling middle-income families trying to send their kids to college, providing us some 5,000 additional after-school learning centers for kids so that they do not have to go home at night to an empty house because both parents are working outside the home.

Since that bill was blown up, it has been apparently the goal of the majority party leadership to leave without ever bringing to a vote that bipartisan conference report.

Apparently the majority caucus is split. I am told by a number of you that, if this bill goes into a lame-duck session, that there are a good number of our friends on the majority side who would like to scale back significantly the size of those education and other increases in that Labor-Health-Education bill.

In my judgment as someone who has served here for over 30 years, the chaotic results of the policy pursued by the leadership left us at the end of the fiscal year with only two of the 13 appropriation bills that were supposed to be passed actually being finished by the House and the Senate. The House passed all 13 of its appropriation bills, but the Senate did not.

So we were left with only two of those 13 bills. We were left with only two of those 13 bills passed. Both bills that were passed had been signed by the President. So none of the delays associated with the other 11 bills were in any way the responsibility of the White House.

Now, the majority leadership wants to go home. We all want to go home.

I will say to the gentleman interrupting that no one in this House has worked harder than I have. I will compare my record to yours anytime.

I think I have the floor, Mr. Speaker. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair requests that various conversations going around the Chamber will be removed to the cloakroom.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for obtaining order, and I thank most Members of the House for their courtesy.

What I was about to say is that the majority leadership would like us to go home, and we would all like to go home, but there is apparently a significant difference between the wishes of the majority leadership in the Senate and the majority leadership here.

I honestly believe that you want us in the minority to give you cover for your failure to produce on the whole range of legislative items by voting to get Congress out of town before we have all done our duty. I think that duty includes passing the Patients' Bill of Rights, passing a bill that provides prescription drugs under Medicare, passing a bill that provides the minimum wage increase for the least among us.

So now we are caught in what one reporter today called this Potemkin charade. It is being pretended that there is work being done here because, apparently, what the majority leadership wants to do is to keep the lights on even though the House is empty and keep the lights on to pretend that there is activity in the kitchen, when in fact there is not. The stove is off. The oven is empty. The oven is cold.

No major legislation, save perhaps one water project bill is in the works. What an unhappy, pitiful end to this session.

I want to say to my friends on the majority side of the aisle, I like and respect virtually every single one of you. Some of you I do not know as well as others. But when I think of the people I have known in my life, there is no more decent person than the gentleman sitting in the front row here, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), or the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) or the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) or the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) or a number of others of you. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) I saw sitting here; we have been friends for years. I cherish some of the friendships that I have had with people on both sides of the aisle.

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But what I despise is what this kind of chaotic governance in this House has done to this institution and to the legislative process. And most of all what I despise is what this House has failed to do to represent and help the people we are supposed to be representing. When I see what this institution has failed to do, that is when I am truly saddened and appalled.

I do not make this statement out of any sense of personal dislike for any one of you. But sometimes parties or institutions do things collectively which they would never do individually, and I believe this year that has happened in this place. And that is why

this Congress, in my sad judgment, regardless of the meaningless votes that will occur the next 2 days, because this session is over any way you slice it, we just have an inability to admit it, so this Congress will go down as one of the lesser footnotes in history and it very richly deserves it.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOUNG OF FLORIDA

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment that I have placed at the desk be considered adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

Insert before the period at the end the following:
, and by adding, at the end, the following new section:

“Sec. 120. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 107, \$7,100,000 shall be available for obligation by the Administrator of General Services for expenses necessary to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note).”

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I think the purpose is self-evident, but I wonder if the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) would be kind enough to take just 1 minute so that the Members understand what we are doing.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the amount of \$7,100,000 was in the Treasury-Postal bill for the purpose of the transitioning to a new administration. \$5.27 million was for the implementation of the transition of the new administration, the new President. \$1.83 million was for the incumbent President to exit the White House and to exit the administration.

Since that bill was vetoed that money is not available. This amendment authorizes the same amount of money that was in the Treasury-Postal bill. It is important that we do this because the new administration has to begin work immediately after the election by preparing for the transition, interviewing potential appointments and staffers. There is travel involved. There is vetting of major appointments. This begins the day after election day, so it is important that we do this.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. We certainly have no objection.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

The joint resolution is considered as having been read for amendment.

By order of the House today, the amendment is adopted.

Pursuant to House Resolution 662, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 310, nays 7, not voting 116, as follows:

[Roll No. 592]

YEAS—310

Abercrombie	Condit	Gutierrez
Aderholt	Cook	Guntnacht
Andrews	Cooksey	Hall (TX)
Archer	Cox	Hastert
Armey	Coyne	Hastings (WA)
Baca	Cramer	Hayes
Bachus	Crane	Hayworth
Baker	Cubin	Herger
Baldacci	Cunningham	Hill (IN)
Baldwin	Davis (FL)	Hilleary
Ballenger	Davis (VA)	Hilliard
Barcia	Deal	Hobson
Barr	DeGette	Hoefel
Barrett (NE)	DeLauro	Hoekstra
Bartlett	DeLay	Holden
Bass	DeMint	Holt
Berkley	Deutsch	Hooley
Biggert	Dixon	Horn
Bilirakis	Doggett	Horstettler
Blagojevich	Doolittle	Houghton
Bliley	Doyle	Hoyer
Blunt	Dreier	Hulshof
Boehlert	Duncan	Hutchinson
Boehner	Edwards	Hyde
Bonilla	Engel	Inslee
Bonior	English	Isakson
Bono	Eshoo	Istook
Borski	Evans	Jackson (IL)
Boswell	Everett	Jackson-Lee
Boyd	Farr	(TX)
Brady (PA)	Filner	Jefferson
Brady (TX)	Fletcher	Jenkins
Brown (OH)	Foley	John
Bryant	Fossella	Johnson (CT)
Burr	Frelinghuysen	Johnson, E. B.
Burton	Frost	Johnson, Sam
Buyer	Galleghy	Jones (NC)
Callahan	Gekas	Kanjorski
Camp	Gibbons	Kaptur
Canady	Gilchrest	Kelly
Cannon	Gillmor	Kildee
Cardin	Gilman	Kind (WI)
Carson	Gonzalez	King (NY)
Castle	Goode	Kingston
Chabot	Goodlatte	Kleczka
Chambliss	Gordon	Knollenberg
Chenoweth-Hage	Goss	Kolbe
Clyburn	Graham	Kucinich
Coble	Green (TX)	Kuykendall
Combest	Green (WI)	LaHood

Lampson	Norwood	Shimkus
Largent	Nussle	Shows
Larson	Obey	Shuster
Latham	Olver	Simpson
LaTourette	Ortiz	Sisisky
Leach	Oxley	Skeen
Lee	Packard	Skelton
Levin	Pallone	Slaughter
Lewis (CA)	Pascrell	Smith (NJ)
Lewis (GA)	Pastor	Smith (TX)
Lewis (KY)	Paul	Snyder
Linder	Pease	Souder
Lipinski	Pelosi	Spence
LoBiondo	Peterson (MN)	Stearns
Lofgren	Peterson (PA)	Strickland
Lowe	Petri	Stump
Lucas (KY)	Pickering	Sununu
Lucas (OK)	Pombo	Sweeney
Luther	Porter	Tanner
Maloney (CT)	Portman	Tauscher
Manzullo	Quinn	Tauzin
Markey	Radanovich	Taylor (MS)
Martinez	Rahall	Taylor (NC)
Mascara	Ramstad	Terry
Matsui	Rangel	Thomas
McCarthy (MO)	Regula	Thompson (CA)
McCarthy (NY)	Reynolds	Thompson (MS)
McCrery	Roemer	Thornberry
McDermott	Rogan	Thune
McGovern	Rogers	Thurman
McHugh	Rohrabacher	Tiahrt
McInnis	Ros-Lehtinen	Tierney
McIntyre	Rothman	Toomey
McKeon	Roukema	Trafficant
McKinney	Roybal-Allard	Udall (CO)
McNulty	Royce	Udall (NM)
Metcalfe	Ryan (WI)	Upton
Mica	Ryun (KS)	Vitter
Millender-Sabo	Sabo	Walden
McDonald	Sanchez	Walsh
Miller (FL)	Sanders	Wamp
Miller, Gary	Sandlin	Watkins
Minge	Sanford	Watt (NC)
Mink	Sawyer	Weldon (PA)
Moakley	Saxton	Weller
Moore	Schakowsky	Whitfield
Moran (KS)	Scott	Wicker
Moran (VA)	Sensenbrenner	Wilson
Murtha	Serrano	Wolf
Myrick	Sessions	Woolsey
Nadler	Shadegg	Wu
Napolitano	Shaw	Wynn
Ney	Sherman	Young (AK)
Northup	Sherwood	Young (FL)

NAYS—7

Berry	Ford	Stenholm
Capuano	LaFalce	
DeFazio	Phelps	

NOT VOTING—116

Ackerman	Emerson	Mollohan
Allen	Etheridge	Morella
Baird	Ewing	Neal
Barrett (WI)	Fattah	Nethercutt
Barton	Forbes	Oberstar
Becerra	Fowler	Ose
Bentsen	Frank (MA)	Owens
Bereuter	Franks (NJ)	Payne
Berman	Ganske	Pickett
Bilbray	Gejdenson	Pitts
Bishop	Gephardt	Pomeroy
Blumenauer	Goodling	Price (NC)
Boucher	Granger	Pryce (OH)
Brown (FL)	Greenwood	Reyes
Calvert	Hall (OH)	Riley
Campbell	Hansen	Rivers
Capps	Hastings (FL)	Rodriguez
Clay	Hefley	Rush
Clayton	Hill (MT)	Salmon
Clement	Hinchey	Scarborough
Coburn	Hinojosa	Schaffer
Collins	Hunter	Shays
Conyers	Jones (OH)	Smith (MI)
Costello	Kasich	Smith (WA)
Crowley	Kennedy	Spatt
Cummings	Kilpatrick	Stabenow
Danner	Klink	Stark
Davis (IL)	Lantos	Stupak
Delahunt	Lazio	Talent
Diaz-Balart	Maloney (NY)	Tancredo
Dickey	McCollum	Towns
Dicks	McIntosh	Turner
Dingell	Meehan	Velazquez
Dooley	Meek (FL)	Visclosky
Dunn	Meeks (NY)	Waters
Ehlers	Menendez	Watts (OK)
Ehrlich	Miller, George	

Waxman Weldon (FL) Weygand
Weiner Wexler Wise

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Mr. WELLER and Mr. HALL of Texas changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I was delayed en route. The plane just arrived. As a consequence I got in the House just a few minutes after the vote was closed. Had I been here, I would have voted in the affirmative.

Stated for:

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 592, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" in support of H.J. Res. 123.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, I was away from the House on personal business. Accordingly, I was unable to cast certain rollcall votes. If I were present, I would have voted the following:

"Yes" on rollcall vote 586 on approving the Journal; "yes" on rollcall vote 587, H.J. Res. 122; "no" on rollcall vote 588; "yes" on rollcall vote 589; I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 590, H.R. 4577, a motion to instruct conferees; and I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 591, H.R. 4577.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, on October 19, I was away from the House on a personal matter, and I was unable to cast a rollcall vote. However, if I were present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 540, H.R. 4541, the motion to pass the Commodity Futures Modernization Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 30 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 583. In addition, yesterday due to pressing business back in my district, I missed rollcall vote 591. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 583 and 591.

DEMOCRATIC LEADER MISSES PRECEDING VOTE

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we returned tonight once again to do the business of the people in an effort, even at this late date, to put people before politics. How sad it was to note in the rollcall vote that just preceded that our colleague from Missouri, the minority leader, the Democratic leader of this House, was absent. I hope there is no personal concern that took him home. In fact, we understand that he may be home campaigning in stark contrast to his public comments.

Mr. Speaker, tonight this is the situation that confronts us. Most of us are here working in Washington, D.C., working. But I would show you the Midwest, the great State of Missouri. Our friend, the Democratic leader, who said it was so important to stay here and do our work, it appears he is home campaigning, Mr. Speaker; and our friend, the President of the United States, is campaigning in California. Curiouser and curiouser the conduct of those in whom the public trust is placed.

THIS SESSION IS OVER

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take issue with the last speaker. It is very obvious that the Republican leadership has no intention of doing any more work here in the House of Representatives. There is barely a majority here to even vote on any measure. The Senate has already left. The other body has already left. To suggest in any way to the American people after having spent 2 years without passing a Patients' Bill of Rights, without passing a Medicare prescription drug benefit, without doing anything with regard to education initiatives that somehow this House or the other body are going to do some work over the next few days before the election is patently absurd.

Let us not kid the American people. This session is over. I am here and a lot of us are here, but we know very well that no work could possibly be done and the Republicans have failed to accomplish anything for the American people. They might as well admit it rather than keeping on with this rhetoric this evening.

BIPARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I think we ought not to try to do, I mean, I do not mind it if somebody wants to argue on one side of the issue or on the other side of the issue, but you really ought not to try to argue on both sides of the issue.

The gentleman from New Jersey just stood up and said we did not pass a Medicare prescription drug bill. Perhaps he ought to check C-SPAN. I just finished watching a press conference of his leader, Mr. GEPHARDT, and the Senate leader, Mr. DASCHLE. The gentleman from Missouri was reviewing the bipartisan legislation that the Democrats were instrumental in passing. Now, we were pleased that five Democrats joined with us, they were the difference in the majority, in passing a Medicare prescription drug measure off the floor of the House. But the gentleman from Missouri just took credit for that prescription drug measure

passing the House, saying that is evidence of their bipartisan nature.

Come on. Figure it out. One side or the other. But do not be on both sides of your mouth.

A FAILED CONGRESS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we have spent 2 years here, 2 years; and the majority in this House that told us the trains were going to run on time, the train has crashed into the barrier here because they have not been able to have the trains run on time.

We did pass in this House a bipartisan bill for a Patients' Bill of Rights. We passed a bipartisan bill for campaign finance reform. We have bipartisan agreement on common sense gun safety legislation. We could have done something about a Medicare prescription drug benefit where all of our seniors were covered. The very fact of the matter is that the Republican leadership of this House is in the pocket of the special interests, refuses to pass any of this legislation, could not pass all of their appropriations bills, cannot get a budget off the ground, and do not know what to do to get out of here. They do not have a program; and if they had a program, they cannot get themselves organized to get it passed in this body. A failed Congress by any sense of the imagination.

WHO IS WORKING?

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Let me see if I have got this straight. The Democrats are complaining because we have not gotten our work done, but we are supposed to work out a compromise with the President and the minority. We are here working; we are here in Washington working.

That is right here. The minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), is over here in Missouri; and the President is out in Beverly Hills, California, campaigning. Who do you think is trying to get their work done?

WHO IS HERE?

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to share with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) that he better not start labeling people who are not on the floor. I am too civil to get involved in the so-called Republican leaders that are not with us this evening, and so I will not engage in that.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?