

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. MCINNIS. 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 220, nays 200, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 778]

YEAS—220

Allard	Frisa	Myers
Armed	Funderburk	Myrick
Bachus	Galleghy	Nethercutt
Baker (CA)	Ganske	Neumann
Baker (LA)	Gekas	Ney
Ballenger	Gilchrest	Norwood
Barr	Gillmor	Nussle
Barrett (NE)	Gilman	Oxley
Bartlett	Goodlatte	Packard
Barton	Goodling	Parker
Bass	Goss	Paxon
Bereuter	Graham	Petri
Bilbray	Greenwood	Pombo
Bilirakis	Gunderson	Porter
Bliley	Gutknecht	Portman
Blute	Hancock	Pryce
Boehlert	Hansen	Quillen
Boehner	Hastert	Quinn
Bonilla	Hastings (WA)	Radanovich
Bono	Hayworth	Ramstad
Brownback	Hefley	Regula
Bryant (TN)	Heineman	Riggs
Bunn	Herger	Roberts
Bunning	Hilleary	Rogers
Burr	Hobson	Rohrabacher
Burton	Hoekstra	Ros-Lehtinen
Buyer	Hoke	Roth
Callahan	Horn	Roukema
Calvert	Hostettler	Royce
Camp	Houghton	Salmon
Canady	Hutchinson	Sanford
Castle	Hyde	Saxton
Chabot	Inglis	Scarborough
Chambliss	Istook	Schaefer
Chenoweth	Johnson (CT)	Seastrand
Christensen	Johnson, Sam	Sensenbrenner
Chrysler	Jones	Shuster
Clinger	Kelly	Skeen
Coble	Kim	Smith (MI)
Coburn	King	Smith (NJ)
Collins (GA)	Kingston	Smith (TX)
Combest	Klug	Smith (WA)
Cooley	Knollenberg	Solomon
Cox	Kolbe	Souder
Crane	LaHood	Spence
Crapo	Largent	Stearns
Cremins	Latham	Stockman
Cubin	LaTourette	Stump
Cunningham	Laughlin	Talent
Deal	Lazio	Tate
DeLay	Leach	Tauzin
Diaz-Balart	Lewis (CA)	Taylor (NC)
Dickey	Lewis (KY)	Thomas
Doolittle	Lightfoot	Thornberry
Dornan	Linder	Tiahrt
Dreier	Livingston	Torkildsen
Duncan	LoBiondo	Upton
Dunn	Longley	Vucanovich
Ehlers	Lucas	Waldholtz
Ehrlich	Manzullo	Walker
Emerson	Martini	Walsh
English	McCollum	Wamp
Ensign	McCrery	Watts (OK)
Everett	McDade	Weldon (FL)
Ewing	McHugh	Weller
Fawell	McInnis	White
Fields (TX)	McIntosh	Wicker
Flanagan	McKeon	Wolf
Foley	Metcalfe	Young (AK)
Fowler	Meyers	Young (FL)
Fox	Mica	Zeliff
Franks (CT)	Miller (FL)	Zimmer
Franks (NJ)	Molinari	
Frelinghuysen	Moorhead	

NAYS—200

Abercrombie	Gibbons	Olver
Ackerman	Gonzalez	Ortiz
Andrews	Gordon	Orton
Baessler	Green	Owens
Baldacci	Gutierrez	Pallone
Barcia	Hall (OH)	Pastor
Barrett (WI)	Hall (TX)	Payne (NJ)
Becerra	Hamilton	Payne (VA)
Beilenson	Harman	Pelosi
Bentsen	Hastings (FL)	Peterson (MN)
Berman	Hayes	Pickett
Bevill	Hefner	Pomeroy
Bishop	Hilliard	Poshard
Bonior	Hinche	Rahall
Borski	Holden	Rangel
Boucher	Hoyer	Reed
Brewster	Jackson-Lee	Richardson
Browder	Jacobs	Rivers
Brown (CA)	Jefferson	Roemer
Brown (FL)	Johnson (SD)	Rose
Brown (OH)	Johnson, E. B.	Roybal-Allard
Bryant (TX)	Johnston	Rush
Cardin	Kanjorski	Sabo
Clay	Kaptur	Sanders
Clayton	Kennedy (MA)	Sawyer
Clement	Kennedy (RI)	Schiff
Clyburn	Kennelly	Schroeder
Coleman	Kildee	Schumer
Collins (IL)	Klecza	Scott
Collins (MI)	Klink	Serrano
Condit	LaFalce	Shadegg
Conyers	Lantos	Shays
Costello	Levin	Sisisky
Coyne	Lewis (GA)	Skaggs
Cramer	Lincoln	Skelton
Danner	Lipinski	Slaughter
Davis	Lofgren	Spratt
de la Garza	Lowe	Stark
DeFazio	Luther	Stenholm
DeLauro	Maloney	Stokes
Dellums	Manton	Studds
Deutsch	Markey	Stupak
Dicks	Martinez	Tanner
Dingell	Mascara	Taylor (MS)
Dixon	Matsui	Tejeda
Doggett	McCarthy	Thompson
Dooley	McDermott	Thurman
Doyle	McHale	Torres
Durbin	McKinney	Torricelli
Edwards	McNulty	Towns
Engel	Meehan	Traficant
Eshoo	Meek	Velazquez
Evans	Menendez	Vento
Farr	Mfume	Visclosky
Fattah	Miller (CA)	Volkmer
Fazio	Minge	Ward
Filner	Mink	Waters
Flake	Moakley	Watt (NC)
Foglietta	Mollohan	Waxman
Forbes	Montgomery	Whitfield
Ford	Moran	Williams
Frank (MA)	Morella	Wise
Frost	Murtha	Woolsey
Furse	Nadler	Wyden
Gedjenson	Neal	Wynn
Gephardt	Oberstar	Yates
Geren	Obey	

NOT VOTING—12

Archer	Hunter	Thornton
Bateman	Kasich	Tucker
Chapman	Peterson (FL)	Weldon (PA)
Fields (LA)	Shaw	Wilson

□ 1355

Mr. STUDDS changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I have asked to speak for the purposes of engaging the distinguished majority leader in a colloquy about our schedule given the fact that tomorrow is Veter-

ans' Day and Members have travel plans, and parades and other events to honor our veterans.

Could the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] enlighten us on the schedule, what the schedule will be in the next couple of days as we move forward with these debt-limit bills and continuing resolutions?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, of course we are all aware that the end-of-the-year scheduling difficulties that are commonplace, especially to the first session of any Congress, are upon us.

We have passed the continuing resolution over to the Senate, and they are working on that right now as I understand. We are now beginning to proceed on the short-term debt limit. We should expect to perhaps finish that sometime around 5 o'clock this evening. It will take us something in the neighborhood of an hour, maybe a little longer, to get the paperwork over to the Senate. The Senate, I am advised, will begin consideration of the short-term debt limit as soon as we have all our papers to them.

□ 1400

We are not certain how long it will take them to work on that. We must be prepared. At least at this time, let me say, until we know something more certain about possible Senate action, we will stand prepared to receive their work back on either of the two bills tonight, and hopefully we can do that tonight and perhaps complete the process. But I must say to the Members, having been through this many times in the past, I would not expect to be able to catch a plane home before sometime tomorrow morning at the earliest, and, quite frankly, I think we would probably be most well prepared if we prepared ourselves to be here working until noon tomorrow.

I think that right now would represent a fair degree of optimism, depending on how things go between the House and Senate, and as they go, of course, we will have additional announcements. At any point we have something more definitive that we can share with the Members, we will do an announcement of this type and keep you apprised.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman, how late does he expect to go this evening?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I think what we would have to do is take the measure of the Senate's action. We would be, of course, prepared to stand in recess to await the Senate's work, presuming they could get it done in anything like a reasonable hour.

I think there comes a time when one perhaps makes the decision we are better off to surrender the evening and

prepare to come back in the morning to take up that work. But I think, in the interests of the Members, we would want to hold ourselves available for as late as what might be reasonable, in the hopes that we might be able to get our folks on an early morning plane, if that is an option available. So we will be trying to evaluate that and make an announcement as we get better information.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman, understanding the difficulty in guesstimating what time this is all going to culminate, let me ask my friend from Texas one other question. On Monday next, has he made any decisions about when we should be here for the first vote?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I thank the gentleman for his inquiry. The fact is that, again, to a large extent, we are waiting to see what happens with the current work under consideration between the House and Senate, but I think a prudent advice I could give the Members would be to be prepared to be back in the Chamber by noon on Monday. Again, if I have any news to share on that later on, and hopefully good news, I will announce it, but I would be prepared, I think, to return to the Chamber on noon on Monday.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2586, the bill about to be considered.

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

There was no objection.

TEMPORARY INCREASE IN THE STATUTORY DEBT LIMIT

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the rule, I call up the bill (H.R. 2586) to provide for a temporary increase in the public debt limit, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 258, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. MCCRERY] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. MCCRERY].

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the subject of this bill, of course, is a short-term extension of the Nation's debt limit. This short-term extension is intended to provide an orderly process, with sufficient time for the Congress and the President to consider the balanced budget bill that will shortly be sent to the President. It is now clear that some type of pressure

must be applied to bring the differing views together and to resolve this problem.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2586 would temporarily increase the statutory limit on the public debt to \$4.967 trillion. It would do so until December 12, 1995. Under the bill, the limit would then revert to \$4.8 trillion. H.R. 2586 also ensures the financial integrity of Government trust funds invested in Government debt obligations subject to the debt limit.

Mr. Speaker, this bill today is necessary because the Congress, the legislative branch, under our Constitution, is responsible for authorizing any debt to be incurred by the U.S. Government. That is an obligation which we must take very seriously, and consider very carefully. Some in this Chamber are reluctant to increase the Nation's debt limit at all. I understand that, Mr. Speaker.

However, we all recognize that this Government has made commitments and entered into obligations that must eventually be paid, so in an effort to accommodate those obligations and in an effort to accommodate this body and the executive branch with time to deliberate matters of great importance to the country, including balancing this Nation's budget in 7 years, this bill comes to us today. We believe this bill is not only necessary, but entirely appropriate, and we will get into more of the details as the debate continues.

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my fine and much-admired friend, the gentleman from Louisiana, has stated some of this bill, but perhaps he knows more about it than I do. He says that it is just a temporary legislation. The first page or so is temporary, but the other 400-and-some pages in this bill, and the pages that will perhaps be adopted here by additional amendments, are not temporary legislation. They are very permanent legislation. They do drastic things to this U.S. Government. They do it without debate, without consideration, or anything else.

The only reason we are here at this late hour and under this kind of confusing circumstances is because the Republicans have not been able to get their act together, to get their majority control together, and to do the things that should have been done. We are here on November 9 to do the work that should have been done in July of this same year.

The Republicans keep howling and screaming that the President will not bargain with them, but how, Mr. Speaker, can the President bargain with them? They have no budget bill. They have not even had a meeting on their budget bill in 2 weeks. I know. I am a conferee. I have not even gotten a notice, or, as one Member said, a postcard about a meeting of the conferees to iron out the differences in the

budget resolution. We are about 4 months behind on the budget, the Congress is, because the Republicans cannot muster a majority on their side to get anything done.

We are here at this late hour attempting to blackmail the President into signing something that he will never sign. The President is not subject to blackmail. He has enough sense not to give in to that kind of treatment. He is not going to sign this ridiculous trash here, most of which is only put together, as the gentleman from Louisiana said, temporarily, so they can get enough votes together to get this thing through the House. They are going to drop all these amendments. Their Members ought to understand that. None of this is ever going to become law. It is only here so that the Republicans can be coerced or bribed or twisted their arms or whatever you want to call it to vote for this thing. It is not going to happen.

It is a terrible way to run the Government. It is a terrible reflection upon the Republican Party that they cannot do a simple thing, which is strike out one figure in a piece of legislation and add another figure. That is all that is here. We have done it hundreds of times in the years that I have been here without all of this rankle, all of this other garbage that has been added to it.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very poor and disastrous way to run the Government. It is a terrible reflection upon the Republican Party. We Democrats do not have control of this body. We do not set the agenda. We do not have the ability to produce a majority vote. It is all within their power. It is all within their ability. It is all within their responsibility. They cannot get up here and pretend that it is anybody's responsibility except theirs.

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

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], one of the most distinguished Members of the Chamber, and chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding time to me.

I guess we will have to put the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] as undecided on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is more, really, much more than an increase in the debt limit. It is really a down payment on the promise that we have made to make government smaller and more responsive to the American people. It is crucial that we refocus government on those essential functions that it must perform, and reconsider whether government should be involved in any activity which it cannot do well.

We presently are involved in a great many activities, Mr. Speaker, that we do not do well. The reason we have to