

that Judge Starr has "nothing to show" for his investigations.

David Hale, Charles Matthews, Eugene Fitzhugh, Robert Palmer, Webster Hubbell, Neal Ainley, Christopher Wade, William J. Marks, Sr., Jim Guy Tucker, John Haley, Stephen SMITH, and Larry Kuca, these 12 have all pleaded guilty to felonies as a result of Judge Starr's investigations.

In addition to those guilty pleas, Governor Jim Guy Tucker, James McDougal, and Susan McDougal have been convicted by a jury of their peers for other crimes they have committed.

Twelve guilty pleas and 3 convictions. Nothing to show? Let the American people decide if these allegations are true.

#### SEVEN PERCENT OF SCIENTISTS BELIEVE IN GOD

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a new report says only 7 percent of scientists believe in God. That is right. And the reason they gave was that the scientists are "super smart." Unbelievable. Most of these absent-minded professors cannot find the toilet.

Mr. Speaker, I have one question for these wise guys to constipate over: How can some thing come from no thing?

And while they digest that, Mr. Speaker, let us tell it like it is. Put these super-cerebral master debaters in some foxhole with bombs bursting all around them, and I guarantee they will not be praying to Frankenstein.

Beam me up here. My colleagues, all the education in the world is worthless without God and a little bit of common sense. And I yield back whatever we have left.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and the nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under Clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 5 p.m. today.

#### VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4110) to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to make various improvements in education, housing,

and cemetery programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for our purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4110

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1998".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

#### TITLE I—COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

Sec. 101. Increase in rates of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation.

#### TITLE II—EDUCATION BENEFITS

Sec. 201. Calculation of reporting fee based on total veteran enrollment during a calendar year.

Sec. 202. Election of advance payment of work-study allowance.

Sec. 203. Alternative to twelve semester hour equivalency requirement.

Sec. 204. Medical evidence for flight training requirements.

Sec. 205. Waiver of wage increase and minimum payment rate requirements for government job training program approval.

Sec. 206. Expansion of education outreach services.

Sec. 207. Information on minimum requirements for education benefits for members of the Armed Forces discharged early from duty for the convenience of the Government.

#### TITLE III—COURT OF VETERANS APPEALS

##### Subtitle A—Administrative Provisions Relating to the Court

Sec. 301. Continuation in office of judges pending confirmation for second term.

Sec. 302. Authority to prescribe rules and regulations.

##### Subtitle B—Retirement-Related Provisions

Sec. 311. Recall of retired judges.

Sec. 312. Calculation of years of service as a judge.

Sec. 313. Judges' retired pay.

Sec. 314. Exemption of retirement fund from sequestration orders.

Sec. 315. Limitation on activities of retired judges.

Sec. 316. Early retirement authority for current judges in order to provide for staggered terms of judges.

Sec. 317. Adjustments for survivor annuities.

Sec. 318. Reports on retirement program modifications.

##### Subtitle C—Renaming of Court

Sec. 321. Renaming of the Court of Veterans Appeals.

Sec. 322. Conforming amendments.

Sec. 323. Effective Date.

#### TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 401. Applicability of procurement law to certain contracts of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 402. Permanent eligibility of members of Selected Reserve for veterans housing loans.

Sec. 403. Furnishing of burial flags for deceased members and former members of the Selected Reserve.

Sec. 404. State cemetery grants program.

Sec. 405. Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialists.

Sec. 406. Permanent authority to use for operating expenses of Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities amounts available by reason of the limitation on pension for veterans receiving nursing home care.

Sec. 407. Members of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Sec. 408. National Service Life Insurance program.

Sec. 409. Technical amendments.

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

#### TITLE I—COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

##### SEC. 101. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 1998, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under sections 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

(4) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of such title.

(5) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such title.

(6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and 1311(d) of such title.

(7) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—(1) The increase under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on November 30, 1998.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), each such amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 1998, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(3) Each dollar amount increased pursuant to paragraph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar amount, be rounded down to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—At the same time as the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act