opening remarks on this rule, and to rise in strong support of this rule and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

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

Mr. DREIER. 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 SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). The question is on the resolution.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Pleasant Hill Chapter of the Future Farmers of America for the celebration of their 50th anniversary this past August 19th.

The goal of this organization is to train and develop future leaders in the agricultural community, a very valuable commodity in the 20th Congressional District of Illinois. The work of the FFA has not just turned high school kids into agricultural leaders but also into leaders of our communities.

One way that I am trying to assure that the FFA has a market is by encouraging the use of bio-diesel fuel, which is made with soybeans. Again, I congratulate the Pleasant Hill Chapter of the Future Farmers of America for reaching its 50th year anniversary and wish them all the success in their future endeavors.

DEMOCRATS NOT USING HONEST ARGUMENTS REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I often have discussions, serious discussions, with Democrats who have a point of view that I do not agree with. It is always a healthy thing to have an honest debate with another person, for there are usually two sides to every story and every issue. But it is also frustrating to debate someone who is not using honest arguments.

The other side has charged repeatedly that the tax cut package promoted by the Ways and Means chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), is a raid on the Social Security Trust Fund.

If my colleagues believe that, look at this chart. The absurdity of the allegation becomes quite obvious. If the raid is so, then how can $9.6 trillion in spending over 5 years not be a threat to Social Security, while this little $80 billion right here in tax cuts are not a threat?

Then, to add insult to injury, the Democrats did not put one dime aside for Social Security during the 40 years they were in control. And now Republicans are putting aside $1.4 trillion for Social Security and we get blamed for attacking Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, this is what liberalism has become.

DEMOCRATS DEMAGOGUING SOCIAL SECURITY ISSUE DUE TO EMBARRASSMENT

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, how big is $80 billion? We have this chart right here that shows, over a 5-year period, $9.6 trillion of expenditures. It is obviously a little tiny sliver. When we compare it to the size of the Federal Government, $1.7 trillion in spending last time I checked, we realize that the Republican tax cut package, alas, is quite modest indeed.

A liberal could spend $80 billion by lunch, but $80 billion over 5 years is considered a threat to the Social Security Trust Fund. Why spending is not a threat to the Social Security Trust Fund but tax cuts are is anybody's guess, but that is what the liberals are trying to say.

Just take a look at this chart and try to put things in perspective. Republicans are putting aside $1.4 trillion to save the Social Security Trust Fund, but the Democrats are strangely silent about that. But that is not surprising, given how much money they put aside during the four long decades they were in the majority. Right here. A great big zero. Zero versus $1.4 trillion. That is pretty embarrassing, and maybe that is why they are trying to change the subject and demagogue on this issue.

First, it was Mediscare, now it is frightening nonsense about Social Security.

□ 0930

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess, subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1250

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY) at 12 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

RULE ON LABOR-HHS APPROPRIATIONS BILL SHOULD NOT BE ADOPTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) is recognized for 40 minutes as the designee of the minority leader, without prejudice to the presumption of business.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this special order because earlier today, without notice to anyone on our side of the aisle, the House considered the rule under which the Labor, Health, Education appropriations bill would be brought to the floor. I believe that that issue should be discussed before the House votes, because I think it is ridiculous for any Member of this House to vote for a rule that makes this bill in order.

I want to make clear, first of all, that the bill this rule would make in order is going absolutely nowhere. The bill that comes to the floor makes huge reductions in education, in job training, in a number of health programs that both parties claim that they are for. And yet at the very time that we are supposed to be debating this bill, the conferees, the lead conferees, have already been meeting in Senator SPECTER's office yesterday, and I participated in those meetings for over 3 hours.

We are in the process of putting together a different bill, which will be at least $3 billion above the bill being brought to the floor and, in my judgment, considerably above that level before we are done. So this is a sham bill. If it is brought up it will be merely to take up time that would more usefully be used for other purposes.

Secondly, I would point out that if this rule is adopted, a vote for this rule will simply be an endorsement for a bill that fails our children and hurts workers to an extreme degree. This bill, for instance, eliminates the Low Income Heating Assistance Program, which is the key program that helps low-income seniors avoid having to choose between heating their houses and eating. This bill would eliminate the summer jobs program that gives some young people in this country their first experience at dealing with the world of work.

This bill slashes the President's request for new funding for after-school centers to try to give young people a useful place to go, recognizing that the vast majority of juvenile crime occurs in after-school hours, and many times before parents get home and can have a place for their kids to come home to. It cuts reading and math help for 520,000