

and, therefore, more votes that the NHLA was able to use to try to rate the Members of Congress, grade the Members of Congress. But what we find is overall scores of the various votes taken in the House of Representatives, for example, of the 24 votes that were scored, 19 percent of the time the Republicans in the House of Representatives supported Hispanic American issues and concerns. Democrats supported, on those same 24 votes, supported Hispanic American concerns 85 percent of the time.

In the Senate, the support by Members of the Senate who were Republican was 20 percent, 20 percent of the time Republican Senators voted in support of measures that the NHLA identified as extremely important for Hispanics throughout this country. In the Senate, Democrats voted 89 percent of the time in support of issues that were important to Hispanic Americans.

I further broke this down to give a better sense, since it would be difficult to list the votes of the 435 Members of Congress along with the 100 Members of the Senate the way the NHLA did, but if we took the leadership, and I decided to take the leadership votes out. We find that in the Senate, the Republican leadership under Mr. LOTT, TRENT LOTT, Mr. LOTT's score, of the 11 votes, was zero percent, unfortunately, which means that on no occasion did he support Hispanic American issues. Ninety-one percent for Senator DASCHLE. On the House side it was zero for Speaker GINGRICH, and it was 7 percent for the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT).

That will give us a sense and hopefully we can go from there to see how Congress supports issues important to Hispanic Americans.

CHALLENGES THAT AWAIT THE CONGRESS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening not to attempt to drive a wedge among Americans of different backgrounds. Indeed, I believe what President Theodore Roosevelt said is true, that though we come from many different backgrounds, we celebrate 100 percent Americanism, even when people have different views about a variety of issues.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the well tonight further to discuss the challenge that still awaits this Congress, the challenging decisions we confront.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to the citizens of the sixth congressional district of Arizona, who I am pleased to represent, indeed all Americans from coast to coast, Mr. Speaker, that this Congress is making progress on a variety of fronts, but most especially on that topic that seemed to be on the tips of just about everyone's tongue, especially on the other side of

the aisle earlier this week, and that of course is education.

Mr. Speaker, I think common sense dictates that education is too important to be left up to Washington bureaucrats. That is why in the midst of this historic attempt to reach a budget agreement, I am personally pleased to see that after a time of discussion and negotiation, those who represented the administration found that also this should be true.

For while there will be increased spending on education, it will be done at the local level. Indeed, perhaps even exceeding the hard work done by our colleague the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) in his Dollars to the Classroom Act, which said that for every education dollar at the Federal level, 95 cents of that dollar should end up in local classrooms, helping teachers teach and helping children learn. And indeed, in the wake of these negotiations, now 100 percent of the money will end up at the local level for States and, more importantly, for local school districts to determine how best to utilize for teacher training and for challenges they confront. Because after all, the key to solving many difficulties and challenges in education are confronted by school board members who are elected in their respective communities, by the teachers who know the names of the children in their classrooms, by the parents who have a concern because they have been entrusted with our most precious resource, a resource for which no price tag can be attached.

We have been dealing with many challenges when it comes to these budget talks and, Mr. Speaker, I can remember on a few occasions even the President of the United States has come into this Chamber with his State of the Union messages and he has offered some interesting comments. Indeed, in the last State of the Union message, Mr. Speaker, when you totaled up everything the President had proposed in his budget plan, you were looking at more than \$150 billion of new spending.

The common sense conservative majority has put the brakes on that. And more importantly, to pay for those programs, not with a great deal of illumination or elucidation, but the President of the United States had a price tag attached, over \$130 billion of tax and fee increases. Mr. Speaker, we can report this evening that there will be no tax increases in our agreement.

And more importantly, Mr. Speaker, because we do face pressing needs, not only the Y2K crisis that confronts us in the field of high technology, but more basically, as we take a look at the preamble to the Constitution and our charge to provide for the common defense, every dollar of new social spending will be matched with a dollar for our defense spending, for, Mr. Speaker, reports have come to us that are indeed disturbing, reports of a hollow force that we have not seen since the late

1970s, reports of a spare parts and personnel crisis.

I know that other colleagues will join us to discuss these pressing issues, but we are making the choices right for America.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 105TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe after two long, hard-working years that the 105th Congress is now coming to a close. It is expected we should be rapping up our business probably in the next 24 to 48 hours. I thought I would just take a few minutes and look back over the 105th Congress and talk about, frankly, some of the accomplishments that we have achieved.

I represent a very, very diverse district. I represent the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs in Cook and Will Counties, bedroom communities as well as rural and farm towns.

I find there is a pretty common message that comes out of these communities. That is, they are tired of partisan politics. They are looking for solutions. They want us to meet the challenges that we are sent to Washington to work on but to come up with solutions and then get those solutions achieved.

I was thinking when I was first elected back in 1994, the gentleman who just preceded me in 1994, and we had an agenda. We were told time and time again that we could not achieve it. We were told we could not balance the budget. We were told that we could not cut taxes for the middle class. We were told that we could not reform the failed welfare system. We were told that the IRS was good the way it is, that we could not make changes.

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But I am proud to say that in the 105th Congress that we have made some real accomplishments, coming up with solutions that work. I am proud to report, at the end of the 105th Congress and the last 2 years, we have balanced the budget for the first time in 28 years. We cut taxes for the middle class for the first time in 16 years. We reformed our welfare system for the first time in over a generation. Yes, we tamed the tax collector, reforming and restructuring the IRS for the first time ever.

Now that we are in the final hours, I thought I would take talk about an additional accomplishment, some important accomplishments that affect folks back home, and that is in the area of education, priorities for our local schools.

I am proud that, after 2 years in the 105th Congress, we have some pretty good accomplishments to take home. Thanks to this Congress, we now have

the lowest student loan interest rate in 17 years, making college affordable for middle class and working families.

We have doubled the Pell grant twice of what it was when we were first elected, now making college more affordable for low-income students unable to qualify for student loans.

We have increased funding for Head Start. We have increased funding for special education. Even while balancing the budget, education was a top priority last year, including this year as well; in fact, with last year's balanced budget, the first balanced budget in 28 years.

We increase funding by 10 percent, a \$5.4 billion funding increase. I am proud of that. Lowest student loan rates in 17 years, doubled Pell Grants, low income students, increasing funds for Head Start and special education, and making education a funding priority.

I will say, though, I am disappointed. There are some initiatives that were passed by this House that the President did not support, so they are not going to happen. Education savings accounts to help families better afford additional cost and public education and better afford the opportunity to go to a private parochial school, unfortunately, the President vetoed that effort to help families better afford education for their children.

Unfortunately because of the President's opposition and because of opposition from Members of his own party, an effort to give tax deferred status to prepaid college tuition programs unfortunately failed after we passed it out of this House, helping make college more affordable.

In an effort to provide for school construction, bonding programs to help school districts in Chicago and the south suburbs and other growing areas add classrooms and fix the roof, unfortunately the legislation, \$1 billion initiative which passed this House as part of the 90-10 plan, unfortunately we were not successful because of the President's opposition.

But we have had a very important victory for local schools and a very important victory for education in the final days. I am glad to see that this Republican Congress and a Democratic President on the end of Pennsylvania Avenue can work together.

The President talked earlier this year about the need to reduce class size, the need to hire additional teachers to accomplish that goal. Many of us in this House, in a bipartisan way, agreed with him.

The question was how were we going to achieve that goal. Are we going to have this type of program micromanaged from a bureaucracy here in Washington, or are we going to give the resources to local school districts and local school boards and local school administrators and give them the flexibility how best to decide that type of priority.

I am proud to say that we have reached an agreement. It is my under-

standing the President and the Republican majority have reached an agreement to provide \$1.1 billion in funds to help schools, and decision making will be in the local districts how best to use those dollars. That is a big victory for education, a big victory for local education, local schools.

STRIVE TO MEET DEADLINES IN THE 106TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, today, we have seen quite a transformation of the nature of the debate. I think all of us remember the debate from yesterday, the day before. There was a great deal of anguish over how we would support education in this country. Would there be funds and assistance for school construction and modernization? Would there be money for teachers? Was this going to be Federal interference with local education?

This body was badly polarized for all of us that sat and listened to the exchanges, horribly polarized. It is amazing. Here we are today, and it appears that we are uniform in supporting teachers in the reduction of class size.

I think that it is important that, as we debate these issues, the Nation understands that sometimes the debate is rhetoric. Sometimes the debate is real. Probably even today, if one searched and scratched hard enough, one would find that code words are being used to illustrate differences that now we are more interested in glossing over.

But I think it is a victory for the American people, for our students that we are focusing on reducing class size. I trust this is an initiative that is not just one that is being promoted here in Washington, but in State capitals around the country and in the offices of local school districts around the country and in the homes of the citizens of this Nation as all of us join together to emphasize the importance of small class size and the best possible educational preparation for our children.

There is another aspect about the debate and the proceedings this week that I would like to touch upon, and that is the unseemly chaos that is accompanying the close of this 105th Congress.

Some have complained that the President has not been here every day and every hour and blame the President for the fact that these last days have been added to the session.

Others have pointed out, as I would like to emphasize, that we have not had a budget resolution to guide this body. The lack of a budget resolution certainly cannot be blamed on the White House. That budget resolution is a concurrent resolution adopted by the House and the Senate to guide this body in passing appropriations bills for the 1998, 1999 fiscal year.

I am sure that all of us are well aware that that fiscal year started October 1, 15 days ago. We are half a month into the fiscal year. We have no budget resolution. Indeed, we are 6 months past the due date for the budget resolution, April 15, 1998. We have no budget resolution.

Going further, this will go down as the first Congress in 24 years of having a budget requirement that has failed to produce a budget resolution. We do not have a concurrent budget resolution. I submit that this contributes to the frantic nature of the negotiations and the delay that we have experienced in this 105th Congress in bringing our efforts to a close.

I note with some concern that the same party controls this body and the Senate. I would have hoped that a budget resolution would have been enacted because of that leadership from the same political party. But unfortunately it has not.

I can certainly see situations where my side of the aisle might well have had parallel difficulties. But the lesson to be learned here is we need to work together to find some way, even within our own caucuses, to bring closure to divisive debates.

Certainly if we cannot within our own caucus and within our own party find a way to pass a budget resolution, how much more difficult is it in the body at large.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we should make a resolution as we leave this institution and returned to our respective districts, that in the 106th Congress, we will endeavor to do better and observe the deadlines that apply within the budget process, and hopefully we can then come up with an educational program earlier in the season and not have to have the debate delayed and become so divisive as it has here in the fall of 1998.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 1998

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 589, I hereby give notice that the following suspensions will be considered tomorrow, October 16, 1998:

H.R. 1197, Plant Patent Amendments Acts of 1997;

H.R. 1756, Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Strategy Act of 1998;

S. 610, Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act.

THE SURPLUS CONGRESS

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, it is the nature of politics that we never get everything we want. But when American people support the general direction in which we are going, small victories do become possible.