

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER).

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### OPPOSING CAFTA LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the sugar provisions in the Central American Free Trade Agreement would cost U.S. taxpayers \$500 million over the next 10 years, according to estimates released this week by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. The CBO, the arm of Congress that estimates the costs of legislation, also found that revenues in the U.S. Treasury would fall by \$4.4 billion over the same 10 years if CAFTA is enacted.

So this trade agreement, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, is not just about our trade deficit, which has gone from \$38 billion to \$618 billion in the last 12 years; it is not just about lost jobs, and we have lost 3 million jobs, manufacturing jobs alone in the last 5 years; it is also about busting our budget. It is going to cost us jobs, it is going to swell the trade agreement, it is going to cost us \$4.4 billion, and it does nothing for the people of Central America or families in the United States.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### SALUTING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are many things in America that give us cause for celebration. I am delighted to rise today and salute the Boy Scouts of America that are celebrating the jamboree and to acknowledge the service that they give to all of America.

I am a proud member of the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts of America. I am a Silver Beaver, and I have an Eagle Scout as a young son. To all of those who have achieved as Boy Scouts in America, our future leaders, we congratulate them. We thank them very much for the service that they give. I am reminded of the old sign of Boy Scouts laying down a raincoat or jacket over the water to allow an elderly person to walk. It is symbolic of the service that they give.

I hope as they enjoy the wonderment of this great Capitol of the United States and the fact that they are able to see those of us who serve in the United States Congress, working the democratic way, they will be emboldened and they will be infused with a sense of energy, of leadership, and that they will carry the message of the Boy Scouts with great honor and serve their country in a very honorable way.

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With that I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I wish them the very best. And I might see them out there. Boy Scouts equal America. God bless America, and God bless the Boy Scouts of America.

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. OTTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### NOMINATION OF JUDGE ROBERTS TO SUPREME COURT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, apart from the decision to go to war, a President makes no more consequential choice than filling a vacancy on the Supreme Court of the United States. I rise today for a few short moments to say that in choosing Judge John Roberts as the next Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, President Bush has chosen wisely.

Judge Roberts built a career of excellence in the legal profession and in public service on the values of personal integrity and civility that I say proudly he learned growing up in my home State of Indiana. While he was born in Buffalo, New York, he was raised and to this day says he is from what we call the region in northwestern Indiana, going to school in La Porte, Indiana, before heading off to Harvard where he would graduate with honors and then Harvard law school where he would be a member of the Law Review and graduate with highest honors.

He is one of four children. Today he lives in Bethesda, Maryland and was, prior to being appointed to service on what is routinely referred to as the second highest court in the land, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, he built an almost unprecedented career in the law, both in and out of public service.

The National Journal actually wrote not long ago: "John Roberts seems a good bet to be the kind of judge we should all want to have. All of us, that is, who are looking less for congenial ideologues than for professionals committed to the impartial application of the law."

Indeed, his entire career has been, as the former White House counsel C. Boyden Gray reflected recently, "one of unquestioned integrity and fair-mindedness."

He is an extraordinary individual who has actually argued before the United States Supreme Court on 39 separate occasions. He is, as the President reflected during his nomination on Tuesday night, he is singularly one of the most accomplished and brilliant legal minds of his generation. And it has been acknowledged in the political process as well.

Because he personifies the very qualities that most Americans would seek on the Supreme Court, Judge Roberts was reported favorably out of the Senate Judiciary Committee just 2 short years ago for his appointment to his present post. In fact, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 16 to 3, and Judge Roberts was confirmed by the United States Senate for the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals by unanimous consent.

And let me speak to this point of timing because we are 1 week away from the August recess. As I rise today, understanding that the House of Representatives has no formal role in the confirmation of an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court, I would urge nonetheless respectfully my colleagues in the Senate to give every deliberate consideration to Judge Roberts' nomination because time is of the essence, and time is on our side.

History tells us President Clinton's two nominations to the Supreme Court took an average of 58 days from the day of nomination to confirmation. Over the past 30 years, the confirmation process has averaged 72 days from confirmation to nomination. And as we look at the calendar today, there are essentially 73 days between when the President nominated Judge Roberts and when the Court would begin its work this fall. The Senate has the time for a thoroughgoing vetting of Judge Roberts' credentials and his background and his capacity to serve in this august position, and I urge them to move with all deliberate speed and I do so with respect.

Again, I simply rise today recognizing that apart from a decision to go to war, a President makes no more consequential choice than filling a vacancy on the Supreme Court; and I say with gratitude to the President of the United States that in choosing Judge John Roberts, a son of the State of Indiana, a man who is devoted to the law and devoted to the application of the law and not the creation of the law, the President has chosen wisely.