

IRAQ AND VETERANS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the irony could not be thicker or, for that matter, sweeter. Today, the day before Veterans Day, the Republican leadership failed to gather the necessary votes to pass a shameful budget reconciliation bill that will, among other things, decrease funding for veterans. Somewhere Mr. DELAY should be left to wonder how the callously efficient arm-twisting regime that he installed in the House has crumbled so quickly.

The sheer audacity of trying to pass a budget reconciliation bill that provides more tax breaks to the wealthy at the expense of important social-net programs for the poor is unbelievable. The programs slated to be cut include health care for veterans, Medicaid, student loans, and child support enforcement.

The idea that America's Republican leaders would slash funding for veterans the day before they should be honoring them would be even more appalling than it already is if it were not so commonplace. In fact, this pattern has repeated itself throughout President Bush's tenure in office.

The U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003 coincided with the sharp decrease in veterans health care and other benefits for those who have bravely served in our Nation's military. The backlog at veterans hospitals had never been greater than when the United States went to war in Iraq. Now, with more than half a million soldiers having served in Iraq, the burden on the VA will only increase.

And while the U.S. has spent over \$200 billion for military operations and reconstruction in Iraq over the past 2 years, during this same time period the Bush administration and the Republican Congress have repeatedly refused to provide veterans with the benefits they have earned and the benefits they deserve.

Our Nation's so-called leaders have continually refused to fix the system called "concurrent receipt," whereby veterans health benefits are deducted from their retirement benefits. This veterans tax is wrong, and it needs to be fixed. Unfortunately, the Republicans in Congress are too busy trying to pass bills that would make the rich even richer, instead of fixing real inequities in our system.

Mr. Speaker, veterans deserve our respect not only on November 11, Veterans Day, but all throughout the year. They deserve our respect, they deserve our support, and they deserve all of the benefits our government has promised them without scrimping, without exception, without escape clauses. They certainly did not offer any excuses when they enlisted in our military.

Six weeks ago, I traveled to Iraq with a small congressional delegation to learn more about the mission and the

heroic Americans carrying it out. Nothing I saw changed my mind about the wrongness of our Iraq policy. But one thing did move me: I came away from the trip absolutely awed by our soldiers. They were even more committed, more dedicated, and more courageous than I had ever imagined.

Having met and talked with them, it pains me to the core that their fate rests in the hands of leaders who have failed them time and time again. The men and women who wear the uniform deserve so much more. They deserve civilian leaders who will put their safety before their own political interests. They deserve leaders who would not send them to Iraq on false pretenses on a poorly defined mission without all the tools they need and without a plan to get them out of there; and they deserve leaders who will give them adequate medical and financial support when they come home.

For all the reasons I have mentioned today, it is time to bring our troops home from Iraq. We need to focus on healing the wounds incurred over the last 2½ years of war and administering to America's domestic priorities. If we want to truly honor our veterans on Veterans Day, the best thing we can do is prevent more veterans from being created. We could do this tomorrow, if we wanted to, by ending the war in Iraq and bringing our troops home. That would be the best gift of all.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 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 Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona 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 California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF 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 Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE 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 Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ENGLISH 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 California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California 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 Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois 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 Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ALLEN 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 Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for November 8 on account of business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LAHOOD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. STEARNS, for 5 minutes, November 15.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, November 14, 2005, at 6 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5133. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule—Regulations Implementing Energy Policy Act of 2005; Pre-Filing Procedures for Review of LNG Terminals and Other Natural Gas Facilities [Docket No. RM05-31-000; Order No. 665] received October 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5134. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Cold, Cough, Allergy, Bronchodilator, and Antiasthmatic Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Amendment of Final Monograph for Over-the-Counter Nasal Decongestant Drug Products [Docket No. 2004N-0289] (RIN: 0910-AF34) received October 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5135. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Medical Devices; Immunology and Microbiology Devices; Classification of AFP-L3% Immunological Test Systems [Docket No. 2005N-0341] received October 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5136. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Price-Anderson Act Financial Protection Regulations and Elimination of

Antitrust Reviews (RIN: 3150-AH78) received October 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5137. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

5138. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, a copy of Transmittal No. 12-05 which informs of an intent to sign an Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the United States and India for Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation Projects, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

5139. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, a copy of Transmittal No. 13-05 which informs of an intent to sign a Project Arrangement (PA) to the Navigation Warfare Technology Demonstrator and System Prototype Projects Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

5140. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, a copy of Transmittal No. 11-05 which informs of an intent to sign an Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the United States and Australia concerning the Soldier Combat System, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

5141. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 06-16, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Spain for defense articles and services; to the Committee on International Relations.

5142. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 06-17, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Greece for defense articles and services; to the Committee on International Relations.

5143. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Removal of License Requirements for Exports and Reexports to India of Items Controlled Unilaterally for Nuclear Nonproliferation Reasons and Removal of Certain Indian Entities from the Entity List [Docket No. 050822227-5227-01] (RIN: A694-AD44) received September 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

5144. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Part 126 (Z-RIN: 1400-ZA17) received November 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

5145. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2005-39 on Transfers of Defense Articles or Services for Libya for Chemical Weapons Destruction; to the Committee on International Relations.

5146. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2005-40 on Transfers of Defense Articles or Services and Brokering Activities for Libya Relating to Disposition of Libyan-owned C-130H Aircraft; to the Committee on International Relations.

5147. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment from the Government of the Netherlands (Transmittal No. RSAT-05-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5148. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué" and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement," together known as the Migration Accords, pursuant to Public Law 105-277; to the Committee on International Relations.

5149. A letter from the Federal Register Certifying Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House (RIN: 1510-AB04) received November 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5150. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's and the Office of Management and Budget's intention to jointly file final regulations for the National Security Personnel System (NSPS), as authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5151. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5152. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5153. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5154. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5155. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule—Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [AAG/A Order No. 007-2005] received September 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5156. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting a report on the Annual Inventory of Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities for 2005, in accordance with Section 2 of the Federal