

gone through a committee and had a chance to be amended and discussed before it got here.

I believe fewer than a handful of committees are actually organized at this point. None of the committees that had work on the floor this week have yet been organized to the point they have had a meeting. I would like to point that out.

The other thing, in waiving points of order, another issue of the regular order of the House, on every bill that came to the floor this week, the majority waived points of order on anything that was in the bill but maintained points of order on the one chance we had to say anything at all about the bill in an official way which was the motion to recommit.

Again, I hope we are getting to the point where the things that the majority has talked so much about, and PAYGO would be an example of that, won't continue to be waived in every rule waiving points of order on the bills that do come to the floor.

I yield to my friend to respond.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comment.

Let me say that none of the bills that we adopted this week violated the PAYGO rule, as I think the gentleman is aware. The 9/11 bill was an authorization subject to appropriation. Those programs will be paid for within the budget, we believe. We are committed to doing that.

The student loan bill will comply with the PAYGO rule. And the energy bill will raise revenues. That clearly complies with the PAYGO rule.

But the gentleman's point that they did not go to committee is accurate. When we adopted the rule, that was debated fully. The rule was adopted. We had a commitment as you know on our side to do those. We had a commitment to do those in the first 100 hours. That is what we are doing. We believe that they are overwhelmingly supported by the American public, and we are very pleased there was substantial bipartisan support for these bills as well.

Mr. BLUNT. I would say on the significant portions of those bills that we voted on in the last Congress and passed, virtually every Member of the majority then, the minority now, voted for 39 of the 41 9/11 provisions. We voted for increasing the minimum wage, though we thought with a more helpful balance, and we hope to continue to work for that balance so that the wage producer is not affected, the job creator, doesn't stop creating these important entry level jobs into the workforce.

I would also say, on the PAYGO issue, I believe in the 9/11 bill and perhaps in the other bills, but in the 9/11 bill, I think the authorization was more often than not such sums as necessary. I don't know how that doesn't trigger some thought about cost in the future. I do know we were told it would be at least 3 weeks before we could get a score on what the bill would cost. So

whether it violated a PAYGO provision or not, we are 2 weeks and 5 days from knowing the answer to that question.

But I am expressing some of my concerns as we move forward. I do sympathize with the leader's job of having a schedule that works for Members, not only their events at home but their families at home.

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As the year progresses, I suspect the challenge of that will progress.

I yield to the gentleman to make a response.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me one additional time.

I am constrained to say with all the charity in my heart that, of course, you didn't violate the PAYGO rule, you eliminated the PAYGO rule. So it was not an issue on your side.

We have reinstated the PAYGO rule, which was adopted, as the gentleman knows, in a bipartisan way, and supported again in 1997, overwhelmingly adopted by the bipartisan Republicans and Democrats in this House and in the Senate. We hope that the PAYGO rule will lead us back from the abyss of what we believe to be a fiscally dire situation to a point that we were in 2001, where we had the President of the United States, President Bush, projecting a \$5.6 trillion surplus. We are now, for various reasons, in part because we did not comply with and didn't have a PAYGO rule, confronted by a deficit in excess of \$3 trillion.

So I say to my friend, I share his view that we need to comply with the PAYGO rule. We adopted a PAYGO rule, we intend to comply with it, and we intend to move towards restoring the fiscal discipline that we had. I think, working together, we can do that.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for the information he has provided. I would just again say this is not the place, I suppose, to have the debate on PAYGO for taxes or the PAYGO for spending or all the PAYGOs, but you do have the PAYGO rule.

Maybe I was inarticulate suggesting not to debate the merits of the rule, but if you are going to have the rule, my view is you should apply the rule. Waiving the points of order on that rule as a routine of rules for the last week hopefully does not become any kind of routine item in this Congress. I am sure that is not the gentleman's intention; particularly, though, when the rules are waived, the points of order are waived for the majority, but on the one small attempt that the minority has to improve a piece of legislation, we have every point of order still against us. The balance of that seems even more out of balance.

If you want to have PAYGO that is in our rules now, we need to have PAYGO, we need to have enough time to know what we are paying for, so we can really have that debate on the floor.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 16, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday next for morning hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR  
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON  
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO  
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003 note, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Mr. HASTINGS, Florida, Chairman.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF DARRELL  
NORMAN FOR HIS HONORABLE  
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House lost one of its own. It is with great sadness and heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Darrell Norman and his service to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Norman collapsed on these premises and died yesterday. Darrell Norman lived in the District of Columbia and served the institution with distinction and excellence as a senior technical support representative for more than 20 years. His colleagues tell us that they will miss his infectious smile and spirit. His daughter, Monea, actually interned in my office for part of 2004.

Kindhearted, professional, and dedicated are words used by Darrell's colleagues to describe him. He is known throughout the House as a person you can rely on to do whatever it takes to get the job done. He has earned the reputation as a person with calm demeanor, steady work ethic, and respect for everyone.

Darrell's kindheartedness and drive to serve others was reflected in his work and set a tone for collegial comradery with customers and colleagues.

His service to the House is respected by the Members, chairmen, officers, and staff that have benefited from his unwavering disposition and willingness to serve in any role needed.

Darrell was always willing to volunteer his time to assist others. His participation on the House emergency preparedness and response teams as a critical staff member was above and beyond his daily responsibilities.

Energy and enthusiasm were his trademark characteristics and earned him recognition as a "CAO All Star" for his "can do" attitude and living his philosophy to never say no. You could always count on Darrell.

Admired by the people who knew him and appreciated by those he served, Darrell was an exceptional role model. He received the CAO award for distinguished service in acknowledgement of his consistent and selfless service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Keeping the House an important part of his life did not eclipse Darrell's pride in his children. His eyes would light up and his chest expanded every time he spoke of his daughter and son. Darrell is survived by his mother, Mary Norman, his younger sister Dorita Norman Smith, his younger brother Jeffrey Norman, his daughter Monea Hendricks and his son Darrell Norman, Jr.

It is a privilege to pay respects to a man who lived the spirit of unconditional service. On behalf of the entire House community, we extend our condolences to Darrell's family, friends and colleagues in mourning the loss of a special man.

#### CONGRATULATING ANNIE WORK FOR HER RETIREMENT FROM KWCH-TV IN WICHITA, KANSAS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Annie Work for her retirement from KWCH-TV in Wichita, Kansas. She has been a loyal employee since her first day in April 1986.

In this fast-paced media world where people are rushed and feel rushed, one could always count on walking into Channel 12 and being greeted by Annie's warm and friendly face. I knew that every time I entered the station, I would be greeted with a hearty welcome and then fall easily into conversation with her.

One of our favorite topics was golf. Her enjoyment of the sport and excitement she brings into the conversation about it is contagious.

Although I know she enjoys her job as the welcoming face for Channel 12, I am sure that Annie would say her proudest accomplishment is being the mother of five daughters. Every parent enjoys watching their family expand, and Annie has had the pleasure of welcoming into the world several grandchildren.

While Annie will be leaving the television station, I hope she will continue to publish the Urban News. This monthly newsletter founded by, published, edited and circulated by Annie helps the community keep aware of events occurring around them.

Again, I congratulate Annie Work on her invaluable contribution to KWCH, our community, and the Fourth District of Kansas. I know she will be missed by the rest of the Channel 12 staff, and I will miss having the opportunity to speak with her during my visits to the station.

I wish her all of the best in her retirement and all of her future endeavors.

#### TOUGH, PRACTICAL, EFFECTIVE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM PACKAGE NEEDED

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for the very first time in this distinguished Chamber representing the Eighth District of Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, we have made some major accomplishments this week, but one area that particularly pertains to my district and to the State of Arizona has not been addressed, and that is the crisis in illegal immigration.

For too long, Congress and Washington have failed to act. We must secure the border now. My district and the State of Arizona have paid a heavy price for this burden. We know it in our schools, our hospitals and our law enforcement agencies.

We must move this year with a sense of urgency to pass a comprehensive immigration reform package that is tough, effective, and practical. We need to increase border security using modern-era technology, radar, drones, electronic surveillance. There must be more Border Patrol agents and more support for those Border Patrol agents.

We also need tough employer sanctions for those employers who are knowingly hiring people illegally, and a guest worker program, so that people can come in and work legally, safely, and return back to their home countries.

Working to pass such measures will be my priority in this 110th Congress, and I look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle on this important issue.

#### TUNAGATE

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, there is something fishy going on here. The Washington Times reported yesterday that "the Democrats' minimum wage legislation exempts American Samoa, a Pacific island territory, that would be the only U.S. territory not subject to the Federal minimum wage."

The article goes on to say: "The loophole pleases StarKist Tuna, one of the two packaging plants that employ over 5,000 Samoans, or nearly 75 percent of the island's workforce.

"StarKist's parent company, Del Monte, is headquartered in San Francisco."

Now, after these press reports came out, the Democrats want to include American Samoa in this legislation, 2 days after it passed this House. Why? Because the American public found out about this special interest scheme.

This is a clear abuse of power for a hometown company. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Madam Speaker, indeed, this is an abuse of power, and there is something definitely fishy going on here.

#### STANDING UP FOR SENIORS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the body that we stand in is the people's House. It is our obligation to address the grievances of the people who petition us. Thank goodness today, by reforming the prescription drug benefit part D, H.R. 4 addressed the grievances of millions and millions of seniors and small pharmaceutical companies or pharmacies.

Seventy-five percent of the drug program is paid by taxpayers. Thank goodness that we worked today on behalf of seniors who have suffered for years facing that terrible doughnut hole. Thank goodness we are negotiating a cheaper price. Thank goodness we are doing like the veterans hospitals are doing for veterans. Thank goodness we have corrected that 6-hour open vote of sheer despair, of pressuring all of the Members of Congress to vote the way our Republican friends wanted them to do, which is vote the worst prescription drug benefit program we have ever had in America. We did a disservice to Medicare. Today we fixed it.

I am glad for seniors we stood up so they could be heard.

#### LEARNING ABOUT PROMISES

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, my mother taught for most of her adult life, and she used to say, One of the things I like about you, Louie, is that you are teachable. And I am learning, Mr. Speaker.

I have learned that you can make a promise for years and years: We are going to have the most open government; we know that legislation is better if there is opportunity to amend it and debate it, because 100 percent right doesn't lie in one person, so we are going to do that.

Whoops, we have a shot in being in the majority. What can we do? Oh, I know, we can make a different promise. Well, we are people of our word, so we promise we are not going to do any of that stuff for the first 100 hours.

Well, that is 4 days and 4 hours. Whoops, we want to keep violating our first promise, so, well, we are promising that 100 hours means the clock only runs when we have the ball.

Mr. Speaker, I am learning.