

breast cancer in this country. I am proud to work with the national breast cancer officials who are working on a cure and who are working to increase the funding, and I am working with them on the DOD funding, the Department of Defense funding, as well as the National Institutes of Health.

For me this is priority number one in this 105th Congress, to pass this legislation and all legislation which will lead to additional research funding so that in our lifetime we can have a cure, we can have a vaccine, we can have a discovery that will eradicate breast cancer in our lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, this is the number one cancer death causing disease to women in the United States: 44,000 a year. We must do whatever we can from a medical, legislative and public point of view to make sure we eradicate this disease in our lifetime. Tomorrow is not soon enough.

So I thank my colleagues for sponsoring and cosponsoring this legislation and for working for its passage.

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#### LEGISLATION TO ALLEVIATE CONSEQUENCES OF WELFARE REFORM BILL ON ELDERLY NON-CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to alleviate the harsh consequences that many of our elderly noncitizens are experiencing as a part of the Welfare reform bill enacted last year.

At age 94, one of my constituents is now being threatened with the loss of food stamps because she cannot prove she is a U.S. citizen. She entered the United States in 1919 from Japan. Her husband is now deceased. She has no support documentation that would show she is a citizen or that she worked 10 years in this country. Soon she will lose her \$40 per month allotment.

The stated purpose of the welfare reform bill was to promote self-sufficiency and to eliminate the reliance of government assistance for able bodied individuals. The goal being to return these able bodied individuals back to work.

As a result of the Welfare Reform bill we witnessed a direct attack on our noncitizen elderly population. These individuals clearly should not have been included in the group targeted to return to work. Recognizing this, Congress and the President partially restored some of the benefits unfairly denied this population. However, even with the partial restoration of benefits, many of our elderly noncitizen population are still suffering.

This bill will remedy the unfair result imposed by Congress last year by restoring to a small group of our most vulnerable individuals their food stamps. These individuals are our most needy. We have a duty to assist them in their aging years. This bill eliminates these individuals from a law that clearly should not apply to them.

#### CONGRESS SHOULD DO MORE PROBLEM SOLVING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, frequently I am asked, when I am in my district, if Congress is making any progress in solving the problems that this country faces. I wish I could be more optimistic in my answer, yet I am optimistic about the people in the district and the people in the country, because I think they are beginning to see the problems correctly and they are beginning to sense that we should be doing more to solve the problems.

Truthfully, I cannot give them an optimistic answer about the progress we are making here within the House of Representatives and in the Senate. For instance, yesterday we had a piece of legislation come up rather quickly. It was the FDA legislation. There was no announcement the day before. There was no announcement last week. It came up suddenly, under suspension, with only minutes to prepare.

Actually, I came to the floor hoping that I could at least make a statement, asking for 1 minute, but because it was managed by both majority and minority that supported the bill, there just happened not to be any time available to discuss anything in the FDA legislation.

This legislation involved 177 pages. It was not available to me on the Internet. It is a complex piece of legislation, and something that I think is a very important piece of legislation. I had received numerous pieces of correspondence critical of this legislation and urging caution on its passage. The bill was rushed through rather quickly. There was no vote taken on this and, actually, not one single thing said in a negative manner about this particular legislation.

The pretense of the legislation is to speed up the process, to get drugs approved more quickly, to avoid the bureaucracy of the Food and Drug Administration and, quite frankly, there probably is plenty of bureaucracy over there that slows up the process. But if they are not doing a good job, why would speeding up the process necessarily be helpful?

If they speeded up the process to get drugs out, like Dexfenfluramine, which is a drug now known to cause heart valve disease, I cannot see the purpose of trying to speed up a process that guarantees very little to the consumer. Quite frankly, the Good Housekeeping seal of approval that the FDA puts on it I question. I favor the original Good Housekeeping seal of approval, something done more privately.

But the serious parts of this legislation, which I believe will come back to haunt many in this Congress, and I am predicting they will hear from the constituents and from many groups interested in this issue, in the first way the bill itself internationalized regulations

for the first time. The regulations are to conform with all other nations when possible. I do not see this as a positive step in any way.

Unfortunately, it diminishes the State's role in regulation and in food labeling and it allows more Federal regulation rather than less. This, to me, is not going in the right direction. We talk a lot about reducing the Federal control, but here is a piece of legislation that comes up rather quickly, no debate, no chance to really debate the issue at all and, at the same time, it enhances and empowers the Federal Government over the States and, at the same time, it introduces this notion that some of these regulations may well become internationalized.

In another area that I think we have done a poor job has to do with the budget. If the American people would go by what is said from here, so much optimism, that we are on the verge of having surpluses and we are running around arguing about how to spend the surpluses, I have to take a different side to that argument. I do not see the surpluses.

For instance, this past year they say the national debt is down to \$30 billion, approximately. Well, \$30 billion to a lot of people is still a significant amount of money. So a \$30 billion deficit should not be ignored and, quite frankly, I think it is lower than was anticipated more by accident than by what we have done, especially if we look at the budget resolution, which actually introduced more welfare programs, not less. So the fact that we have a smaller deficit is not too reassuring to me.

If we look at the increase in the national debt, it suggests another story. The national debt has actually gone up nearly \$200 billion in this past year. The national debt went from \$5.22 trillion to \$5.41 trillion. So why the discrepancy? Why is the deficit so small and yet the national debt is increasing rapidly? There is a very specific reason for this. More money is being borrowed from the trust funds, such as Social Security. That is not the solution. That is a problem.

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#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my time out of turn.

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

There was no objection.

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#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. SNYDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Senate had a series of votes which temporarily killed campaign finance reform. I know the general public is confused over what happened over there, but the bottom line is the majority of the Members of the U.S. Senate