

Mr. Speaker, I listened a moment ago as my friend from New York talked about: "dragging it out and messing it up." I can think of no better terminology to describe the bill before us today, because it has been "drug out and messed up."

I heard my friend, the chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, somehow assailing our side of the aisle for wanting to "bend the rules" when the rule that we are debating here today allows all points of order against the bill to be waived. So, they bend the rules for things that they want to protect; but if we are seeking an opportunity to have meaningful amendments, a meaningful alternative, somehow that is trying to "bend the rules."

Certified smart people of good faith could have found a way to have allowed a meaningful debate on this floor. We have a serious bipartisan alternative offered up by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Crane), the gentleman from New York (Mr. Rangel), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Manzullo), people who have a proposal that is paid for, that would not increase the deficit, that would not be all "messed up and drug out." But we are not going to permit that today. We are limiting debate on this proposal to 30 minutes, despite being something that has tied this Congress in knots for months and is a problem that is weighing against small manufacturers across this country.

There are legitimate policy differences. There is a great deal of emotion. There is a great deal of significant policy underlying it. We are not going to have an opportunity to deal with that. There is no good reason to have permitted only 30 minutes of debate on the other side of the aisle.

Maybe they think that is better, because this proposal is moving through this Chamber in a fog of over 700 pages of technical Tax Code and report language that the vast majority of this Chamber has had no access to and certainly has not had a chance to study it even if they had the time. I would suggest that this is a testimony to how far the rhetoric of the majority obscures their action and suggests contempt for people in both parties who disagree with them.