

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS). Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 5 p.m.

□ 1704

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EWING] at 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 889, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCISSIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 889) making emergency supplemental appropriations and rescissions to preserve and enhance the military readiness of the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. OBEY moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 889, be instructed to form a conference agreement that does not add to the national deficit in the current fiscal year and cumulatively through fiscal year 1999.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY].

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 8 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, under ordinary circumstances, I would not be here making this motion that I am making today, because I think that under ordinary circumstances the administration would have every right to request an emergency appropriation for these items and the Congress would have every right to consider them on an emergency basis. In plain language, considering them on an emergency basis means that we would not have to offset the expenditures in this bill, and they could be treated as an emergency and could, therefore, add to the deficit and still be within the rules of the House.

The problem, however, is that while I personally feel that under normal circumstances it would be perfectly appropriate for these items not to be offset, I do not think we are operating under ordinary circumstances. In fact, we have seen this House pass a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, even though the other body has not concurred, and we have seen a great deal of effort expended over the past 60 days on efforts that were described as efforts to "reduce the deficit." But in fact those efforts have not done that.

So I am offering this proposal today in the spirit of truth in advertising. It simply directs the House conferees to produce a conference report that does not add to the deficit, period. Now, we have had two recent examples that illustrate the need for the motion which I am making today.

First of all, when this bill first passed the House, we were told by the committee that even though the bill was not balanced on the outlay side, it was in fact balanced in budget authority and did not add to the deficit.

The problem, however, is that after the bill passed, the committee's own documents which the committee produced showed that the bill added over \$250 million in outlays and \$186 million in budget authority to the deficit, and over 5 years, added to the deficit to the tune of \$650 million. So I think that was misstatement No. 1 on the way to a so-called balanced budget.

Last week on the rescission bill, in order to get the votes for the rescission bill that targeted kids and old folks for major reductions, the Republican leadership said, after first having all of the Republicans vote against the Murtha amendment in committee, the Republican leadership then did an about face and indicated that they would in fact use the dollars produced in that rescission bill last week, the dollars that were not going to be used for the California earthquake relief, that they would use the remainder of those dollars for deficit reduction. But after the rule had passed, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget then was reported to say that the action in indicating that those funds would be used to reduce the deficit was just a game, and that in fact they were going to be allocated to finance the tax cuts, which contain a number of items which many of us on this side of the aisle feel are simply rewards for the wealthy that we cannot afford at a time of multibillion-dollar deficits.

Despite the fact that that money which was indicated would go for deficit reduction for one day, and then was later used for tax cuts, we were still given lectures about deficit reduction. It seems to me what we need to do is to cut through those lectures and get to a real intent to reduce the deficit, or at least certainly not to add to it.

This bill itself was produced out of subcommittee 1 day after the House passed the balanced budget constitu-

tional amendment, and the bill as it left the committee, as I said, added significantly to the deficit, some \$650 million over 5 years.

In contrast to the House bill, the Senate bill, which we will meet when we go to conference, is fully offset. It does not add one dime to the deficit, and in my view, if the other body can produce a bill for conference which does not add one dime to the deficit, the House ought to be able to do the same thing.

Now, this motion makes one concession. It does not even require that all of the amounts be totally offset within the defense function of the budget. It simply says that all of the funds should be offset, period. While I certainly do not approve of using domestic reductions in order to offset Defense Department add-ons, as an indication of conciliatory spirit I am willing to offer a motion that simply says the funds should be fully offset so they do not add one dime to the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, it just seems to me that after the House has, in my view, been misled twice about whether or not funds in legislation before this House would add to the deficit or would reduce the deficit, it seems to me, after the House has been misled twice on it, the House finally needs to make a statement with great clarity that we do not want this process used to in any way add to the deficit.

As I said originally, under ordinary circumstances, absent the great pressure on the deficit and absent the House action in passing the constitutional amendment on the balanced budget, I would not be here insisting that this bill be fully offset, because I think in the real world there are emergencies which require emergency treatment. But the House has indicated that it is going to be in pursuit of deficit reduction, and it seems to me if that is the case, we ought to get on to it, and we certainly should not produce a conference report which will add to the deficit either on the budget authority side or the outlay side. That is the reason I make this motion this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks, and that I might include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the motion to instruct conferees. The gentleman's motion would instruct the conferees to bring back a conference agreement that was offset not only in budget authority, but in outlays as