Gillmor
Gilman
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Greenwood
Gunderson
Gutknecht
Hancock
Hansen
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Heineman
Herger
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoke
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inglis
Istook
Jacobs
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kasich
Kelly
Kennelly
Kim
King
Kingston
Kleczka
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Laughlin
Lazio
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lightfoot
Linder
Livingston
LoBiondo
Longley
Lucas
Manzullo
Martini
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
Metcalf
Meyers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Molinari
Montgomery
Moorhead
Moran
Morella
Myers
Myrick
Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Norwood
Nussle
Oxley
Packard
Parker
Paxon
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Pryce
Quillen
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Riggs
Roberts
Roemer
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rose
Roth
Roukema
Royce
Salmon
Sanford
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer
Schiff
Seastrand
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Shuster
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Stockman
Stump
Talent
Tate
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Torkildsen
Torricelli
Traficant
Upton
Vucanovich
Waldholtz
Walker
Walsh
Wamp
Ward
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Zeliff
Zimmer

NAYS—172

Abercrombie
Andrews
Baesler
Baldacci
Barcia
Barrett (WI)
Becerra
Beilenson
Bentsen
Berman
Bishop
Bonior
Boucher
Browder
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant (TX)
Cardin
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coleman
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Danner
Deal
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dellums
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Durbin
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Filner
Flake
Foglietta
Ford
Frank (MA)
Furse
Gejdenson
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gonzalez
Green
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hefner
Hinchey
Hoekstra
Holden
Hoyer
Jackson-Lee
Jefferson
Johnson (SD)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnston
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Klink
LaFalce
Lantos
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lincoln
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Luther
Maloney
Manton
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy
McDermott
McHale
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Menendez
Mfume
Mineta
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Murtha
Nadler
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Orton
Owens
Pallone
Pastor
Payne (NJ)
Payne (VA)
Peterson (FL)
Pickett
Poshard
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Richardson
Rivers
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanders
Sawyer
Schroeder
Schumer
Scott
Serrano
Sisisky
Skaggs
Slaughter
Stark
Stokes
Studds
Stupak
Tanner
Taylor (MS)
Tejeda
Thompson
Thornton
Thurman
Torres
Towns
Tucker
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Volkmer
Waters
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Williams
Wise
Woolsey
Wyden
Wynn
Yates

NOT VOTING—9

Ackerman
Archer
Chapman
Dickey
Frost
Hilliard
Largent
Miller (CA)
Reynolds

□ 1505

Mr. HOLDEN and Mr. GEJDENSON changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''.

Mr. LAZIO of New York changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

URGING IMMEDIATE ACTION ON H.R. 483

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, on this side we are ready to bring up debate and deal with H.R. 483. I would urge the majority to call it up at the earliest possible moment.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 244, PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I call up the conference report on the Senate bill, S. 244, to further the goals of the Paperwork Reduction Act to have Federal agencies become more responsible and publicly accountable for reducing the burden of Federal paperwork on the public, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Pursuant to the rule, the conference report is considered as read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Monday, April 3, 1995, at page H4093.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. PETERSON] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER].

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to bring to the floor today the conference agreement on the reauthorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act. It is the first reauthorization since the act expired in 1989.

The House version, I would remind my colleagues, of this bill was approved by an overwhelming vote, a unanimous vote, of 418 to nothing. The conference report very closely resembles the excellent provisions which were included in our original bill. There are several provisions which I would just like to discuss for the RECORD.

First, the conference bill reauthorizes the appropriation for the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, so-called OIRA, for 6 years, OIRA is the key office responsible for implementing the provisions of the Contract With America's regulatory reduction goals which are moving through this Congress. OIRA had a permanent authorization which I had hoped the other body would accept. Six years, however, which is what is provided in the conference report, should provide OIRA with a significant authorization to implement the regulatory reforms called for by the Contract With America.

Second, the bill strengthens the requirements of existing law to ensure that agencies develop low-burden, better-quality collections of information that in particular reduce the compliance requirements and paperwork costs for small businesses. This is clearly a very meritorious objective, to take away some of this overwhelming burden that we have imposed on small businesses over the years in the form of regulatory requirements.

Third, it overturns the 1990 Supreme Court case of Dole versus the United Steel Workers of America, which thereby restores the full coverage of the Paperwork Reduction Act over third-party disclosure requirements, which was originally included in this act.

Fourth, Mr. Speaker, and most importantly, the conference bill protects the public by providing citizens with a complete legal defense if agencies refuse to participate in a clearance process involving public notice and comment, public protection, and OIRA review. This provision is based on the very excellent amendment which was offered on the House floor by our colleague, the gentleman from Idaho, Mr. MIKE CRAPO.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the legislation mandates a paperwork reduction goal of 10 percent for the next 2 years, as proposed in the committee amendment offered by our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. JON FOX.

The remainder of the bill was discussed at length during consideration of the House-passed bill on February 22. As I say, those were the only changes that were implemented in this conference report, so I would encourage all Members to support this conference report.

Let me conclude my remarks by expressing my appreciation to those who

helped in drafting this bill and the conference report. In addition to all of my committee members, I particularly appreciate the efforts of the House conferees, the gentleman from New York, JOHN MCHUGH, the gentleman from Indiana, DAVID MCINTOSH, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, JON FOX, the gentlewoman from Kansas, JAN MEYERS, the gentlewoman from Illinois, CARDISS COLLINS, the gentleman from Minnesota, COLLIN PETERSON, and the gentleman from West Virginia, BOB WISE.

I also want to thank the Senate conferees, Senators BILL ROTH, BILL COHEN, THAD COCHRAN, JOHN GLENN, and SAM NUNN; and, finally, express my deep appreciation to the staff of the conferees who worked so tirelessly to produce this much-needed reauthorization of OIRA, the first in 6 years.

Therefore, again, I would just encourage all Members to support enactment of this report, and continue the good work of our predecessors who started the drafting of this legislation back in 1980. It is overdue.

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

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report for S. 244, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This legislation received broad bipartisan support in both houses, and the conference committee has reported a stronger bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 reflects the sentiment that sometimes, Federal agencies ask for too much paperwork from large and small businesses alike. Agency officials, often highly specialized in the programs they administer, require information, surveys, and questionnaires that place a substantial burden on companies while providing benefits that are not always apparent.

The Paperwork Reduction Act sets up a check by reauthorizing the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the Office of Management and Budget to review all information collection requests before they are approved.

It is OIRA's job to approve information requests only if the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility. OIRA must also ensure that the requests have been open for public comment and that legitimate concerns are addressed. These requirements stem from the recognition that information requests are often time consuming and costly to comply with.

The Paperwork Reduction Act also authorizes another important function, that of providing Government information to the public. The bill charges OIRA with overseeing the dissemination of information to the public by agencies, as well as providing central guidance for public access to that information.

It must oversee agency efforts to provide privacy, confidentiality, security, disclosure, and the sharing of Government information. These are very important policies that cannot be left to the whims of individual agencies.

Mr. Speaker, the conferees made substantial improvements to the bill as reported by the House. Let me briefly describe those changes.

First, the House bill had made the Office of Information and Regulatory and Affairs within OMB a permanent office with permanent authorization. That would have given away Congress' ability to regularly review OIRA by not requiring OIRA to justify and defend its operations during reauthorization hearings.

OIRA, because of its pivotal role in the regulatory process, has been at the center of controversy since its inception in 1980. Reauthorization hearings allow Congress to closely examine how this Office is working, whether you believe it has too much influence or not enough control over agency regulations. To give permanent authorization would have resulted in ceding a key congressional function to the executive branch, which I know is something the 104th Congress is fond of doing.

Fortunately, the conference committee recognized the need for regular review of this Office, and agreed to a 6-year authorization.

Second, the conferees dropped a provision in the House bill authorizing the head of OIRA to waive statutory requirements that agencies not charge more than their marginal copying costs for making Government information publicly available.

This world have been a sharp departure from the policy that while agencies are allowed to charge the actual cost of copying Federal records, they cannot subsidize their operating budgets through higher fees.

This would have resulted in far higher costs for public libraries, the public interest community, and the information industry, and therefore the conference committee wisely rejected this change.

In addition, the Senate bill contained two provisions eliminating hundreds of statutorily required reports. The conference committee dropped these provisions.

Mr. Speaker, both houses included a provision requiring workplace safety notifications required by Federal regulatory agencies to be submitted for OMB clearance. This provision, which overturns a Supreme Court decision, leaves workers at the mercy of politicians instead of safety experts. I would have preferred that his new provision be dropped, but because it was included in both bills, it was retained.

I would hope that OMB would use its new authority only with a view toward paperwork, and not as a mechanism to overturn statutory requirements for full disclosure of safety hazards at the workplace.

I would like to commend Chairmen CLINGER and ROTH, Senator GLENN, and all the other conferees for quickly resolving all of these issues and reporting back a bill that all of us can support.

□ 1515

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MARTINI], a very valued freshman member of the committee.

Mr. MARTINI. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, first I would like to compliment the chairman and the other members who worked on this conference report. I rise today to express my support for the Paperwork Reduction Act conference report.

Mr. Speaker, the era of big taxing, big spending, and Big Government is finally over. The taxers, the takers, and Government rulemakers are out of business. Congress is taking steps to reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government.

As a member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, I have worked to get Government off the back of business both large and small.

This act will reduce the paperwork burden that hinders both large and small business across our Nation. By decreasing Government paperwork, we will allow companies to do what they do best, expand their businesses and create jobs.

The Council on Regulatory Information Management has estimated that American businesses spend over 10 billion hours a year meeting Federal paperwork requirements. This is simply unacceptable. By easing paperwork requirements, small businesses will now be able to better compete in the global market and in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, in a recent meeting of business leaders of the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey, my constituents complained of the noose that Washington puts around their necks and their businesses' necks.

Mr. Speaker, they have spoken and we have listened. We made a contract with the American people and I am proud to say that we have stood firm and delivered today. This important legislation is the first step toward returning common sense to Government regulation, and I urge support of the conference report.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. TAUZIN].

Mr. TAUZIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report. We went through a very elaborate debate on this floor regarding regulatory reform. The extraordinary effort this House has made to change the way in which agencies of this Government regulate businesses

and entities and individuals in our society is, I think, historic. I hope, indeed, that before this session gets too much older, we can see a conference report on those regulatory reform bills. They are critical to the future success of this country and to a new relationship between the Government and those people in this country who created it and who expect their Government to start serving them again instead of being their master.

Paperwork reduction is a key component of that. Reauthorizing this act, improving it, strengthening it, giving the OMB additional authorities to cut down on the level of paperwork required in business and industry and small business and by individuals in our society is a key element of regulatory reform. More and more people in small business tell me it's not so much the regulation, it's not so much having to comply, it's the enormous paperwork, the reporting we have to do, not to one agency but to 5, 6, 7, 10 agencies on the same activity.

The load of paperwork, the load of extra, unproductive work done in a small business to comply with regulations just in paperwork is crippling our productivity. This conference report will give us a chance to complete, if you will, that effort in regulatory reform, not only to change the way in which regulations are made in this country but hopefully one day to lower the level of reports and paperwork required of small businesses and individuals in our society.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this conference report.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho [Mr. CRAPO] for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. CRAPO. I thank the gentleman the chairman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin my colloquy, I would like to mirror the comments of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle about the importance of this historic opportunity to bring regulatory reform to the forefront in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I comment the chairman of the committee and Subcommittee Chairman DAVID MCINTOSH and House Small Business Committee Chairwoman JAN MEYERS for bringing this conference report to the floor. I strongly support the conference report and believe it will provide immediate benefits to business across the country.

In that regard, I am particularly pleased that the final version of this legislation contains an amendment offered by myself, and Congressman TOM DELAY and DAVID MCINTOSH, which passed unanimously on the House floor, that expressly provides for the enforcement mechanism implicit in section 3512 as it was originally enacted by Congress in 1980, and, therefore, put teeth in the public protection provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. This should end any confusion which may exist in the courts and Federal agencies about how section 3512 was originally intended to work by codifying existing law.

Mr. Speaker, is it your understanding that the amendments made to section 3512 are intended to clarify that a penalty imposed by a Federal agency based on failure to comply with an information request that does not bear on OMB control number is not enforcable, and had always provided the public with the right to petition the agencies or courts for complete relief at any time during the agency or court review process to eliminate the effects of any penalty.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, let me say that the gentleman is correct. The conference report is intended to clarify that it is the intent of Congress that section 3512 requires agency information collection requests applicable to 10 or more members of the public to be submitted to OMB and receive a valid control number. If not, the public need not respond, no may it be subjected to any penalty for failing to comply with such an unenforceable collection of information.

Mr. CRAPO. I thank the chairman of the committee. If the gentleman would respond to one more question, I would like to ask, is it the chairman's understanding that section 3512 will become effective as of October 1, 1995, and will apply to all cases then pending before the Federal agencies or the courts?

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely correct. As of October 1, 1995, the defense provided in section 3512 is available at any time in an ongoing dispute.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

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

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX], another very valued freshman member of the committee.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 244, the Paperwork Reduction Act. I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER] for his initiative on this issue.

This legislation is long awaited and takes the necessary steps to help Federal agencies reduce their paperwork and better utilize information technology. It sets a goal of 10-percent paperwork burden reduction for fiscal year 1996 and 1997 and a 5-percent goal thereafter. This is an attainable goal.

Passage of this legislation is imperative in keeping our reform goals and serving as active players in the information age. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to give full support to this important bill.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Kansas [Mrs. MEYERS], the chairman of the Committee on Small Business who was a conferee on this measure and made many valuable contributions to the production of this bill and particularly recognizing the burden that we had placed on small business over the years. She has been a real tiger protecting their interests.

(Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of nearly all the small business organizations across the country who have for 6 years supported efforts to enact the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, and on behalf of the Small Business Committee, I want to proclaim hallelujah. There has been a lot of hard work that has gone into this. Everyone can feel proud that the job has been done well.

This is very strong legislation we are sending to the President. It is a good bill. It establishes a solid legislative framework to reduce the burdens of regulatory paperwork on small business and the American public generally.

I want to particularly acknowledge the work of the broad-based Paperwork Reduction Act coalition, a group of some 70 organizations. They were led by the U.S. Chamber, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the National Association of Manufacturers, National Small Business United, Citizens for a Sound Economy, and the Council on Regulatory and Information Management. The coalition was most helpful in ensuring this bill had bipartisan support.

It is worth noting Mr. Speaker, that this legislation benefited from a 418-to-0 vote in the House; a 99-to-0 vote in the Senate. There was not a single vote of opposition. That sends a strong signal from Congress to the executive branch that they want the tools in this act used vigorously to reduce the burdens of regulatory paperwork.

□ 1530

We have in this bill now a 6-year organization that is a target of 10 percent for 2 years, and 5 percent after that of reduction of paperwork; a provision that if paperwork is required, the regular regulation must state how long it must be kept. And I think that is very important because we could save millions in this country. There are people paying for storage of paperwork all over this country that we could probably do without.

The public protection provision of this act has been strengthened, and we have the amendment of the gentleman from Idaho [Mr. CRAPO] to thank for that. The feature of the law is intended to help the public self-police the commonsense management principles contained in the law. If, for example, a recordkeeping requirement does not display an OMB control number, then no one can be penalized for failing to comply if a control number is displayed that shows the agency has checked for

duplication, allowed for public comments, and submitted a justification for OIRA review and approval.

This is particularly important, Mr. Speaker, for small business. Paperwork is difficult for all business. The costs are enormous. The Paperwork Reduction coalition thinks that 10 billion hours and $510 billion are spent every year doing paperwork. It is particularly difficult for small business because they frequently do not have an office manager or other personnel to handle it.

I am very grateful, I am proud to be a conferee on this bill, and I urge strong support of S. 244.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS], another member of our committee, a freshman who is chairman of our District of Columbia Committee who has done valiant work in that area. Even today he has been doing valiant work in that area.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to once again congratulate Chairman CLINGER for shepherding yet another bill through both bodies and being able to send it on to the President for signature.

The House action has really succeeded in this with the following: We are authorizing appropriations for the OIRA for 6 years, we are establishing clear guidance for agencies to follow in developing good quality but low-burden forms, including the need to seek public comment before submitting the form to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for review. We are focusing specific attention to the need for agencies to the extent practicable and appropriate to reduce reporting burdens on small business, including the use of techniques set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act. We have included third-party-disclosure requirements in the definition of collection of information, returning this act to its original intended scope by overturning the Supreme Court Dole versus Steelworkers decision, and it has agencies give added attention to the management of information technology in performing agency missions.

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to congratulate Chairman CLINGER and other Members who made this possible, and I am proud to get up here today and support it.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time. Again I urge my colleagues to support S. 244.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate all who have been so involved in this effort—especially Chairman CLINGER and Ranking Member Congresswoman CARDISS COLLINS.

The Paperwork Reduction Act has been unauthorized since 1989. Some look at that fact as justification for the permanent authorization that was included in the House version of this bill.

I disagree, and offered amendments both in committee and on the floor to limit the period of reauthorization.

Happily, the Conference Committee agreed with me and placed a 6-year sunset on this legislation.

We have made a number of new initiatives in this bill—a new and higher goal on reducing paperwork; specific paperwork reduction goals for each agency; new information dissemination policy; new policy on statistics; and increased responsibility for agencies in incorporating public comment.

The 6 year authorization included in this conference report will allow us to revisit these initiatives to determine their effectiveness.

Frankly Mr. Speaker, there are a number of groups that are not to particularly happy with this bill.

Statisticians feel that the section on statistical policy should be stronger.

Librarians are concerned that the principles of public access to government information could be stated more strongly.

Businesses that specialize in repackaging government information want their access to that information more clearly defined.

For each of these groups and many others, reauthorization will provide the opportunity to make their case again.

It assures a continuing role of and by the public in the legislative process.

Furthermore, as technology improves, this legislation may well become seriously outdated. We cannot predict the impact of the information revolution.

Reauthorization will force us to keep information policy up with technology.

I am pleased that the conference committee agreed to a limited authorization for this bill. The Paperwork Reduction Act is a crucial piece of our public information policy and it is important that we not let it get out of date.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time. I urge a unanimous vote for this very good conference report to reauthorize OIRA for a 6-year period.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently, a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No 299]

YEAS—423

Abercrombie
Allard
Andrews
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baesler
Baker (CA)
Baker (LA)
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Beilenson
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Bevill
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bliley
Blute
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boucher
Brewster
Browder
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brownback
Bryant (TN)
Bryant (TX)
Bunn
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Canady
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Chrysler
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clinger
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Coleman
Collins (GA)
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cooley
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crapo
Cremeans
Cubin
Cunningham
Danner
Davis
de la Garza
Deal
DeFazio
DeLauro
DeLay
Dellums
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Dornan
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Durbin
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Ensign
Eshoo
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Fawell
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Fields (TX)
Filner
Flake
Flanagan
Foglietta
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fowler
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (CT)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frisa
Funderburk
Furse
Gallegly
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Geren
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green
Greenwood
Gunderson
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hancock
Hansen
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hefner
Heineman
Herger
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hoke
Holden
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inglis
Istook
Jackson-Lee
Jacobs
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Johnston
Jones
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kim
King
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaHood
Lantos
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Laughlin
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lightfoot
Lincoln
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Longley
Lowey
Lucas
Luther
Maloney
Manton
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Martini
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McDermott
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Menendez
Metcalf
Meyers
Mfume
Mica
Miller (CA)
Miller (FL)
Mineta
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Molinari
Mollohan
Montgomery
Moorhead
Moran
Morella
Murtha
Myers
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Norwood
Nussle

Oberstar	Sanders	Thomas
Obey	Sanford	Thompson
Olver	Sawyer	Thornberry
Ortiz	Saxton	Thornton
Orton	Scarborough	Thurman
Owens	Schaefer	Tiahrt
Oxley	Schiff	Torkildsen
Packard	Schroeder	Torres
Pallone	Schumer	Torricelli
Parker	Scott	Towns
Pastor	Seastrand	Traficant
Paxon	Sensenbrenner	Tucker
Payne (NJ)	Serrano	Upton
Payne (VA)	Shadegg	Velazquez
Peterson (FL)	Shaw	Vento
Peterson (MN)	Shays	Visclosky
Petri	Shuster	Volkmer
Pombo	Sisisky	Vucanovich
Pomeroy	Skaggs	Waldholtz
Porter	Skeen	Walker
Portman	Skelton	Walsh
Poshard	Slaughter	Wamp
Pryce	Smith (MI)	Ward
Quillen	Smith (NJ)	Waters
Quinn	Smith (TX)	Watt (NC)
Radanovich	Smith (WA)	Watts (OK)
Rahall	Solomon	Waxman
Ramstad	Souder	Weldon (FL)
Reed	Spence	Weldon (PA)
Regula	Spratt	Weller
Richardson	Stark	White
Riggs	Stearns	Whitfield
Rivers	Stenholm	Wicker
Roberts	Stockman	Williams
Roemer	Stokes	Wilson
Rogers	Studds	Wise
Rohrabacher	Stump	Wolf
Ros-Lehtinen	Stupak	Woolsey
Rose	Talent	Wyden
Roth	Tanner	Wynn
Roukema	Tate	Yates
Royce	Tauzin	Young (AK)
Rush	Taylor (MS)	Young (FL)
Sabo	Taylor (NC)	Zeliff
Salmon	Tejeda	Zimmer

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Becerra	Roybal-Allard

NOT VOTING—9

Ackerman	Frost	Pickett
Chapman	Ganske	Rangel
Dickey	Pelosi	Reynolds

□ 1552

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD changed her vote from ''yea'' to ''present.''

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous material, on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 555

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the name of the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 555.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR LANGUAGE CLARIFICATION IN CERTAIN STATUTORY REFERENCES RESULTING FROM CHANGES MADE IN THE REORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the bill (H.R. 1421) to provide that references in the statutes of the United States to any committee or officer of the House of Representatives the name or jurisdiction of which was changed as part of the reorganization of the House of Representatives at the beginning of the 104th Congress shall be treated as referring to the currently applicable committee or officer of the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, will the gentleman from California explain the purpose of the legislation?

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FAZIO of California. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

What this bill does is attempt to conform the statutes that are on the books with the changes that were made at the beginning of the 104th Congress. As we know, there were three committees that were dissolved, there were significant restructurings in terms of jurisdictions, and all this bill does is to treat references to the old structure in public law as referring to the new structure. References to the old committees are to be treated as referring to the new committees.

This is, in essence, a conforming bill. It does not make policy. Indeed, it simply conforms to policy that has already been passed allowing the new committees to reference themselves in the statutes that are already on the books.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides that references in public law to any committee or officer of the House whose name or jurisdiction was changed as a part of the reorganization of the House at the beginning of this Congress, shall be treated as referring to the currently applicable committee or officer.

Mr. Speaker, on the first day of the 104th Congress, the new Republican majority lived up to its commitment to the American people by passing major reforms. Among these reforms was the wholesale restructuring of the committee system, which included elimination of three major committees. Committee jurisdictions were consolidated, and the names of several committees were changed.

The primary purpose of this bill is to treat references to the old structure in public law as referring to the new structure. References to the old committees are to be treated as referring to the new committees.

In the course of restructuring the internal operations of the House, we also eliminated the positions of Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services and the House Doorkeeper. We created the position of Chief Administrative Officer, and we redefined the responsibilities of the Clerk and the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Committee on House Oversight has been charged in House rules with providing policy direction for and oversight of the House officers, and is continuing to direct the restructuring of the internal operations of the House. References in public law to the function, duty, or authority of a House officer are to be treated as referring to the officer exercising that function, duty, or authority, as determined by the Committee.

Mr. Speaker, enactment of this bill will result in no changes in policy, rather it will reflect policy changes already made.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, if there is no further debate, I would certainly concur in the adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS]?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 1421

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REFERENCES IN LAW TO COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES WITH NEW NAMES.—Except as provided in subsection (c), any reference in any provision of law enacted before January 4, 1995, to—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on National Security of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities of the House of Representatives;

(4) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(5) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on International Relations of House of Representatives;

(6) the Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives;

(7) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives;

(8) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives;