

that this bill not include any language regarding removal of Scanwell jurisdiction from the district courts. We would hope and urge our colleagues in the other body not to use legislation reauthorizing the ADR Act for such a purpose.

Mr. CLINGER. I thank the chairman, and I appreciate his intentions on this issue. As he knows, Congress recently made sweeping, extensive reforms to the Federal procurement system and the administrative bid protest forms. These reforms are only now really being implemented, and I am concerned that the system be given full opportunity to absorb the recently enacted changes before there is any further disruption in the system.

Mr. GEKAS. I thank the gentleman for his comments. We too have these concerns and understand the need to review the Scanwell issue before moving forward on further changes. We intend to hold hearings in the future to review whether eliminating bid protest jurisdiction from the Federal district courts is appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2977, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3235) to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Government Ethics for 3 years, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3235

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Office of Government Ethics Authorization Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. GIFT ACCEPTANCE AUTHORITY.

Section 403 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 5) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "Upon the request"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b)(1) The Director is authorized to accept and utilize on behalf of the United States, any gift, donation, bequest, or devise of money, use of facilities, personal property, or services for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Office of Government Ethics.

"(2) No gift may be accepted—

"(A) that attaches conditions inconsistent with applicable laws or regulations; or

"(B) that is conditioned upon or will require the expenditure of appropriated funds that are not available to the Office of Government Ethics.

"(3) The Director shall establish written rules setting forth the criteria to be used in determining whether the acceptance of contributions of money, services, use of facilities, or personal property under this subsection would reflect unfavorably upon the ability of the Office of Government Ethics, or any employee of such Office, to carry out its responsibilities or official duties in a fair and objective manner, or would compromise the integrity or the appearance of the integrity of its programs or any official involved in those programs."

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The text of section 405 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 5) is amended to read as follows: "There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 1997 through 1999."

SEC. 4. REPEAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF DISPLAY REQUIREMENT.—The Act entitled "An Act to provide for the display of the Code of Ethics for Government Service," approved July 3, 1980 (5 U.S.C. 7301 note), is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) FDIA.—Section 12(f)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1822(f)(3)) is amended by striking ", with the concurrence of the Office of Government Ethics,".

(2) ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1978.—(A) The heading for section 401 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 is amended to read as follows: "ESTABLISHMENT; APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR".

(B) Section 408 of such Act is amended by striking "March 31" and inserting "April 30".

SEC. 5. LIMITATION ON POSTEMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS.

Section 207(j) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) POLITICAL PARTIES AND CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES.—(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the restrictions contained in subsections (c), (d), and (e) shall not apply to a communication or appearance made solely on behalf of a candidate in his or her capacity as a candidate, an authorized committee, a national committee, a national Federal campaign committee, a State committee, or a political party.

"(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

"(i) any communication to, or appearance before, the Federal Election Commission by a former officer or employee of the Federal Election Commission; or

"(ii) a communication or appearance made by a person who is subject to the restrictions contained in subsections (c), (d), or (e) if, at the time of the communication or appearance, the person is employed by a person or entity other than—

"(I) a candidate, an authorized committee, a national committee, a national Federal campaign committee, a State committee, or a political party; or

"(II) a person or entity who represents, aids, or advises only persons or entities described in subclause (I).

"(C) For purposes of this paragraph—

"(i) the term 'candidate' means any person who seeks nomination for election, or election, to Federal or State office or who has authorized others to explore on his or her behalf the possibility of seeking nomination

for election, or election, to Federal or State office;

"(ii) the term 'authorized committee' means any political committee designated in writing by a candidate as authorized to receive contributions or make expenditures to promote the nomination for election, or the election, of such candidate, or to explore the possibility of seeking nomination for election, or the election, of such candidate, except that a political committee that receives contributions or makes expenditures to promote more than 1 candidate may not be designated as an authorized committee for purposes of subparagraph (A);

"(iii) the term 'national committee' means the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of such political party at the national level;

"(iv) the term 'national Federal campaign committee' means an organization that, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is established primarily for the purpose of providing assistance, at the national level, to candidates nominated by that party for election to the office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress;

"(v) the term 'State committee' means the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of such political party at the State level;

"(vi) the term 'political party' means an association, committee, or organization that nominates a candidate for election to any Federal or State elected office whose name appears on the election ballot as the candidate of such association, committee, or organization; and

"(vii) the term 'State' means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States."

SEC. 6. PAY LEVEL.

Section 207(c)(2)(A)(ii) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "level V of the Executive Schedule," and inserting "level 5 of the Senior Executive Service,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. CANADY] and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. CANADY].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3235, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1545

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3235, the Office of Government Ethics Authorization Act of 1996, which reauthorizes the Office of Government Ethics for a period of 3 years. The Office of Government Ethics was established in 1979 as the entity within the Office of Personnel Management to administer executive branch policies relating to financial disclosure, employee conduct, and conflict of interest laws.

Congress authorized funding for the Office of Government Ethics in 1983 and 1988. The most recent authorization expired on October 1, 1994. H.R. 3235 reauthorizes the Office of Government Ethics through fiscal year 1999.

The system of ethics in Government enacted by Congress is designed to ensure that executive branch decisions are neither tainted nor appear to be tainted by any questions of conflict of interest on the part of the employees involved in those decisions. The Ethics in Government Act states that the Office of Government Ethics is responsible for providing overall direction of executive branch policies relating to preventing conflicts of interest on the part of officers and employees of any executive branch agency. Over time, the responsibilities of the office have expanded by statute and executive order to include providing interpretive guidance on, and administrative support for a number of additional requirements related to employee conduct. These functions comprise the ethics in government program of the executive branch.

Section 2 of the bill under consideration authorizes the Director of the Office of Government Ethics to accept gifts on behalf of that agency. Federal departments and agencies are not permitted to accept gifts unless they have specific statutory authority to do so. While the Office of Government Ethics currently has no such authority, 19 executive branch agencies and departments do have gift acceptance authority.

In testimony before the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Director Potts stated that the office intends primarily to use its government acceptance authority to support its education and training program in carrying out the office's training mission. The office provides multiagency ethics training sessions for Federal employees at locations both in Washington, DC, and throughout the United States. Often there is no Federal facility available that can provide adequate space and services for such training sessions. The gift acceptance authority contained in H.R. 3235 will allow the Office of Government Ethics to accept donated non-Federal facilities which in the past have been offered by State and local governments.

This gift acceptance authority includes the requirement that the Director promulgate rules establishing criteria governing gift acceptance to ensure the acceptance of any gift will not compromise the integrity of the agency's programs or create unfavorable appearances. It is the intention of the sponsor that these rules will safeguard against even the appearance of a conflict of interest in the acceptance of gifts by the Office of Government Ethics.

The 19 executive branch agencies and departments that have gift acceptance authority are not required currently to prescribe regulations governing the use

of such authority. After the Director promulgate regulations establishing a set of criteria governing gift acceptance, these regulations will serve as a source of model guidance to be used by departments and agencies.

H.R. 3235 also adds a new limitation on post-employment restrictions. This provision will allow campaign related communications by former government officials which are currently prohibited. Currently former Members, staff, and certain executive branch employees are subject to a blanket 1-year prohibition on communications to Members, staff, or the employee's former executive branch agency, where the intent of the communication is to influence the actions that individual's former office. However, those individuals who wish to take a leave of absence or resign from an office to work on a campaign are prohibited from making anything more than ministerial communications with their former office.

The purpose of the existing 1-year cooling-off period is to prohibit an individual from pecuniary gain as a result of past relationships at that individual's former office. However, in the case of a leave of absence or resignation to work on a campaign, the issue is not one of pecuniary gain from past office relationships. Instead, the issue is one of allowing necessary communications integral to any campaign-related employment. Therefore, where the intention of the former employee is to participate in the electoral process subject to the narrow exception established by the protection of this bill, the revolving door restrictions of title 18 will no longer apply.

Finally, section 6 of the bill amends section 207(c) of title 18. This amendment is necessary so that Senior Executive Service level 4 employees will not be subject to the post-employment restrictions of section 207, which was the intention of the 1989 Ethics in Government Act amendments. Section 6 amends the last clause of the definition of "senior" official in section 207(c) by tying the basic rate of pay to a level equal to or greater than that of level 5 of the Senior Executive Service.

Section 207(c) of title 18 was amended in 1989 to define "senior" officials in part as those officials serving in any position for which the basic rate of pay is equal to or greater than that of an employee serving in an Executive level 5 position. In 1989, the definition of "senior" officials encompassed individuals at levels 5 and 6 of the Senior Executive Service.

The change made by section 6 of the bill is necessary because Congress has chosen for purposes unrelated to post-employment restrictions to freeze the rates of pay for positions on the Executive Level Schedule. The rates of pay for positions in the Senior Executive Service are set by the President through executive order. On January 7, 1996, Executive Order 12984 increased the basic rate of pay for a Senior Exec-

utive Service level 4 employee to an amount above that of an Executive Level 5 position. The result of this executive order is the unintended consequence of Senior Executive Service level 4 employees being subject to post-employment restrictions originally intended only for Senior Executive Service level 5 and 6 employees.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on the Judiciary reported H.R. 3235 by voice vote. H.R. 3235 is the product of the combined efforts of the majority and minority in the Judiciary Committee with the significant input of the administration and the Office of Government Ethics. I would particularly like to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK], the ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, for his work on this legislation.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself less time than anyone else has taken today to express my appreciation for the gentleman's kind remarks, my agreement with the substance.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this legislation is to provide the reauthorization of the Office of Government Ethics and its activities. This extension and authorization would be for 3 years.

The Office of Government Ethics serves a useful function in assisting executive branch officials and employees to assure that they conduct their affairs in an atmosphere free of questions of improper influences on the decisionmaking process.

At a time when the activities of executive branch officials and employees are the subject of a number of inquiries, the Office of Government Ethics must be aggressive in ensuring that the highest standards of ethical conduct are followed by those the office is designed to serve.

The Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, which I chair, also has jurisdiction over this office. We will work with Mr. CANADY's subcommittee to monitor the Office of Government Ethics' effectiveness in the performance of its mandate.

This legislation has bipartisan support. It deserves that support. I congratulate Chairman HYDE and Chairman CANADY on their work to bring this matter to a vote.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. CANADY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3235.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DISPOSE OF REMAINING COMMODITIES IN DISASTER RESERVE

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 181) expressing the Sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under the Agricultural Act of 1970 to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by the prolonged drought conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 181

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That, in light of the prolonged drought and other adverse weather conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture should promptly dispose of all commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under section 813 of the Agricultural Act of 1970 (7 U.S.C. 1427a) to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by the disaster conditions, such as prolonged drought or flooding.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT] and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM] each will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT].

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this concurrent resolution expresses a sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in the disaster reserve. At the present time, the Commodity Credit Corporation is holding approximately 45 million bushels of feed grains, primarily corn, barley, and sorghum. Release of this grain should help relieve the distress to livestock producers who are adversely affected by the prolonged drought conditions which are existing in certain areas of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this House concurrent resolution calling for the release of Government-owned feed grain is very important for several reasons. First, the drought is causing many areas of our country their worst natural disaster of this century. Dry areas include Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, in particular. In some of those areas, it is now being compared to the 1930s dust bowl. Farmers who own livestock are being severely hit with the drought conditions, especially when coupled with the low point in the cattle cycle and record high grain prices.

The grain in this disaster reserve, nearly 45 million bushels, as I said, is worth approximately \$200 million and would provide for all the cattle on feed in these affected States enough feed to feed them for perhaps a little over 2 weeks.

Passage of House Concurrent Resolution 181 not only makes sense, it saves money. The Federal Government is currently spending approximately \$10 million a year to store this grain.

In my opinion, the Government should not be paying huge storage fees and holding grain from the marketplace when this country is experiencing record low grain supplies.

This is an important concurrent resolution. I thank the leadership for providing its swift consideration. The release of this grain across the country should provide some temporary relief for our Nation's livestock sector.

Support for the resolution shows that this Congress is aware of the severe disaster taking place in drought regions across this country and of course we are willing to use what resources we have to make the situation just a little bit better.

I urge the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 181.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 181, which has been introduced by my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee, Mr. BARRETT and Mr. EMERSON. I applaud the actions of my colleagues in this effort and am pleased to join them in bringing the bill to the House floor this afternoon.

I would also like to note that the Clinton administration has been working on a similar effort to make Government-owned feed grain stocks available to hard-pressed livestock producers. I'm certain that Secretary Glickman will welcome the support shown by this concurrent resolution to continue this process.

There is no doubt that there is a need to alleviate the stress facing producers in many parts of this country due to the severe drought in the southern Plains and flooding and excessive rainfall in the northern Plains and eastern corn belt. These natural disasters come at a time when grain stocks are at their lowest levels in decades causing record market prices and cattle producers are receiving even less for their animals than during the Great Depression based on inflation-adjusted dollars.

The release of this grain would be in addition to the actions already taken by the Clinton administration to help alleviate the stress in the livestock and crop sectors. These actions include release of conservation reserve program acres for haying and grazing, extension of noninsured crop disaster assistance program coverage, extension of the livestock feed program, the release of additional funds for emergency loans, advance purchases of beef for the school lunch program, and export credit guarantees for meat.

In my own State of Texas we are facing devastation in the livestock and crop sectors in the range of \$6.5 billion

and the summer has just begun. Sixty-two percent of the rangeland in Texas is rated as being in poor to very poor condition and producers are facing \$374 million in added feed costs for beef cows alone due to the deterioration of range and pasture lands. Dairy producers in Texas are facing a possible doubling of their normal feed costs due to the increases in the cost of feed and hay they depend on for daily milk production.

Similar statistics are available from other States: State agricultural officials in Oklahoma have indicated the possibility of 5,000 to 10,000 producers going out of business in that State. Kansas is facing their worst wheat crop since the Depression with the 180 million bushel harvest—less than half the normal.

There is no opposition to the bill that I am aware of and this should have very little effect on the normal movement of grain because it will probably be distributed directly to producers outside the normal channels of grain merchandising.

I would encourage my colleagues to support this resolution. The livestock sector in our country contributes billions of dollars to our economy and if we do not take actions to help stem the liquidation of herds now, we will pay the price later for rebuilding that infrastructure.

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

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM].

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I join in support of this resolution. It is true that we have had a lot of droughts, a lot of floods, especially in my State of California, where agriculture is the No. 1 commodity. But I just this weekend spoke to a group of poultry producers, and they also say a large reason for the increase in cost and shortage of grain is that we have given so much grain overseas, in some cases sold it below the price, that our people are now having to pay expensive prices here in the United States.

For example, the price of chickens is going to go up 50 percent because of the cost of the grain. I would urge the producers of this resolution and the committee to take a close look before we sell grain overseas or give it away that affects our producers here in this country that we need to take a second look at it. I rise in strong support, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, New Mexico is the driest that it has been in 101 years. People in the West need help from a severe drought that has devastated New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, and southern California.

I rise in strong support of this legislation which will offer some relief for ranchers who do not have feed for their cattle.

The dry conditions mean no pasture, no hay, and a limited amount of grain.

The shortage of grain on a worldwide basis has heightened the already disastrous situation for ranchers affected by the drought. Because of a lack of grain, producers in my district are being forced to sit back and watch their cattle starve.

This legislation will allow the USDA to release 46 million bushels of feed grain that is being held in reserves.

Although this resolution is not amendable I would like to urge the USDA to make this grain available directly to the ranchers in the drought affected States who are in need.

New Mexico ranchers need this relief now. Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 181, which directs the Department of Agriculture to release the national grain reserve. This action is necessary because of the severe drought conditions being experienced in the Plains and Southwest portions of this country.

Severe drought conditions have stunted the growing season for Texas cotton, wheat, and grain farmers. Soil erosion is becoming a critical issue as the dry season is beginning and summer winds will literally scour fields clean of nutrient rich topsoil.

Texas cattle producers are also being devastated by the drought because it requires them to buy more feed at a time when prices are extraordinarily high. Livestock producers in general are suffering tremendous losses because the natural forage withered due to lack of measurable rainfall.

This resolution allows the release of the reserve only if the President declares a natural disaster in the region, which President Clinton has done, or if we pass this concurrent resolution declaring that such reserves should be released.

Without immediate assistance, ranchers will continue to cull their herds, which will result in higher beef prices for consumers once the supply is exhausted. Mr. Speaker, this is not simply a rural issue. If prices of feed grain and beef are allowed to fluctuate wildly, all of us will feel the impact at the supermarket. We need stable food prices, and this resolution can help achieve that goal. I urge the Department of Agriculture to release this reserve directly to the cattle producers and not through the Commodity Credit Corporation to speed the aid directly to where it is needed.

Banks should also be allowed to extend nonperforming loans without increasing reserves. Allowing banks the flexibility to assist farmers will ensure my State's farmers can survive through this drought.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 181, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the

Sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under the Agricultural Act of 1970 to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by disaster conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, such as prolonged drought or flooding."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 181.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska? There was no objection.

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY CAUSED BY LAPSE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-225)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency declared by Executive Order No. 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 4, 1996.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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 addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

DISCUSSION OF 1997 BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I wish I could say it was a pleasure to be here today, but I intend to discuss the 1997 budget today.

Mr. Speaker, you may recall that I analyzed the 1996 budget activity in the context of an extended debate that took place on this floor, and in the other body, and you may recall, Mr. Speaker, that I invoked Members from the other body, like Mr. HOLLINGS and Mr. DORGAN, covering the full range of opinions certainly in the Democratic Party. I indicated in that discussion that I had in conjunction with the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in 1996 that there was no such thing as a balanced budget being prepared, let alone put forward in 1996, and we have the same situation today.

Mr. Speaker, I do not doubt that it is very important for Mr. DOLE to resign from the Senate to run as citizen and/or candidate DOLE, because I do not think that in his role as Senator, let alone majority leader, that he would have the opportunity to have much credibility in the way of putting forward a balanced budget amendment, let alone putting forward a balanced budget for 1997.

My fundamental point, Mr. Speaker, is that the budget that will be presented to us shortly, possibly this week, and be dispatched as quickly as possible, as opposed to 1996, dispatched as quickly as possible because it is not a balanced budget.

Now, my good friend, my good and dear friend I would say, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH], will come down, and he is an engaging individual. When I state my affection and friendship for him, Mr. Speaker, you know that it is a feeling that is genuine on my part. I value his friendship and I have genuine affection for him as an individual, but he has an impossible task. I grant he is probably the best one to try to put it forward.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, he is an avuncular person, even as yourself, and he will come down on the floor, and with his engaging smile and his wit and rhetoric, we will put the best possible face on the fact that this is not a balanced budget document. It is not balanced for 1997, it most certainly is not going to be balanced for the year 2002.

The reason I am taking the special order time, Mr. Speaker, with the budget, is that given the rules of the House it is virtually impossible to have any kind of lengthy discussion that