what I think is a major improvement in the bill that had previously passed on the House side. The Senate has taken a good idea and made it surprisingly and pleasingly better than we started with.

There is one reservation that I have about the way we are doing this. I wanted to express that without objecting to the unanimous-consent request. That is, the disappointment that I am sure that all of our Members will feel at not having had the opportunity, because of this process, to vote unanimously in support of this resolution, to send another resounding signal to all Americans that this kind of conduct, church burnings, is not to be tolerated in our country, and this process is depriving us of having the opportunity to be able to cast a recorded vote.

But I understand the reason why. The reason is that these two gentlemen, the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], and the ranking member, understand that this is important to get this legislation passed and to the President immediately, and we are about to go home for a break, and we need to move this legislation along.

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself entirely with the remarks of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT] and let him know that my sentiments are his.

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I agree with both gentlemen. It would be desirable, but we do have other considerations. I think the expedition with which we pass this sends that same message. It was a unanimous vote in both Chambers, and that speaks loudly, as well as the fact that we are here today to get it passed.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1972

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 1972.

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

There was no objection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY ACT OF 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to call up the bill (H.R. 3663) to amend the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act to permit the Council of the District of Columbia to authorize the issuance of revenue bonds with respect to water and sewer facilities, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3663

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 ''District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority Act of 1996''.

SEC. 2. PERMITTING ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of section 490(a)(1) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (sec. 47–334(a)(1), D.C. Code) is amended—

(A) by striking ''and industrial'' and inserting ''industrial''; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', and water and sewer facilities (as defined in paragraph (5)).''.

(2) WATER AND SEWER FACILITIES DEFINED.—Section 490(a) of such Act (sec. 47–334(a), D.C. Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) In paragraph (1), the term 'water and sewer facilities' means facilities for the obtaining, treatment, storage, and distribution of water, the collection, storage, treatment, and transportation of wastewater, storm drainage, and the disposal of liquids and solids resulting from treatment.''.

(b) USE OF REVENUES TO MAKE PAYMENTS ON BONDS.—The second sentence of section 490(a)(3) of such Act (sec. 47–334(a)(3), D.C. Code) is amended by inserting after ''property'' each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B) the following: ''(including water and sewer enterprise fund revenues, assets, or other property in the case of bonds, notes, or obligations issued with respect to water and sewer facilities)''.

(c) PERMITTING DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE REVENUE BONDS TO WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 490 of such Act (sec. 47–334, D.C. Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h)(1) The Council may delegate to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority established pursuant to the Water and Sewer Authority Establishment and Department of Public Works Reorganization Act of 1996 the authority of the Council under subsection (a) to issue revenue bonds, notes, and other obligations to borrow money to finance or assist in the financing or refinancing of undertakings in the area of utilities facilities, pollution control facilities, and water and sewer facilities (as defined in subsection (a)(5)). The Authority may exercise authority delegated to it by the Council as described in the first sentence of this paragraph (whether such delegation is made before or after the date of the enactment of this subsection) only in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) Revenue bonds, notes, and other obligations issued by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority under a delegation of authority described in paragraph (1) shall be issued by resolution of the Authority, and any such resolution shall not be considered to be an act of the Council.

''(3) The provisions of subsections (a) through (e) shall apply with respect to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, the General Manager of the Authority, and to revenue bonds, notes, and other obligations issued by the Authority under a delegation of authority described in paragraph (1) in the same manner as such provisions apply with respect to the Council, to the Mayor, and to revenue bonds, notes, and other obligations issued by the Council under subsection (a)(1) (without regard to whether or not the Council has authorized the application of such provisions to the Authority or the General Manager).

''(4) The fourth sentence of section 446 shall not apply to—

''(A) any amount (including the amount of any accrued interest or premium) obligated or expended from the proceeds of the sale of any revenue bond, note, or other obligation issued pursuant to this subsection;

''(B) any amount obligated or expended for the payment of the principal of, interest on, or any premium for any revenue bond, note, or other obligation issued pursuant to this subsection;

''(C) any amount obligated or expended to secure any revenue bond, note, or other obligation issued pursuant to this subsection; or

''(D) any amount obligated or expended for repair, maintenance, and capital improvements to facilities financed pursuant to this subsection.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The fourth sentence of section 446 of such Act (sec. 47–304, D.C. Code) is amended by striking ''(f) and (g)(3)'' and inserting ''(f), (g)(3), and (h)(4)''.

SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF REVENUES AND OBLIGATIONS.

(a) EXCLUSION OF REVENUES FOR PURPOSES OF CAP ON AGGREGATE DISTRICT DEBT.—Paragraphs (1) and (3)(A) of section 603(b) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (sec. 47–313(b), D.C. Code) are each amended by inserting after ''revenue bonds,'' the following: ''any revenues, charges, or fees dedicated for the purposes of water and sewer facilities described in section 490(a) (including fees or revenues directed to servicing or securing revenue bonds issued for such purposes),''.

(b) EXCLUSION OF OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO DEBT SERVICING PAYMENTS ON CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 603(b)(2) of such Act (sec. 47–313(b)(2), D.C. Code) is amended—

(A) by striking ''and obligations'' and inserting ''obligations''; and

(B) by inserting after ''establishment,'' the following: '', and obligations incurred pursuant to general obligation bonds of the District of Columbia issued prior to October 1, 1996, for the financing of Department of Public Works, Water and Sewer Utility Administration capital projects,''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 603(b)(3)(B) of such Act (sec. 47–313(b)(3)(B), D.C. Code) is amended by inserting after ''bonds'' the following: ''(less the allocable portion of principal and interest to be paid during the year on general obligation bonds of the District of Columbia issued prior to October 1, 1996, for the financing of Department of Public Works, Water and Sewer Utility Administration capital projects)''.