was, just as they were dipping into the Social Security Fund, just as they were dipping into the Highway Trust Fund. This is now about redeeming that fund and saying let us go back, not by raising taxes, but by recapturing that money that comes in year after year from offshore oil and use a portion of it to protect and conserve America's resources.

That is why we have this kind of list of sponsors and cosponsors. Thousands of organizations from all across the country who support this legislation. Some will call them special interests, but if we read the list we will see our governors, our mayors. We will see our next door neighbors. We will see the soccer moms of the Soccer Federation. We will see the Pop Warner coaches and the people who play Pop Warner Football. We will see the Campfire Girls and the Boy Scouts; people who go out and recreate, who understand the pressure of the resources are under in this Nation.

This is about our communities. This legislation is about building an environmental infrastructure so people can enjoy a quality of life as our country continues to grow, the pressures of suburbia, the pressures of new housing developments, the pressure of new growth and formation of families so that they can have bike trails and hiking trails, so they can explore the water fronts in our bays and rivers and on the oceans of this country.

We know the backlog. We know the lost opportunities. This is about making sure that we do not lose those opportunities in the future.

But we also make very sure that local communities are involved in these decisions, because they will have to match the money that is put up. And we also make very sure that we as elected representatives are involved in this decision, because this is designed so we do not have land acquisitions put in bills in the middle of the night that we do not know anything about and then just are sprung on the public. Because of the insistence of the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and others, there is notifications in here. There is a recommitment recognizing what a taking meanings and the implications of that and that they have to have the approval of the Congress. They cannot do those things that are not authorized by the Congress of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this is a balanced bill. It is an important bill. I think we have to understand that this is about making the Federal Government a better partner, and a reliable partner. We were supposed to be funding land and water conservation all of these years for our local communities. They have lost out on hundreds of millions and billions of dollars because one day we just stopped funding it, and took the money and did something else with it. That is not the promise we made to the people of this country.

So I would hope as we listen to the debate, we will have many amendments that my colleagues will understand the kind of legislation that CARA represents, its bipartisan nature. It has the support of 50 governors, the support of local government that we say we want involved in these organizations, and then thousands of citizen organizations that every year put up their own money and put up their own effort to clean up the beaches, to clean up the rivers, to build trails, to build ball fields, to provide recreational opportunity. This is to help them continue to do that.

That is why the Police Athletic League supports it. That is why the Boys Clubs and Girls Clubs, the sporting goods manufacturers, many other business organizations support this effort. They recognize this is about our communities. This is about the quality of life for our families, so we will have a place to take our son or daughter fishing, so we have a place to take our son or daughter hunting, so those places will be preserved and also the habitat will be preserved so that we can continue to do that in perpetuity.

Mr. Speaker, that is why organizations like BASS, the biggest organization of bass fishermen throughout this country, supports this effort, or Ducks Unlimited, because they know what it means if we can restore habitat, if we can provide good waterways, if we can provide refuges, that is the kind of organizations that are here surrounding this bill.

I would hope that all of our Members, all 316 people and more who are cosponsoring this bill, would recognize the kind of commitment. Because we know from data taken from polling of the American people, some 80 percent, over 80 percent of the people believe that America should be making these long-term investments in our physical heritage in the great environmental assets of this Nation.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this fair and balanced rule, which will ensure full debate on this bill. There was quite a bit of Member interest in this particular piece of legislation and the Rules Committee worked hard to ensure that Members had ample opportunity to debate a wide range of issues and offer amendments. The rule strikes a fair balance and I encourage its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 701, the ''CARA'' bill, provides dedicated funding for coastal impact assistance, land acquisition needs, wildlife conservation, urban parks, historic preservation and endangered species, all without providing incentives for future offshore oil drilling. H.R. 701 is one of the most significant conservation bills to come out of Congress in decades—and it represents the continued commitment of the current majority in Congress to responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, while I look forward to the amendment process, I do want to speak very quickly about an amendment offered by my friend, Chairman REGULA. This amendment would prohibit funds in the bill from going to States that have moratoria on outer continental shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing.

For the last decade and a half, the Florida delegation has worked diligently and successfully to include annually in the Interior appropriations bill a moratorium on further oil and gas leases off the Florida coast. Just about everybody in Florida remains concerned about the effects of oil drilling on our sensitive marine environment. While the annual moratorium provides a stop-gap solution to this issue, it is far from ideal and actually shortchanges all parties involved. In fact, every Member of the Florida delegation has cosponsored bipartisan legislation introduced to impose a permanent policy for Florida offshore oil drilling. H.R. 33 would call for a ''time-out'' period, during which a joint State-Federal commission of scientists and other interested parties would work to craft a non-political, science-based decision as to which areas are appropriate for oil drilling under what conditions off the Florida coast.

Even with the support of the entire Florida delegation, civic and business groups across Florida, and current Governor Jeb Bush and his predecessor, Governor Lawton, Chiles, we have been unable to get more than a few hearings on H.R. 33 in the Resources Committee. So, we are forced to continue advocating the stop-gap annual moratorium. Florida seeks merely to be a wise steward of its natural resoruces, ensuring that any activity off our coast does not adversely affect our unique environment.

Chairman REGULA's amendment would deny Florida funding under this bill because of that moratorium. I do agree with the basic premise of his argument—the moratorium which he carries for us each year on the Interior bill is not the best solution to this issue. But I do not believe that the solution is to lift the ban and move forward on oil activity off the Florida coast absent the kind of science based approach outlined in H.R. 33. Nor do I believe Florida should be punished for trying to be a good steward of its resources. That is counter initiative and counter productive. So I would encourage Mr. REGULA to join us in support of H.R. 33. Indeed, I might even go so far as to suggest that my good friend could solve this issue once and for all by attaching H.R. 33 as a rider to the Interior appropriations bill—as a replacement for a moratorium he and I both find unsatisfactory. I look forward to the debate on the Regula amendment later today. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support both the rule and H.R. 701, but not the Regula amendment.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

ALLOCATION OF GENERAL DEBATE TIME DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 701, CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 1999, IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TODAY

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alaska may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, may I ask if the Chair designates the time that is split up, or do I have to ask for that?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain that request at this point.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during the consideration of bill, H.R. 701, pursuant to House Resolution 497, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) be allowed to control 20 minutes of my time for the general debate in the Committee of the Whole, with the understanding that I get the remaining part of my time.

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

There was no objection.

CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 497 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 701.

□ 1645

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 701) to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people, and for other purposes, with Mr. GILLMOR in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

The gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) will control 25 minutes, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) will control 20 minutes, and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) will control 45 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 2000 is an historic bill which comes to this floor today, as the result of the efforts of a number of my colleagues on the Committee on Resources. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), MY RANKING MEMBER, FOR HIS SUPPORT AND COOPERATION IN ACHIEVING A WORKABLE COMPROMISE BILL TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS THAT WE BOTH SHARE: CONSERVATION OF OUR WILDLIFE AND OUR RESOURCES FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN. THE GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA (MR. GEORGE MILLER) and I have not often shared the same view on issues before our committee, but on this issue we stand together to make this investment in our Nation's future.

I especially want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) for his untiring work to keep the Members talking to each other and pushing forward to bring this bill to the floor today. The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) has passionately spoken on behalf of his State and district to share his concern that our Nation recognize the contribution made by coastal Louisiana to our national energy security and to the extraordinary economic growth and prosperity that we enjoy today.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHN), our newer Member, for his work to achieve a bipartisan effort on behalf of his constituency in Louisiana. Every meeting we had with the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and all the other Members, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHN) was there. He was there constantly with cooperation and sound advice.

I, again, want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), my old friend and dear colleague. There have been many battles over many, many years. Without his wise guidance and strong leadership, this bill would not have happened. There is no other Member of the House who, over the many years, demonstrated as much dedication and commitment to conservation as the gentleman from Michigan (JOHN DINGELL). He will leave a lasting legacy to our Nation of support for wildlife opportunities and recreation.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO). Although the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) may not support our bill today, he nevertheless has been helpful to maintain a thoughtful and courteous dialogue among those of us who wish to achieve our goals in a different manner. He also attended all the conferences we had together and contributed to each one.

He has been a valiant and constant supporter of the rights of private property owners, and I appreciate the zeal and determination he brings to that role. He and I share the same goals when it comes to protecting the rights of our property owners. They are America's foundation. I happen to agree with the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) that our Federal Government needs to do more to show them the respect they deserve, and I believe that CARA moves in that direction. I believe CARA actually addresses the property rights problems and also addresses the purchase of lands.

I believe that CARA achieves both conservation of our resources and, remember, I keep insisting on conservation, the word ''conservation,'' not ''preservation,'' and insures the protection of the rights of our private property owners. I would not support a bill that did not protect the rights of private property owners.

Now, what does CARA achieve? First, it provides the stable and lasting source of funding to achieve the conservation of our natural resources. Our coastal States are our first line of defense in protecting our environment.

They are impacted by many important economic activities in our coastal waters that benefit all of us, including the production of oil and gas for our energy and security. There are many other impacts as well, including shipping, fisheries, and recreation. They are on the receiving end of much of our polluted waters flowing from inland States. They have to deal with these problems and deserve our support.

As our American population grows and our economy improves, we have greater needs for recreational opportunities and for opportunities to enjoy the beauty of our country. This bill provides funds for Federal land acquisition, yes, but, quite frankly, ensures a greater role for Congress in that process and provides greater protections for property rights.

In the future, Congress can ensure that our Federal policies are fairer and provide more opportunities for those areas of the country which need and want additional Federal land acquisition.

As a Republican, I believe the States should have a greater say in providing recreational and conservation opportunities for our citizens. This bill sends back to our States funds for ensuring that the States can provide these opportunities. We should get our government back as close as possible to the people so that they have a direct voice in how these types of decisions are made. Let local folks decide what to do with these conservation dollars, not inside-the-Beltway bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

This bill provides direct funding for wildlife conservation. It ensures that the funds are spent on projects that directly benefit wildlife. I, for one, am concerned that too much of our wildlife conservation dollars get spent on administration, bureaucracy, and not directly on wildlife, and this bill will ensure that the money be spent on wildlife.

CARA will greatly increase funds for urban parks and recreation. At a time when crime and education are the top concerns for urban areas, this bill can help fight crime and keep our kids in school by providing more supervised recreation for urban kids.

Increasingly as our economy grows, we are losing our history. It is important to remember and honor our past.