The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. 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. 4577, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4425, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4425) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES OFFERED BY MR. OLVER

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct the conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. OLVER moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 4425, be instructed to disagree with the Senate amendment and provide funding for National Missile Defense Initial Deployment Facilities at a level equal to the lower level as provided in the House passed bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a simple motion. It should not be controversial. These United States are on the verge of embarking on what could be a $60 billion National Missile Defense program. This House included more than adequate funding to start the early lead construction items of the National Missile Defense as it is now conceived. The other Chamber has funded this item at a substantially and unnecessarily higher level.

This motion instructs the conferees to insist on the more prudent level of spending in the House bill; 367 Members of the House supported this level of spending when we passed the bill several weeks ago, and it is important that we maintain our position.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to the amendment of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) and would urge its adoption.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

For consideration of the House bill, and Division A of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. HOBSON, PORTER, TIAHRT, WALSH, MILLER of Florida, ADERHOLT, Ms. GRANGER, and Messrs. GOODE, YOUNG of Florida, OLVER, EDWARDS, FARR of California, BOYD, DICKS, and OBEY;

For consideration of the Division B of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. YOUNG of Florida, REGULA, LEWIS of California, ROGERS, SKEEN, CALLAHAN, OBEY, MURTHA, and Ms. PELOSI and Ms. KAPTUR.

There was no objection.

□ 2340

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INDIA IN NEED OF THIS COUNTRY'S ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I take the well at this very late hour because I want to talk about an issue that is, I think, vitally important not only to this country but to the stability of peace in the world community.

I had the occasion to take a trip with my wife and several others to Pakistan in India, and to Kashmir about a month, or month and a half ago, and it indeed was one of the more interesting things I have done in my 28 years of political life. I came away more convinced than ever that the United States has a proactive role to play in helping with the challenges that are faced in South Asia.

I think everyone now is aware that South Asia is a nuclear flash point; that the Indian Government and the Pakistanis have fought now three times since partition in 1947 from the British, and as a result of those wars, the recent skirmish in addition to that in the Kargil region, which claimed a thousand lives this past summer, it is a very dangerous place, with both countries now having the nuclear capability to destroy each other and inflict incredible destruction on not only that region of the world but the planet in general. So it seems to me that we need as a Nation and as a world community to focus our attention more and more on bringing peace and stability to the people of Kashmir. It is clearly in their interest.

The people of Kashmir have suffered through 50 years of broken promises. If we recall our history, the United Nations called for a plebiscite on self-determination in Kashmir in 1948, but of course that has never been carried out, and this legacy of neglect has fostered distrust, it has fostered hopelessness among many in Kashmir, especially the Muslim majority, which has spawned a cycle of protest and of violence and of repression.

As many as up to 70,000 Kashmiris in the last decade have died as a result of this war that is going on in their country. It is an incredibly beautiful place. Lush green valleys, enormously pristine sparkling lakes surrounded by the Himalayas' snow-capped mountains. Its beauty is only contrasted by the pain and the suffering of indeed this brutal repression and war that is raging now that, as I have said, has claimed as many, some say up to 70,000 lives. A staggering total.

Indian security forces number in the neighborhood of somewhere between 500,000 and 700,000 troops in the States of Kashmir and Jammu, and they wage, along with the militants who are crossing the border and fighting in this region, a day-to-day campaign of terror and repression. And the Kashmiri people are caught in the middle. The human rights abuses are every bit as outrageous and repugnant as they have been in the Balkans as we have seen recently. The number of rapes and torture and all the things that go along with this type of international catastrophe is present in Kashmir.

Independent human rights' groups report on these rapes and these tortures. Often they are not allowed into Kashmir. Amnesty International is not, and

other human rights' organizations have had a difficult time getting in and verifying some of these atrocities. Common disappearances occur all the time. People lose their loved ones.

When we were up in Srinagar, which is the summer capital in Kashmir, we could just see the besieged nature of this once incredibly crystal beautiful land. The look of weariness and longing and hunger on the faces of the people beg for a solution and a way out of this quagmire of violence that they find themselves in.

And their most precious resource, their children, the Kashmiri children, are being driven away by this violence. When the young people are old enough to go, they go. So whole families are being broken up as a result of this.

Tourism, which could be as profitable and as abundant and as prosperous as anyplace in the world because of this incredible beauty is almost nonexistent. It is in ruins. We need to do something about this as a country.

When the young people in Kashmir start to immolate themselves, burn themselves alive, because of the hopelessness that they feel; that there is no way out of this, it speaks clearly and loudly to just what has happened and how far they have come on the road to despair.

Violent acts, such as the massacre of dozens of Sikh villagers in Kashmir during the President's visit to India have shown that the killings will continue unabated unless something is done to stop it.

Now, I would like to just briefly, in the short time that I have here before we adjourn, touch upon the significance of doing this for Pakistan, for India, and for the United States. For Pakistan, the meaning of the conflict in Kashmir goes really to the heart and the soul of people in Kashmir. The people of Pakistan feel a deep sense of kinship with their brethren in Kashmir. Muslim countries. Muslim areas both.

The crisis in Kashmir has drained Pakistan of its resources, leaving unmet needs for efforts to alleviate their poverty, their illiteracy, their health care needs, their infrastructure needs. I was told, and I do not know how completely accurate this is, but I have a sense that it is close to accurate, that of the budget in Pakistan, where they have roughly 130 million people, 60 percent of their budget goes to just servicing their debt. Imagine that, 60 cents on the dollar going to service the debt. Thirty percent goes to the military, nuclear development and their military establishment, and only 10 percent of their meager budget goes to dealing with the problems of illiteracy, health care, infrastructure, and all the things a civilized society would want to invest in.

With Indian troops and a nuclear capability amassed on one border, and with the Taliban ever present and presenting a threat on the other in Afghanistan, Pakistan has devoted much of its income to the military, and, as I say, to the development of nuclear weapons.

□ 2350

Stopping the incursions of militants into Kashmir is in the interest of the leaders of Pakistan so they can focus in on their internal concerns.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). As there is no speaker for the majority on his designated time, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, so unless confidence is restored with the Indian Government, a lasting peace will never occur.

I had the chance when I was there to meet with the Pakistani leaders. I met with General Musharraf, who is the chief executive of Pakistan, the head of state. I came to that meeting prepared to meet a military man who engaged in a coup and was not quite sure what to expect.

In my discussions with people in Pakistan, in my discussions with him in the meeting I had with him, I came away with the understanding that he wants to break the cycle of corruption and impotence on the people of the party politically, he wants to do something to change the internal dynamics of his country, and he wants to do it in a transition way that can lead to the reestablish of democracy in his country.

There are some signals and some signs that he is doing some things that will move in that direction. While I was there, they had the first human rights conference that they ever have had in Pakistan. And they dealt with the question of honor killings, which had been ignored for a very long time, where male members and heads of families would kill and beat and torture their wives if they suspected infidelity or thought perhaps it might even have occurred. This he has taken on strongly and has enforced since that conference.

He has taken on the question of child labor and moving in the direction of making sure that children are not abused at the work site and are provided an opportunity for an education.

In the area of empowering people, for the first time they are redoing all the roles of government in Pakistan, the voter roles. They have allowed the 18-year-olds to vote. And in November of this year, there will be under these new regimes of empowerment local elections throughout the country. And, of course, the supreme court recently ruled in Pakistan that there would be national elections within a 2½-year period in which General Musharraf has agreed to.

So on the democracy front, on the human rights front, on dealing with corruption, he has commissioned people within his government to act forcefully at trying to stop the corruption that is so endemic to that society and which was responsible to a large extent for the failures of the Bhutto and the Sharif governments.

So there is a strong movement to fight corruption, to establish an economic system that is fair and equitable and honest.

As my colleagues can tell, Mr. Speaker, I came away with some hope when I was not really expecting to. But I have watched, even in recent days, the minister in Pakistan who deals with the question of terrorism issue some statements. There was an article recently on Saturday in the New York Times that showed that they are on the offensive to deal with this important aspect of their national and international obligations.

So there are some things that are happening here. General Musharraf has offered on numerous occasions, and he did to me when I was with him in our visit, that he in fact wants to dialogue with the Indian leaders, with the Indian Government, and that he understands the necessity to stop this cycle of violence.

The sense of distress between the people of Kashmir and the Government of India and the tensions between India and Pakistan have stalled every diplomatic effort that has been made to stop these killings. But we have a chance now, because I think it is in everybody's interest to get this done, Pakistan, and it is in India's interest. And if I could just move to them for a second. Their government has a compelling interest to resolve this Kashmir question, as well.

India shares Pakistan's challenge with poverty, with illiteracy, with health care, with their infrastructure needs. They do not want 600,000 troops stationed in Kashmir. That takes an enormous amount of resources, and it drains their ability to deal with these other problems. They do not want this continuing and escalating violence in Kashmir. They want, it would seem to me, to resolve this issue, as well.

And there are some signs of hope. The Indian Government has allowed some Kashmiri political and civil leaders out of jail. I met with them when I was in Kashmir. I met with the conference leaders, some of whom just recently were let out of jail, and they are asking for a dialogue with the Indian Government. And while there has been intimations that that dialogue would occur, it has not. And I would encourage the Indian Government to engage in it.

Kashmiris must have a responsible role in deciding their own fate, and this will only occur when we continue to build confidence-building measures, such as opening preliminary discussions, allowing people to exercise their leadership, freeing them from jail, stopping the violence of incursions of militants across the border. These are all pieces that have to take place in order for this to come together.

The Indian Government, as I said, has participated in some of these. Other things they have not, they have not shown an interest. And we need, as a Government here in the United

States, to move them in that direction and to get them to stop the torture and the other repressive measures that they are taking in Kashmir against the Kashmiri people.

Now, I see a way forward but only if we, as the United States, are willing to invest more time and resources to bring these parties together. And I think we have an obligation to do that. I think we have a moral responsibility to do that.

During the war in Afghanistan, the United States armed Pakistan's neighbors and the militants. And then we sort of casually abandoned the region, and that left the region in a state of militarism with enormous amounts of weapons and ammunitions.

Now we have an obligation, it seems to me, to do our part to help establish stability in South Asia. It is in our interest to do so. The threat of nuclear conflict in South Asia is very, very real. We must reduce this threat and halt the arms race in South Asia. And unless Kashmir is addressed, that will not happen. We cannot make progress unless people in the world community are willing to tackle this issue.

The United States has called for democracy to take root in South Asia, but this will not happen on its own and it surely will not happen without a resolution to this very important question.

And by ''democracy,'' I am talking about not only democracy in form but I am talking about supporting democracy through helping Pakistan develop some of those institutions for democratic action, and we have ways to do that here. Instead of withholding support for Pakistan, who has been a great front for this country throughout its history, one of our best allies and best friends, instead of engaging in embargoes, we ought to be financially helping Pakistan move forward.

Because democracy works well when there is an economic component. When you give people a sense of home for their economic life, that works very well with establishing and enhancing the democratic life of a country. Democracy by itself, without any support economically, is going to be a very fragile democracy.

If we turn our attention away from the region, as we did after the war in Afghanistan, we risk further erosion, violence, and disillusionment.

We are, as a country, as a superpower, as a country that is engaged in the Middle East and in Ireland and in Africa and in other places recently, in Latin America, we have a role to play here. And as a long-standing ally of Pakistan as an emerging friend of India, we are in a position to bring people together. And given the stakes in South Asia, punitive economic sanctions, as I said, are clearly counterproductive.

While we have our differences, we must never forget that Pakistan, as I said, has been a long-standing ally of the United States. Democracy will be strengthened not by economic sanctions but by economic aid and by taking the know-how of our democratic institutions and trying to provide those kinds of expertise and know-how with those who are struggling for an expanded democracy in Pakistan.

So I think everything is in place to make this work. And because of the nuclear potential, the world needs desperately to focus in on this region. And because of the promise that was made to the Kashmiris over 50 years ago, we need to desperately take hold of this issue and focus our attention and try to develop a process by which we can reach some resolve.

People in Kashmir are exhausted from the violence. They are exhausted from the war. They are exhausted from the economic inactivity. We can make a big change in a very important part of the world if we will devote some of our energies, some our good will, some of our resources to making that happen.

So I look forward, as I told the President when I discussed this with him briefly at the White House, I look forward to working with him and our administration and our allies in bringing Pakistan and India together and bringing the Kashmiris into discussions so that both countries can live in peace and the Kashmiris can have the right to express their views and work for a better situation economically and politically and democratically for their people.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BALDWIN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of airport delays.

Mr. FATTAH (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. TOOMEY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and until 4:00 p.m. on June 13 on account of the birth of Bridget Kathleen Toomey.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and June 13 on account of attending a family funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. OLVER) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred a follows:

S. Con. Res. 121, concurrent resolution, congratulating Representative Stephen S. F. Chen on the occasion of his retirement from the diplomatic service of Taiwan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1953. To authorize leases for terms not to exceed 99 years on land held in trust for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians of the Guidiville Indian Rancheria.

H.R. 3639. To designate the Federal building located at 2201 C Street, Northwest, in the District of Columbia, currently headquarters for the Department of State, as the ''Harry S Truman Federal Building''.

H.R. 2484. To provide that land which is owned by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota but which is not held in trust by the United States for the Community may be leased or transferred by the Community without further approval by the United States.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Tuesday, June 13, 2000, at 9 a.m. for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8078. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oriental Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Area [Docket No. 99–076–2] received May 3, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8079. A letter from the Director, Office of Federal Housing Oversight, transmitting the Office's final rule—Implementation of the Equal Access to Justice Act (RIN: 2550–AA08) received May 4, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

8080. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—State Energy Program [Docket No. EE-RM–96–402] (RIN: 1904–AB01) received May 4, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8081. A letter from the Special Assistant to Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Establishment of a Class A Television Service [MM Docket No. 00–10] received May 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8082. A letter from the Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission,