''pre-conference agreement'' with our colleagues in the other body.

It is this bipartisan House and Senate agreement that we will be voting on today.

The Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000 modernizes the Older Americans Act by streamlining services and ensuring flexibility at the local level. This program provides for better and faster delivery of services to seniors most in need.

Specifically, this legislation protects key programs like disease prevention, the state long-term ombudsman program, elder abuse prevention, ''Meals on Wheels'', and legal assistance, and consolidates others.

For example, two existing programs are consolidated into a new Family Caregiver program which assists families who care for frail loved ones. This program will help frail older Americans remain in their own homes. It provides information, counseling, supportive services, and respite care to family members faced with the often daunting challenge of caring for their older family members on a daily basis.

As for nutrition services, we have increased the transfer authority between the in-home meals program and the congregate program from 30 percent to 40 percent, with a waiver provision that would permit the transfer of an additional 10 percent. This provision will provide states and local providers the ability to move funds around to better serve the nutritional needs of participating seniors.

We have also added language to ensure that the meals served under this Act are appealing to senior participants and take into account their unique dietary needs. We have encouraged states to ensure meals do not spend an inordinate amount of time in transit before they have been served.

Another major change involves the additional funds provided to states by the Department of Agriculture to supplement payments under Title III of the Older Americans Act. At the present time, states often do not know the amount of funding they will receive from USDA until the end of the year. This legislation modifies the formula for distributing USDA funds so that payments are made using prior year's data. This will speed the delivery of funds to states and improve their ability to provide important nutritional assistance to seniors.

As many here know, Title III is the very heart of the Older Americans Act and provides grants to states and area agencies on aging for a variety of programs benefiting the elderly—everything from ''Meals on Wheels'', to disease prevention, to senior centers.

I am pleased to report that our bill ensures that no state will receive less than it received under the Title III funding formula in FY 2000. And, every state is guaranteed a certain percentage of any new money that is appropriated above the FY 2000 level. This means that states with large senior populations will begin to receive their fair share of future Title III funding.

This legislation also ensures that Older Americans Act funds are more equitably distributed between urban and rural areas. Not only must particular attention be paid to low-income minority individuals, it also must be paid to older individuals residing in rural areas.

Specifically, this bill requires that the state plan shall provide assurances that the special needs of older individuals residing in rural areas will be taken into consideration and shall describe how those needs have been met and how funds have been allocated to meet those needs.

Finally, our bill reforms the Senior Community Service Employment Program (Title V) by instituting much-needed performance standards. And, when I say these standards are needed, I mean they are needed.

This business of Washington-based organizations receiving Title V funds year in and year out without even a small amount of accountability is over once this bill is signed into law.

For far too long ten national organizations have been receiving 78 percent of Title V funding with no questions asked because appropriations language has consistently superseded the authority statute.

This means that only a mere 22 percent goes to state agencies. It also means that states have very little authority to direct national organizations to serve seniors in certain parts of their states. In fact, states are often left to fill in the gaps with very few resources.

Our legislation begins to address this problem by ensuring that states will receive the bulk of any new money that is appropriated above what is needed to match the national organizations' and state agencies' FY 2000 ''level of effort.''

Specifically, the first $35 million in funds above the FY 2000 ''level of effort'' will be allocated 75 percent to the state agencies and 25 percent to the national organizations. New funding above the first $35 million will be allocated 50% to state agencies and 50 percent to national organizations.

The bill also requires national organizations and states to work together to ensure the equitable distribution of employment positions within the state.

More importantly, and for the first time ever, we require all Title V grantees to meet strict performance standards. And before a grant applicant may be selected, the Secretary of Labor must conduct a records review to assess the applicant's qualifications for administering federal funds.

Specifically, the bill requires that the performance of all Title V grantees will be evaluated annually on a national basis and state basis. Performance of both types of grantees, national organizations and state agencies, will be judged regardless of whether the grantees operate the program directly, or through contracts or agreements with other agencies. And, grantees must agree to an evaluation of their performance as a condition of the grant.

When reviewing the applicant's overall responsibility to administer federal funds, the Secretary of Labor is also authorized to consider any information, including the organization's history in the management of other grants.

Our hope is that this will cut down on the number of troubling audit reports that have been piling up at the Department of Labor's Inspector General's Office. The quicker we can get the bad actors out of this program, the better off all the participants will be.

Let me just say that as a young-older American myself, if doesn't take much imagination to see a need for the programs of the Older Americans Act.

For millions of older Americans something as simple as a home delivered meal, a place to socialize, or a helping hand around the house, can make all the difference in the world to he enjoyment of life in one's later years. Our legislation represents one small step in making this a reality.

I urge my colleagues to support the millions of older Americans that have contributed so much to our country and its greatness. Vote ''yes'' for America's seniors by voting ''yes'' on the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2614, CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, the tax bill before us today is a mix of modest, but important policy changes, some unfortunate new directions in tax policy, and what can best be termed ''housekeeping'' items.

There is, however, one especially important provision in this bill, which is the Extraterritorial Income Exclusion, or EIE, also known as the Foreign Sales Corporation replacement. This provision, necessitated by actions taken by the European Union before the World Trade Organization, is essential to preserving the ability to compete effectively of U.S. companies and U.S. workers.

If we are to succeed and thrive in international commerce, we must not impose punitive taxes on our own competitors. Absent the EIE, our tax code would do just that.

We must be clear about this, however. While we believe our new system will be found to be WTO compliant, there are no assurances. And we will not know for some months.

I want to assure both our friends of the European Union, and our companies that are looking to the Congress to resolve this satisfactorily, that if our new system is found wanting, then the next Congress and the next Administration will work quickly to find another.

If the EIE regime is found wanting, there may be no alternative but to adopt a fully territorial tax regime. That means, in short, a U.S. tax system that only collects tax on income earned in the U.S. I, for one, would welcome this, as should all U.S. companies and their workers, because this would cause a dramatic improvement in their ability to compete internationally. It would be ironic, indeed, if the net result of the Europeans' complaint is to leave U.S. companies stronger internationally than they were before.

For now, however, I hope the Congress passes this bill, with its FSC replacement. I hope the President signs it. And I hope the WTO finds the new system satisfactory, so we can provide some certainty to our companies as to the tax law. We can then consider at a later date whether, when, or how to enact a territorial system.