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No. 155—Part II

House of Representatives

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE ON DECEMBER 15, 2000; DECEMBER 16, 2000; OR DECEMBER 17, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 446) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 446

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).

That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, December 15, 2000, Saturday, December 16, 2000, or Sunday, December 17, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it shall stand adjourned sine die, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, December 15, 2000, Saturday, December 16, 2000, or Sunday, December 17, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it shall stand adjourned sine die, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 133) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, to the end that the joint resolution be hereby passed; and that a motion to reconsider be hereby laid on the table.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 133 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 133

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 106-275 is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(c) and inserting "December 21, 2000" and by adding the following before the period in section 113: "and in addition, from within the amount provided by section 101, \$217,000,000: *Provided*, That of these funds, \$100,000,000 may be made available only pursuant to a certification by the Secretary of State that the United Nations has taken no action in calendar year 2000 prior to the date of enactment of this Act to increase funding for any United Nations program without identifying an offsetting decrease elsewhere in the United Nations budget and cause the United Nations to exceed

the budget for the biennium 2000-2001 of \$2,535,700,000".

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

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on the legislative day of December 15, 2000, to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes; that the conference report be considered as read; that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived; and that the conference report be debatable for 90 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees.

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I am concerned about what we are doing here today. We are being asked to vote on a huge package of bills that we have not seen, we have not read, and we certainly do not know what is in them. We are being asked to agree to dispense with the regular order of the House and simply vote "yes" on a combination of bills, despite the fact that we do not know for sure what bills they are, we do not know how they may or may not have been changed if we did know them, and we do not know what private dealings were struck and may have been inserted into those bills as recently as this afternoon.

Now, many of us support some of the elements that we think are in this package, such as the Medicare add-backs, which our hospitals badly need and which I support; but we do not support other elements of this package. Nevertheless, we are going to be forced to vote on the whole package up or down.

I know this certainly is not the first time we have been asked to vote on a package of bills that we have not seen, but that does not make it right. And I know we all want to go home. We all want to be with our families for the holidays. I certainly also want to do that. But do we not have a responsibility to our constituents to at least know what we are voting on when we vote on the largest nondefense appropriation bill in the Federal Government?

We are going to vote on one element of this package which alone is \$109 billion of taxpayer money. I think it is disturbing that we are going to vote on that without knowing the details. But what is almost as disturbing as what we do not know is the things that we do know, or at least I think we know, about what is in this package. Mr. Speaker, we know that the spending on the Labor-HHS portion of that appropriation bill is, frankly, out of control. Using the Committee on Appropriations' own numbers, the budget deal that we are going to vote on today increases spending by \$12 billion, or nearly 12 percent or nearly 5 times the rate of inflation. And if we take into account all the funding gimmicks, like advanced funding, and we look on an apples-to-apples basis, the actual money that will be spent is \$23 billion more than in this previous year, an over-26 percent increase, nine times the rate of inflation. Frankly, we are squandering too much of the budget surplus that could be used for other purposes.

The bill apparently is going to create untold new programs, and I do not know how many earmarks. It is \$7 billion higher than what the House approved; it is \$4 billion more than what the Senate approved; it is even \$3 billion higher than the President's re-

quest. And of course, we are not sure exactly how all that money has been spent.

Now, despite all of these big spending increases, some are probably going to come to this floor and say this is a cut of \$3.6 billion from previously agreed-upon levels. Let me remind my colleagues that the so-called agreement was to an arbitrary number by a handful of Members under the duress of a threatened veto which never was agreed to by either Chamber.

If I went ahead and objected, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that would not accomplish much. I know a rule could be brought up, it would be debated, it would be passed, and we would only be delaying the inevitable. But I will urge my colleagues to vote against final passage on this bill. Vote against the huge spending increase that is in this bill; vote against joining all these unrelated bills in one package; vote against a package the contents of which are a mystery to most of us.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

Washington, DC, December 15, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 15, 2000 at 4:09 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Report H.R. 4942.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk of the House.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG 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 the conference report to accompany H.R. 4577, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4577,
DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see prior proceedings of the House of today.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 45 minutes.

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

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

I would just briefly like to mention the fact that we have produced a four-page legal-sized document that identifies the highlights of this bill. This has been available now for more than 2 days for Members to look at to get a really good understanding of what is in the bill. I would suggest that anyone who wants to find some reason to oppose this bill, they can find it. It is a huge bill. It required hours and days and weeks of negotiation to get us to the point that we are.

Mr. Speaker, this bill should be passed today, and the House should conclude its business. I am going to ask shortly that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), who is the chairman of the subcommittee, manage the balance of the debate, inasmuch as he is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Resources, and Education, and Related Agencies; but before I do, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask Members to adopt this legislation and to get quickly to a vote.

I have a brief statement I would like to read before I turn this time over but before that I want to talk with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to at this point engage the chairman of the committee in a colloquy on the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, which I hope will address the concerns many Members have regarding the lack of an advanced appropriation for fiscal year 2000 in this bill.

We are all aware of the drastic spike in price fuels that has occurred in the past year. Home heating fuels have