This legislation is identical to a bill I introduced this year, H.R. 3205. We are considering the Senate version of this bill, ''The Federal Law Enforcement Pay and Benefits Parity Act of 2003,'' which was approved by the Senate shortly before Thanksgiving, in an effort to speed up enactment of this important piece of legislation. I want to thank the leadership for bringing this matter to the floor today.

It has become obvious over the last 2 years, but bears repeating: Federal law enforcement officers are part of our first line of defense in defending the Nation.

The legislation would require that the government reexamine how we compensate these brave men and women—with the goals of eliminating disparities among various law enforcement agencies, improving recruitment and retention, and ensuring that the Federal Government is keeping pace with State and local law enforcement agencies in terms of compensation.

For an example of why we need to investigate this matter, look no farther than the creation of the Transportation Security Administration, following the September 11th terrorist attacks.

The TSA needed to hire tens of thousands of people very quickly, and the agency wound up cherry picking from other federal agencies, luring law enforcement officers with offers of better pay and benefits. This left the other agencies short-handed, and many still report recruiting problems.

And very shortly, the Homeland Security Department is slated to establish its new pay system, which could once again attract law enforcement officers away from other agencies.

The Civil Service and Agency Organization Subcommittee, which I chair, held a hearing on July 23rd on the subject of law enforcement compensation. It became clear to us that the Federal Government is facing a serious problem in recruiting, retaining and rewarding its law enforcement personnel.

Having the Office of Personnel Management conduct a detailed analysis of the problem and offer some possible solutions is the first step toward fixing this problem.

In addition to requiring OPM to review the classification, compensation and benefits of federal law enforcement officers, S. 1683 also requires the establishment of an employee exchange program involving Federal, State and local law enforcement agents as a way of sharing best practices and maintaining a well-trained force.

Once again, I want to thank the leadership for bringing this bill to the floor today. I urge passage of S. 1683, ''The Federal Law Enforcement Pay and Benefits Parity Act of 2003.''

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

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2004

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. 82) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do so for the purpose of yielding to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) so that he may explain what changes this entails to the continuing resolution.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I would say technically this vehicle is a continuing resolution that goes to January 31, which is the same date as the existing CR. The difference is there were two anomalies that the administration needed to be included, so we would use this as a vehicle.

The two anomalies are these: the first CR is a loan limitation at $3.8 billion for FHA loan commitments. The administration basically ignored this ceiling and committed $5 billion in new mortgage loan guarantees. The program shut down last week because the guaranteed limitation was exceeded. This resolution would set a new guarantee limitation at $7.7 billion, the fiscal year 2003 level.

Exceeding the guarantee limitation level represents an antideficiency act violation. Language is included in the resolution to require certification from the director of the Office of Management and Budget regarding compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in the first CR.

The second anomaly deals with the FAA operations account staff offices. The resolution would allow operations at an annual rate of $141.4 million for the FAA office of security and investigations. Without this authority, furlows of some of the 443 staff would be necessary. The office did not receive a direct fiscal year 2003 appropriation, therefore this special authority is necessary under a CR. The office is responsible for enforcement programs working with ONDCP, TSA, and State and local governments and performs credential and background investigations of employees and contractors in support of the FHA mission.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H.J. RES. 82

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 121 of Public Law 108–84 is amended by striking ''$3,800,000,000'' and inserting ''$7,667,000,000'': *Provided,* That the amendment made by this section shall take effect only after a certification by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget is submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the use of the authority provided pursuant to this section will not result in commitments to guarantee new loans for the entire fiscal year at a level in excess of the limitation set forth in the fiscal year 2003 appropriations Act and that the apportionment of loan commitment authority provided for the Federal Housing Administration, General and Special Risk Insurance Fund and the Federal Housing Administration, Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund is in compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in Public Law 108–84: *Provided further,* That the authority provided under the amendment made by this section shall only apply to new commitments issued after enactment of this section: *Provided further,* That nothing in this section may be construed to pardon or release an officer or employee of the United States Government for an act or acts in violation of section 1341 of title 31, United States Code (the Antideficiency Act) or any other applicable law that occurred prior to enactment of this section.

SEC. 2. Public Law 108–84, as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 131. Subject to sections 107(c) and 108 of this joint resolution, for the Federal Aviation Administration Operations Account Staff Offices line of business, at a rate of operations not to exceed $141,411,000.''.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have five legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 82.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM TO HAVE UNTIL DECEMBER 19, 2003, TO FILE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be permitted to file an investigative report by December 19, 2003.

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

There was no objection.

CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ACT

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1012) to establish the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows: