

did not vote for more pollution or for backhanded legislative shenanigans to under cut environmental standards just to satisfy the greed and the campaign access paid for by many industrial polluters.

Together with other members of the Committee on Appropriations and of this House as a whole, we must do all that we can to spread the word about this sneak attack and to keep it from succeeding.

Nothing is more important than protecting our air, our water, our lands, the public's health.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 4 p.m. today.

(Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 4:00 p.m.

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□ 1602

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS) at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

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#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1976, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 188 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 188

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1976) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule, and the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as pending. That amendment shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for ten minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand

for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. If that amendment is adopted, the provisions of the bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule. Further consideration of the bill for amendment shall proceed by title rather than by paragraph. Each title shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived. During further consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this rule, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 188 is an open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1976, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The bill is to be read by title for amendment, and each title is to be considered as read.

The rule waives clause 2 of rule XXI—which prohibits unauthorized appropriations and legislation on an appropriations bill—and also waives clause 6 of rule XXI—which prohibits reappropriating unexpended balances of appropriations in general appropriations bills—against provisions of the bill.

Under the rule, it is in order to consider first an amendment printed in the rule to be offered by Mr. SKEEN of New Mexico. This amendment shall be considered as read. The amendment is debatable for 10 minutes divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. The amendment offered by Mr. SKEEN is not subject to amendment or to a demand

for a division of the question in the House or Committee of the Whole. If this amendment is adopted, it shall be considered as a part of the original text for the purpose of further amendment under the 5 minute rule. In allowing this amendment, we are following past practices of previous Congresses, in order to be as fair as we possibly can be on these appropriations bills.

This rule accords priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The rule does not require pre-printing, but simply encourages Members to take advantage of the option in order to facilitate consideration of amendments on the House floor.

Finally, House Resolution 188 provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions, as is the right of the minority members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, this is the fifth open rule to be offered during the consideration of the 1996 appropriations process—the sixth if you count the first Interior appropriations rule. House Resolution 188 is a typical open rule to be considered for general appropriations bills. This rule does not restrict the normal open amending process and any amendments that comply with the standing rules of the House may be offered.

H.R. 1976 appropriates a total of \$62.7 billion dollars, which is \$6.3 billion less than was appropriated last year. This bill provides \$13 billion in discretionary spending and \$49 billion in mandatory spending, a decrease of about \$5.3 billion below the amount available for fiscal year 1995. Clearly, the Appropriations Committee has had to balance a wide array of interests and had to make very difficult choices with drastically reduced resources.

With that in mind, I want to commend the close work of the authorizing and appropriating committees in crafting the legislation that will soon be before the House. They have worked together under an incredibly tight budget to ensure that all funding is spent where it is needed most. Together, they have responsibly sought to maintain functions that are crucial to the health and safety of the American consumer and the future success of this nation's farming communities.

H.R. 1976 was favorably reported out of the Committee on Appropriations, as was the open rule by the Rules Committee. I urge my colleagues to support the rule so that we may proceed with consideration of the merits of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD information on the amendment process. The document referred to is as follows: