

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 1996 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 1995 amount, the 1996 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 1996 follow:

New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1995	\$241,553,071,000
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996	236,344,017,000
House bill, fiscal year 1996	243,997,500,000
Senate bill, fiscal year 1996	242,683,841,000
Conference agreement, fiscal year 1996	243,251,297,000
Conference agreement compared with:	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1995	+1,698,226,000
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996	+6,907,280,000
House bill, fiscal year 1996	-746,203,000
Senate bill, fiscal year 1996	+567,456,000

BILL YOUNG,
JOSEPH M. MCDADE,
BOB LIVINGSTON,
JERRY LEWIS,
JOE SKEEN,
DAVID L. HOBSON,
HENRY BONILLA,
GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT,
Jr.,
MARK W. NEUMANN (except
to the agreement
regarding U.S.
deployment in Bosnia),
JOHN P. MURTHA,
NORMAN D. DICKS,
CHARLES WILSON,
W.G. (BILL) HEFNER,
MARTIN OLAV SABO,

Managers on the Part of the House.

TED STEVENS,
THAD COCHRAN,
ARLEN SPECTER,
PETE V. DOMENICI,
PHIL GRAMM,
KIT BOND,
MITCH MCCONNELL,
CONNIE MACK,
RICHARD C. SHELBY,
MARK O. HATFIELD,
DANIEL K. INOUE,
FRITZ HOLLINGS,
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON,
ROBERT C. BYRD,
PATRICK J. LEAHY,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

HIGH ONE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, fair and equitable treatment of our military personnel and our veterans deserves greater attention in this Congress.

Dedicating one's self to our national security should at least result in some personal security at retirement time.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership has approved a plan to refigure the retirement pay that our men and women in the military had figured on as being theirs at retirement time.

They call it High One, but the Texans that I have been hearing from say it is little more than "hi and bye."

We have folks who have served in the military for 10 and 20 years, the whole time thinking that they had a fixed income when they retired. Then along comes this formula refiguring and all of a sudden some folks who calculated a particular retirement find out they have got to do some recalculating. This is all the more unfortunate given the inattention and inaction on some other issues like COLA inequity, Medicare subvention, and forgotten widows.

It is time to give our veterans and those who are in our military the attention they deserve. As the old saying goes, "It's not doing our veterans a favor, it's repaying one."

THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLICAN CONTRACT AND RELATED EVENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is an appropriate time to focus America's attention on what occurred 1 year ago tomorrow, because we have come to the first anniversary, birthday party No. 1, so to speak, of the so-called Contract on America, announced on the Capitol steps with many smiles about this time last year.

Certainly if one is to assess and evaluate that contract based on hyperbole, based on rhetoric from the floor of this Congress, it has been a great success. It has been something that would give cause for great celebration, if we were to analyze what has been said about it in this Chamber rather than what is actually happening out in the real lives of real people across America.

If one is to evaluate this contract in terms of what legislation has been passed and signed into law in the law books of America that might have some impact on people across America, one gets a more modest evaluation, because in fact thus far we have had a bill passed and signed into law dealing with the question of unfunded mandates; a bill passed and signed into law that was really a Democratic idea that passed the last session of Congress, to require that the House and the Senate and all of our congressional institutions abide by and follow the same laws that we pass and apply to businesses across America and to people across America. A good idea, signed into law, should have been signed into law and would have been, had the will of this House last year been accomplished.

So that is two bills out of many proposed and discussed from this microphone, not exactly revolutionary, that have been placed into law.

There is a third measure that has passed both the House and the Senate, another Democratic idea. It is called

the line-item veto. The line-item veto would be law now and would allow President Clinton to go in and pencil out, redline certain bits of pork barrel either in the Tax Code or in the appropriations bills, but for Republican objection.

Members will recall that last year when this great Contract on America was unfolded here on the steps of the Capitol, with all the smiles and the bright lights and cameras rolling, that it included a line-item veto that apply not only to pork barrel spending but to tax loopholes. But when the bill got here to the floor of the House, a little surgery was performed and the tax loophole part was kept out. They are protected. They are preserved.

The President, under the line-item veto as passed by the House and by the Senate, would be powerless to really get at the tax loopholes that protect the privileged few, that need attention in this country. But there is still some merit to the bill. We passed it in a way that the President would be able to do something about pork-barrel spending, and certainly there is too much of that.

But again, despite the hyperbole and the announcement of the great revolutionaries about all they were accomplishing in this bill, and how they wanted to rush it over to President Clinton so he would have a chance to either put up or shut up in terms of line iteming some of these items, they decided that they really did not want that to happen. So they have dillydallied around and delayed and just never gotten around to adjusting the differences between the House and the Senate.

In fact, we had to wait until just this past month for there even to be conferees appointed to adjust the differences between the House and the Senate, and some Members of the Senate were saying what is obviously true; that is, that the House leadership, which proclaimed itself to be so revolutionary from this and other microphones back in January, did not really want President Clinton to have the power to go in and line item out the pork barrel that they put in this set of appropriations bills, the few that they have gotten past the Congress, and those that will be dumped out in the President's lap within the next week or two.

So the line-item veto, which was one of the centerpieces of this contract that you would expect people to be celebrating today, is not law today, and it is not law today because the self-proclaimed revolutionaries did not want the revolution to occur so early that it might clip a little of their pork barrel out of the appropriations bills.

It is also appropriate, as we look at and evaluate what has happened with reference to this Contract on America, to look at what lies ahead in the next few days. We got an indication of how really extreme its proponents are in comments that were made over the last