

Volkmer	Watts (OK)	Wolf
Vucanovich	Weldon (FL)	Woolsey
Waldholtz	Weldon (PA)	Wynn
Walker	Weller	Yates
Walsh	White	Young (AK)
Wamp	Whitfield	Young (FL)
Ward	Wicker	Zeliff
Waters	Williams	Zimmer
Watt (NC)	Wise	

## NOT VOTING—25

Barton	Fields (TX)	Rush
Bryant (TX)	Flake	Stockman
Chapman	Ford	Stokes
Chenoweth	Gallegly	Taylor (NC)
Christensen	Green	Tejeda
Collins (IL)	Johnson, Sam	Waxman
de la Garza	Laughlin	Wilson
DeLay	Lewis (KY)	
Durbin	Ortiz	

□ 1819

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and did not cast my vote on rollcall No. 58. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on House Concurrent Resolution 149.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1963

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1963.

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

There was no objection.

## CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1561, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1996 AND 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 375, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 1561) to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for U.S. foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution, 375, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Friday, March 8, 1996, at page H1987.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] will each be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I bring before the House, the conference agreement on H.R. 1561, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal years 1996 and 1997.

We bring to the floor a bill that eliminates at least one Federal agency, cuts spending \$500 million before FY 1995 levels, and achieves savings of \$1.7 billion over four years.

The conference agreement requires the abolition of at least one agency from among the four international affairs agencies—the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the Agency for International Development, and the United States Information Agency and its consolidation into the Department of State.

This consolidation—and the President is certainly encouraged to consolidate more than one agency—together with other provisions of the bill, will result in a savings in fiscal years 1996 through 1999 of at least \$1.7 billion in the authorizations for programs under the control of the Committee on International Relations.

The bill reauthorizes the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1996 and 1997. Further, it authorizes, at reduced but manageable levels, the salary and expense accounts for the Departments of State, USIA, ACDA, and AID through 1999.

In this manner we are able to ensure that savings in these accounts are planned for and achieved, as will be seen in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Regrettably, the President already has stated his intention to veto this bill, which provides for the first measure of reform in our foreign affairs agencies in 50 years, including reforms his own administration proposed.

With regard to consolidation, Secretary of State Warren Christopher last year suggested consolidating three outdated foreign affairs agencies into the State Department. Our bill requires the consolidation of only one agency.

Our bill also provides for a number of foreign policy principles important to U.S. national interests.

Our bill puts the Taiwan Relations Act at the center of our relations, allowing the United States to fully support Taiwan. The President, siding with the Chinese Communist government, seeks to limit our support for Taiwan by asserting that an Executive Agreement takes precedence over legislation by the U.S. Congress.

On Vietnam, our bill conditions the expansion of United States relations with Vietnam on POW-MIA progress. The President, by disagreeing with this bill, stands with the Vietnamese Government and against the families of missing Americans.

On the international housing program, our bill follows the GAO's advice

and ends the AID Housing Guarantee Program, except in South Africa. By vetoing our bill, the President would continue this "international S&L," despite the GAO's warnings that the program will cost the taxpayers over \$1 billion in loan losses.

Our bill, for the first time, also provides that recipients of grants from the International Fund for Ireland abide by the MacBride Principles of fair employment in the North of Ireland.

Our bill condemns Turkey's misguided policy of obstructing aid to Armenia by prohibiting assistance to any country that bars or obstructs delivery of U.S. humanitarian aid.

Our bill contains a bipartisan provision requiring that foreign aid funds not spent after three years following their appropriation be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

Our bill also contains 20 provisions to improve management of the State Department that the administration requested.

They include authority to collect fees for visas and use the funds to improve our border security operations, and authority to collect from insurers for providing free health care to U.S. diplomats and their families at overseas posts, to name a few.

We also provide higher spending levels for a very few programs, such as the Peace Corps and International Narcotics Control programs.

H.R. 1561 also provides for reforms in the United Nations to refocus the U.N. on its traditional development and peacekeeping roles, preserves organizational flexibility for the agencies, provides for the humanitarian assistance and resettlement for refugees, promotes the rapid implementation of broadcasting into the non-democratic countries of Asia, and terminates United States participation in obsolete international organizations.

Mr. Speaker, this conference agreement reflects a number of compromises between the House and the Senate and accommodates many of the most serious concerns raised by the administration and the minority.

While the minority chose not to participate in the process, we made a sincere effort to meet their concerns.

It was disappointing that we could not build within the administration and among many of our colleagues a consensus to organize the foreign affairs functions to meet the coming century.

While we are bringing a solid Department of State and related agencies bill to the floor, many of us are disappointed that we could not build a consensus within the administration and among our democratic colleagues to organize the foreign affairs functions to meet the coming century.

Because of bureaucratic inertia and a lack of vision, the Clinton administration has engaged in an all-out assault on any effort to revitalize, reinvigorate, reorganize, reform, restructure, or reconsider the foreign affairs programs of our Nation.