

Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. OWENS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole under the 5-minute rule: Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Commerce, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on International Relations, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Resources, Committee on Science, Committee on Small Business, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

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

There was no objection.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 430 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3230.

□ 1140

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3230) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for

fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, May 14, 1996, the en bloc amendments offered by the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE] had been disposed of.

By virtue of notice given pursuant to section 4(c) of the resolution, it is now in order to debate the subject matter of cooperative threat reduction with the states of the former Soviet Union.

The gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE] and the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE].

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

□ 1145

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, allow me to review briefly the actions taken by the National Security Committee on the Cooperative Threat Reduction [CTR] Program in H.R. 3230.

First, the committee cut the \$327 million budget request by \$25 million. Specifically, as based on the availability of prior-year funds, the committee cut \$20 million from the fissile material storage facility in Russia. The committee also cut approximately \$4 million from chemical weapons destruction-related activities in Russia. Specifically, the committee denied the DOD request to initiate a new, as yet unjustified demolition project and reduced the amount for the Chemical Weapons Destruction Support Office, an information clearinghouse located in Moscow. The committee also cut \$1 million from CTR program overhead.

The bill also includes a provision that is intended to ensure that CTR funds are spent only on core dismantlement activities, such as destroying bombers, missiles, and silos. My colleagues may recall that noncore activities such as environmental restoration, job retraining, and defense conversion have been at the heart of the controversy surrounding this program in past years. This provision would prohibit use of fiscal year 1997 or prior-year, unobligated CTR funds for conducting peacekeeping activities with Russia, providing housing, performing environmental restoration, providing job retraining assistance, or for providing assistance to promote defense conversion.

I understand the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] plans to offer an amendment that would extend the prohibition on funding for defense conversion activities beyond the Department of Defense to include foreign assistance and related funding sources. I certainly support the gentleman's amendment.

Finally, the committee bill expresses deep concerns regarding the President's certification on a range of Russian behavior in the arms control and military modernization arenas. Evidence continues to mount that Russia is not adhering to its arms control obligations, including in the area of chemical and biological weapons. Likewise, it is hard to reconcile the President's certification with the fact that Russia is spending billions of dollars on a deep underground facility recently reported in the open press and on modernizing its strategic offensive forces.

The distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] also plans to offer an amendment which would prohibit the further obligation of funds for the CTR program in Russia and Belarus until the President certifies to Congress that Russia has met 10 conditions relating to arms control compliance, foreign and military policy, and arms exports. I share the gentleman's concern that the President's certifications send the wrong signal to Moscow and may actually encourage non-compliant behavior.

I look forward to today's debate and discussion, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], a member of the committee.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding me time. As many know, I have served for 24 years on this committee, and, because I am retiring from the Congress, I have tried not to take a lot of the committee's time in debating these different issues, thinking others should move forward.

But I must say that I think we are engaging in one of the most serious issues that we are going to deal with in this Congress, and that is whether we continue to use our brain, engage our brain, and continue to move forward with the Nunn-Lugar proposals that denuclearize and demilitarize Russia and Belarus, or whether we go with our glands, do our chest beating, scream, holler and yell, and adopt the amendments that I think are going to derail what we have been doing and the progress we are making.

So I stand here in a very solemn mode, saying I certainly hope that the Solomon amendment is defeated, and defeated resoundingly, because the reason that we are trying very hard to take down the nuclear weapons in the Soviet Union and to demilitarize the Soviet Union is for our own good, it is for NATO's good, it is for all of our allies in Asia's good.

Nuclear proliferation does not help anybody. The way I read the Solomon amendment and others is that what they are trying to pretend is like this is foreign aid; this is a big bennie for Russia.

It is not a bennie at all. This is a carrot that we are doing as part of our leadership internationally to try and make this planet a little safer.