

amendments and regular amendments, thereby preempting the privileged motion to rise and report.

That was never the intent of the rule when it was first adopted at the beginning of the 98th Congress in 1983. The idea was to dispose of all regular amendments at the end of the reading of the bill for amendment before entertaining any limitation amendments. Once the limitation amendment process was underway, the motion to rise and report would be privileged at any time.

The language in the rule we have before us draws a clear line of demarcation by making the motion to rise and report in order after the last few lines of the bill are read by the Clerk.

Prior to the reading of the last few lines, the Chair would inquire of the Committee of the Whole whether there were any further amendments not precluded by clauses 2(a) or 2(c). If none are offered at that point, the Chair would direct the Clerk to read the last few lines of the bill.

At any point thereafter, the majority leader or a designee may offer the privileged motion to rise and report. That motion would take precedence over any pending limitation amendment or any regular amendment as well.

In summary, the purpose of this language is to draw a bright line between the regular amendment process and the limitation amendment process at the end of the reading of the bill for amendment. The only change made in clause 2(d) at the beginning of this Congress was to ensure that the motion to rise and report would be controlled by the majority leadership and not just the Appropriations Committee chairman acting alone.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the rule and the bill. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include extraneous and tabular material on the consideration of H.R. 3517.

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

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 442 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3517.

□ 1121

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 3517) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. LATOURETTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANOVICH] and the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANOVICH].

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. It is my pleasure to present to the House the recommendations for the military construction appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997. The funding contained in H.R. 3517 totals \$10 billion, is within the subcommittee's 602(b) allocation, and represents a \$1.2 billion, or 10 percent, decrease from last year.

Mr. Chairman, from the outset, we have worked closely with the National Security Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities and are supporting only those items contained in the House-passed authorization bill.

Public attention has recently focused on the problems our subcommittee has been citing for several years: the quality of military housing for unaccompanied personnel and those with families, the necessity for support facilities, and the importance of providing an adequate working environment to improve productivity and readiness. The committee has heard testimony from many different individuals and organizations regarding these problems, and we continue to feel strongly that the funds in this bill significantly contribute to the readiness and retention of our military personnel.

The recommendations before the House today deal with the critical problem of underfunding in these areas. The budget request of \$9.1 billion represents a decrease of over \$2 billion, or 18 percent, from current spending. While there are many aspects of the request that are commendable, there are areas of concern, particularly in the unaccompanied personnel and family housing arenas. For example, the report on the Quality of Life Task Force, chaired by former Secretary of the Army Jack Marsh, cites that 62 percent of the barrack spaces and 64 percent of family housing units are unsuitable. Yet, while the Department has com-

mitted itself to a serious barracks revitalization program, the request for barracks construction is \$65 million, or 10 percent below last year. And, family housing construction and operation and maintenance accounts are reduced by \$405 million.

Mr. Chairman, these reductions are not acceptable to this committee and, therefore, we are recommending an additional \$900 million above the budget request. Of these additional funds, roughly \$680 million, or 75 percent, has been devoted to barracks, family housing and child development centers.

Of the total \$10 billion recommendations, \$4.3 billion, or 43 percent, is for construction and operations and maintenance of family housing. It is imperative that a sustained overall commitment to funding levels be maintained that will reduce deficits and increase the quality of living conditions. The recommendations in this bill signify congressional commitment to meet that goal.

Thirty-one percent, or \$3.2 billion, is devoted to military construction for facilities that support our service members and their families and improve productivity and readiness. Included under these accounts is \$776 million to address the substandard housing troops must live in; \$313 million for hospital and medical facilities; \$132 million for chemical weapons demilitarization; \$88 million for environmental compliance; and \$34 million for child development centers.

In addition, a significant portion of this appropriation, \$2.5 billion, is to continue the ongoing downsizing of DOD's infrastructure through the base realignment and closure program. The implementation of base closures requires large upfront costs to ensure eventual savings, and this funding will keep closures ongoing and on schedule.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the members of the subcommittee for their help in bringing this bill to the floor. We have worked in a bipartisan manner to produce a bill which addresses the needs of today's military. I want to express my deep appreciation to Mr. HEFNER for his commitment to this subcommittee. He has worked hard for many years to provide the badly needed improvements for the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. His dedication to this process is invaluable.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, this \$10 billion is only 4 percent of the total defense budget and a \$1.2 billion decrease from last year's appropriation. But, this \$10 billion directly supports the men and women in our Armed Forces; it increases productivity, readiness and recruitment, all very vital to a strong national defense. I ask my colleagues to join us in passing this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I include for the RECORD the following data: