

offered by the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3159, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on all three of the bills just considered, H.R. 3267, H.R. 3536, and H.R. 3159.

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

There was no objection.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE ACT OF 1996

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3665) to transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to conduct the census of agriculture, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3665

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Census of Agriculture Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. TRANSFER TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 526 of the Revised Statutes (7 U.S.C. 2204) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) The Secretary shall, in 1998 and in every 5th year beginning after 1998, take a census of agriculture. In connection with each such census, the Secretary may conduct any survey or other data collection, and employ any sampling or other statistical method, that the Secretary determines is necessary and appropriate.

"(2) The data collected in each census taken under this subsection shall relate to the year immediately preceding the year in which the census is taken.

"(3) Any person who refuses or neglects to answer questions submitted to such person in connection with a census or survey under this subsection, or who answers any such questions falsely, shall be subject to section 221 of title 13, United States Code, to the same extent and in the same manner as if—

"(A) section 142 of such title 13 had remained in effect; and

"(B) the census or survey were a census or survey under such section 142, rather than under this subsection.

The failure or refusal on the part of any person to disclose such person's social security number in response to a request made in connection with any census or other activity under this subsection shall not be a violation under the preceding sentence.

"(4) Each census under this subsection shall include each State, and as may be de-

termined by the Secretary, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any such other possessions and areas over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, control, or sovereignty. Inclusion of other areas over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, control, or sovereignty shall be subject to the concurrence of the Secretary of State.

"(5) The Secretary of Commerce may, upon written request of the Secretary of Agriculture, furnish any information collected under title 13, United States Code, which the Secretary of Agriculture considers necessary for the taking of a census or survey under this subsection. Any information so furnished may not be used for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which it is supplied.

"(6) The Secretary of Agriculture shall, upon written request of the Secretary of Commerce, furnish any information collected in a census taken under this subsection which the Secretary of Commerce considers necessary for the taking of a census or survey under title 13, United States Code. Any information so furnished may not be used for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which it is supplied.

"(7) Any rules or regulations necessary to carry out this subsection may be prescribed by—

"(A) the Secretary, to the extent that matters within the jurisdiction of the Secretary are involved; and

"(B) the Secretary of Commerce, to the extent that matters within the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Commerce are involved."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Effective October 1, 1998—

(1) section 142 of title 13, United States Code, and the item relating to section 142 in the table of sections for chapter 5 of such title 13, are repealed; and

(2) section 343(a)(11)(F) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)(F)) is amended by inserting "or section 526(c) of the Revised Statutes (7 U.S.C. 2204(c)), as the case may be," before "except".

SEC. 3. PROVISIONS RELATING TO CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

(a) INFORMATION FURNISHED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO FURNISH INFORMATION.—Section 9(a) of title 13, United States Code, is amended by striking "chapter 10 of this title—" and

(2) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—Section 1770(d)(5) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276(d)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

"(5) subsections (a) and (c) of section 526 of the Revised Statutes (7 U.S.C. 2204(a) and (c));"

(b) INFORMATION FURNISHED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO FURNISH INFORMATION.—Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) Nothing in this section shall be considered to prohibit any release of information under section 526(c)(6) of the Revised Statutes (7 U.S.C. 2204(c)(6))."

(2) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—Information furnished under section 526(c)(6) of the Revised Statutes shall, for purposes of section 9 and 214 of title 13, United States Code, be treated as if it were information furnished under the provisions of such title 13.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. COMBEST] and the gen-

tleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. COMBEST].

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3665 is a short bill—it simply transfers the authority to conduct the Census on Agriculture from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of Agriculture and eliminates this authority from the Secretary of Commerce as of October 1, 1998.

This census authority change was one that the Senate wanted to include as part of the 1996 farm bill. However, we completed the farm bill conference before we on the House side had a chance to clear this change with the Government Reform Committee.

I, along with Chairman ROBERTS and all the other members of the Agriculture Committee, want to thank all the members and staff of the Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice, Chairman ZELIFF and his ranking member, Mrs. THURMAN, for their help in accommodating this move—everyone worked very hard to get this bill put together very quickly.

In order to cope with the continuing move to streamline and downsize Federal agencies, it has become apparent that moving the authority to conduct the Census on Agriculture from Commerce to USDA makes sense, from both an administrative and cost-effective point of view. In fact, the fiscal year 1997 Agriculture appropriations bill has already shifted the \$17 million in funding for the Census on Agriculture to USDA, rather than the Department of Commerce.

By moving the authority to conduct the census over to USDA, it allows the Department of Commerce to free up the funds otherwise obligated for this census; eliminates the need for a specific line-item in the Commerce Department's appropriation; and locates the census at the agency with the biggest interest in the ag census, without precluding USDA from working with the Commerce Department on actually getting the work done.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3665, the Census of Agriculture Act of 1996. I would simply like to reiterate to my colleagues what my colleague the gentleman from Texas [Mr. COMBEST] has already said, and that is that this bill does not change the definition of what constitutes a farm nor does it decrease the amount of funding available for other discretionary activities within the Department of Agriculture.

This legislation simply moves the administration of the ag census from the Bureau of the Census within Commerce to the Department of Agriculture. Secretary Glickman has indicated that he