

the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE], for their help on this measure.

As many of my colleagues know, we have had some severe drought conditions in the State of Texas and this bill helps to provide some relief to two areas that are particularly affected.

I also want to express my appreciation to the work of my colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ORTIZ]. He has been working on these issues for some time and I am certainly grateful for his willingness to work together to solve some very real problems that both of us have in our regions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3910 is a bill that addresses some serious water problems in Texas. I will leave it to my colleague from Texas to discuss the portion of the bill that particularly affects the Corpus Christi area, but I know that that part of the State still suffers from the effects of drought and has a critical need to develop another water supply.

This bill will help them do that. The bill also allows the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority to develop alternative water supplies. This bill does not reduce the amount of money that the Canadian water authority owes to the Federal Government in the way of repaying the debt for construction of the dam for Lake Meredith, but it does postpone for 3 years our requirement to make payments and that deferment for the 3-year period allows the water authority to develop a field of water wells and construct an aqueduct that will get new well water to a location where it can be mixed with the water from Lake Meredith. That lake is the primary source of drinking water for more than 500,000 people in my area. It has not produced the amount of water expected and the severe drought earlier this year certainly caused additional problems. But the quality of the drinking water is also a problem.

The water from Lake Meredith does not meet the drinking water standards recommended by either the EPA or the Texas Department of Health. Only by mixing the lake water with well water is it really fit to drink.

This bill will allow that mixing which is required to be made by freeing up some funds to be used for the other project. The bill also reimburses the water authority for land which was transferred to the National Park Service several years ago. Every one, including the Bureau of Reclamation agrees that compensation is due for the loss of control of that land by the water authority. This was approximately 6 years ago when 43,000 acres was transferred from the water authority to create a national recreation area. This bill reimburses the acquisition costs which were way back in the early 1960's and relocations costs without any adjustment for inflation so that it is a truly minimal level of \$4 million.

Mr. Speaker, of course, this bill does not offset all the problems that have

been experienced because of the drought and other things; but it helps, and it does so in a fiscally responsible way. I urge my colleagues to approve it.

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

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

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

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3910, which provides emergency drought relief for the city of Corpus Christi and 24 other cities in the surrounding area and the Nueces River Authority for the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

As many people know, Texas is suffering the effects of a very severe drought, and these two areas have been particularly affected.

Cities in my district have been restricting water use for months, and my constituents have lost many cattle and crops in these areas.

In fact it has been estimated that the drought has cost farmers and ranchers \$2.4 billion in direct losses.

Without relief, we will soon be losing jobs and industries.

In my district, the city of Corpus Christi and the surrounding water service area are in an emergency situation.

Our available water supply is down over 70 percent in the last 36 months and is projected to be completely depleted within 24 months as the current drought continues.

Our water supply comes from the Nueces River project, a Bureau of Reclamation project which has cost considerably more than originally contracted and has produced much less water than local leaders were led to believe.

Because of this combination, the city is having trouble finding the resources needed to obtain more water reserves.

H.R. 3910 allows the city of Corpus Christi and the Canadian River Authority to defer their principal and interest payments, without penalty, on their Bureau of Reclamation water projects.

This bill will allow them to develop the funding necessary to build facilities for the necessary, additional water reserves.

The bill expedites the permitting process for facilities on Bureau of Reclamation property without bypassing the NEPA process.

It also requires the Bureau to recalculate the repayment schedule of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority to allow for property and facilities transferred to the National Park Service.

I want to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources, the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] and of course the ranking member, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] and my good friend, the gentleman from Texas [Mr.

THORNBERRY] and members of the staff for their work and help with this bill. I also want to thank the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the ranking member, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] for their help in bringing this bill to the House in a bipartisan effort. I introduced this bill because of the importance of the situation in Texas, and I ask for the strong support of my colleagues.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. THORNBERRY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3910, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3910, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

EXPORTS, JOBS, AND GROWTH ACT OF 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3759) to extend the authority of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3759

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 "Exports, Jobs, and Growth Act of 1996".

TITLE I—OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

SEC. 101. INCOME LEVELS.

Section 231 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2191) is amended in paragraph (2) of the second undesignated paragraph—

(1) by striking "\$984 or less in 1986 United States dollars" and inserting "\$1,280 or less in 1994 United States dollars"; and

(2) by striking "\$4,269 or more in 1986 United States dollars" and inserting "\$5,556 or more in 1994 United States dollars".

SEC. 102. CEILING ON INVESTMENT INSURANCE.

Section 235(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2195(a)(1)) is amended by striking "\$13,500,000,000" and inserting "\$25,000,000,000".

SEC. 103. CEILING ON FINANCING.

Section 235(a)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2195(a)(2)(A)) is