to choose. I must express my strong opposition to any amendments to this bill that would restrict the reproductive rights of women or, in an attempt to do so, limit or end all funding for international family planning. Earlier this year, a majority of the House recognized the importance of family planning to the health and welfare of our planet and voted to maintain U.S. family planning programs. Let us not go back on our own commitment to these important programs.

I thank my colleagues in the House and look forward to working with them to address these important issues.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) having assumed the chair, Mr. LAHOOD, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1757) to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 1600

ESTABLISHING TIME LIMITATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1757, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1998 AND 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 1757 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 159, that each further amendment to the bill, and all amendments thereto, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, except for the following amendments:

Amendments en bloc offered by the chairman of the Committee on International Relations pursuant to this unanimous consent agreement; the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. KENNEDY] regarding Indonesia; the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] regarding Cuba; the gentleman from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] regarding Egypt; the gentleman from New York [Mr. PAXON] or the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] regarding Palestinian land transactions; the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY] regarding Libya; the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SANFORD] regarding authorization levels; the gentlewoman from Georgia [Ms. MCKINNEY] regarding arms transfer code of conduct; the gentleman from California [Mr. CAPPS] regarding Tibet; the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] regarding counternarcotics authorities; the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON]; and the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

It shall be in order at any time for the chairman of the Committee on International Relations or a designee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member of that committee or a designee, to offer amendments en bloc. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this unanimous-consent agreement shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment, shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole, and may amend portions of the bill previously read for amendment. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska]. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object but I would like to ask a question or two about the unanimous-consent request. As I understand the unanimous-consent request, amendments that are not specifically listed will be allowed only 10 minutes of debate, 5 on each side?

Mr. GILMAN. If the gentleman will yield, the gentleman is correct.

Mr. HAMILTON. And the amendments that are listed which the gentleman has read would have unlimited debate?

Mr. GILMAN. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. HAMILTON. With respect to the votes pending, I think there are three, does the gentleman expect to have a vote on those today?

Mr. GILMAN. We are awaiting instructions from the majority leader.

Mr. HAMILTON. Can the gentleman tell us anything about the rest of the schedule with respect to the bill?

Mr. GILMAN. We anticipate taking up the rest of the bill next week.

Mr. HAMILTON. Will we also take up the European security bill next week?

Mr. GILMAN. We anticipate taking up the European security bill next week.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, this is a question I think that the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] mentioned. I think there were three of us that have amendments from last night. We have been sitting on pins and needles hoping that we could vote on these. We thought these three amendments would be voted on before the Campbell amendment and the Smith amendment. Now they have not. At this point we still are not clear when our three amendments would be voted on.

I would just like to urge on behalf of my colleagues that we vote on them today. If we do not vote on them and adjourn for next week, then the debate is lost for all the time we spent yesterday evening when we were here until 8:30 talking about this. I will not object, but I would like the chairman, if he could, just to clarify again for me and for the other Members, when will we expect a vote on those 3 amendments?

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. STEARNS. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have not had full clarification yet from the majority leader, but anticipate we will probably vote next week on the remaining amendments.

Mr. STEARNS. I will not object but I do protest that, that we are delaying them that much.

Second, it is very difficult for the Members that have these amendments to sit around their office and try and find out what is going on and then if they do not come down, the way we structured this, as I understand it, Mr. Speaker, is that if we do not show up these amendments will not even be voted on. Could the Speaker clarify that for me?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It occurs to the Chair that a recorded vote has been requested in each instance.

Mr. STEARNS. But even though it has been requested, if the Member who has the amendment, if he or she is not here on the floor at the rostrum, as I understand, that amendment will not be voted on because it was presented in a manner that it has to be presented by the Member again. Could the Chair clarify that? I was not clear on that last night.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A sufficient number of Members would have to stand at that appropriate time.

Mr. STEARNS. What this means is that we would have to stand and say there is a quorum not present, Mr. Speaker, and pending that, a quorum not being present, we request a quorum before we get a recorded vote, and then pending the quorum, then we would go ahead with the procedure asking for a recorded vote? Is that what we would have to do?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The committee would proceed under the way it normally disposes of requests for recorded votes.

Mr. STEARNS. The difficulty with that is last night we were here, we asked for a recorded vote, the assumption we had is we would get a recorded vote. Now the Chair is saying we will not get a recorded vote unless we are here.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I want to assure the gentleman that our staff will do everything possible to alert the gentleman if and when there is a vote so that the gentleman will be prepared to come to the floor to be present during that vote.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, with that assurance from the chairman, that is as good as gold.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1714

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 5 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1469, 1997 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR RECOVERY FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, AND FOR OVERSEAS PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS, INCLUDING THOSE IN BOSNIA

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time today to consider a conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1469) making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived, and that the conference report be considered as read when called up.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 1469) making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters and overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Wednesday, June 4, 1997, at page H3442.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON].

□ 1715

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1469, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

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

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to once again come to the House with the conference report on the fiscal year 1997 emergency supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 1469.

As Members of the House may recall, on April 24 of this year, the Committee on Appropriations reported out the bill, and roughly 2 weeks ago we had the bill on the floor. Unfortunately, we were unable to complete the conference quickly, and we had to adjourn over the Memorial Day recess prior to the completion of this very, very important bill that will provide disaster relief to the citizens of some 35 States.

Today we hope to remedy that situation because, after several weeks of negotiating with the Senate on the differences between the House and the Senate versions of this legislation, we have concluded conference yesterday and are able to bring this conference agreement to the House so that the process of providing that very necessary recovery for the vast number of natural disasters that have occurred around the country this year can be maintained.

This conference agreement includes $8.9 billion in new spending authority for fiscal year 1997, of which the discretionary portion is fully offset by the rescission of previously appropriated funds and by including other offsets.

I might stress, Mr. Speaker, that the conference report, as promised when we debated this issue on the floor 2 weeks ago, is fully, and I repeat fully, offset in budget authority.

The major reasons for the increase over the House reported bill are an increase for veterans compensation and pensions and SSI, Supplemental Security Income, benefits for legal aliens. These were deemed by the administration to be necessary to provide for those benefit programs through the end of the fiscal year, and the conference agreed that the benefits, if not paid for, might leave some individuals without compensation before October 1, 1997. It is intended that these sums, these additional sums, be included in this bill so that those people might be provided for.

A summary of the total conference report on the supplemental includes the following major categories: Nearly $5.6 billion for disaster recovery, as I said earlier, for 35 States; another $268 million for other appropriations; $240 million for SSI benefits for legal aliens. All of that is offset in the domestic category of the budget by $6.092 billion in rescissions. That leaves a deficit, or an extra amount of offset by about $21 million.

In the peacekeeping provisions or the defense side of the bill we have some $1.929 billion allocated to repay the Defense Department for what has already been outlaid in Bosnia and elsewhere in other operations around the world, and that is offset with moneys provided from the Defense Department of exactly that same amount of money.

Likewise, there are mandatory appropriations in the conference agreement, mostly for VA, of $937 million. And, as I indicated, the entire discretionary amount is offset in budget authority.

There is $3.3 billion of disaster relief bill going directly to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, so that they can assist those people who have been devastated by floods, tornados, and other natural disasters.

There is $500 million in this bill going to Community Development Block Grants. The people in Minnesota and the Dakotas have indicated that they are concerned that the traditional assistance of FEMA has not been direct enough, has not been flexible enough to go to the people who have lost their businesses, lost their homes, and who are virtually thrown out of their entire towns. And in order to get those folks back and their cities working, they feel that the Community Development Block Grants will be more effective in solving these problems. Hopefully, that will be the case.

There is $650 million to be applied to transportation facility repair; $585 million for flood control and navigation facility repair; $166 million for watershed and flood prevention; $197 million for the national park repairs; $928 million for veterans compensation and pensions, as I mentioned earlier; and $240 million for continued SSI benefits for legal aliens; $1.26 billion for peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and $510 million for peacekeeping efforts in southwest Asia.

I would like to remind all my colleagues again that at the beginning of the 104th Congress; that is, the Congress preceding this one, we in the majority, the Republicans, began a policy of paying for all supplemental appropriations, saying to the country that no longer will we opt for the tradition that has been established in the past of