

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1559

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 1559.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

## THE 1997 BUDGET

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years Congress was in the hands of liberal Democrats who succeeded brilliantly in accomplishing two things. First, they made absolutely sure that, come rain or shine, Government would keep getting bigger and bigger year after year. Second, they made absolutely sure that, come rain or shine, Government would take more and more of your money year after year.

For the great middle class, playing by the rules and paying taxes, big government liberalism soon became the No. 1 obstacle standing in the way of their hopes and dreams. It is time for change. It is hard to save for your future when Government pursues policies that punish saving. It is hard to pass on the family farm or the family business to your children when the Government hits you with a death tax that the children are unable to pay.

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It is hard to believe in the American dream anymore when the Government leaves future generations a legacy of more debt and higher taxes.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the 1997 budget finally puts an end to 40 years of expanding Government and endless taxation. This Congress should stand squarely behind the balanced budget.

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC OVER-  
WHELMINGLY OPPOSED TO MFN

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage all Members of this body to read the poll in today's Wall Street Journal.

By an overwhelming margin, 67 percent of Americans polled by NBC News and the Wall Street Journal said that the United States should demand improvements in China's human rights if China wants to continue its current trading status of MFN; 67 percent.

Among men, the percentage who favor human rights improvement before MFN was renewed was 63 percent. Among women, the percentage was a staggering 70 percent. And I say regarding my side, we are concerned about the gender gap. If we want to see

a gender gap, 70 percent of the American women favor linking trade and MFN.

No matter whether we break it down according to party affiliation, income, or age, the results are still the same: 60 to 70 percent favor demanding improvements in China's human rights record before renewing MFN. Republicans polled, 61 percent; Democrats, 73 percent. Of those earning \$50,000 or more, 63 percent favor human rights; 76 percent of those earning less than \$20,000 favored human rights improvements.

The American people want the Congress to send a message about human rights. They want to send a message about the Catholic priests, the Protestant pastors, the Buddhist monks, and the Muslims being persecuted. I urge this Congress to send a message to the Chinese people. Vote to deny MFN.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has been concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 2 p.m. today.

EXTENDING DEADLINE FOR  
AUSABLE HYDROELECTRIC  
PROJECT IN NEW YORK

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 848) to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of the AuSable hydroelectric project in New York, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 848

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

## SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.

(a) PROJECT NUMBERED 10836.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 10836-000NY, the Commission shall, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the Commission's procedures under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project, under the extension described in subsection (b), for not more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect on the date of the expiration of the extension of the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in subsection (a) that the Commission issued, prior to the date of enactment of

this Act, under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806).

(c) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the license for the project referred to in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall reinstate the license effective as of the date of its expiration and extend the time required for commencement of construction of the project as provided in subsection (a) for not more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods, the first of which shall commence on the date of such expiration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. DAN SCHAEFER] and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. HALL] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. DAN SCHAEFER].

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, under section 13 of the Federal Power Act, project construction must begin within 4 years of issuance of a license. If construction has not begun by that time, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission cannot extend the deadline and must terminate that license.

H.R. 848 and H.R. 1184 provide for extensions for the construction deadline if the sponsor pursues the commencement of construction in good faith and with due diligence. H.R. 1217 provides additional time to complete construction of a project.

These types of bills have not been controversial in the past. The bills do not change the license requirements in any way and do not change environmental standards but merely extend construction deadlines. There is a time in which we have to act, since construction deadlines for one project expired in February and the others expire in the coming months. If Congress does not act, the FERC will terminate the licenses, the project sponsors will lose millions of dollars that they have invested in these projects, and communities will lose the prospect of significant job creation and added revenues.

I should also note that the bills incorporate the views of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Energy and Power Subcommittee solicited the views of FERC, and the agency does not oppose any of the three bills we have up today.

I would like to briefly describe the first of the bills, H.R. 848. It is a bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of New York. The AuSable project is very important to the village of Keeseville. The Prescott Mill hydropower project was the symbolic heart of the community and the major employee in Keeseville from 1832 until the 1960's. The demise of Prescott Mill in the 1960's caused economic hardship in the village that can be felt today.

Redevelopment of the project will provide a badly needed boost to an area