

of the Senate are all present, as are numerous Members of both the House and Senate and Cabinet officers, as well as members of the Supreme Court.

So these changes will greatly improve the security of the Kennedy Center, but most important improve access to circulation around and parking for patrons of the Kennedy Center.

Again I want to emphasize that the cost of construction will be financed by industrial revenue bonds repaid by charges upon those using the Kennedy Center; the construction will not be done at public cost, but this authorization will give the Kennedy Center the means that an entity of this national and international stature requires to continue to be accessible by people of all walks of life to this national center for the performing arts.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, and I would like to commend the Chairman of the Board of the Kennedy Center, Jim Johnson; the President of the Kennedy Center, Larry Wilker, and I want to commend them because no taxpayer money will be used in the innovative financing scheme that will, in fact, provide for adequate parking and reasonable traffic flow that is so very much needed there, and similar to most urban entities, our National Center for the Performing Arts at Kennedy Center needs adequate parking to continue to attract and to serve the many patrons that attend to enjoy their outstanding performances.

So I think it is important to note that the cost of the construction will not be borne again, to state that, by the taxpayer, but financed through privately placed bonds.

So with that I would like to also thank Rick Barnett and Susan Britta, the staffs of both the Democrats and Republicans, for helping us with this matter, and I believe that this will be a great help to the Kennedy Center.

Mr. Speaker, having no other requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1747, 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. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude extraneous material on H.R. 1747, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS EXPANSION

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 985) to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within Arapaho and White River National Forests, Colorado, to include the lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of the lands by the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 985

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

SECTION 1. SLATE CREEK ADDITION TO EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS, ARAPAHO AND WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FORESTS, COLORADO.

(A) SLATE CREEK ADDITION.—If the parcel of land described in subsection (b) is conveyed to the United States on or before December 31, 2000, the parcel shall be included in, and managed as part of, the Eagles Nest Wilderness designated by Public Law 94-352 (90 Stat. 870; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note). Upon conveyance of the parcel, the boundary of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is adjusted to include the parcel.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF ADDITION.—The parcel referred to in subsection (a) is generally depicted on a map entitled "Slate Creek Addition-Eagles Nest Wilderness", dated February 1997, which shall be available for public inspection in the office of the Forest Supervisor of the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado. The parcel comprises approximately 160 acres in Summit County, Colorado, adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH].

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

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

H.R. 985, the bill introduced by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS], provides expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area within the Arapaho and White River National Forests in Colorado to include lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of the lands by the United States.

I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS], as well as the gentleman from New York [Mr. HINCHEY], subcommittee ranking member, and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] for their cooperation with the passage of this measure.

This legislation provides for a 160-acre Slate Creek parcel in Summit County, CO to be added to the Eagles Nest Wilderness and administered as part of the wilderness area if the land is acquired by the United States within the next 4 years.

The Slate Creek parcel is proposed for acquisition by the United States in a land exchange. However, the current owners are unwilling to convey the land unless it is added to the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area and permanently managed as wilderness. Since the Slate Creek parcel is surrounded on three sides by the Eagles Nest Wilderness area, it only makes sense that it be made part of the area if the land is acquired by the United States.

This legislation is noncontroversial, and I urge support for this measure which enjoys the support of the Summit County Board of Commissioners, the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council, the Wilderness Land Trust and a number of other interested parties.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and certainly compliment my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS], for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. I also want to commend the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH], for her leadership and management of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as explained by the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the addition of 160 acres to the Eagle's Nest Wilderness within the Arapaho and White River National Forests in Colorado. These lands, which are known as the Slate Creek Parcel, are currently privately owned, and the owners are unwilling to convey the lands to the Forest Service unless they are permanently protected as wilderness.

Accordingly, the bill provides that when these lands are acquired by the Forest Service they will be included in the wilderness. The Forest Service agrees that these are suitable lands for wilderness and have testified in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a situation where there are willing sellers who believe that the highest and best use of their property is for public conservation purposes. This situation is duplicated in many places across our Nation and is one of the primary reasons that Democrats on the Committee on Resources have championed expanded use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisitions.

I want to thank the owners of the Slate Creek parcel for their conservation interests, and I compliment the

gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] for bringing the matter to the attention of the House, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS].

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this is a great bill.

I would like to thank the subcommittee chairman on forest and forest health, the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH], and I would also like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa for both of their assistance and rapidly bringing this legislation to the floor.

H.R. 985 has already been described, but let me tell my colleagues that it has strong support from Summit County Open Space Advisory Counsel, the Summit County Board of County Commissioners, the Wilderness Land Trust, the Sierra Club and a number of other organizations.

This bill makes a lot of sense. I do not know of any opposition that exists out there, nor do I know of any reason for any opposition to come forth, and I think the bill will pass unanimously.

This noncontroversial legislation, as I have stressed, provides that a 160-acre Slate Creek Parcel of Summit County will be added to the Eagle's Nest Wilderness and administered as a part of the wilderness area.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is a good, good bill.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Slate Creek addition—H.R. 985—and in support of Congress' action to enlarge our wilderness areas and preserve open space. The amount of undisturbed land across the United States is quickly declining. Everywhere farmlands, woodlands, forests are being developed. Something must be done to stop the development of these areas and preserve open space.

That is why I wanted to make a statement today in support of H.R. 985. While I have never seen the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area, I am confident that it is a wonderful place enjoyed by thousands of Americans every year. Adding 160 acres to this wilderness area is a great accomplishment that should be commended. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed into law legislation that would add Shadmoor to the Amagansett Wildlife Refuge on Long Island, NY. This transfer of property is not yet complete but it, like the Slate Creek tract, is one of a handful of properties eligible for inclusion in our public land programs. We should all be working in Congress to identify tracts of land that should be preserved from development.

I commend Congressman MCINNIS' leadership in regard to saving the Slate Creek tract from development and for working to include it in the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area and urge my colleagues to vote in support of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional speakers and at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time

□ 1545

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 985, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. 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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 985, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

EXTENDING CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, EXEMPTIONS, AND IMMUNITIES TO HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 342) to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong economic and trade offices.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 342

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, EXEMPTIONS, AND IMMUNITIES TO HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES.

(a) APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT.—The provisions of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) may be extended to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions as such provisions may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.

(b) APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION.—The President is authorized to apply the provisions of Article I of the Agreement on State and Local Taxation of Foreign Employees of Public International Organizations, done at Washington on April 21, 1994, to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

(c) DEFINITION.—The term "Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices" refers to Hong Kong's official economic and trade missions in the United States.

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

tleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume first to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of the measure before us this afternoon, S. 342, a bill extending certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong's economic and trade offices after the reversion of Hong Kong to China. These Hong Kong offices are presently part of the British Embassy and its consulates, and while Hong Kong will revert to Chinese sovereignty on June 30 of this year, United States policy is to treat it as an autonomous entity for trade and economic purposes.

The enactment of this measure will ensure that its economic and trade offices will not fall under the auspices of the Chinese Embassy and will be given the necessary privileges and status to enable them to continue functioning independently.

This bill does not provide diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities from the trade officials in these offices. Rather, it ensures that they would be eligible for the same status as that accorded other international organizations. Most importantly, it provides the core protections that the trade and economic offices need to perform their functions in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for his leadership in bringing this measure before the House today and in ensuring that we continue to accord a high priority in our policies toward Hong Kong.

Notwithstanding my support for this resolution, let us recognize that Hong Kong lost its autonomy when Beijing declared that the elected legislature is going to be replaced by one appointed by Beijing. There will be no freedom or autonomy in Hong Kong if Beijing nullifies the ordinances protecting individual rights. Hong Kong's trade offices will just be an extension of government in Beijing unless the people of Hong Kong can elect their own representatives and if there are laws that will enshrine their rights. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge prompt adoption of this measure.

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

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