

Navy, positive benefits for U.S. shipyards, positive benefits for the United States Treasury, and positive benefits for U.S. foreign policy. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD].

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding, and, Mr. Speaker, I wish to engage the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations in a colloquy.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I will be pleased to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from Guam.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in section 5 of H.R. 2035 concerning the repair and refurbishment of vessels in U.S. shipyards, the Secretary of the Navy is compelled to require to the maximum extent possible as a condition of transfer of a vessel to a foreign country that the country have repair or refurbishment of that vessel performed at a shipyard located in the United States.

Is it the gentleman's intention that in this provision territories, including a place that the gentleman from New York lived in for a while, Guam, is included in the definition of the United States?

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. The answer is, yes, the committee intends that the territories be included in a definition of the United States for purposes of this provision.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for this clarification, and both him and the ranking member for their hard work on this issue. This will serve to clarify the legislation, and, hopefully, we will not have to do this again in future legislation regarding naval vessels and that this could be an important item for the people of Guam in particular, since the ship repair facility has recently closed down and has become privatized.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2035, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. 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 1 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2107, and that I may be permitted to include tables, charts, and other material.

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

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 181 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2107.

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#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2107) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. CALVERT, Chairman pro tempore, in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Friday, July 11, 1997, a request for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] had been postponed and the bill has been read through page 76, line 22.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I know some of my colleagues will be interested in the schedule, so I might advise the body that it would be our intent to finish the amendments this afternoon, whatever amount of time that takes. We also have some limitations to debate. Then any votes will be rolled until 5 o'clock. We presently have the vote on the National Endowment for the Humanities pending, and I am sure there will be some additional votes.

At 5 o'clock we will vote on the amendments, and then it is my understanding from the leadership that they would like to vote on the suspensions, and the Journal, and then we would hope to get to final passage on the Interior bill some time around 8 o'clock tonight.

I might say to my colleagues I hope that in the intervening time this after-

noon that they will take the opportunity to look at the bill. There are a lot of good features in this bill. I am pleased that we can say we are a little under last year's amount, but at the same time we have taken care of a lot of high priority items within the funds provided in this bill.

It goes without saying we have dozens and dozens of Member projects in this bill. We had 2,000 requests from Members for projects. Many of them overlapped obviously. But we tried, as much as possible, to prioritize these without regard to party, or to region, then simply make the best judgment we could in light of the availability of resources.

In terms of priorities, and I think this is very important, we added \$78 million to the National Parks; that is a \$78 million increase over last year, recognizing the pressures on the parks for visitations, to manage those who would seek the opportunity to visit our parks and to ensure that they have a positive experience.

We added \$57 million for the National Forest System. We are getting enormous pressure on the national forests. Most people do not realize how important these lands are for the recreation users. And I have repeated this fact many times, but it bears another statement, and that is that the National Forest System has triple the visitor days of the Park System. Why? Because it has available a multiplicity of uses: We can hunt, we can fish, we can camp, we can bird watch, we can hike. In some areas we can run an all terrain vehicle; some areas, a snowmobile, a wide diversity of opportunities that are available in the national forests.

And I think a very important point is that the national forests provide an opportunity for family vacations, where the individual has got a couple weeks, can either rent or own a camper, go into a national forest and spend a couple of weeks with his or her family getting a better understanding of our natural heritage.

The allowable timber cut in our national forests, which this committee establishes as a cap, has been declining. In 1990 it was more than 11 billion board feet. Today it is down to 3.8 billion board feet.

And I would also point out in conjunction with that that we are growing each year 17 billion board feet, which means that we have a net increase in board feet in our national forests of almost 14 billion board feet.

Also, I think one of the good features in this bill is that we have emphasized forest health. We have a forest health program to address the problem of insects, of diseases, of the many things that create problems for our national forests, and we have recognized also the President's Northwest Forest Plan, which was the result of a compromise that President Clinton and Vice President Gore worked out some years ago, and we have supported that with significant dollars and language.