

## NOT VOTING—48

Barton	Gilcrest	Neal
Berman	Graham	Norwood
Blumenauer	Hooley	Paxon
Boswell	Hoyer	Pomeroy
Brady	Hyde	Radanovich
Cardin	Johnson, E. B.	Rangel
Chenoweth	Johnson, Sam	Roemer
Cox	Kaptur	Sawyer
Crane	Kennelly	Schiff
Davis (FL)	Kind (WI)	Skaggs
Diaz-Balart	Lampson	Stark
Dingell	Markey	Stokes
Dooley	Matsui	Sununu
Engel	McCarthy (MO)	Thurman
Eshoo	McDermott	Whitfield
Foglietta	Molinari	Young (AK)

□ 1055

Messrs. PACKARD, GEKAS, LEACH, CASTLE, LEWIS of California, HINOJOSA, SMITH of Michigan, BONO, BOEHNER, KANJORSKI, and Ms. SANCHEZ, changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. OWENS changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 2160) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 193 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. 2160.

□ 1058

## 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. 2160) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. LINDER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, July 22, 1997, the bill had been read through page 27, line 23, and pending was the

amendment by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY].

Pursuant to House Resolution 193, no further amendments to the bill or amendments thereto are in order except the amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD before July 22, 1997, the amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD numbered 21, 22, 23, and 35, one amendment by the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] regarding assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the amendment by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], pending when the Committee of the Whole rose on July 22.

Each amendment is considered read, debatable for 10 minutes, except as provided in section 2 of the resolution, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and opponent.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone a request for a recorded vote on any amendment and may reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the time for voting on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote, provided that the time for voting on the first question shall be a minimum of 15 minutes.

After a motion that the Committee rise has been rejected on a day, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may entertain another such motion on that day only if offered by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations or the majority leader or their designee.

After a motion that the Committee rise with the recommendation to strike out the enacting words of the bill has been rejected, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may not entertain another such motion during further consideration of the bill.

Pending is the amendment by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY].

Pursuant to the resolution, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY].

□ 1100

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, 2 years ago, when the majority party tried to cut the School Lunch Program, this Congress and the Nation finally rejected that. Last year, they tried to cut the WIC Program, the feeding program for women, children, and infants. The country rejected that. Now we are back with this bill, and this bill is \$30 million short of the amount that is apparently required in order to prevent 55,000 women and children from being knocked off the program.

At the same time, this Congress is being asked to approve a tax cut which will provide, on average, a \$27,000 tax cut to the richest 1 percent of people in this country. I think that is unconscionable. The bill itself is \$180 million below the President's budget for the WIC Program.

The amendment that I am offering today simply does not even restore the President's request. We simply try to restore \$27 million so that we assure that no person is knocked off the program in the coming fiscal year. Now how do we pay for it? We pay for it simply by eliminating \$36 million, which has been put in this bill above the President's budget to pay for subsidies for commissions for insurance agents who write crop insurance.

This is not aimed in any way at changing what farmers receive by way of crop insurance. This is not aimed in any way at affecting what farmers pay. It is simply aimed at the abuses in the commissions which were described by the General Accounting Office when they pointed out that they had discovered above-average commissions paid to agents by one large company. They discovered the Government was being charged for corporate aircraft and excessive automobile charges, we were being charged for country club memberships and various entertainment activities for agencies and employees such as skybox rentals at professional sporting events.

This amendment is, purely and simply, aimed at ending the rip-off of both farmers and taxpayers by some people who are involved in this program so that we can free up some money for starving and malnourished kids. It is as simple as that. I urge support of the amendment.

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

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in opposition to the Obey amendment.

I would like to point out that we have worked long and hard to put together a bill that is reasonable and fair to all aspects of USDA, FDA, CFTC, and farm credit. I think we have before this House a bill that is balanced. It takes care of the needs of farmers and ranchers; research related to nutrition and ag production; housing, rural development, and nutrition of low-income people and the elderly; food, drug and medical device safety; and food for the needy overseas.

I appreciate the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] trying to do what he is trying to do. If my colleagues look at this bill, they will see that we both regard WIC as the highest priority item in it. WIC received the largest increase in this bill, at \$118.2 million over last year. This is on top of \$76 million that was recently provided in the supplemental. With this increase, WIC is funded at \$3.924 billion in fiscal year 1998. This amount fully supports the current participation level of 7.4 million.

My colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] says that if this amendment does not pass, 55,000, now they are going up about 5,000 a day from what I can gather after hearing the new statistics, 55,000 women, infants and children will be taken off the program.