

and fair debate on preparing our military for the next century. I would urge a yes vote on both measures.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge adoption of the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would simply say that I believe this is No. 8 of the appropriations bills. We have cleared seven in the House. This is the eighth. The Committee on Rules has cleared 2 others, which will make 10. I think there are three left. We are chugging along on schedule doing the work of America. I urge our colleagues to support this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 2266) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and that I may be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 198 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in

the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2266.

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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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 2266) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. CAMP in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MURTHA] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. YOUNG].

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. We are pleased to bring before the committee today what I think is an outstanding bipartisan national defense appropriations bill. The security of our Nation and the protection of our troops and those who serve in uniform should be nonpolitical. It should be bipartisan. This bill reflects that.

This is a bipartisan bill. It was put together with the strong cooperation of the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MURTHA], the ranking member on the subcommittee, and all of the members of the subcommittee and the staff who worked with us. We have presented a bill that is reflective of the needs of the military, reflective of the various threats that exist and potential threats that exist in the world, and it has been done in a very bipartisan fashion.

This bill today, Mr. Chairman, is within the constraints and the agreements on the part of the President, on the part of the House, and on the part of the Senate as we dealt with our budget agreement.

We are basically in agreement with the authorizing bills as passed by the House, from the Committee on National Security and also the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, both of which committees we appropriate for their authorization.

This bill includes some \$4.4 billion over the request of the President but, as I said, with the budget agreement that he has agreed to, that obviously is acceptable. This bill goes directly to the heart of our national security requirements. About 70 percent of the money appropriated in this bill goes for the personnel and the operations and maintenance of the force, salaries, allowances, housing, medical care, et cetera, et cetera. We have increased the medical allowances because there was a shortfall. The administration recognized that and asked for an increase; we provided that.

We have made some very specific recommendations and changes in the bureaucracy in the Pentagon, and as we work toward making the Pentagon a triangle, we have been able to reduce funding for civilian consultants, funding for the civilian bureaucracy, and have reduced funding for military bureaucracy where it was duplicative and, in the opinion of the members of the subcommittee, was really not necessary.

Mr. Chairman, all in all, we bring to this House an excellent bill. I think we can move it through here quickly. The authorizing bill from the Committee on National Security received a very large vote. The authorizing bill for Intelligence was passed by this House with a voice vote, and we expect that we should be able to move this bill quickly as well, because it pretty much tracks the contents of those two authorizing bills.

Mr. Chairman, I include the following tabular material: