Neal	Reyes	Stokes
Oberstar	Rodriguez	Thompson
Obey	Roybal-Allard	Tierney
Olver	Rush	Torres
Ortiz	Sabo	Towns
Owens	Sanders	Velazquez
Pastor	Sanford	Vento
Paul	Sawyer	Visclosky
Payne	Scott	Waters
Pelosi	Serrano	Watt (NC)
Peterson (MN)	Smith, Adam	Wexler
Poshard	Stark	

NOT VOTING—26

Archer	Fattah	McIntosh
Armey	Fawell	McNulty
Baesler	Ganske	Meek (FL)
Bateman	Gonzalez	Meeks (NY)
Clay	Goodling	Paxon
Cooksey	Greenwood	Schumer
Crane	Harman	Shuster
Dicks	Hinchey	Skaggs
Ewing	McDade	

□ 2119

Mr. DOGGETT changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

Mr. MOLLOHAN changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to authorize appropriations for the United States Customs Service for drug interdiction, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 164, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the last order of business this evening will be a rule which will make in order two hours of general debate only, no amendments, and then tomorrow the first order of business will be taking up another rule on the defense authorization bill which will then make in order amendments. But for this evening, there will be no further votes if there is no vote on this rule.

I would ask the gentleman from Texas if it is his understanding that he does not intend to ask for a vote on this rule.

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

Mr. SOLOMON. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to ask for a vote on this rule. I know of no one on my side of the aisle who is going to ask for a vote on this rule.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if we can then proceed with the debate on the rule, we do not intend to use much time on it and then we can go right to the general debate.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2400, BUILDING EFFICIENT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY ACT OF 1998

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1(c) of House Rule XXVIII, I hereby notify the House of my intention tomorrow to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on H.R. 2400, Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act of 1998:

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2400, be instructed to insist that no provisions to prohibit or reduce service-connected disability compensation to veterans for smoking-related illnesses be included in the conference report on H.R. 2400 to offset spending for highway or transit programs.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 435 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 435

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3616) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed two hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on National Security. After general debate the Committee of the Whole shall rise without motion. No further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to subsequent order of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), a very strong supporter of the defense budget, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 435 is a rule providing for general debate consideration of H.R. 3616, the Fiscal 1999 Defense Authorization Bill. The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill and provides two hours of general debate only, which we will take up in just a few minutes. Further consideration of the bill will be governed by a rule that the Committee on Rules will report out later today.

This rule is necessary simply to get the ball rolling on this massive, complex bill which always requires a great deal of floor time.

Mr. Speaker, the annual defense authorization bill is without question one of the most important bills we consider in this body each year. In doing our business that sometimes seems routine, we should never lose sight of the fact that the number one duty of the Federal Government is the protection of national security and that is exactly what this bill is all about here tonight. As usual, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and their staffs have done outstanding work, and I commend them and urge support for the rule so that they can get on with their business tonight.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely imperative that this bill contain adequate funding for our military personnel who are right now out in the field standing vigilant on behalf of all Americans all over this world.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that this bill set out the policies which are consistent with and seek to maintain the unique warrior culture of our military, and that is exactly what it is, it is a warrior culture and that is what it has to be, for without that we cannot win wars, and that is what militaries are for. Some people seem to have forgotten that over the course of years.

Mr. Speaker, to the best extent possible this bill does all of that within the budget restrictions we have to live by. I congratulate and I commend both the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and again their staffs for their outstanding work on behalf of military preparedness.

At $270.8 billion, this bill once again adds money to the President's annually inadequate defense budget request. Very importantly, the bill provides for the first time in 13 years an inflation adjusted increase in procurement spending. That means in being able to purchase the hardware that is going to give the best state of the art to young men and women that serve in the military today. This is exceedingly important.

This account provides for the weapons and equipment that we send our young men into battle with and it has been cut by nearly 70 percent since 1985. I will bet Members did not know that, did they? It is well past time that we reversed this trend.

These accounts contain adequate funding for the President's request of $36 billion for research and development. Again, if we do not have the research and development, we will not have that state of the art equipment that will give our men and women the best. These accounts contain adequate funding for the weapons systems of tomorrow, such as the F–22 Stealth Fighter, the Marine Corps V–22 troop carrier, and the next generation of aircraft carriers and submarines. These