

Technology (EPSCoT) despite the fact that the program was specifically not authorized by H.R. 1274. As expressed in the Science Committee's report accompanying H.R. 1274, I continue to have concerns that once EPSCoT is established, it will grow substantially beyond the \$2.1 million contained in H.R. 4276. The program, which was initiated last year and has done little with its \$1.6 million FY 1998 appropriation, is now slated to receive a 31% increase. Even with the increased funding, it seems unlikely EPSCoT will be able to help the 18 states it is designed to assist. I hope that EPSCoT is not allowed to grow into another very expensive Administration technology initiative.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4276 also includes funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Without the benefit of the increased revenues from a non-existent tobacco settlement, and notwithstanding the very tight budget caps, Chairman Rogers and the Appropriations Committee have managed to increase funding for high-priority programs, most importantly local warnings and forecasts within the National Weather Service.

This was made possible in part after an agreement was reached by the Appropriations Committee, the Science Committee and Secretary Daley to maintain the \$550 million budget cap on the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) weather modernization program.

I am also pleased that report language in the bill echoes the Science Committee's concern over adequate weather radar coverage for northwest Pennsylvania. I hope during the new fiscal year that NOAA will see the light and place a National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NEXRAD) system in this area that is so obviously necessary.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TALENT) having assumed the chair, Mr. Hastings of Washington, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

CENSUS

(Mr. SAWYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, later on today we are going to take up an issue of enormous importance to the Nation, and that is how we count and measure ourselves. Last week in a debate that was largely constructive on the floor, we had a discussion that was thoughtful and well informed. However, insofar as one of our Members, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), suggested

that there was a hand-picked nature of the scientific panels that recommended statistical sampling methods, I wanted to share with the Members the reply of the American Statistical Association, whose president wrote to me over the weekend and said that the members of the panel that made this recommendation are recognized by their peers as among the Nation's leading experts on sampling large human populations. It included Janet Norwood, who served three administrations, Carter and Reagan and Bush, with, as the New York Times put it, her near legendary reputation for nonpartisanship. Dr. Moore, the president of the American Statistical Association, went on to cite the extraordinary quality of the members of that panel.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD at this point the substance of his letter.

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, August 3, 1998.
Congressman THOMAS SAWYER,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SAWYER: Thank you for sending me the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD account of debate on H. Res. 508, containing the remarks of several Members regarding the use of statistical sampling methods in the 2000 Census. Despite obvious differences in perspective, the discussion is thoughtful and well-informed, the sole major exception being the incorrect statement by Mr. Miller of California that the Census Bureau plans to intentionally not count 10 percent of the population. The overall level of the discussion does credit to the House of Representatives.

I do wish to respond on behalf of the American Statistical Association to the remarks of Mr. Miller of Florida concerning the "hand-picked" nature of the scientific panels that have recommended consideration of statistical sampling methods. I refer specifically to the Blue Ribbon Panel of the American Statistical Association. The members of this panel are recognized by their peers as among the nation's leading experts on sampling large human populations. They are certainly not identified with any political interest.

The ASA Blue Ribbon Panel included Janet Norwood, who served three administrations as Commissioner of Labor Statistics from 1979 to 1991. On her retirement, the New York Times (December 31, 1991) spoke of her "near-legendary reputation for nonpartisanship." Dr. Norwood is a past president of ASA, as is Dr. Neter of the University of Georgia, another panel member. Like these, the other members of the panel have been repeatedly elected by their peers to posts of professional responsibility. For example, Dr. Rubin of Harvard University is currently chair of ASA's Section on Survey Research Methods, the statistical specialty directly relevant to the census proposals. I assure you that this panel was selected solely on the basis of their widely recognized scientific expertise. Their judgment that "sampling has the potential to increase the quality and accuracy of the count and to reduce costs" is authoritative.

Mr. Miller, in hearings before his committee, has indeed produced reputable academics who disagree with the findings of the ASA Blue Ribbon Panel and the several National Research Council panels which reported similar conclusions. Those whose names I have seen lack the expertise and experience in sampling that characterize the

panel members. Statistics, like medicine, has specialties: one does not seek out a proctologist for heart bypass surgery.

I do wish to make it clear that the American Statistical Association takes no position on the political or constitutional issues surrounding the census. We also express no opinion on details of the specific proposals put forth by the Census Bureau for employing statistical sampling. As the nation's primary professional association of statisticians and users of statistics, we wish to make only two points in this continuing debate:

- Estimation based on statistical sampling is a valid and widely-based scientific method. The general attacks on sampling that the census debate has called forth from some quarters are uninformed and unjustified.

- The non-partisan professional status of government statistical offices is a national asset that should be carefully guarded. We depend on the statistical professionals in these offices for information widely used in both government and private sector decisions. Attacks on these offices as "politicized" damage public confidence in vital data.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID S. MOORE,
President.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1998

A portion of the following was omitted from the debate of the gentleman from Texas, Mr. FROST at page H-6601 during consideration of H. Res. 510, providing for consideration of the H.R. 4328, Department of Transportation and related agencies appropriation Act 1999.

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

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to make a fairly brief opening statement and then to yield back all of our time in an effort to try and move this along.

Mr. Speaker, while I rise in support of this rule and this bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 1999. I am concerned that a point of order may lie against an amendment which seeks to limit expenditures of funds for a highway project funded in this bill. Mr. Speaker, should this point of order be pursued and ultimately upheld, the House will set a terrible precedent which may have ramifications far beyond this transportation appropriations.

The matter is now being negotiated, but I do want to express my concern that a major change in the rules that govern this House was included in T-21 and was never even considered by the Committee on Rules. That being said, Mr. Speaker, while the funding level of this appropriations bill is slightly below the levels requested by the President in several areas, overall, the Committee on Appropriations did a good