

job of providing adequate funding for most of the programs and services in the bill.

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 be 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 appropriation. 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 were included in TEA-21 and were 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 Appropriations Committee did a good job of providing adequate funding for most of the programs and services in the bill. The bill provides a total \$46.9 billion, a nine percent increase over last year's funding levels, much of which is required for the new and guaranteed funding levels for highway and transit programs pursuant to the recently enacted TEA-21 bill.

I am particularly pleased that the Committee has provided \$10.6 million for RAILTRAN funding for Phase II of a modern and efficient commuter rail connection between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. While funding for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit system North Central line is considerably less than the amount that had been requested, I remain hopeful that the Committee will, within the constraints imposed upon it by subcommittee allocations, be able to increase this funding when the bill goes to conference.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my concern about a particular problem that has been brought to my attention which affects a number of cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Because TEA-21 zeroed out operating assistance for transit systems in large urbanized areas, suburban cities within those metro areas have also found that they too have been restricted in the manner in which they can use federal transit funds. In my own congressional District, the cities of Arlington and Grand Prairie will be particularly hard hit by the elimination of operating assistance. In both instances, the suburban city transit systems are used exclusively to provide transportation for the elderly and the disabled but neither city has a dedicated sales tax to pay for such a system.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I am currently writing legislation that seeks to correct this problem now confronting cities like Grand Prairie and Arlington. I hope to be able to introduce this bill before the August recess and would urge the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as the Transportation Committee to give this legislation careful consideration. If the Congress does not provide a remedy, cities like Grand Prairie which serve 3,500 disabled and elderly persons a year will most likely have to cut back their services by 50 percent next year.

Mr. Speaker, given the constraints with which the Committee must address the concerns of individual Members as well as the component parts of the Transportation Depart-

ment, this is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the bill.

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

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SESSIONS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BARR of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CUNNINGHAM (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 2 p.m. and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. MCINNIS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of medical reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TALENT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SESSIONS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BARR of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TALENT) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOYER.

Mrs. CAPPS.

Mr. KIND.

Ms. SANCHEZ.

Ms. SLAUGHTER.

Mr. SANDERS.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. TOWNS.

Mr. GEJDENSON.

Mr. ORTIZ.

Mr. WYNN.

Mr. LAFALCE.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

Mr. SERRANO.

Mr. BERMAN.

Mr. FILNER.

Ms. NORTON.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TALENT) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. LEWIS of California.

Mr. HUNTER.

Mr. PORTER.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon.

Mr. PAUL.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma.

Mr. COBLE.

Mr. SOLOMON.

Mrs. CUBIN.

Mr. PAPPAS.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

Mr. BARR of Georgia.

Mr. MICA.

Mr. BEREUTER.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4237. An act to amend the District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995 to revise the revenues and activities covered under such Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3731. An act to designate the auditorium located within the Sandia Technology Transfer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the "Steve Schiff Auditorium."

H.R. 3504. An act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and to further define the criteria for capital repair and operation and maintenance.

H.R. 3152. An act to provide that certain volunteers at private non-profit food banks are not employees for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

H.R. 872. An act to establish rules governing product liability actions against raw materials and bulk component suppliers to medical device manufacturers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 765. An act to ensure maintenance of a herd of wild horses on Cape Lookout National Seashore.

H.R. 643. An act to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at the corner of Superior and Huron Roads, in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "Carl B. Stokes United States Courthouse."

H.R. 434. An act to provide for the conveyance of small parcels of land in the Carson National Forest and the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico, to the village of El Rito and the town of Jemez Springs, New Mexico.

H.R. 4354. An act to establish the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund on behalf of the families of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police.

H.R. 1085. An act to revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organizations, as title 36, United States Code, "Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations."