

Sawyer	Spence	Walsh
Saxton	Spratt	Wamp
Schaefer, Dan	Stabenow	Watkins
Schumer	Stark	Watt (NC)
Scott	Stokes	Watts (OK)
Serrano	Strickland	Waxman
Sessions	Stupak	Weldon (FL)
Sherman	Sununu	Weldon (PA)
Shimkus	Talent	Weller
Shuster	Tauscher	Wexler
Sisisky	Tauzin	Weygand
Skaggs	Taylor (NC)	White
Skeen	Thomas	Whitfield
Skelton	Thompson	Wicker
Slaughter	Thornberry	Wilson
Smith (MI)	Thune	Wise
Smith (NJ)	Thurman	Wolf
Smith (OR)	Tiahrt	Woolsey
Smith (TX)	Torres	Wynn
Smith, Adam	Towns	Yates
Snowbarger	Trafficant	Young (AK)
Snyder	Turner	Young (FL)
Solomon	Upton	
Souder	Visclosky	

NAYS—65

Barr	Hergert	Petri
Barrett (WI)	Hilleary	Roemer
Blunt	Hostettler	Rothman
Boyd	Hulshof	Royce
Chenoweth	Inglis	Salmon
Christensen	Kind (WI)	Sanford
Condit	Klink	Scarborough
Conyers	Lee	Schaffer, Bob
Cox	Lewis (GA)	Sensenbrenner
Crane	Lofgren	Shadegg
Crapo	Luther	Shays
Deutsch	McGovern	Smith, Linda
Doggett	McKinney	Stearns
Ensign	Meehan	Stenholm
Filner	Miller (CA)	Stump
Frank (MA)	Minge	Tanner
Gejdenson	Moran (KS)	Taylor (MS)
Goode	Neumann	Tierney
Goodlatte	Nussle	Velazquez
Green	Olver	Vento
Hall (TX)	Paul	Waters
Hefley	Payne	

NOT VOTING—13

Brady (TX)	Goss	Rangel
Burton	Kennelly	Ros-Lehtinen
Cardin	Linder	Shaw
Diaz-Balart	Poshard	
Ehrlich	Pryce (OH)	

□ 1225

Messrs. ROTHMAN, HALL of Texas, INGLIS of South Carolina, HERGER, and HEFLEY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. PELOSI changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on rollcall 453, the LaHood motion to table H. Res. 545, impeaching Kenneth Starr; rollcall 454, H. Res. 144, expressing support for the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; rollcall 455, H. Res. 505, expressing the sense of the House with respect to Diplomatic Relations with Pacific Island Nations; rollcall 456, H. Con. Res. 315, Condemning Atrocities by Serbian Police against Albanians; and rollcall 457, the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 4112, the Legislative Branch Appropriations for FY 99, due to official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on all of these votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and wish to be recorded as an "aye" vote on H.R. 4112, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Conference Report (Roll Call 457).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 550, and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3616, STROM THURMOND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 549 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 549

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany 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. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

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

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

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

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like at this point, before we begin debate, to acknowledge the presence on the floor of our colleague, the dean of the Texas delegation (HENRY GONZALEZ) who has been ill for the last year but who has returned to be with us during these closing days of the session.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, from this side of the aisle, we would like to say hello to the dean of the Texas delegation and welcome him back. He is one of the most respected Members of this body.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield half our time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), 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, this resolution makes in order the consideration of the con-

ference report to accompany H.R. 3616, the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration, and it provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the rule will enable the House to proceed with the expeditious consideration of the conference report for the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, the most important bill that Congress is called upon to enact each and every year.

I do note right here at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that the conferees have dedicated this legislation to Senator STROM THURMOND. And that, I believe, is something unprecedented, to name a bill after a Member who is still in office.

The preamble to this conference report cites Senator THURMOND's various services to the Nation, and he is certainly deserving of this singular honor. Here is a man who went into Normandy with the 82nd Airborne Division on D-Day, back during World War II, and still, today, 54 years later, he continues to serve our country as chairman of the very important Senate Committee on Armed Services, a committee on which he has been a member for 40 years. Forty years. STROM THURMOND has truly had a unique and influential career in service to the country, and we salute him here today.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to pay tribute to our colleague from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), the chairman of the Committee on National Security, and equally commend the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the ranking member of the committee. They are truly two of the most respected, outstanding Members of this body. They do, year in and year out, yeoman work on this extremely, extremely important measure. These gentlemen have served our country with distinction. Not for as long as STROM THURMOND has, but nobody else has, but they are certainly no less able and certainly no less dedicated. We appreciate the outstanding work that they and the conferees have done on this report.

And their staffs are to be commended as well. A lot of people do not know how much staff work goes into something as important as this, and on both sides of the aisle they are truly outstanding. They have made the very most of what they were given to work with, the budget ceilings being what they are, which we all object to.

This conference report is the product of a genuine bipartisan effort. It has, I am informed, been signed by every conferee, and that is highly unusual in itself.

Mr. Speaker, I, for one, want to pay particular tribute to what the conferees have done in addressing the readiness problem. I know there are people who question how a \$270 billion budget, when we are spending that much money, how it could still leave