

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 128, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 123, 124, 125, 126, 127 and 128.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye" on rollcall votes 124, 125, 126 and 127 and "no" or "nay" on rollcall votes 123 and 128.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1555, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-136) on the resolution (H. Res. 167) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1555) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER ON TOMORROW MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1141, 1999 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XXII, I hereby notify the House of my intention tomorrow to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on H.R. 1141, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. UPTON Moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the 2 Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1141 be instructed to insist that no provision—

(1) not in H.R. 1141, when passed by the House,

(2) not in H.R. 1664 when passed by the House or directly related to H.R. 1664,

(3) not in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1141, as passed by the Senate, be agreed to by the managers on the part of the House.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 3.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1141, 1999 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees on the bill (H.R. 1141) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DEUTSCH moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 1141 be instructed to insist on the funding level of \$621 million contained under the heading "Central America And The Caribbean Emergency Disaster Recovery Fund" of the House bill for necessary expenses to address the effects of hurricanes in Central America and the Caribbean and the earthquake in Colombia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH).

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

Mr. Speaker, Central America has been an American foreign policy success story, probably one of the great success stories in this country. We have actively supported or helped take countries from dictatorships to democracies, from conflict to peace, and from closed to opened economies.

But along the way in October a disaster occurred, a disaster which actually I was told today as a factual statement is actually the worst disaster in recorded history in the Western Hemisphere; an incredible historical statement to make, but a factual statement. That is the hurricane that devastated this area, Hurricane Mitch.

The devastation that occurred, the equivalent destruction, had it occurred in the United States of America, would have been 80,000 people dead, 25 million people made homeless. It is hard to conceive of what that would mean on a scale in our country, 25 million people homeless.

The issue of the hurricane was that it was not a localized damage, it was not a localized effect. The hurricane was over Honduras for 6 days. These are just incredible statistics, but accurately, I think, ascertained through AID sources.

In Honduras, 77 percent of the people in Honduras were directly affected by the hurricane, "directly affected" defined as either a family member died, was severely injured, was displaced in their home, lost their job, or their crop was lost, 77 percent of a country.

□ 1700

In Nicaragua, that number was 20 percent.

To give you a sense again just of the scope of the destruction, from 1961 to 1998, AID spent a total of \$298 million in the western hemisphere for aid in terms of natural disasters. That is from 1961 to 1998, during that entire period of time, a total of \$298 million. We have already spent, already expended, \$312 million in terms of Hurricane Mitch restoration efforts.

This is a region in the world which truly is our neighbor. It is also a huge trading partner, \$18 billion a year in U.S. exports, which is actually more than all of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe combined.

This House has passed previously funding, actually \$621 million in direct funding for reconstruction assistance. The House I think wisely actually increased this number above the Senate number, and this motion to recommit is to substantiate, to support the House position.

This funding is mostly through, really, AID in terms of projects like schools, health units, bridges, really infrastructure of the countries that were devastated by the storm.

If we do not do this, if we do not do this, what will occur? On a human level, what is already occurring is really the health issues, severe health issues of dysentery. Luckily, we were able to reprogram money, actually \$30 million, \$30 million of the 50 million additional dollars that this Congress appropriated for world children's health. We appropriated in the last Congress \$50 million for children's survival for the entire world. \$30 million of that \$50 million had wisely been spent to avoid a public health disaster in Central America. But that disaster can still occur.

So on a human level, we really are talking about health issues really in a sense whether we are going to do this or deal with increasing assistance or seeing starvation. But we are also dealing with a planting season which hopefully we will be able to do this supplemental and reach the time when the planting season will occur, which is before the start of the summer. So, on a human level, there are incredible human issues that we need to deal with.

But I would say to my colleagues that there are two direct issues. What we have seen previously is that this truly is our neighborhood, and these are our neighbors. Literally, our neighbors have the ability to walk to our homes, and we have seen this occur. If we give no hope to these people, I think what is overdetermined and what we know will happen is we will have another issue to deal with. It is an issue which I do not think this Congress directly wants to face, but it is an issue that will come to us.

On a second level, I think we need to remind ourselves, before the success stories, what was Central America. It was a place, from the changes we discussed, of dictatorships, of conflict, of war, and of closed economies. I can