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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 12, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT W. NEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 323. An act to redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park and establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

S. 376. An act to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications, and for other purposes.

S. 416. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the city of Sisters, Oregon, a certain parcel of land for use in connection with a sewage treatment facility.

S. 606. An act for the relief of Global Exploration and Development Corporation, Kerr-McGee Corporation, and Kerr-McGee Chemical, LLC (successor to Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation), and for other purposes.

S. 700. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Ala Kahakai Trail as a National Historic Trail.

S. 768. An act to establish court-martial jurisdiction over civilians serving with the Armed Forces during contingency operations, and to establish Federal jurisdiction over crimes committed outside the United States by former members of the Armed Forces and civilians accompanying the Armed Forces outside the United States.

S. 776. An act to authorize the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study for the preservation of the Loess Hills in western Iowa.

S. 1027. An act to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes Resources Conservancy, and for other purposes.

S. 1257. An act to amend statutory damages provisions of title 17, United States Code.

S. 1258. An act to authorize funds for the payment of salaries and expenses of the Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

S. 1259. An act to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 relating to dilution of famous marks, and for other purposes.

S. 1260. An act to make technical corrections in title 17, United States Code, and other laws.

S. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution condemning Palestinian efforts to revive the original Palestine partition plan of November 29, 1947, and condemning the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for its April 27, 1999, resolution endorsing Palestinian self-determination on the basis of the original Palestine partition plan.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105–277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, who consulted with the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and the House, announces the designation of Allan H. Meltzer, of Pennsylvania, as the Chairman of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

PORTLAND ACCESS SITUATION

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, my goal in Congress is to make sure that the Federal Government is a constructive partner in promoting livable communities. Today, increasingly, an important part of promoting livable communities deals with the Internet connection that our cities and counties have with the rest of the world.

The Federal Government has played a very constructive role in assisting schools and libraries with the E-Rate. It has provided an important resource for over 32,000 communities over the last 3 years and potentially up to $4 billion in these first 2 years.

Just as important as the leadership for schools and libraries with the E-Rate, Congress and the FCC now has the opportunity to ensure that communities have access to the Internet service providers of their choice with cable broadband networks.

This leadership is going to be increasingly important in the future as cable systems are concentrated around the country. Only L.A. and New York are expected to have more than one cable system provider in the next year.

An important chapter of this discussion is being played out in my community where the city of Portland and Multnomah County became the first local jurisdictions in the country to require competition on this high-speed Internet connection. As part of an approval for AT&T's purchase of the local TCI cable, the city and the county required that they allow nonaffiliated ISPs access to their broadband network.

They argue that this step was necessary in order to preserve consumer choice. Without open access, consumers who wish to use high-speed

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cable modems for their Internet access, and who did not want to use the AT&T Excite at-home service, they would have to pay double, in effect paying twice.

AT&T sued our local governments, arguing that they had no right to break AT&T's monopoly over this access. The Federal court has ruled that the city was entirely within its power and could promote competition. Now AT&T is appealing that decision.

Now, most people feel that the local jurisdiction is expected to prevail. But it appears that the FCC, based on recent comments from Chairman Kennard and an article recently in the Wall Street Journal, that the FCC is not yet ready to argue against AT&T's proposed monopoly.

As a result, I am exceedingly concerned that consumers across the country may be in the bizarre situation where they have competition on the horse and buggy aspect, the two wires that come in over the telephone; but that they will have only one choice when it comes to the 90 percent that is the communication of the future the broadband. The whole point behind the judge's ruling was that we ought to have this competition.

Some are arguing that we need a uniform system to prevent 30,000 jurisdictions from around the country to have the possibility of each having their separate technical specifications. If that is indeed a problem, then let us deal with that problem specifically by providing technical standards through the FCC.

Solving the problem of technical standards by granting only one company monopoly status sounds a lot like using communism in order to assure that there would be uniform gauges for the train tracks. We can do better.

I urge that the FCC and Congress keep an open mind on the question of the impact of this local decision on the development of broadband communication infrastructure. Let us work to solve the real problems with the goal of ensuring consumer choices.

We do not have to limit the access simply to the 10 percent where there is the technology of the past on the telephone wires; and we certainly do not need to use a Communist approach in order to make sure that we have full access for technical standards.

I hope that we will be able to support local governments in this important aspect of promoting livable communities.

PRESIDENT'S MEDICARE PROPOSAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, when the President said he was going to announce the program to expand Medicare coverage in some areas and to undo some of the negative effects of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 using some of the additional revenues that have become available, I was ready to cheer unreservedly. I now cheer reservedly. I would give the President between 1½ and 2 cheers out of a possible 3.

The President's program is clearly better in all respects than anything we will get from the majority party in the House or from any of its presidential candidates. So I am glad that the President has moved forward. But he has not moved forward enough.

First of all, we have to be more forthright in admitting error. Now I acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, this is an error which it is easier for me to admit since I did not participate in its committal. I am talking about the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Congress was very proud of the Balanced Budget Act, which cut Medicare to pay for capital gains tax cut and also put limits on other government spending which virtually everyone in the House admits are unrealistic, but admits this privately only.

What we did in 1997 was to cut Medicare indubitably. I am struck by the number of my colleagues who now acknowledge that Medicare was cut too deeply, although I am surprised by the number of them who appear not to have been in the room when it was done.

As I read, people talk about how the 1997 budget cuts now turn out unfairly to have cut Medicare. I believe that I am seeing an interesting phenomenon. I cannot remember a time in history when so many people have disclaimed responsibility for the entirely foreseeable consequences of their own actions.

The President acknowledges, having signed that bill, that there was error, but insufficiently. He is prepared to undo some of the harm of the 1997 Budget Act, but not enough. He wants to, in fact, impose some cuts in the period after 2002 when it would have ended.

The President cuts hospital still too much. We should remember, when we are talking about reimbursement to hospitals, we are not talking about the income of wealthy physicians, although physicians have a right to be concerned about their income. We are talking about cutting funds that go to pay some of the hardest working people in this society who get little money for tough jobs.

The people who staff hospitals include many people who work 7 days a week, 24 hours a day in unpleasant ways, cleaning and cooking and preparing patients. They are underpaid as a whole and ought to be paid more. We should, in fact, increase substantially over what the President proposes what we do to reimburse hospitals.

The notion that the wealthiest society in the history of the world in the midst of a booming economy cannot afford adequately to compensate people who provide us health care is simply wrong. That same unwillingness to provide sufficient funds becomes apparent in the President's drug bill.

I give him credit for proposing that we begin to cover prescription drugs for some degree for lower income people and others on Medicare. But he does not, again, do enough. For example, the plan says at 2008, after it is fully implemented, the Federal Government will pay up to half of $5,000 a year in prescription drugs.

Now, understand that the language supporting the bill says that will cover 90 percent to the people at that time. In other words, 10 percent of the people will still not get 50 percent coverage. Others, of course, will get 50 percent. But 50 percent coverage, if one is living on $22,000 or $23,000 a year, and one has got to pay $520 a year in premiums, and then one has got to pay another $2,500 for one's half share of the $5,000, that is pretty significant. That is $3,000 for drug coverage out of one's $22,000 or $23,000. But even that, inadequate in and of itself, takes too long to become real.

The President proposes that we start by only reimbursing people up to $2,000 in drugs, and we reimburse for only half. So in the first year, if one is paying $3,000 or $4,000 a year for one's drugs, which is not unusual among older people with various ailments, the Federal Government will help one to the extent of only $1,000 to that minus the $288 one has to have paid in premiums in that first year.

Why phase this in to $5,000? If the $5,000 is the reasonable figure, why do we not get to it right away? Sometimes one has to phase things in because they are complicated. One has to make sure one gets them worked out.

But paying for half of $2,000 is not simpler than paying for half of $5,000. We are talking here about a purely numerical calculation. There was no justification whatsoever either, in my judgment, for the fact that it is too low or for the fact that it takes so long to reach that number unless we want to cut taxes by $800 billion or $900 billion.

It is true, if one begrudges public spending even for important purposes such as helping older people pay for their medications, then one cannot afford this. But the President correctly repudiates the Republican effort to cut $800 billion or $900 billion. The President understands that that would be excessive. He should follow through on his understanding.

Inadequately compensating hospitals is not in the interest of this country. Refusing to acknowledge the error that this Congress and this President made in 1997, the Balanced Budget Act, is a mistake, and having too small a prescription drug program ill-suits a country of our wealth.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, we acknowledge that we have been blessed by incredible resources that have enriched our nation. We know too that as individuals we have opportunities that can surpass our own hopes or visions. We pray, almighty God, that we will use these resources and blessings in ways that give us a clearer vision of our common creation and our shared humanity. Thus, where there is conflict, let us sow peace; where there is hatred or envy, let us show understanding and where there is estrangement between people, let us practice reconciliation and love. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNULTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following Communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK.
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washingotn, DC, July 2, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washignton, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission to clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 2, 1999 at 11:19 a.m. that the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 35.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONGRESSIONAL AIDE OF HON. PETER DEUTSCH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Reva Britan, Congressional Aide of the Honorable PETER DEUTSCH, Member of Congress:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 1999.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a trial subpoena (for testimony) issued by the Circuit Court for Broward County, Florida in the case of State v. Bush, No. 96006912GF10A.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

REVA BRITAN,
Congressional Aide.

COMMUNICATION FROM DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES OF HON. PETER DEUTSCH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Susan B. Lewis-Ruddy, Director of Constituent Services of the Honorable PETER DEUTSCH, Member of Congress:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 1999.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

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After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

SUSAN B. LEWIS-RUDDY,
Director of Constituent Services.

THE REALITY OF THE PROPOSED IMF GOLD SALE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Nevada is one of the largest gold producing States in the Nation, but this vital industry, which helps put food on the table for thousands of my constituents in Nevada is in jeopardy.

Last Friday, the International Monetary Fund, also known as the IMF, reaffirmed its commitment to dump part of its gold reserves onto the open market just to hide its debt losses. The bureaucratic dreamers at the IMF contend that this sell-off is necessary to give financial help and relief to poor countries.

While that may sound okay on the surface, I am here to talk about reality. The reality of this proposed gold sale is the disruption of the global gold market, which translates into a flooded market, which translates into plummeting gold prices; and the reality is that many of the mines in North America will begin closing at an alarming rate. This means thousands of America's hardest working men and women will be out of work, unable to feed their families, all because of the IMF.

Fortunately, the final decision does not rest with the international bureaucrats at the IMF. This proposed IMF gold sale must be approved by Congress.

My constituents are depending on Congress to stop this ill-conceived scheme. I adamantly oppose and am committed to stopping this proposed giveaway and urge my colleagues to join me.

OPENING OF SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

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

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we opened the new Saratoga National Cemetery, and I was in the company of 2,000 distinguished veterans and a very special former colleague in this House. Two of my former colleagues, as a matter of fact, spent a lot of time on that project, one of them, Sam Stratton, who was a Member of this body for 30 years. He has since passed away.

But another, thank God, was there for the event itself, and that was Congressman Jerry Solomon, who served in this House for 20 years and rose to be Chair of the Committee on Rules, and it was a great honor to be in the presence of all of those veterans and to be able to look Congressman Solomon in the eye and say:

''Thank you for your dedication through the years and for allowing me to be a part of those efforts for the past 10 years.''

And now, to be able to realize that heroes like Pete D'Alesandro, who was a Congressional Medal of Honor winner from my district, will be one of the first veterans who finds that place as his final resting place, it was just another great opportunity to be with great Americans and to thank God for my life and veterans for my way of life.

EUROPE AND JAPAN MANIPULATE AMERICAN MONETARY POLICY

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, powerful banks of Europe now control 26 percent of our Federal Reserve system.

Think about it. The banks of Europe control one out of every four shares of our monetary system.

Unbelievable.

If that is not enough to repossess our Lamborghinis, the same statistics reflect the following:

Japan is now the single largest holder of American debt.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. When Europe and Japan can manipulate American monetary policy, something is wrong, very wrong.

I yield back all of the freebies that Uncle Sam has given to Europe and Japan since World War II.

A NEW DAY IN CONGRESS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker and new Members, take note:

Soon Members will consider an appropriation of somebody else's money, the residents of the District. I appreciate the expeditious way the District appropriation is being moved this year.

The Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), with whom Mayor Tony Williams and I met early on, understand that D.C. should be first, not last.

We also appreciate the communication that characterizes the process led by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) working with the ranking member, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. Speaker, all can see that this is a new day in the District. Let us make it a new day in the Congress as well.

District residents have ordered up a new mayor and a revitalized city counsel. They have done their home rule homework. Mayor Williams and District officials deserve a new attitude from the Congress. That attitude begins with basic respect for D.C. law without appendages, a ''you-demand'' consent of the governed for my colleagues' constituents. Mine deserve the same.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m.

CORRECTING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2035) to correct errors in the authorizations of certain programs administered by the National Highway Traffic Administration.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2035

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY.—Section 30104 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$81,200,000'' and inserting ''$98,313,500''.

(b) MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION.—Section 32102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$6,200,000'' and inserting ''$9,562,500''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2035 and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2035, a bill to correct the authorizations of certain programs at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is a simple but important measure. When NHTSA was reauthorized last year as part of the TEA–21 highway bill, the administration mistakenly provided the committee with authorization figures that were insufficient to color the agency's needs. As a result, NHTSA found itself without funds to meet its mission to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

The bill simply increases the authorization levels for motor vehicle safety and information programs to a total of $107.9 million annually, approximately a $40 million increase over current law. It is the committee's belief that this increase will put the agency in the position it would have been absent the administration's error. While this is a substantial increase over the enacted authorization levels, it is $8 million less than the administration's latest request, which included funding for items that were not part of last year's authorization bill.

Without increased funding, the agency will not be able to crash test many of the new car models released in 1999 and 2000, depriving our constituents of important safety information. The agency will also have difficulty finding the necessary funds to work with car manufacturers and suppliers in the development of the next generation of air bags and other safety devices. They might even have to curtail their efforts to alert the public to potential safety defects in automobiles.

This bill strikes the appropriate balance between ensuring that the agency is able to meet the obligations we set forth in the highway bill and making sure that wasteful spending remains in check. As Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, I can assure my colleagues that we will continue our vigorous oversight of this agency to make certain that the agency is meeting its ultimate measure of success, reducing fatalities on the Nation's highways.

All of us know just how important issues of auto safety are to our constituents. This bill does not relieve the Committee on Appropriations of the need to pass transportation spending legislation that remains within the budget caps. However, as the transportation appropriation bill moves to conference, it gives the appropriators added flexibility to fund automobile safety programs that are important to our constituents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2035 raises the annual budget authorization for the National Highway Traffic Administration for fiscal years 1999 through 2001 to provide for an annual maximum authorization of $98.3 million for motor vehicle safety programs and $9.6 million for motor vehicle information programs for a total annual authorization of $107.9 million. An increase in NHTSA's authorization is necessary because last year, when the committee acted on the reauthorization bill, NHTSA failed to provide the committee with the correct funding request for both its safety and information activities.

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With the increase in funding provided by H.R. 2035, the National Highway Traffic Administration will be able to undertake important motor vehicle safety and information activities that

it otherwise could not. This bill was ordered reported by the full committee by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2035.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to correct errors in the authorizations of certain programs administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REJECTING NOTION THAT SEX BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN IS POSITIVE

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 107) expressing the sense of Congress rejecting the conclusions of a recent article published by the American Psychological Association that suggests that sexual relationships between adults and children might be positive for children, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 107

Whereas no segment of our society is more critical to the future of human survival than our children;

Whereas children are a precious gift and responsibility given to parents by God;

Whereas the spiritual, physical, and mental well-being of children are parents' sacred duty;

Whereas parents have the right to expect government to refrain from interfering with them in fulfilling their sacred duty and to render necessary assistance;

Whereas the Supreme Court has held that parents ''who have this primary responsibility for children's well-being are entitled to the support of laws designed to aid discharge of that responsibility'' (*Ginsberg* v. *New York*, 390 U.S. 629, 639 (1968));

Whereas it is the obligation of all public policymakers not only to support, but also to defend, the health and rights of parents, families, and children;

Whereas information endangering children is being made public and, in some instances, may be given unwarranted or unintended credibility through release under professional titles or through professional organizations;

Whereas elected officials have a duty to inform and counter actions they consider damaging to children, parents, families, and society;

Whereas Congress has made sexual molestation and exploitation of children a felony;

Whereas all credible studies in this area, including those published by the American Psychological Association, condemn child sexual abuse as criminal and harmful to children;

Whereas, once published and allowed to stand, scientific literature may become a source for additional research;

Whereas the *Psychological Bulletin* has recently published a severely flawed study, entitled ''A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples'', which suggests that sexual relationships between adults and children are less harmful than believed and might be positive for ''willing'' children (*Psychological Bulletin*, vol. 124, No. 1, July 1998);

Whereas, in order to clarify any inconsistencies between the two conclusions the authors of the study suggest and the position of the American Psychological Association that sexual relations between children and adults are abusive, exploitive, and reprehensible, and should never be considered or labeled as harmless or acceptable, the American Psychological Association has issued a public ''Resolution Opposing Child Sexual Abuse'';

Whereas the American Psychological Association should be congratulated for publicly clarifying its opposition to any adult-child sexual relations, which will help to deny pedophiles from citing ''A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples'' in a legal defense, and for resolving to evaluate the scientific articles it publishes in light of their potential social, legal, and political implications;

Whereas the Supreme Court has recognized that ''sexually exploited children are unable to develop healthy affectionate relationships in later life, have sexual dysfunctions, and have a tendency to become sexual abusers as adults'' (*New York* v. *Ferber*, 458 U.S. 747, 758, n.9 (1982));

Whereas *Paidika—The Journal of Pedophilia*, a publication advocating the legalization of sex with ''willing'' children, has published an article by one of the authors of the study, Robert Bauserman, Ph.D. (*see* ''Man-Boy Sexual Relationships in a Cross-Cultural Perspective,'' vol. 2, No. 1, Summer 1989); and

Whereas pedophiles and organizations, such as the North American Man-Boy Love Association, that advocate laws to permit sex between adults and children are exploiting the study to promote and justify child sexual abuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns and denounces all suggestions in the article ''A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples'' that indicate that sexual relationships between adults and ''willing'' children are less harmful than believed and might be positive for ''willing'' children (*Psychological Bulletin*, vol. 124, No. 1, July 1998);

(2) vigorously opposes any public policy or legislative attempts to normalize adult-child sex or to lower the age of consent;

(3) urges the President likewise to reject and condemn, in the strongest possible terms, any suggestion that sexual relations between children and adults—regardless of the child's frame of mind—are anything but abusive, destructive, exploitive, reprehensible, and punishable by law; and

(4) encourages competent investigations to continue to research the effects of child sexual abuse using the best methodology, so that the public, and public policymakers, may act upon accurate information.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON).

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. There are no lower life forms than adults who sexually abuse children. Child molesters rob children of their innocense and subject them to a lifetime of nightmares. Those who engage in this activity deserve the harshest punishment.

Those who excuse this evil conduct, particularly those in positions of influence, are also pretty low on the food chain and deserve the harshest possible condemnation.

Towards this end, we are here today to consider House Concurrent Resolution 107, which condemns and denounces all suggestions in an article published in the Psychological Bulletin, a journal of the American Psychological Association, that sexual relationships between adults and ''willing'' children might be positive for children.

The resolution also stresses that Congress will vigorously oppose any public policy or legislative attempts to normalize child sexual abuse.

The study in question, ''A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples,'' escaped public scrutiny until talk host Dr. Laura Schlessinger brought this matter to the attention of her listeners.

Dr. Laura denounced the study, which reviewed 59 earlier studies of dubious validity, as ''flawed pseudoscience.'' She reported that 38 percent of the studies were never subjected to peer review or published, and that all of the studies were based on self-reporting.

Also unsettling, no follow-up analysis occurred on the college students examined in the studies.

We should all be indebted to Dr. Laura. While the mainstream media ignored what some call the ''emancipation proclamation of pedophiles, the article did not escape the attention of groups such as the North American Man/Boy Love Association, which highlights the conclusions of the article on its web page, and for defense attorneys who have been encouraged to cite the article in closing arguments in child sexual abuse criminal cases.

It was irresponsible for a respected academic journal to publish a study which implies that adult-child sex could be a positive experience. But I applaud the APA for responding to the recent public uproar over the study by clarifying its opposition to any adult-child sexual relations, and for promising to consider their social responsibility when making publishing decisions in the future.

The APA's actions will help to deny pedophiles from citing the study in a legal defense. House Concurrent Resolution 107 has been revised to include language praising the APA for its commitment in fighting child sexual abuse.

While I am delighted that the Congress is considering this resolution denouncing attempts to normalize child

sexual abuse, our work is not done with the passage of this resolution. Words alone will not protect children from the monsters who prey on them.

Typically, sexual predators who victimize children receive light prison sentences in this country. On average, a convicted child molester, that is, not one who plea bargains down to a lesser offense, serves less than 4 years behind bars, and recidivism rates are quoted as high as 70 percent. Those are just the ones who get caught. In other words, they get out of prison and they prey on children again and again. The next time, the pedophiles may end up killing the child to make sure there is not evidence so they can be put away again.

In my opinion, the average sentence is about 96 years too short. The Congress took an important step in addressing this problem recently when both the House and Senate voted with huge bipartisan majorities for Aimee's Law, otherwise known as the No Second Chances for Murderers, Rapists, or Child Molesters Act.

My initiative would encourage States to keep child molesters and other serious criminals behind bars for longer sentences, which would prevent literally thousands each year of 100 percent preventable offenses, either child sexual assaults or other crimes that occur each year by those who are let out of prison for committing exactly the same crime.

Before I close, I would like to thank the distinguished majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for their assistance in moving House Concurrent Resolution 107 forward.

I also would like to thank the gentlemen from Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS and Mr. WELDON, for all of their work on the resolution.

Finally, the Family Research Council should be commended for their efforts to educate Members of Congress about how the public release of the Meta-Analytic study is an assault on children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to make a strong congressional statement in opposition to efforts to normalize child sexual abuse, and vote in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 107.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I join those who rise to condemn child sexual abuse. Too many of our children fall prey to sexual abuse, often by those whom they know and too often by those whom they trust.

Statistics show that 90 percent of all sexual abuse cases go unreported, and worse, unpunished. Nevertheless, child sexual abuse can have devastating consequences on a victim's future employment, health, and familial relationships.

We need to continue to reach out as a Nation and as a society to ensure that our children are free from abuse and neglect. This involves a three-pronged approach of education, prevention, and treatment.

We need to continue our educational efforts with young children to teach them what is and what is not appropriate behavior by adults. We need to continue prevention efforts aimed at reducing the likelihood that our children will find themselves in inappropriate situations that can lead to abuse.

We also need to provide treatment for those who have been the victims of abuse so they can recover and lead successful, productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I join those who have and will rise to condemn child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse not only has devastating consequences for its victims, but also for all of society. It is important to remember that no amount of legal or professional legerdemain can detract from the inherent evil caused by child sexual abuse.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the American Psychological Association for clarifying its position on pedophilia. Without question, sexual abuse of minors is child abuse. Child abuse is a plague on this country that cannot be overlooked or obscured by pseudo-scientific doubletalk.

In these times—with so much talk about victimization and harassment—it amazes me that there is any confusion regarding the patently perverse nature of sexual abuse of children. There simply can be no equivocation about the obvious emotional devastation that is caused when adults have sexual relations with children.

Sexual activity between an adult and a child is always abusive and always criminal in all cases—period.

The fact that this obvious reality has been clouded recently is an indictment of the liberal secularization of the culture. Too many of us today worship the self and the moment with no regard for future consequences.

Well, our children are our future and both should be safeguarded. The days ahead will be dark indeed if our society turns a blind eye to abuse of innocent ones.

There can be no compromises in the war against child abuse. We must all be eternally vigilant in this most important cause.

Every so often, trendy social theories and politically-motivated psychological hypotheses creep into the mainstream. At first, such ideas go unchallenged because they seem too crazy to be taken seriously. But after awhile, the momentum shifts against common sense.

Bad ideas have bad consequences and the damage to society must always be combated in every field.

The American Psychological Association made a mistake by publishing a study that used pseudo-scientific jargon to advise that sexual relations between adults and children are not always abusive.

Such a study by such a prestigious institution gives credibility and potential legal defenses to pedophiliac sickos.

After the controversy was exposed, the APA admitted its error in publishing the report and underscored its position that pedophilia is harmful criminal behavior and that all sexual abuse of children should be exposed.

Mr. Speaker, organizations, like people, make mistakes. The test of integrity is the ability to admit a mistake and correct it. The American Psychological Association has shown great courage in doing just this. In the battle against child abuse, the APA is fighting on the right side.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 107, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 107, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

URGING THE RELEASE OF THREE PRISONERS IN YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 144) urging the United States Government and the United Nations to undertake urgent and strenuous efforts to secure the release of Branko Jelen, Steve Pratt, and Peter Wallace, 3 humanitarian workers employed in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by CARE International, who are being unjustly held as prisoners by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 144

Whereas Branko Jelen, Steve Pratt, and Peter Wallace are 3 humanitarian workers employed in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by CARE International, the relief and development organization, providing food, medicines, and fuel to more than 50,000 Serbian refugees in Serbia and to displaced ethnic Albanians in Kosovo;

Whereas Steve Pratt and Peter Wallace, 2 Australian nationals, were detained on March 31, 1999, and later accused of operating and managing a spy ring and being employed by a spy ring, and Branko Jelen, a citizen of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, was arrested 1 week later on the same charges;

Whereas on March 30, 1999, CARE International received a letter of commendation

from the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia relating to CARE International's humanitarian work in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

Whereas 1 of the 3 men, Steve Pratt, appeared on Serbian television on April 11, 1999, and he was coerced into saying that he had performed covert intelligence activities;

Whereas the 3 CARE International humanitarian workers were held without access to outsiders for 20 days;

Whereas on May 29, 1999, a Serbian military court dismissed every element of the original indictment against the 3 CARE International humanitarian workers, but then proceeded to convict the 3 individuals on an entirely new charge of passing on information to a foreign organization, namely CARE International, and sentenced Pratt to 12 years, Jelen to 6 years, and Wallace to 4 years;

Whereas this last charge was introduced at the reading of the verdict, denying lawyers for the 3 CARE International humanitarian workers any opportunity to mount an appropriate defense;

Whereas it appears the 3 CARE International humanitarian workers were convicted of providing ''situation reports'' to their head office and other CARE International offices around the world, based on legitimately gathered information, necessary to enable CARE International management to plan their humanitarian assistance in a rapidly changing context and to inform CARE International management of the security situation in which their staff were working;

Whereas the convictions of the 3 CARE International humanitarian workers raise serious questions regarding the ability of humanitarian aid organizations to operate in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with implications for their operations in other areas of conflict around the world;

Whereas the 3 CARE International humanitarian workers are innocent, having committed no crime, and are being held as prisoners unjustly;

Whereas the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia needs humanitarian workers who feel secure enough to do their work and who are not at risk of going to prison on false charges; and

Whereas many leaders around the world have raised the issue and sought to free the captives, including United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, former South African President Nelson Mandela, Finnish President Marti Ahtisaari, United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, and the Reverend Jesse Jackson: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) urges the United States Government and the United Nations to undertake urgent and strenuous efforts to secure the release of Branko Jelen, Steve Pratt, and Peter Wallace, 3 humanitarian workers employed in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by CARE International; and

(2) calls upon the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to send a positive signal to the international humanitarian community and to give these humanitarian workers their freedom without further delay.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON).

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

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

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, on March 31, 1999, Serbian authorities detained Mr. Steve Pratt, Mr. Peter Wallace of Australia, and Mr. Branko Jelen of Serbia who were carrying out their duties as employees of CARE/Australia. These men, who were endeavoring to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of Serbian aggression in Kosovo, were subsequently charged with espionage and are now being unjustly held as prisoners in Serbia.

The detention of these individuals strikes at the very heart of the ability of humanitarian and aid organizations such as CARE to operate in conflicts such as the one in Kosovo. It is noteworthy that the actual charges they were convicted of concerned only the passing of situation reports on the conditions in Kosovo to their headquarters in order for CARE to be able to determine the needs of the population it was attempting to assist and the conditions under which its employees were working in Kosovo.

For the Serb authorities to construe these actions as hostile makes a mockery of the terms of their agreement that permitted CARE to operate in Serbia in the first place. Indeed, one day prior to the detention of its employees, CARE had received a letter from the Yugoslavia authorities commending its work.

The continued imprisonment of these men is an affront to the Prime Minister of the entire international community and a threat to the ability of international and private organizations to function under the difficult circumstance they face in numerous countries around the globe.

We would be remiss if we did not also take note of another detention of an individual engaged on a humanitarian mission in North Korea. According to accounts in the press, Ms. Karen Hahn was detained some weeks ago and has been held incommunicado by the known authorities. The welfare of Ms. Hahn is also in our minds as we consider this resolution.

House Concurrent Resolution 144 urges the United States and the United Nations to undertake urgent and strenuous efforts to secure the release from Serbia of the three imprisoned CARE Australia staffers. I urge all members of the House to join me in signalling our demand for the release of these individuals and restoration of our confidence that organizations such as CARE can continue to operate without harassment in the difficult and sometimes dangerous environments that they face throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON), and I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, and the ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) for their support in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 144.

This resolution serves as a reminder that three humanitarian aid workers are now being held unjustly in Yugoslavia. These three CARE workers in the organization called CARE were arrested and falsely accused of espionage.

□ 1430

They were wrongly convicted by a Serbian military court and received sentences ranging from 4 to 12 years.

Let me tell a little bit about the background. Steve Pratt and Peter Wallace are two Australian nationals who were employees of CARE. They were detained on March 31, 1999, and later accused of operating and managing a spy ring and being employed by a spy ring. Branko Jelen, who is a citizen of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, was arrested 1 week later on the same charge.

A couple of months later, on May 29, 1999, a Serbian military court dismissed every element of the original indictment against these three CARE International humanitarian workers. But then the court, the same day, at the same moment, proceeded to convict these three individuals on an entirely new set of charges, namely, as they said, passing on information to a foreign organization, namely CARE International; and then they sentenced Mr. Pratt to 12 years' imprisonment, Mr. Jelen to 6 years' imprisonment and Mr. Wallace to 4 years' imprisonment.

This charge, which they introduced on the day they dismissed all the other charges, was introduced at the time they read the verdict. They said, ''You are hereby charged with providing information and you are hereby sentenced.'' Can my colleagues imagine that? And that was a court of law.

Mr. Speaker, needless to say, it did not provide any opportunity for these three individuals to present any defense to the charges that were instantaneously imposed upon them along with the sentence.

It appears that these three CARE workers were convicted simply of providing situation reports, a standard in the providing of services by CARE International where the workers in the field provide situation reports about the security, about the humanitarian needs in the locale that they are working in.

It raises concerns about the ability of any international humanitarian relief organization to provide relief services anywhere around the world if by merely providing a situation report can get someone convicted, albeit without a trial, of spying.

Leaders around the world, including U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and Finnish President Ahtisaari, have

raised this issue and have also sought the release of these men.

Mr. Speaker, we as the United States Congress and as an American people need to let all humanitarian workers around the world know that we will fight for them if they ever get unjustly imprisoned. We will let Yugoslavia know by the House's action that we demand the immediate release of these three international humanitarian workers under the employ of CARE, one of the world's largest international relief and development organizations.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 144.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 31, 1999, Serbian authorities detained Mr. Steve Pratt, Mr. Peter Wallace, of Australia, and Mr. Branko Jelen, of Serbia who were carrying out their duties as employees of CARE/Australia. These men, who were endeavoring to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of Serbian aggression in Kosovo, were subsequently charged with espionage and are now being unjustly held as prisoners in Serbia.

The detention of these individuals strikes at the very heart of the ability of humanitarian and aid organizations such as CARE to operate in conflicts such as the one in Kosovo. It is noteworthy that the actual charges they were convicted of concerned only the passing of situation reports on the conditions in Kosovo to their headquarters in order for CARE to be able to determine the needs of the population it was attempting to assist and the conditions under which its employees were working in Kosovo.

For the Serb authorities to construe these actions as hostile makes a mockery of the terms of their agreement that permitted CARE to operate in Serbia in the first place. Indeed, one day prior to the detention of its employees, CARE had received a letter from the Yugoslav authorities commending its work. The continued imprisonment of these men is an affront to the principles of the entire international community, and a threat to the ability of international and private organizations to function under the difficult circumstance that they face in numerous countries around the globe.

We would be remiss if we did not also take note of another detention of an individual engaged on a humanitarian mission in North Korea. According to accounts in the press, Ms. Karen Hahn was detained some weeks ago and has been held incommunicado by the North Korean authorities. The welfare of Ms. Hahn is also in our minds as we consider this resolution.

H. Con. Res. 144 urges the United States and the United Nations to undertake urgent and strenuous efforts to secure the release from Serbia of the three imprisoned CARE Australia.

Accordingly, I ask all members of the House to join in signaling our demand for the release of these individuals, and restoration of our confidence that organizations such as CARE can continue to operate without harassment in the difficult and often dangerous environments they face throughout the world.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 144, which calls attention to the plight of three humanitarian workers unjustly imprisoned by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Branko Jelen, Steve Pratt and Peter Wallace were employed in Yugoslavia by CARE International, providing aid, food, and medicinal supplies to refugees in both Serbia and Kosovo. In that capacity, they did what CARE International does in all of its international humanitarian missions: provide other CARE offices in the area with progress reports. CARE International has always used these reports, because they are vital to the organization's first-hand knowledge of the progress, prospects, and dangers of their many missions. The reports are not secret and contain easily obtainable information.

After learning of these reports in late March, the government of Slobodan Milosevic detained Jelen, Pratt, and Wallace, and later accused them of engaging in espionage for the U.S. government. In a closed military court, they were found guilty of spying, and are currently serving sentences of up to 12 years in a Serbian jail.

Mr. Speaker, these three men are innocent. They were providing humanitarian aid to people who were in desperate need.

We are all familiar with CARE International and similar Non-Government Organizations, and the extraordinary humanitarian contributions they make in the fight to end despair and suffering. Today, this House must stand up for this mission. It is imperative that the U.S. lead the way in freeing these men and who are guilty of nothing more than being courageous humanitarians. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 144.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONCERNING UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ES–10/6

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 117) concerning United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES–10/6, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 117

Whereas in an Emergency Special Session, the United Nations General Assembly voted on February 9, 1999, to pass Resolution ES–10/6, Illegal Israeli Actions In Occupied East Jerusalem And The Rest Of The Occupied Palestinian Territory, to convene for the first time in 50 years the parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians in Time of War;

Whereas such resolution singles out Israel for unprecedented enforcement proceedings, which have never been invoked, even against governments with records of massive violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention;

Whereas such resolution unfairly places full blame for the deterioration of the Middle East Peace Process on Israel and dangerously politicizes the Fourth Geneva Convention, which was established to address humanitarian crises; and

Whereas such vote, initiated by the Arab Group at the behest of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), serves to prejudge and undercut direct negotiations, puts added and undue pressure on Israel to influence the results of those negotiations, and contravenes the written commitment that Yasser Arafat gave to then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that issues of permanent status would only be dealt with directly by the parties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends the Department of State for the vote of the United States against United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES–10/6 affirming that the text of such resolution politicizes the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians in Time of War which was primarily humanitarian in nature;

(2) urges the Department of State to continue its efforts against convening the conference, which is scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on July 15, 1999;

(3) urges the member states of the United Nations to vigorously oppose any and all efforts to manipulate the Fourth Geneva Convention for the purpose of attacking Israel; and

(4) urges United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and Switzerland, which serves as the depository of the Fourth Geneva Convention, to refrain from assisting in the convening of the conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to commend the efforts of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN). He is the author of this piece of legislation. It is very timely and very needed, and he is always there in the pinch, and we appreciate him on this side.

Mr. Speaker, our consideration of this resolution is certainly timely as it concerns the convening, under extraordinary and almost unprecedented circumstances, of the parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians in Times of War later this week in Geneva, Switzerland. The focus of this unusual meeting will be ''Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Territory.''

From its very title, we can see that this meeting will be just another kangaroo court convened solely for the purpose of pillorying Israel whose behavior in Jerusalem and the Occupied Territory has already been predetermined to be ''illegal.''

Regrettably, by using the such important instruments as the Fourth Geneva Convention to carry on their anti-Israel campaign, the supporters of this Special Session in Geneva actually undermine the validity of the Convention and efforts to protect civilians in armed conflicts. We can be certain that little will be said of the many civilian victims of the numerous terrorist acts by Palestinian and Islamic groups hostile to Israel.

Most of us are keenly aware of the anti-Israel fervor which resonates throughout the institutions and committees of the United Nations. We cannot forget the evil that was unleashed during consideration of the ''Zionism is Racism'' resolution years ago. Clearly, the United Nations has a history of anti-Israel statements, resolutions, conferences and activities.

This troubling action taken by the United Nations General Assembly earlier this year is but the latest of a long series of United Nations activities designed to unfairly and in a highly prejudicial fashion paint Israel as an aggressive rogue state beyond the pale of international law.

The resolution before us urges states of the United Nations to oppose all efforts to attack Israel at this conference and urges U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and Switzerland to refrain from assisting in the convening of the conference.

Mr. Speaker, regarding Switzerland's role in the conference, I would like to point out, as the repository of the Geneva Convention, Switzerland has no recourse but to honor the will of the U.N. General Assembly that has invoked this conference. As an observer state of the U.N., the Swiss were not even entitled to vote in the emergency session of the General Assembly that decided this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members of this House to send a strong message in opposition to this ill-considered and unhelpful initiative by supporting the adoption of H. Con. Res. 117.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON), my colleague and good friend, for his kind remarks. We have worked together on many, many issues in a bipartisan way of importance to the people of America and I think for the interests of the abused and unjustly treated around the world. And, as always, I am grateful and pleased to work with the gentleman on this issue as well.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this resolution, H. Con. Res. 117, on May 25 of this year to address a deeply troubling development at the U.N. Sadly, the United Nations is again on the verge of reverting to its bad old ways that we thought they had dispensed with in the 1970s. I am talking about the United Nations once again using its resources and the American taxpayers' money to bash the only democracy in the Middle East and America's strongest ally in the Middle East, strongest military, economic and cultural ally, the State of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, this is at a time when, if peace is not at hand, the atmosphere for peace in the Middle East is as great as we have seen in quite a long time.

What happened? On February 9 of this year, February 9 of 1999, the United Nations General Assembly in an Emergency Special Session decided to call for the reconvening of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Now for those who do not follow the U.N. and the Geneva Convention, the Fourth Geneva Convention has not been convened for 50 years.

So what was the Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to call for the first reconvening of the Fourth Geneva Convention in 50 years all about? Well, we know what the Geneva Convention was supposed to be about. In 1949, it was established in the aftermath of the Nazi atrocities in Europe to deal with the protection of civilians in time of war.

So what is going to happen now on July 15, a handful of days from now, unless the United States and world leaders intervene? According to the General Assembly of the United Nations who has now directed the convening of the Fourth Geneva Convention after 50 years, on July 15, the Geneva Convention is to be brought together to condemn the genocidal crime of house construction in Jerusalem by Israel. Can my colleagues believe it?

Now, when the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, when Vietnam invaded Cambodia, when China conquered Tibet, during the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Persian Gulf War, the invasion of Kosovo by Serbia, all the carnage brought forth upon millions and millions of people was the Geneva Convention called for to be reconvened? No. In dozens and dozens of places over the last 50 years around this planet, millions of people have literally been tortured, enslaved and slaughtered, but the U.N. never called for the reconvening of the Geneva Convention. Only now in February of 1999 because of what they call Israel's crime of home construction in Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, if it was not so destructive of the truth, destructive of the meaning of the words, destructive of the mission of the U.N., destructive of the purpose of the Geneva Convention, it would be laughable. But this is no joke. Everyone voted for this resolution at the U.N. in the General Assembly except for America and Israel.

What should we do about it? In a couple of days, notwithstanding the fact that we have the totalitarian leaders of Syria and Chairman Arafat and the President of Egypt saying we have a new day, a new era of peace that is on our doorstep, and the new duly elected President of Israel, Mr. Barak, espousing such a compelling and poetic commitment to peace between Israel and its neighbors, when all the parties at issue are speaking of an atmosphere of peace, reconciliation and commitment to finding a compromise for all the peoples of the region, what does the U.N. General Assembly do? They try to destroy the purpose of the Geneva Convention, humiliate and degrade the truth, and reconvene the Fourth Geneva Convention to condemn housing construction by Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and pleased that the Committee on International Relations last week condemned this action and voted to pass H. Con. Resolution 117. I am asking my colleagues in the House of Representatives also to pass H. Con. Resolution 117 which does four things: It commends the United States State Department for opposing these efforts to politicize the Geneva Convention. It urges our State Department to continue its opposition against the U.N.'s plans to convene their anti-Israel Geneva convention, which is set to occur on July 15, a handful of days from now unless the leaders of the U.N. and other leaders in the world stop it. It also calls on member states of the United Nations to join America in opposing the politicization of the Fourth Geneva Convention. And it, lastly, urges the U.N. General Secretary, Kofi Annan, and Switzerland, the host country, to refrain from assisting in the convening of this conference.

□ 1445

Modest steps, considering what is at stake: the integrity of the U.N., the integrity of the Geneva Convention, and justice. I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 117.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER).

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) for being such an active voice on this issue and so many others.

If there was ever a bad time for a bad idea, this is probably it. The United Nations over its history has done some very great things to ensure peace and justice around the world, but it can also be rightly accused of taking every possible opportunity to throw obstacles in the way of the State of Israel and now obstacles in the way of pursuing a lasting peace in the Middle East.

To dig up the Geneva Convention as an appropriate tool for the causes of the Palestinian Movement in the United Nations now is the worst possible abuse of the Geneva Convention. Never, as the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) pointed out, has it been used; and particularly now, it is an inappropriate time and an inappropriate place.

As we have spent much of the last year looking at some true atrocities in the world, never in the time of the worst atrocities of Milosevic did the United Nations stand and seek to execute the Geneva Convention. Yet now, at the beginning of a new era in Israel, when a new administration takes over and, God willing, a new road to peace in the Middle East is about to be placed, we see the United Nations begin to move forward to activate the Geneva Convention which was intended to be used to protect civilians during wartime, not to solve territorial disputes.

There are many of us who believe that the territories that the United Nations is looking at are not in dispute at all. We have to remember when the Palestinian Authority, when it entered into the Oslo Accords, took a pledge and signed in writing that they were not going to use the United Nations as a tool for their cause.

At that time, the parties that agreed to pursue a peace in the Middle East did so with an understanding that we in this Chamber have argued for a great deal of time, and that is that the parties in that part of the world have to, in their own best interest, work out the road to peace, not from the United Nations in New York, not from the Capitol here in Washington, and not from small towns throughout the United States and the world, but the parties in that part of the world.

This effort by the United Nations, which we opposed, we in the United States opposed, is contrary to that intent. This is not a time when we should belittle the Geneva Convention. This is not a time when the United Nations should once again enter into the frayed air.

I would remind my colleagues, the United Nations Security Council, this is not the first time that they have sought to take their shots at the State of Israel. This is the same Security Council that sought to equate Zionism with racism, if my colleagues recall. So it should be no surprise that there is an anti-Israel bias in the Security Council.

But for those of us who care about a lasting peace in the Middle East, care about a just peace in the Middle East that all of the parties can live with, I urge us in this Chamber to stand forthright in favor of this resolution. This is not the time, this is not the place for this anti-Israel resolution. This is also not the time or the place for the Geneva Convention to be bastardized in this way.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume. I would just like to reiterate the position, not only of myself, but I believe most people on our side of the aisle from the Committee on International Relations, and that is that it is a highly inappropriate action which the Geneva Convention seeks to undertake at a time when we should all be working together toward the peace process in the Middle East.

These kinds of anti-Israel statements do not assist the process; they harm the process.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, there are real issues of dispute in the Middle East. There are territorial futures. There are issues of security. As the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) said, there is a process that has been agreed to by all the parties, the Oslo Peace Accords, by which the parties would sit down, one across the table from the other, and resolve their differences peaceably.

Our action today does not prejudice what will happen in those discussions. We wish them well. What we are doing today is saying as a Nation a few things:

Number one, that the free people of the United States of America will not tolerate the abuse of the United Nations by those nations who wish to use that forum to bash the only democracy in the Middle East, who happens to be America's number one military, economic, and cultural ally in that entire region and has been so for 50 years; and that we in America, we, the free people in the United States, will not stand by while totalitarian, dictatorial regimes represented in the U.N. at the General Assembly call for the convening of the Geneva Convention after 50 years, only to bash housing construction in Israel, and to have ignored 50 years of slaughter, torture, and torment upon millions and millions of human beings around the world by dictators and thugs; and that we, the free and strong people of the United States, will stand by our number one ally in the region, the State of Israel, even when we are outnumbered at the U.N. by those who would seek to destroy that forum as a forum for truth and justice.

So, Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON), the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the Chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), our ranking member, for their support on this and many other issues where we have worked so well together and their support for this particular House Resolution 117. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I did want to make one other comment. I know that in the last several years, one of the items of great controversy in this Congress, especially, I think, since I have been here in the last 5 years has been the U.N. arrearages.

I might suggest that one of the reasons that people raised that red flag in the first place was because of issues like this, because the U.N. time and time and time again goes out and asserts itself and takes positions counter to the United States when we have been the largest financial supporter of that entity and have been for years and years and years, and many of our so-called allies, and I am not saying that about Israel because Israel votes with us, but many of our so-called allies end up spitting in our face; and these are allies that we have helped financially time and time and time again.

I just might say that significant reforms have got to happen at the U.N., and this exactly points to what we are talking about.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I say this: I agree with the gentleman from Arizona that this puts a disturbing light on many of our efforts to have our debt to the U.N. repaid. I for one believe that it is unconscionable for us to have such a debt at the U.N. and not have it be repaid. I believe there has been progress at the U.N.

But when the member states of the U.N. and the U.N. Secretary and the General Assembly participate in this out and out Israel bashing, which is absurd, unjust, unfair by any measure, and sets a terrible precedent for the abuse of the Geneva Convention process, then we cannot ignore it.

We must let those who voted in favor of this U.N. General Assembly resolution know that we will not forget their participation in this effort. We will remember. We will not forget what they have done. It only hurts the cause of the U.N.

I may differ with the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) on the repayment of the debt, but I do agree with him that this does not make their case any better when they allow this forum to be abused in such a way.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker our consideration of this resolution is certainly timely since it concerns the convening, under extraordinary and almost unprecedented circumstances, the parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians in Times of War later this week in Geneva, Switzerland. The focus of this unusual meeting will be ''Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Territory.'' From its very title it is obvious that this meeting will be another kangaroo court convened solely for the purpose of pillorying Israel whose behavior in Jerusalem and the Occupied Territory has already been predetermined to be ''illegal.''

Regrettably, by using such important instruments as the Fourth Geneva Convention to carry-on their anti-Israel campaign, the supporters of this Special Session in Geneva actually undermines the validity of the Convention and efforts to protect civilians in armed conflicts. We can be certain that little will be said of the many civilian victims of the numerous terrorist acts by Palestinian and Islamic groups hostile to Israel.

Most of us are keenly aware of the anti-Israel fervor which resonates throughout the institutions and committees of the United Nations. We cannot forget the evil that was unleashed during consideration of the ''Zionism is Racism'' resolution years ago. Clearly, the United Nations has a history of anti-Israel statements, resolutions, conferences and activities.

This troubling action taken by the United Nations General Assembly earlier this year is but the latest of a long series of United Nations activities designed to unfairly and in a highly prejudicial fashion paint Israel as an aggressive rogue state, beyond the pale of international law.

The resolution before us urges member states of the United Nations to oppose all efforts to attack Israel at this conference, and urges UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Switzerland to refrain from assisting in the convening of the conference.

Regarding Switzerland's role in this conference, it should be noted that as the repository of the Geneva Conventions, Switzerland has no recourse but to honor the will of the UN General Assembly that has convoked this Conference. As an observer state of the UN the Swiss were not even entitled to vote in the Emergency Session of the General Assembly that decided this matter.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to send a strong message in opposition to this ill-considered and unhelpful initiative by fully supporting the adoption of H. Con. Res. 117.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 117, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

□ 1810

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARTON of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business before the House is the approval of the Journal. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on the approval of the Journal and then on each motion to suspend the rules in which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order: Approval of the Journal, if so ordered; House Concurrent Resolution 107, by the yeas and nays; and House Concurrent Resolution 117, by the yeas and nays.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any other electronic vote after the first vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 329, yeas 36, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 67, as follows:

[Roll No. 277]

YEAS—329

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Bachus
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clayton
Clement
Coble
Collins
Condit
Conyers
Cook
Cooksey
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gilchrest
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Knollenberg
Kuykendall
LaHood
Largent
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Miller (FL)
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Stabenow
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—36

Aderholt
Baird
Borski
Costello
DeFazio
English
Evans
Filner
Gibbons
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hastings (FL)
Hefley
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Kucinich
LaFalce
LoBiondo
Miller, George
Moran (KS)
Oberstar
Pallone
Peterson (MN)
Pickett
Sabo
Schaffer
Slaughter
Stupak
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Visclosky
Weller
Wicker

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Schakowsky
Tancredo

NOT VOTING—67

Armey
Baker
Baldwin
Barr
Bartlett
Bateman
Berkley
Bilbray
Bishop
Blagojevich
Boehlert
Bonior
Bono
Brady (TX)
Brown (CA)
Chenoweth
Clay
Clyburn
Coburn
Combest
Danner
DeGette
DeLay
Doolittle
Edwards
Engel
Gephardt
Gillmor
Goodling
Hulshof
Isakson
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Kasich
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kolbe
Lampson
Lantos
Markey
McDermott
McIntosh
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Payne
Pomeroy
Pryce (OH)
Rogers
Royce
Rush
Scott
Serrano
Shows
Simpson
Spratt
Stark
Taylor (NC)
Thurman
Towns
Waters
Watt (NC)
Weldon (PA)
Weygand
Wise

□ 1833

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

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REJECTING NOTION THAT SEX BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN IS POSITIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARTON of Texas). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 107, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 107, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 355, nays 0, answered ''present'' 13, not voting 66, as follows:

[Roll No. 278]

YEAS—355

Ackerman
Aderholt
Andrews
Archer
Bachus
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clayton
Clement
Coble
Collins
Condit
Cook
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeLauro
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Largent
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Minge
Moakley
Moore
Moran (KS)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Stabenow
Stearns
Stenholm
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Talent
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—13

Abercrombie
Allen
Baird
Conyers
Delahunt
Filner
Frank (MA)
Hastings (FL)
Johnson, E. B.
Mink
Moran (VA)
Stark
Strickland

NOT VOTING—66

Armey
Baker
Baldwin
Barr
Bartlett
Bateman
Berkley
Bilbray
Bishop
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (TX)
Brown (CA)
Chenoweth
Clay
Clyburn
Coburn
Combest
Danner
DeGette
DeLay
Doolittle
Edwards
Engel
Fletcher
Gekas
Gephardt
Gillmor
Hulshof
Isakson
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Kasich
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kolbe
Lampson
Lantos
Markey
McDermott
McIntosh
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Northup
Payne
Pomeroy
Pryce (OH)
Rogers
Royce
Rush
Scott
Serrano
Shows
Simpson
Spratt
Taylor (NC)
Thurman
Towns
Waters
Watt (NC)
Weldon (PA)
Weygand
Wise

□ 1840

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: ''Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress rejecting the conclusions of a recent article published in the Psychological Bulletin, a journal of the American Psychological Association, that suggests that sexual relationships between adults and children might be positive for children''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 278, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 278, I was involved in a conference off the floor and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 278, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

CONCERNING UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ES–10/6

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 117, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 117, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 365, nays 5, not voting 64, as follows:

[Roll No. 279]

YEAS—365

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Bachus
Baird
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clayton
Clement
Coble
Collins
Condit
Cook
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dixon
Doggett

Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Knollenberg
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NAYS—5

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NOT VOTING—64

Armey
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Bateman
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Bono
Brady (TX)
Brown (CA)
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Millender-McDonald
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Payne
Pickett
Pomeroy
Pryce (OH)
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Taylor (NC)
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□ 1847

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, 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. KIND. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 277, unfortunately, due to an unavoidable weather delay I missed today's rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have vote "yea."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 278, unfortunately, due to an unavoidable weather delay I missed today's rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have vote "yea."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 279, unfortunately, due to an unavoidable weather delay I missed today's rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have vote "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I was unable to record my vote for several measures considered in the House of Representatives today. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on approving the Journal; "aye" on H. Con. Res. 107; and "aye" on H. Con. Res. 117.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARTON of Texas) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 12, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelop received from the White House on July 12, 1999 at 3:33 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Request Act.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S FISCAL YEAR 2000 BUDGET REQUEST ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106–92)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 202(c) of the District of Columbia Financial Management and Responsibility Assistance Act of 1995 and section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganization Act, as amended, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Request Act.

This proposed Fiscal Year 2000 Budget represents the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. For Fiscal Year 2000, the District estimates revenue of $5.482 billion and total expenditures of $5.482 billion, resulting in a budget surplus of $47,000.

My transmittal of the District of Columbia's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 12, 1999.*

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Tuesday, June 29, 1999:

H.R. 4, to declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, July 9, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am writing to inform you that I am withdrawing my appointment of Mr. Salam Al-Marayati to the National Commission on Terrorism.

Mr. Al-Marayati was recommended for this commission by individuals who knew him to possess several qualifications, including knowledge of the subject matter, involvement in interfaith dialogue, and extensive public service experience. Upon subsequently learning of questions about this appointment, I supported efforts to refer them to those agencies that will be involved in conducting background investigations and

issuing security clearances for all members of the commission.

I have since been informed that unlike Mr. Al-Marayati, all other appointees to the commission either hold or recently held security clearances and will only require a brief update in order to begin their service. I have also been notified that in order to issue for any individual a first-time security clearance of the level likely to be required for the sensitive matters to be reviewed by the commission, the investigating agencies generally require up to twelve months or more to conduct a complete background investigation.

In light of the fact that the term of the commission is only six months, it has become evident that an appropriate security clearance is not likely to be processed in time for Mr. Al-Marayati to participate in the commission's work. This situation has therefore required that his appointment to the commission be withdrawn.

Despite these circumstances, Mr. Al-Marayati is prepared to provide input to the commission on matters of interest and concern to the American Muslim community. I hope the commission will listen to the voices of this community and address the issues of civil rights for all Americans consistent with a strong U.S. anti-terrorism policy.

Sincerely,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

LET US HONOR ALL VIETNAM VETERANS

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of an urgent need that is addressed by House Concurrent Resolution 134, a resolution which we call the ''In Memory Day'' resolution introduced earlier this month.

When passed, this resolution will affirm that Congress supports the goals and ideas of what we have been calling ''In Memory Day,'' which is the third Monday of April.

Though the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a deeply moving reminder of many courageous Americans who gave their lives for their country, it includes only the names of those who died from combat wounds. Many other brave veterans have died as a result of their service in Vietnam, but their causes of death do not fit within the criteria established by the Department of Defense for inscribing their names on the Memorial. By observing ''In Memory Day,'' we will honor these patriotic Americans and remember their sacrifice.

Veterans whose deaths were hastened by exposure to Agent Orange, for example, count among the casualties of Vietnam, but their names are not inscribed on the Memorial. Veterans who have taken their own lives as a result of the deep psychological wounds from their service are not included either, but their deaths are fundamentally tied to their experiences in Vietnam. These veterans and their families deserve recognition and support.

This year, last April 19, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund held its first ''In Memory Day'' to commemorate these people who died but whose deaths do not merit inscription on the Wall. From this year forward, the ''In Memory Day'' event will be observed each year at the Wall, along with Memorial Day and Veterans Day, as one of the official ceremonies of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Names of fallen comrades will be added to the ''In Memory Honor Roll'' each year, just as the names of those who died as a result of combat in Vietnam are added to the famous memorial at the Wall.

Many returning heroes came back from Vietnam with their health shattered, both physically and mentally. They were wounded by their time in Vietnam, and they deserve our gratitude and recognition.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 134.

WE NEED ACTION NOW ON REAL CRISIS IN FARM COUNTRY

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, during the Independence Day district work period, this Member continued his series of town hall meetings with 14 additional meetings to hear the views and questions of my constituents. Many subjects were discussed, but two subjects understandably dominated their concerns.

The first, overwhelmingly expressed, as it has been all year, related to the deplorably bad conditions for farmers and the communities and small businesses that serve farmers and depend upon agriculture. All grain, soybean, and livestock prices are very low, some unprecedently low this year, while the predictions are all equally gloomy.

World surpluses and export losses in the Asian markets, huge projected 1999 harvest numbers, coupled with the strength of the dollar as compared to our export competitors' agricultural commodities and products, have created desperate conditions for farmers.

It is reported that the U.S. Government has actually spent more in farm subsidies during the current year than during the most expensive year of the previous farm bill. But those subsidies are not appreciably alleviating what is a real crisis in farm country. Net farm income per farm in my State of Nebraska last year is a negative number after average Federal subsidies are subtracted, as contrasted to a net farm income of over $40,000 two years ago.

This Member has said for nearly a year now that no ideas or proposed solutions are off the table, all deserve consideration. No ideological blinders or pride of authorship of any current farm policies should stand in the way of finding answers quickly for turning around and meeting this farm crisis. The administration must use the export promotion tools and dollars the Congress has authorized and be more innovative and aggressive in meeting the crisis.

Without immediate and concerted actions now, thousands of farm families who have been financially responsible and good farmers will be forced from their farms. Modest accumulated savings and assets built up through years of effort and investment are being wiped out and growing debts look overwhelming.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan leadership and members of the Agriculture Committees of the two Houses of Congress must find solutions and proposal actions now, not after the 1999 harvest is complete. That will be too late for thousands of farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness-dependent families and communities. A whole farm infrastructure is threatened. The leaders of the two Houses also must give this matter a top priority for action.

Mr. Speaker, this Member knows these terrible economic problems are not being ignored by our agriculture committees here on Capitol Hill even if the White House and USDA seem indifferent. Solutions to our current dilemma are not obvious. The situation results from perhaps an unprecedented or at least totally unexpected combination of factors.

When this Member asked his farm constituents for ideas or solutions, few have specific answers and there certainly is little agreement. However, one comment is heard over and over again: the loan deficiency payments arrangement provides no floor for prices. And it may, in fact it is suggested, be driving commodity prices down and helping only the major grain companies. This must be examined.

Second, farmers argue in large numbers that they want to see a farmer-held reserve reinstituted.

□ 1900

That needs to be seriously considered and a decision made, one way or another, with an explanation for the decision. And, third, farmers and agriculture leaders also believe the growing concentration of companies that supply the farm population with key inputs and others which serve as their markets deserve closer and immediate scrutiny by the USDA and the Justice Department. These complaints need to be seriously addressed before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, we need action now on a real crisis in farm country.

EDWARD R. ROYBAL CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) CAMPUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from a very special event at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Today, the main campus of the CDC was renamed the Edward R. Roybal CDC Campus, in honor of my father who served as a Member of this Chamber for 30 years. In addition, he was presented with the Champion of Prevention Award, CDC's most prestigious award, reserved for individuals who have made significant contributions to public health.

Quoting CDC Director, Dr. Jeffrey P. Koplan, ''All his life, no matter where or at what level he sat, Edward R. Roybal has made the public's health his personal and professional priority. His leadership has prevented the illness and health of many Americans.''

Many of my colleagues who served with my father during his tenure from 1963 to 1993 will recall his zeal and commitment to health promotion and disease prevention and the very special place CDC has in his heart. I hope that this and future Congresses will remember and emulate his belief in protecting the Nation's health and safety through prevention and applied research and programs. Our whole family is very proud of my father, but none more than my mother who has stood next to him through all his accomplishments and who through her support made many of those accomplishments possible.

TRIBUTE TO FRED ZOLLNER, NBA PIONEER

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Hoosier from Fort Wayne, the late Fred Zollner, who was just selected for the Basketball Hall of Fame. Too often we forget our history.

Fred Zollner moved the Zollner Pistons Company from Duluth, Minnesota, in 1931 to the east side of Fort Wayne. During the 1930s the piston plant doubled in size, aided by hefty government military contracts because of war preparations.

Sports Illustrated described Zollner this way:

''He is short and stocky, a dapper man sporting peak lapels, a silk shirt, a constant tan, and an unruly coiffure that suggests he is about to mount a podium and conduct Beethoven's Ninth. He is the sort who would not harm a fly. Rather than swat one, he would catch a cold holding the door open until the fly got ready to leave.''

In 1938, Mr. Zollner had formed a company softball team for a local industrial league. In 1945, the Pistons instigated the National Softball League, which they hoped would open the way to major league softball. They won multiple national championships. Players were celebrities. By the late 1950's as I was growing up, softball was no longer as significant, but I remember my dad talking about Leo Luken and Bernie Kampschmidt as if they were Nellie Fox and Ernie Banks, my baseball heroes.

After having success in softball, in 1939 Zollner fielded a team in a Chicago industrial league tournament and never looked back. The Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons, now known as the Detroit Pistons, were not Fort Wayne's first pro basketball team. The Fort Wayne Knights of Columbus, the Caseys, and the Fort Wayne Hoosiers were. And the Fort Wayne General Electrics played in the NBL, the National Basketball League, in 1937. The Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons left Fort Wayne at the end of 1957 but continue today as the Detroit Pistons.

There were many eventful years in Fort Wayne. For most of the Fort Wayne era, the Pistons played at the North Side High School gym. The enthusiastic fans and confined quarters gave the Pistons a significant homecourt advantage. Minneapolis Lakers' star Slater Martin was quoted on the courtside seating at North Side: ''I never really saw the fans get physical with the players. But I did have them pull the hair on my legs.''

Fred Zollner was a key in keeping the National Basketball League solvent. Carl Bennett, whose personal history with the Pistons is so intertwined with Zollner as to be inseparable, said that Zollner never wanted anyone to know how he kept the league—and pro basketball—alive.

He was constantly upgrading his team which eventually led to repeat national titles. The Zollner Pistons were multiple times national champions. Two of their famous players were ''Mr. Basketball,'' Bobby McDermott, who had long set shots from past half-court; and Paul ''Curly'' Armstrong from Fort Wayne. These are some of the late 1940s cards that I have in my collection.

They were also responsible for the invention of the 24-second clock, because George Mikan, who was not only a giant at 6′10″ but a talented athlete as well, had this huge height advantage. They tried a different way to win. In Minneapolis, as the crowd hollered, they stalled. It remains, and always will, as the lowest scoring game in NBA history, 19–18. But the Zollner Pistons won and the league said this will never happen again.

Fred Zollner, along with Carl Bennett, met then with the people from the BAA in Fort Wayne and merged the leagues which then became the NBA from the leagues in Fort Wayne.

Fred Zollner's vision for Fort Wayne was for the Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons to be to the NBA what Green Bay was to professional football. But, alas, that was not to be. Fort Wayne was just too small.

He saw the writing on the wall in the mid 1950s, but the final event was when they made the national championship, the NBA playoffs, but the Fort Wayne Coliseum had booked the national bowling tournament so the Pistons were booted out of the auditorium and had to play their games in Indianapolis. The next year they moved to Detroit.

To quote a couple of the long-term people associated with this, Carl Bennett, who crusaded to get Fred Zollner into the Basketball Hall of Fame, said: ''If somebody would have asked me when I was a kid what I wanted to do with my career, I would have told them exactly what I did for Fred Zollner's organization. It was fun and extremely rewarding.''

There are two books out. Indiana had three of the original members of the NBA. ''Pioneers of the Hardwood'' refers to that. The other is the Zollner Piston Story by Roger Nelson.

George Yardley, a Hall of Famer, said about Fort Wayne:

''My wife and I didn't know what to expect when we got to Fort Wayne. We had never seen snow before. Major league sports to Fort Wayne was the Pistons. They were great basketball fans. But more importantly, they were great people. They wanted you to know that Fort Wayne was a great place to live, and they did everything they could to illustrate that to you. To this day I believe that Fort Wayne has some of the coldest weather and warmest people in the country.''

In Fort Wayne we no longer have the Pistons basketball team, but we do have nearly 1,000 Zollner Pistons jobs that are part of the backbone of our community. We have the pride of having been there in the early days of the NBA, the first meetings occurring in Fort Wayne, and now having one of our community leaders being honored by his selection into the Basketball Hall of Fame. And we still have some of the coldest weather and the warmest people in America.

I rise today to pay tribute to a great Hoosier from Fort Wayne, the last Fred Zollner, who was just selected for the Basketball Hall of Fame. Too often we forget our history.

Fred Zollner moved Zollner Pistons from Duluth, Minnesota in 1931 to the east side of Fort Wayne. During the 1930s the piston plant doubled in size, aided by hefty government military contracts because of war preparations.

Sports Illustrated described Zollner this way:

''He is short and stocky, a dapper man sporting peak lapels, a silk shirt, a constant tan, and an unruly coiffure that suggests he is about to mount a podium and conduct Beethoven's Ninth. He is the sort who would not harm a fly. Rather than swat one, he would catch a cold holding the door open until the fly got ready to leave.''

Holiday magazine said: ''Zollner is a soft-voiced, curly-headed manufacturer, a friendly man with a taste for expensive, striped suits, and the engaging knack of making them look as if he'd worn them to bed.''

In 1938 Mr. Zollner had formed a company softball team for a local industrial league. In 1945 the Pistons instigated the National Softball League, which they hoped would open the

way to major league softball. They won multiple national championships. Players were celebrities. By the late 50s, as I was growing up, softball was no longer as significant but I remember my father talking about Leo Luken and Bernie Kampschmidt as if they were Nellie Fox and Ernie Banks, my baseball heroes.

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There were many eventful years in Fort Wayne.

For most of the Fort Wayne era, the Pistons played at the North Side High School gym. The enthusiastic fans and confined quarters gave the Pistons a significant homecourt advantage. Minneapolis Laker's star Slater Martin was quoted on the courtside seating at North Side: ''I never really saw the fans get physical with the players. I had them pull the hair on my legs through.''

Fred Zollner was key in keeping the NBL (National Basketball League) solvent. He gave direct financial aid to other teams, he purchased players for cash to help keep teams afloat, and did other things to keep the league going. Carl Bennett who's personal history with the Pistons is so intertwined with Zollner as to be inseparable said that Zollner never wanted anyone to know how he helped the league—and pro basketball—alive.

Zollner treated his players well, being known throughout the league as a generous owner. He was the first owner to purchase a plane for the team. He did this even though he did not like to fly. It gave the Pistons such an advantage—players weren't as tired from traveling—that the league re-configured its schedule to the disadvantage of Fort Wayne.

Zollner was constantly upgrading his team—which eventually led to repeat national titles. The nation knew he was serious when he signed ''Mr. Basketball''—Bobby McDermott of the New York Celtics, then the most famous player in all of basketball famous for the towering two-hand set-shots typically from half-court—or beyond. Paul ''Curly'' Armstrong was another favorite.

The Zollner Pistons were also responsible for the 24-second shot clock. When George Mikan, who was not only a giant of his day at 6′10″ but a talented athlete as well, changed the nature of basketball with his huge height advantage, the Pistons decided to try a different way to win. In Minneapolis, as the crowd hollered, they stalled. It remains—and always will—as the lowest scoring game in NBA basketball history. 19–18. But the Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons won. But the league said never again.

Fred Zollner, coordinated by his able basketball specialist Carl Bennett, was key in creating the NBA as we know it today. The NBL and the BAA (Basketball Association of America) were competing for players in a market in which few were able to make money. The BAA had franchises in big cities with big arenas (Madison Square Garden for example) but few fans and not the best players. The NBL was a mixed bag but had four very strong teams—the Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons, the Rochester Royals (later moved to Cincinnati in Hoosier Oscar Robertson days), George Mikan's Minneapolis Lakers (now the Los Angeles Lakers—ever wonder where the lake was in LA?), and the Indianapolis Krautskys (named after local grocery store owner Frank Krautsky). These teams actually dominated the NBA for most of its first years.

Maurice Podoloff, the Commissioner of the BAA, came to Fort Wayne to Carl Bennett's home. After preliminary discussions, they were joined the next day by Fred Zollner and then the Indianapolis Krautsky's owners in Fort Wayne. The agreement to pull the four teams from the NBL and join with the BAA was the start of the NBA. Additional changes occurred over the next few years but the core remains until today.

The Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons brought many thrills to northeast Indiana, including one of the early NBA All-Star games which features such stars as George Mikan (whose 1948 basketball card is the most valuable of all time), Bob Cousy and Dolph Schayes. The then brand new Allen County War Memorial Coliseum was a showpiece arena, packed to the ceiling with over 10,000 fans. Over 8,000 came to see the Zollner Pistons defeat the Boston Celtics, during Bill Russell's first visit there.

Fred Zollner's vision for Fort Wayne was for the Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons to be to the NBA what Green Bay was to professional football. But, alas, it was not to be. New York, Chicago, Boston and other cities had millions of people to draw from whereas Fort Wayne had less than 200,000. But Fred Zollner not only brought big-time basketball to a smaller size city, but he was instrumental in the founding of the NBA and much of its development.

Zollner saw the writing on the wall in the mid-fifties. He knew that the big-city teams weren't thrilled to come to Fort Wayne. What may have finally pushed him over the edge, according to long-time sports broadcaster and Fort Wayne civic leader Hilliard Gates, was a situation that developed in 1955. Fred Zollner wanted badly to win an NBA championship. The Zollner Pistons made it to the finals. But the Fort Wayne Coliseum had booked the national bowling tournament so the Pistons were booted out of Fort Wayne for the NBA finals. Now bowling was big in Indiana—bowling still is very popular in Indiana—but it probably wasn't the wisest move. The Fort Wayne Pistons lost four games to three, so the record should show that they did win all the games played in Indianapolis.

Dick Rosenthal, who played as a Piston and later was the University of Notre Dame's athletic director, said about Fred Zollner: ''He was a man of vision. Fred nurtured professional basketball from a very iffy proposition to a major business venture. He embodied the soul of the organization and the league. Professional basketball had come a long way. The game owes a great deal to the pioneer spirit of an owner like Fred Zollner.''

Carl Bennett, who crusaded to get Fred Zollner into the Hall of Fame, and who for most of the years of the Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons did most everything from coaching to managing to player personnel decisions, said: ''If somebody would have asked me when I was a kid what I wanted to do with my career, I would have told them exactly what I did for Fred Zollner's organization. It was fun and extremely rewarding.''

For basketball buffs, there are two books that most of this special order was based upon. Rodger Nelson has written the Zollner Piston Story, covering both the basketball and softball teams. Todd Gould has written a book titled Pioneers of the Hardwood, about not only the Pistons but other early pro Indiana basketball teams as well. Indiana, in the second year of the merged leagues, had 3—three—of the NBA teams.

Let me close with several quotes from the Pioneers of the Hardwood, from former Fort Wayne Zollner Piston basketball stars.

Frank Brian: ''Whenever I hear the song 'Back Home Again in Indiana' I get real nostalgic, because Indiana was like a second home to me. The fans were so congenial and really loved their basketball. Basketball was its own special culture there. When anybody ever asks me about the fans in Indiana, there's only one word I can say—unbelievable. Yes, sir, unbelievable. It was great.''

Hall-of-Famer George Yardley, the first Piston and the first NBA player in history to score 2000 points in a season, said, ''If it's wintertime, and it's Indiana, it must mean basketball. The fans there were really wonderful. I loved it, truly loved it. It was the greatest experience in the world.''

Yardley, a California boy and Stanford grad, also said about Fort Wayne: ''My wife and I didn't know what to expect when we got to Fort Wayne. We had never seen snow before. Major league sports to Fort Wayne was the Pistons. They were great basketball fans. But more importantly, they were great people. They wanted you to know that Fort Wayne was a great place to live, and they did everything they could to illustrate that to you. To this day I believe that Fort Wayne has some of the coldest weather and warmest people in the country.''

In Fort Wayne we no longer have the Pistons basketball team. We still have nearly 1000 Zollner Pistons jobs that are part of the backbone of our community. We have the pride of having been there in the early days of the NBA and now having one of our community leaders being honored by his selection into the Basketball Hall of Fame. And we still have some of the coldest weather and warmest people in the country.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United States women's national soccer team. Our soccer team won the women's World Cup. This tournament was held this past weekend in Pasadena, California.

We are all very proud of our women's soccer team. The 1999 women's soccer team has boldly gone where no United States soccer team has gone before. And along the way, Mr. Speaker, they have taught us all that anything is possible if you dare to dream; that by raising the bar of expectations, there can be no limits; that if you are allowed to

fully realize your potential, you can have it all. They did, Mr. Speaker. They fought very, very hard.

The championship of our women's soccer team won on the field in competition this weekend was more than a feel-good athletic victory but a victory for American women everywhere. From Liberty City in my district to Houston, to Los Angeles, the lives and hopes of young women everywhere have been expanded and transformed by a new set of American heroes, real-life role models who are confident, strong and female.

Their victory, however, was not just a victory for one team but a victory for all girls and all women and a victory for all America. And the culmination of a very long process, of title IX. Not too long ago, people said women athletics was perhaps a waste of time and money, that women could not perform. This victory shows, Mr. Speaker, that all that was needed for women was the opportunity to compete on an equal level.

I am a former athlete, Mr. Speaker. I ran track and played basketball in college more than a few years ago. I know the importance of role models in life and sports. I had outstanding role models like Lua Bartley and Babe Minor. Now, Mr. Speaker, little girls and women all across America have a new set of real-life American role models who are driven, determined, aggressive, tough and committed. That is our United States 1999 women's national soccer team.

This weekend's victory was a coming of age for women. In a real sense, it is something you cannot touch or you cannot quantify. Because little girls all over the world, Mr. Speaker, saw strong, independent and capable women playing soccer these past 3 weeks, they will realize that they are not crazy for wanting to do something out of the ordinary, to excel themselves in athletics. They are saying to themselves, ''If they can play soccer and win, I can be a CEO of a Fortune 500 company.''

Thank God for all of the dedicated soccer moms, Mr. Speaker, in this country that have driven their girls back and forth to rehearsal over and over again. May they continue to provide the continued support that fosters World Cup winners.

I am proud of our women's soccer team and what they have done for our national psyche and for the psyche of Americans from coast to coast. Girl power and the power of women, Mr. Speaker, live on.

IN MEMORY OF ASTRONAUT CHARLES ''PETE'' CONRAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago today, the NASA space laboratory Skylab fell to the earth in a rain of blue, red and orange fire over the Indian Ocean in Australia. I rise today to honor the memory of an astronaut who largely contributed to the success of that program.

Charles ''Pete'' Conrad, who died last Thursday in a motorcycle accident at the age of 69, began service to his country as a U.S. Navy aviator after graduating from Princeton with an engineering degree. It continued when he was selected as a member of NASA's second class of nine astronauts. He flew on two Gemini missions, setting a space fight endurance record on Gemini 5, and commanded Gemini 11 which docked with another spacecraft, leading the way to the Apollo missions.

He is best known, though, for the distinction of being the third man to walk on the Moon. Apollo 11 captured the world's imagination, but the mission missed its landing site by several miles. Commander Conrad's mission proved that not only could we go to the moon but we can land on our target. This mission goal was essential if any scientific exploration of the moon was going to take place. Unlocking the mysteries that the moon presents requires the ability to excavate specific sites. Apollo 12 and Pete Conrad proved this to be possible.

Five years later, when Skylab was launched into orbit atop a Saturn V rocket, major damage was sustained which would have to be repaired in space if the microgravity laboratory program was to be useful. Pete Conrad answered the call to duty on the first manned mission to the space station. He and his crew mates repaired the damage in three exhaustive EVAs in addition to conducting a number of other experiments over the 3 weeks they spent aboard the station.

When he left NASA, Pete Conrad was never far away. His enterprising spirit took him into the fertile environment of the commercial space industry, first with McDonnell Douglas and then on his own with Universal Space Lines and several sister companies. The visionary Pete Conrad recognized that it will be up to private industry to truly open the commercial markets of space, so he created companies to design reusable launch vehicles and build ground tracking systems, with the goal of making it easier, cheaper and safer to put people and equipment into space.

Through my work on the Committee on Science, I had the pleasure of meeting Pete Conrad, as a matter of fact, most recently several months ago. I have always been impressed by the force of his personality. He seemed to exemplify the maxim of ''attitude is altitude.'' At 5 feet 6 inches, Pete Conrad personified this quip with his eye toward enterprise and adventure.

□ 1915

Though highly regarded as a truly terrific pilot, he had a reputation as a jokester. Upon setting foot on the Moon, he cheered, ''Whoopee, that may have been a small one for Neil, but that's a long one for me.''

Just last year he joked that he looked forward to his 77th birthday saying, ''I fully expect that NASA will send me back to the Moon as they treated Senator Glenn, and if they don't do so, why then I will have to do it myself.''

The life of Charles P. Conrad, Jr., serves as an example of the patriotism and sense of adventure that sets the United States apart and makes us all, as Americans, unique. I am proud to have known him in life, I honor him in death, and I marvel, as we all do, at his legacy.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2448

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 2448, a bill to restore fairness to our immigration system. Family reunification is a fundamental principle of U.S. immigration law. Another key principle gives American citizens priority over non-citizens when they seek to bring their relatives here.

Most of the time, Americans get their petitions handled first.

But an aberration arises when Americans seek to bring their unmarried sons and daughters here from the Philippines. In this case, U.S. citizens wait several years longer than legal residents.

The Department of State reports that such U.S. citizen petitions are backlogged to October 1, 1987, while legal resident petitions are backlogged only to August 1, 1992, a difference of five years. The law was never designed to make citizens wait longer than legal residents, and we must correct this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to imagine how devastating it is to achieve American citizenship, only to find that this move significantly postponses your own child's visa. It is a heartbreaking task to have to inform constituents of this sad fact.

My bill fixes this irregularity. Simply put, it ensures that a legal resident who files for a son or daughter to immigrate will not have to wait longer for his children to arrive after he gains U.S. citizenship.

U.S. citizenship is a great honor. By passing H.R. 2448, we can ensure that it remains a great privilege as well. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

H.R. 2448

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PREVENTING IMMIGRANTS FROM WAITING LONGER FOR IMMIGRANT VISAS AS A RESULT OF RECLASSIFICATION FROM FAMILY SECOND PREFERENCE TO FAMILY FIRST PREFERENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) ASSURING IMMIGRANTS DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT LONGER FOR AN IMMIGRANT VISA AS A RESULT OF RECLASSIFICATION FROM FAMILY SECOND PREFERENCE TO FAMILY FIRST PREFERENCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of a petition that has been approved to accord preference status under subsection (a)(2)(A) may be deemed to

provide continued entitlement to status under that subsection in the case of any alien petitioner who is subsequently naturalized as a United States citizen, if a visa is not immediately available to the beneficiary under subsection (a)(1).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) takes effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and applies to petitions filed before, on, or after such date, without regard to when an alien petitioner was naturalized as a citizen of the United States.

REPUBLICANS IN CHARGE

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, returning today after a week-long Fourth of July district work period, I had an opportunity over that break to meet with so many Coloradans who celebrated the 223rd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the launching of our great Nation. Many of those individuals look forward to the future of our country with great hope and optimism for some who are disturbed somewhat by the tenor of the political process here in Washington, D.C., and that was emphasized perhaps most dramatically just this morning before I hopped on the plane to come back to Washington.

I held a town meeting, as I do every Monday morning half the distance between Fort COLLINS and Loveland in my district. It allows constituents an opportunity to meet and discuss over breakfast the many issues facing us, but there was a woman who stood up and commented on a remark that she had seen, and I had seen it as well in the media, about a colleague of ours here in the House from the Democrat side of the aisle, said that there was a Member of the minority party, saw no reason for the Democrats to cooperate or to compromise or to work with the majority party in Congress; that it would be to their political advantage to see a Congress that did nothing.

Well, it is the kind of disturbing comment that I think strikes most Americans as unfortunate certainly, and they are hoping that there are those who are willing to stand up in spite of those kinds of sentiments and lead the country regardless.

The rantings of Democrats might lead one to believe Congress is doing nothing important, but important things are being accomplished despite Democrat opposition and liberal stonewalling.

As my colleagues know, 7 months having passed since the bizarre series of events and criminal denials leading to the second impeachment of a sitting President, America is still reeling from its bewildering constitutional exercise. Self-serving claims of our liberal counterparts to the contrary, Mr. Speaker, America does not suffer a do-nothing Congress.

Still, the several important Republican accomplishments seem to have been lost on the morass of most pathetic adventures at the White House. Much of the distraction can clearly be blamed on the unfortunate slide further into the gutter of a darkening American political culture. Months of intense persistence and live impeachment news coverage coupled with round-the-clock, Hollywood-style political analysis by neophyte pundits has cast a warped and unhealthy light on this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, our democratic republic needs and craves active participation by citizens who earnestly care about our future, and now more than ever this pursuit must emanate from a genuine desire to secure a better America to ensure a stronger republic and honor those brave men and women who lived and died defending our great country.

What we saw in 1998, however, was a sort of Jerry Springer show meets C-Span where the American people were given front row seats and encouraged to cheer whenever one politician threw furniture at another. To be sure, certain politicians supplied ample fodder for these exhibitions, and many I confess contributed directly to the further denigration of American politics. But there were many more in Congress who dutifully fulfilled their constitutional responsibility and took very seriously their oaths to preserve and protect our republic. These are the same Members who, despite the frenzied pressure and ridicule of the Oval Office and the media, advanced the vitally important process of governing.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans can be proud. Our proposals to deliver a balanced budget are on schedule, including a much-needed replenishment of our national defense and programs. Republicans are also spearheading education initiatives to return autonomy to parents and States in managing their schools; and biggest of all, we have passed the balanced budget blueprint saving Social Security and Medicare while still providing much-needed tax relief for American families and their businesses.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget amendment resolution, H.J. Res. 1, which I introduced on the first day of the 106th Congress, will constitutionally bind the government to spending no more than it collects in Federal revenues. Republicans will keep spending in line to allow us to begin paying down the massive debt accrued over 40 years of Democrat taxing and spending policies.

But despite the surreal Clintonesque atmosphere which perverted the current political order in Washington, Mr. Speaker, there remain committed Republicans, loyal hard-working Americans who are legitimately concerned for our country and who wish to see it move forward for the good of our children. Our challenge now is to lead the rest of America to abandon Jerry Springer politics in favor of the same common sense and divine providence upon which our Founders relied when they launched the greatest republic in the history of human civilization.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to express my support for a Patients' Bill of Rights act in the strongest and most personal terms. I have been in office less than 200 days, and I have grown tired of explaining to my constituents why this Congress does not want to extend basic rights and protections to patients in this country.

One of my constituents who suffers from ovarian cancer was refused surgery by her HMO on the grounds that the surgery was experimental, although this particular procedure had a greater success rate than other procedures approved by the HMO.

And on a more personal basis, my wife about 4 years ago was told by her physician she needed surgery. We scheduled an appointment with her physician, and he happened to be a high school classmate of mine and treated my wife for about 14 years. During the conference with her physician, I asked the doctor what needed to be done to accomplish the surgery, and he told me that it would be simple.

Number one, we just needed to schedule surgery, and number two, he would write a letter to her insurance company in California and get authorization for this surgery. Well, he wrote the letter, and 6 days later he got back a letter from the insurance company saying:

Dear Dr. Sullivan, before we approve this surgery and authorize payment for this surgery, we want you to do this test and this test and this test.

Dr. Sullivan was furious about this letter back from the insurance company because essentially it was his attitude that she was, my wife was his patient. Everything this insurance company knew about my wife's case was from medical records provided by Dr. Sullivan to this insurance company in California, and yet they were trying to tell him how to practice medicine in Kansas.

After about 5 months of wrangling back and forth, finally there was approval and authorization for this surgery, and it worked out fine. But the point is every time I tell this story back in my district, I see heads nod in the crowd because people have had a similar experience with an insurance company; and I think it is time in this country that we extend basic protections and rights to patients who need them to assure a balance between insurance companies and patients to make sure that we are talking about patients here and not just about profits.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate is debating managed care reform this week. Let us give this issue a fair hearing in the

House of Representatives and give my constituents the fairness they deserve.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2465, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DREIER, (during the Special Order of Mr. PALLONE) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106–227) on the resolution (H. Res. 242) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2465) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2466, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DREIER, (during the Special Order of Mr. PALLONE) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106–228) on the resolution (H. Res. 243) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I have some of my colleagues, and I want to thank the previous speaker, my colleague from Kansas (Mr. MOORE), for talking about the Patients' Bill of Rights and the need for managed care reform.

The reason that we are here tonight to talk about the Patients' Bill of Rights and managed care reform primarily is because the Senate began debate today on the Patients' Bill of Rights, and I wanted to point out, Mr. Speaker, that while it is true that the debate has begun today in the other body, and we are certainly appreciative of that, it was only because Democrats over the last few weeks before the July 4 break insisted almost to the point of filibustering and saying that they would not continue the appropriations process in the Senate if there was not an opportunity to bring up the Patients' Bill of Rights and deal with the issue of HMO reform.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman will refrain from characterizing Senate actions.

The gentleman from New Jersey may continue.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, what I wanted to point out this evening, though, is that even though it is true that the HMO reform debate has begun, that we still have a problem in the sense that the Republican leadership is unwilling to support or, I think, ultimately even have considered particularly here in the House of Representatives the Patients' Bill of Rights, and I just wanted to start out this evening, if I could, by pointing out a few things that occurred and that were in the newspaper the last week or so on this issue, and then I want to yield to the two Congresswomen that are here tonight to join me.

One of the things that was in today's paper, in the New York Times, was an article by Robert Pear which is entitled, Managed Care Lobbyist Is Ready For The Debate; and essentially what this article says is that the HMO industry has commenced because of what is happening in the other body, that the HMO industry has commenced a huge lobbying effort not only by hiring lobbyists and paying them a lot of money to try to put an end to the Patients' Bill of Rights and not allow true HMO reform to pass, but also by spending millions of dollars on TV and in advertisements to try to kill any kind of HMO reform.

And just to give my colleagues an example of this, this is in today's New York Times. It says, it says specifically here, that the association and its business allies, and this is the HMO industry, have flooded the air waves and newspapers with advertisements opposing legislation to regulate HMOs through an umbrella group known as the Health Benefits Coalition.

They spent $2 million on advertising last year and have already spent more than that this year with a new burst of advertising planned for this week while the other body debates this issue. The advertisements attack the main democratic bill by name, and of course it goes on to explain that HMOs are mostly profit making.

The other thing that particularly galled me was that when they talked about the lobbying effort here in the Congress, it says that what they are trying to essentially say is that it is not necessary to have new laws to regulate HMOs because the HMOs are being told now that they should voluntarily adopt a code of conduct that will provide for patients' protections.

I thought that was interesting given the fact that just in the last week since we had the July 4 break, we have seen articles in the same newspaper, in the New York Times, talking about the long delays by HMOs that were cited in a New York report. This came out in New York. It was put out by Mark Green, the city's public advocate, and it talks about how patients' rights are being ignored.

Again, if it is not necessary to pass HMO reform, why is it that we have a report showing that it is needed and in fact that patient protections are being ignored?

Also the previous Friday in the New York Times was an article that said that HMOs will raise Medicare premiums or trim benefits. So not only do we have the HMOs essentially saying that they are not going to provide the patient protections on a voluntary basis, but also they are talking about raising premiums, trimming benefits for their patients who are part of their plan.

☐ 1930

So I would maintain, and we are going to talk about this for a long time tonight and other days, that in fact we do need legislation. We do need the Patient's Bill of Rights. I am pleased with the fact that the other body has at least started the debate on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have two Members who are here tonight and who are joining me.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who I know has been an advocate for the Patients' Bill of Rights and for HMO reform ever since she started here in the U.S. Congress.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and also for conducting this special order tonight, and for his hard work on this.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that I rise in strong support of the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights, which will provide fundamental measures to fix the current health insurance system, as well as provide patients with access to basic needed care.

Patients should not have to face numerous obstructions when they seek basic health care services. The Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights will allow patients to have more access to the care that they need. With the passage of this bill, individuals will have more access and the ability to receive emergency medical services, essential medication, as well as necessary services from specialists and OB–GYN care.

It also has provisions for women's and children's health benefits. Prescription drugs will be made more readily available to patients. Many patients cannot obtain certain prescription drugs because many HMOs refuse to pay for them. Unfortunately, patients do not get adequate medication needed to successfully treat their condition in these instances.

The Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights allows patients to obtain the needed medications, even if their HMO does not have them on their approved list. We should not have to gamble with patients' health. The quality of life should be a priority in all debates surrounding health care issues.

This bill will allow for more access and freedom for our patients and doctors when making decisions concerning an individual's health. Appropriate

health care should be a medical decision, not a business decision.

This bill addresses the importance of allowing patients to appeal their health plan's decision, as well as holding HMOs accountable for their actions. This only makes sense. It is outrageous that currently consumers have no recourse against HMOs that deny adequate health care to them, and they are paying for it. This is wrong. People are growing more and more frustrated with an inadequate health care system that does not listen to the needs of people.

I support universal, accessible health care for all, but until we have the political will to say that health care is a basic right, and that our Federal Government must guarantee this right, regardless of income or employment status, this bill is a good first step.

We must pass legislation with these very modest provisions. We have waited long enough and have allowed too many people to suffer. I urge my colleagues to support putting people rather than profits first by supporting H.R. 358.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman, and I think that in many ways that really is the key. What we are talking about with the Patients' Bill of Rights are commonsense patient protections that, frankly, when we mention them to our constituents, they are surprised that they are not already the law, or they are not already required.

I will give the example with the gag rule that says that if a particular procedure is not covered by the HMO in the insurance policy, the doctor cannot mention it to us, cannot mention that procedure or treatment. When I tell that to my constituents, they are shocked to think that a doctor can be told by the insurance company that they cannot mention a procedure just because it is not covered, the so-called gag rule.

We are just looking for commonsense protections here, but the reality is that there is so much money being spent to counteract our efforts to try to legislate and come up with HMO reform. That is really what we are up against. So many of these HMOs are for profit, and basically the profit is the bottom line for them.

We have seen so many examples, and we had a couple before a hearing we had about 6 months ago where, because the HMO was seeking to be purchased by a larger group, they were actually changing the policy of what was covered for certain kinds of procedures in order to save costs, because they knew that a few months down the line they wanted to be purchased, and they wanted to show that their profits were good, and they needed to change the policy on what they would cover as a result of it.

So I think the gentlewoman is right on point when she points out that it is profits over patients in many cases.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I think all of us here, regardless of party affiliation, can cite instances of patients who have either gotten sicker or who have died as a result of certain medical decisions that were not made on the basis of the health care benefit to them, but rather, based on the profit motive.

That is just wrong. We want to see that stopped. I am convinced that this bill will stop that. We have to make sure that all of our people in this country have the best type of medical care, and in fact that they and their doctors are the ones making these decisions, not the business agents or insurance companies.

Mr. PALLONE. I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker.

One of the two issues that I point out constantly that really show the distinction between what the Democrats have proposed in the Patients' Bill of Rights as opposed to the legislation that the Republicans have put forward, one is this whole issue of who is going to make the decision of what type of medical procedure we have, what type of operation, how long we stay in the hospital.

The problem right now is that the insurance companies make those decisions. What we are saying with the Patients' Bill of Rights, with the Democratic bill, is that that decision should be made by the doctor and patient.

The other thing, of course, is the enforcement. We say that there should be external independent review, separate and apart from the HMO, and if that fails we should be able to go to court and sue the HMO if they do not provide the proper care. Of course, the Republican bill does not get into that kind of enforcement.

So I think one of the things we need to do is draw those distinctions, if you will, between the Democrats' bill, the Patients' Bill of Rights, and some of the other things that are being proposed that really do not get to the problem in a comprehensive way.

Ms. LEE. We absolutely must show the distinction and difference, because I don't believe the American public knows that there is a difference. People just want to make sure that their medical decisions are made between themselves and their physicians. That is what they are asking us for.

Also, people want to make sure that when they are denied, they know why they are denied and they can appeal this process. For the life of me, I know all of us have constituents who have called us and said, I just received a call back or a form in the mail saying that this procedure which my physician has designated as the appropriate procedure has been denied. What do I do? We cannot respond at all.

I believe that under our bill, patients will be able to respond very effectively and will be able to receive the type of health care that they need. Under the Republican bill, they will not. The public needs to understand this.

So I appreciate the gentleman's having this special order tonight, because this is the only way we can get the information out to the general public.

Mr. PALLONE. I appreciate what the gentlewoman said. It is just very true. One of the biggest problems that people have is that when they have been denied certain types of treatment, they are in bad shape, they are seeking an operation, they are not feeling well by definition, or otherwise they would not need the treatment.

It is at that very time when they have to go through all these hurdles that currently exist, most of which do not lead to anything anyway, because under the current law, the HMO can define what is medically necessary. Then they can have an internal process to review what they have defined as medically necessary. So we never really have somebody independent, outside, that can review the decision and take an appeal. I want to thank the gentlewoman again.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands is herself a physician, and I know she has been part of our Health Care Task Force for a few years now, and has spoken out frequently on the issue of the Patients' Bill of Rights. The gentlewoman deals from firsthand information.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and I want to join the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) in thanking the gentleman for leading this special order, and all of the other special orders, hearings, and activities to highlight this very important issue to all Americans, an issue that is represented quite well in the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights.

At one time it was thought that managed care was a panacea, not only to curb skyrocketing health care costs, but also to provide better health care for more people. As a physician from the outside, I had serious doubts about the outcome of a health care delivery system created to cut costs, rather than to heal and keep people well.

As time has gone on, my worst fears have actually been realized. For 2 years now, 2 years or more, we have been trying to pass an important piece of legislation, one that the American people care about and one that they desperately want and need. It is aptly called the Patients' Bill of Rights, and speaks to rights that we Democrats want to return to the people and to the doctors that they choose to put themselves under their care.

But it is about something even more important. It is about life and it is about the quality of one's life. It is about putting health care decisions back in the hands of those who are trained to make those decisions.

Today, after managed care has come to cover the great majority of persons who are insured by their employer, what has happened paradoxically is that the American people have less access to health care, rather than more.

We have an obligation to fix that, and that is just what we, the Democrats, are trying to do through the Patients' Bill of Rights.

This Congress must make this commitment to our constituents a reality, and then we must move on to provide health insurance for all the other Americans, many of them people of color, who have none at all.

I am a physician, a family physician. I was very fortunate to have been able to practice the old way, taking the time to speak with and getting to know my patients and their families, using what I had learned and what I continued to learn to provide preventative care and treatment for their illnesses when they needed it, to be free to fully inform them of all of their treatment options, to refer them for specialty consultation when needed, and remain the manager of their care, and yes, even being held accountable for the decisions that I made about their health care.

That is the way medicine should be practiced. It is not that way anymore, in many cases, and specifically in most managed care organizations. That is why I am here to join the gentleman this evening to support the Patients' Bill of Rights. I join my colleagues in calling on the leadership of this body to bring the bill to the floor.

The American people have lost their faith in our health care system, and as a physician, I know just how important it is to have confidence in the person and the facility where you receive your care.

They rightfully want to have their doctors make the decisions about their health care, not some paperpusher miles away. They want to be able to get to an emergency room when, in the judgment of the one who knows their body best, themselves, something seems to have gone seriously wrong. They want to go there with the peace of mind that they will be seen without undue delay, and that the visit will be paid for. They want to be able to discuss their care fully with their doctor, to know all of the implications and available therapies. They insist on participating in the decision on when a specialist is needed, and they want to be able to see one when one is.

Just as the doctor or the provider has always been accountable for the judgments they make, the managed care organization, when the decision is theirs, must also be held accountable. So just as Americans have lost faith in managed care, they are about to lose their trust in this body because the leadership has failed to address this issue that they, the people of America, rank as the most important to them and their families.

I applaud the other side for taking up S. 6 this week, but it is important that they and we pass a comprehensive bill. Piecemealing this issue will not fix it. Just as we physicians must treat the whole patient or the whole person, this Congress has to fix the entire system.

So before I close, I also want to remind my colleagues that providing access to necessary health care, which H.R. 3605, the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights, does, is an important step. It still is a part of what we need to do.

This bill does also begin to address another issue important to providers of color and the people we serve. Managed care organizations operating in communities of people with color often do not include traditional community providers within their system. The providers who work there are not always culturally competent. In many localities, minority providers are closed out and with them, their patients, who are often sicker, and thus undesirable to the HMO because providing care for them will cut into the all-important profits.

Further, there are still too many Americans who do not have any insurance coverage at all. The system will not be right until all of us have access. This Nation can never be all that it holds out itself to be to the rest of the world until all of its citizens and residents have access to equitable, quality health care. The Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights is a great first step and a very important first step.

I may have left the practice of private medicine, but seeing that good health care is available to all is still very important to me. My colleagues on this side of the aisle and I am sure a few on the other side will join us as well and continue to work as long as we need to to see that this comprehensive bill of rights becomes a reality.

I thank the gentleman for giving me this time this evening.

□ 1945

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for what she said and for being a leader on all of the issues of health care reform but particularly on the issue of the Patients' Bill of Rights and managed care reform.

The gentlewoman mentioned some of the piecemeal approaches that we are hearing from the Republican leadership, and I just wanted to remind my colleagues and maybe we could just spend a few minutes explaining why we are here tonight.

Essentially, the problem that we face as Democrats is that the Republican Majority in the House has been unwilling to bring up the Patients' Bill of Rights. And since we do not control the procedure either in committee or on the floor of the House, we are forced essentially just to speak out and explain why it is unfair that the Patients' Bill of Rights has not been brought up here in the House of Representatives.

Obviously, what we have tried to do from the beginning of this year is to have a hearing on the bill in committee, which has not been allowed, and then to mark it up and bring it to the floor. When none of that was possible for the last 6 months, we then tried the discharge petition process, where we come down to the floor and sign a petition the way our constituents petition us and basically the way the rules provide that if a majority of us sign a petition, that the bill comes to the floor, the Patients' Bill of Rights would come to the floor without going to committee. That is, of course, difficult, too, because we have to get a majority, and I believe because of the delegate status of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, she is not even allowed to sign the petition. Or maybe she can sign it, but it does not mean anything that she signs it, which I think is also unfortunate and should be changed.

But now that we have gotten a significant number of Members to sign the petition, I know we had over 180 before the July 4th break, we are starting to see the Republican leadership get a little restless and come up with other ideas about how to avoid a debate on this issue.

One of the things they did was to bring up a series of piecemeal bills that took little pieces of the patient protections that we have in the Patients' Bill of Rights and basically brought them up in committee and tried to get them out of committee. Fortunately, there were a few, I think two or three, Republicans who did not want to go along with that because, as the gentlewoman said, they wanted a comprehensive approach like the Patients' Bill of Rights, so that has gotten bogged down.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the latest tactics are to deal with that piecemeal approach. We do have some Republicans that are joining us in the effort and feel that this really should be a bipartisan issue, but unfortunately it has not been because the Republican leadership continues to not allow the Patients' Bill of Rights to be brought up.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted, if I could, to again say that the problem with these piecemeal bills is essentially what I talked about before with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) which is the two key points: The fact that doctors and patients should make decisions about what kind of treatment or care they get and not the insurance company is absent in those piecemeal bills. And, of course, there is no real enforcement. There is no real opportunity to go outside the HMO to make an appeal. There is no opportunity to sue in a court of law if someone is seriously damaged.

So I think it is important that we keep raising this issue and even though we do have the other body now bringing up the issue of HMO reform, it is not at all clear whether or not we are going to really see action on the Patients' Bill of Rights. So we will have to wait and see what develops in that regard.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from New Jersey. He said earlier that it is a common sense bill and it is what the people

of America have said they want. They want their doctors who have been trained to sit with them and make the decisions about their health care. They want someone that they can have a personal relationship with. And that personal relationship between the patient and the physician is a very important one, and it is not there in managed care the way it is when the doctor can make the decisions.

And, of course, if the managed care organization is making the decisions, then they ought to be held accountable for making those decisions. But the Patients' Bill of Rights that we are talking about, which is comprehensive, is what the American people have said that they want.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I will give an example.

Of course, the insurance companies always say that they do not make the decisions and it is really up to the physician. But, as the gentlewoman knows, that is not the case.

I remember when my son was born, he is about 4 years old now, and we were at Columbia Hospital for Women here in Washington; and at that time my wife delivered him through C-section. I was told that, generally, the standard in the industry before HMOs came along was to allow the woman to stay in the hospital approximately 4 days.

We had a standard BlueCross, and this actually was applying not just to HMOs but in general, but basically what had happened is that a lot of the HMOs have moved to allowing just 1 day for natural delivery and then 2 days for C-section. The physician that we had said that he really wanted my wife to stay in the hospital at least another day, for the third day, but he said that he could not authorize it because the insurance company would not allow it. I asked the question at the time, I said, ''I do not understand. Aren't you the one that makes the decision?'' And he said, ''In theory I am, but if I allow too many people stay the extra day then they will penalize me or I may not be able to be part of the network or whatever.''

And so, even though they may say that that it is up to the doctor, the reality is that the physicians are under these kind of financial or other licensure penalties, not licensure but to be able to stay in the network to not allow it. So, effectively, they control the process and they make the decisions and that is what we need to change.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Right. And I believe one of the articles, that we had talked about someone who had gone into an emergency room and one of the things that our bill provides for is reasonable judgment allowing for emergency room care and having that care covered and also allows for things like pain, which make a lot of sense to be a reason why someone might decide to go to an emergency room.

There are many stories of persons who have gone into emergency rooms with something like chest pain and, while waiting for an approval, those first few minutes are some of the most critical minutes, and the person had an arrhythmia and died. And so our bill is very important, and it is a matter of life, as I said, and quality of life for American citizens.

Mr. PALLONE. Well, basically, being from a legal background, I always think about the legal aspects of this. But the way I see it, essentially what the Patients' Bill of Rights does in the emergency room situation is to essentially put the burden on the HMO in that circumstance rather than on the patient. In other words, right now if the patient gets chest pains and feels they may be having a heart attack and they go to the emergency room, the HMO can find every excuse, assuming they did not have a heart attack and they survived, the HMO can say that they should have had prior authorization. We would have known that chest pain does not necessarily mean a heart attack.

What we say in our bill is say it is the ''reasonable person'' formula. If the average person would think, if they have chest pains, that they have to go to the emergency room, that is good enough. They do not have to prove after they had the heart attack to justify getting the emergency room care paid for, which of course makes sense.

The other thing, and the gentlewoman would know this better than I, the other aspect of our bill is that in order to, as we said since we want to leave it to the doctor and the patient to decide what is medically necessary, we use the standard practice in that particular specialty. So that the reference that the HMO has to make to, for example, a certain kind of cardiac care or pediatric care is to the standards for that pediatric college or cardiac college. I do not know the terms. The standard is that set by that specialty, medical specialty, rather than just by the insurance company; and that is a big difference as well.

Mr. Speaker, what I was trying to do tonight, and I appreciate the input from the two gentlewomen, the two Congresswoman who so far participated in this debate, was to draw a distinction between the Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights and some of the proposals that the Republican leadership has put forward. I tried to point out that, on the one hand, the Republican leadership here in the House has consistently refused to bring up HMO reform, not only the Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights but any kind of legislation, over the last 6 months in essentially a stalling, delay tactic because of the support that the leadership receives from the HMOs and from the insurance industry.

But now that the time has come when it is very difficult for the Republican leadership to continue to delay because we have a sufficient number of signatures on this discharge petition, that we are getting close to the point where we could actually bring the bill up, they are now turning to a different device to bring up legislation that they pretend is some kind of HMO reform but really is not and does not pass the test to really provide comprehensive patient protections to the average American.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make reference in that regard to an op-ed article by Bob Herbert in The New York Times that appeared just prior to the break on Thursday, July 1. To the extent it talks about the action in the other body, I will not get into that because we are not supposed to talk about what happened in the Senate.

But the op-ed does make the point that the Republicans really do not want to bring up HMO reform, true HMO reform like the Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights, and that they will do whatever they can to try to avoid the issue and prevent a bill from passing here in the House of Representatives, even though the American people have repeatedly spoken out and say that they want HMO reform and they want the type of comprehensive approach that the Democrats have put forward in the Patients' Bill of Rights.

I just wanted to make reference to certain sections of this op-ed which I think is very significant, and it refers to the GOP right wing, The Restless Radicals, and it talks about the fight. And it says that the fight over HMO reform was not over the merits of the legislation but over the Republican Majority's refusal to even allow debate on a series of Democratic proposals aimed at curbing abuses by insurance companies and HMOs.

I will just quote certain sections here.

''There is strong support among the public and among health care professionals for the Democratic proposals, known as the Patients' Bill of Rights. The Republicans have offered much weaker legislation and have not been anxious to permit a public airing of the differences.

''Virtually all leading patient and medical groups have supported the Democratic proposal'' in the Senate, ''Senator [TOM] DASCHLE's proposal,'' says Senator EDWARD KENNEDY. ''These groups do not care whether Democrats or Republicans are on a piece of legislation. They just want a strong bill. And virtually every single leading——''

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The gentleman will refrain from quoting Members of the other body.

The gentleman may continue.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the references that I will continue with are from the article, not from the other body. This is, as I said, an opinion that was by Bob Herbert in his column in The New York Times on Thursday in which he said, ''A few days ago I spoke by phone with Steve Grissom,'' a constituent or someone basically from North Carolina who has had health problems. And he said, ''A few days ago I spoke by phone with Steve Grissom of

Cary, North Carolina. He is 50 years old and suffers from leukemia and AIDS, which he contracted through a blood transfusion. Mr. Grissom is locked in a harrowing dispute with his insurance providers over payment for medical equipment and a continuing supply of oxygen that could determine whether he lives or dies.

''Said Mr. Grissom: I've been a Republican all my life. I don't think I've ever missed a vote. Now is the first time in my life that I've considered changing my party affiliation because I see a real lack of compassion in the Republican Party. They're hearing from the HMOs and they're hearing from the lobbyists with their fat checkbooks, and they're not hearing from people like me who are in desperate need of this kind of consumer protection.''

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, I think it really says it all. As we said before when we had the two Congresswomen on the floor, the bottom line is that all that the Democrats are proposing are common sense patient protections within the context of HMOs.

The only reason that we are getting opposition from the Republicans is essentially because of the fact that the insurance companies do not want this legislation brought to the floor, do not want a debate, and do not want a vote on it.

I would like to, if I could, just take a few minutes to point to the differences substantively between the Democratic bill and the Republican bill. There are really a few key points in the Democratic bill that I would just summarize right now and why the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights would make a real difference for American families.

First, it holds managed care plans responsible for denial of care with real, reliable and enforceable appeals and remedies. This is the enforcement that we talked about before that involves an independent review of any denial of treatment outside of the confines of the HMO and includes also, ultimately, the right to sue the HMO for damages.

Second, it guarantees patients the right to see a specialist when they need to do so. It is so crucial today. So much medical care is provided through specialists. If one does not have access to a specialist within the network of one's HMO, one should be able to go outside the network to get a specialist who can cover the concern or deal with the medical concern that one has.

Third, it guarantees that vulnerable patients can stay with their own doctor even if their own doctor is no longer in their health care plan.

Fourth, it bans financial incentives to reward physicians for prescribing less care.

Fifth, it returns health care decisions to health care professionals and their patients, which again we discussed earlier this evening.

Now, if I could just elaborate on a few of these points. When we talk about providing patients with access to care, which is so important, there are really a number of things in the Democratic bill that relate to access. Some of them we discussed a little bit earlier this evening.

One is access to emergency room care. The Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights allows patients to go to any emergency room during a medical emergency without having to call a health plan first for permission. Emergency room physicians can stabilize patients and begin to plan for post-stabilization care without fear that health plans will later deny coverage.

Another access point, access to needed specialists. The Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights ensures that patients who suffer from a chronic condition or disease that requires care by a specialist will have access to a qualified specialist. If the HMO network does not include specialists qualified to treat a condition such as a pediatric cardiologist to treat a child's heart defect, it would have to allow the patient to see a qualified doctor outside its own network at no extra cost.

The Patients' Bill of Rights also allows patients with serious ongoing conditions to choose a specialist to coordinate care or to see their doctor without having to ask their HMO for permission before every visit.

Another access, very important obviously for women, access to an OB/GYN. The Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights allows a woman to have direct access to OB/GYN care without having to get a referral from her HMO. Women would also have the option to designate their OB/GYN as their primary care physician.

Also on the issue of access, my colleague from California mentioned earlier that Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights makes needed prescription drugs available to patients. Currently, many HMOs refuse to pay for prescription drugs that are not on their preapproved list of medications. As a result, patients may not get the most effective medication needed to treat their condition.

The Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights ensures that patients with drug coverage would be able to obtain needed medications even if they are not on their HMOs approved list.

Now, the other issue that was mentioned by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), who is a physician who has practiced, is the idea of freeing doctors to practice medicine. This is what so many of my constituents complain about, that accountants should not make medical decisions. Yet, some managed care organizations interfere with doctors' medical decisions and restrict open communication between patients and doctors. The Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights protects the doctor/patient relationship and frees doctors to practice medicine.

Most important, it prohibits insurers from gagging doctors. Patients have a right to learn from their doctor all of their treatment options, not just the cheapest. The Democrats' bill prevents HMOs from interfering with doctors' communications with patients. Doctors cannot be penalized for referring patients to specialists or discussing costly medical procedures.

The Patients' Bill of Rights provides that doctors and patients, rather than insurance company bureaucrats, are once again allowed to make medical decisions. Now, how do we do that? Well, under our bill, HMOs are prevented from inappropriately interfering with doctors' judgments and cannot mandate drive-through procedures or set arbitrary limits on hospital lengths of stay.

In addition, doctors and nurses who advocate on behalf of the patients will be protected from retaliation by HMOs. Also important in this whole idea of allowing doctors to freely practice medicine is to limit improper financial incentives.

Some managed care organizations use improper financial incentives to pressure doctors to deny care to their patients. The Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights limits insurance companies' ability to use financial incentives to get doctors to deny care. HMOs and insurers also would have to disclose to all patients information about any incentives that they use.

Now, I just want to talk about one more aspect of the Democratic bill, and then I want to talk briefly about the Republican bill that is being put up in opposition to it. This is with regard to enforcement and the whole idea of bringing the appeal when one has been denied treatment.

When health plans deny needed care, patients and doctors reserve the right to appeal the decision and to receive a timely response. To protect patients and give them a meaningful right to appeal, the Democrats Patients' Bill of Rights establishes a sound, independent and timely external appeals process. What we do with our bill is to ensure that patients who are denied care by an insurance company can appeal the decision to an independent reviewer with medical and legal expertise and receive a timely decision that is binding on the HMO.

Finally, I would like to talk a little bit about why it is necessary to have the ability to sue. I think a lot of people do not realize that they can sue the HMO if they have been denied treatment or if they have suffered damages because they did not get proper treatment.

But today, even if an HMO has been involved directly in dictating, denying, or delaying care for a patient, it can use a loophole in the statute called ERISA, the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The HMO can use ERISA to avoid any responsibility for the consequences of its actions.

ERISA was designed to protect employees from losing pension benefits

due to fraud, mismanagement, and employer bankruptcies during the 1960s. But it has had the effect of leaving patients harmed by their HMO's decisions to deny or delay care with no effective remedy.

Now, what the Democrats do in our Patients' Bill of Rights is to close this loophole and ensure that, like any other industry, HMOs can be held accountable for their actions. Since HMOs have the financial incentive to deny care to patients, they should bear responsibility if such denials cause harm. Employers, under our bill, are shielded from liability unless they make the decision to deny care. But the HMO is not. The HMO can be sued because they are in fact making the decision.

Now I just wanted to, if I could, briefly talk about these sham piecemeal bills that the Republican leadership has brought up in the last few weeks after we started to get a number of signatures to our discharge petition and it seemed as though at some point in the near future we were likely to get enough signatures to bring the Patients' Bill of Rights to the floor. So the Republican leadership has rolled out eight piecemeal bills which they call HMO reform but are really not.

Let me just point out some of the things that are left out in this Republican approach. First of all, the bills only cover people who obtain health insurance through their employer. They fail to extend patient protections to the millions of people that purchase health insurance individually.

Obviously, the patient protections that we are talking about should apply to all health plans, not just plans that are provided by the employer. Also, the Republican bills pretend to secure patients' rights, but they contain no way to enforce those rights other than the weak penalties currently available through ERISA. So the outside independent review, the ability to sue is not there.

The piecemeal bills are inconsistent and incomplete. For example, one of them is supposed to protect against so-called gag clauses where the physician is told that he cannot speak out about a particular procedure that is not covered. But it does not. But the bill the Republicans have put forward to try to deal with these gag clauses does not prohibit plans from retaliating against doctors who discuss the plans' financial incentives. Well, the reality then is essentially the doctors are still gagged and cannot speak their mind.

There are so many other examples. Let me give one other example in an effort to try to address the Democrats' initiative with regard to OB/GYN care. The Republican bill purports to guarantee women direct access to routine OB/GYN care, but it would allow a plan to require a woman to obtain such services from a generalist.

So these are the kinds of games that we are seeing with this piecemeal approach that the Republicans have put forward. They pretend that they are dealing with some of the patient protections, but in fact they do not.

Mr. Speaker, what I would really like to point out is that, on the one hand, I am pleased to see that the other body is taking up the issue of HMO reform, but I think that it is crucial, first of all, that we in the House bring up the issue and allow for a debate on the Patients' Bill of Rights.

But even more so, it is necessary for us to bring up a bill, a strong comprehensive approach like the Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights, allow it to be brought to the floor, vote on it, go to conference with the Senate, and have a strong piece of legislation like the Patients' Bill of Rights go to the President.

President Clinton has repeatedly said that he would sign the Patients' Bill of Rights if it comes to his desk. I notice that, during the break, actually over this past weekend, he again used an opportunity I think when he was out on the West coast in Los Angeles to criticize the GOP, the Republican leadership, for trying to avert a vote on true HMO reform.

We are not going to rest, those of us in our party, and I know some of the Republicans as well who care about this issue are not going to rest until we have a comprehensive bill passed by both houses and on the President's desk.

This is what the American people demand. This is what they deserve. It only makes sense to do so if we are really going to provide protections for patients throughout the country.

LAS VEGAS FLOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, a flood damage assessment team from the Federal Emergency Management Agency arrived in my hometown of Las Vegas this afternoon.

It may be a bit strange to many of my colleagues to hear the words ''flood'' and ''Las Vegas'' in the same sentence. People usually do not think of flooding as a problem that happens in a desert environment. But the potential for flash flood disaster constantly lurks in the summertime in southern Nevada.

I have lived in Las Vegas for 38 years, and I have seen a lot of flash floods. But last Thursday brought rain and flooding like I have never seen before. We were hit with what weather experts called the 100-year flood.

With more than an inch of rain falling per hour, rivers of water swept across the Las Vegas Valley. The metropolitan area was brought to a standstill. Many neighborhoods were under several feet of water. Heroic rescue crews from our police and fire departments and other agencies saved dozens of people, men, women, and children who were stranded in high waters with frighteningly strong undercurrents, in many cases, danger of being swept to their death by the raging waters. Sadly two people did die.

Helicopter rescue teams crisscrossed the valley, hoisting to safety people who could not escape the onslaught of water and mud that swept down from the surrounding mountain sides. One security officer, Cornell Madison of Las Vegas, repeatedly waded into high waters to rescue trapped motorists. He is one of many, many people who disregarded their own personal safety to help others.

The waters subsided rapidly, and our tourism services were back in full swing within a day. But things did not turn out so well for hundreds of residents whose homes were heavily damaged or destroyed. Many small businesses also suffered heavy losses. In some parts of the city, the devastation was overwhelming, as flood channel banks were ripped apart by fast-flowing run-off waters that were over 10 feet high. Homes were literally torn from their foundations and dumped into the torrent.

Residents were able to flee in time to save their lives, but they had to return to find themselves either homeless or facing massive repair and cleanup expenses.

☐ 2015

There is also damage to public infrastructure totaling many, many millions of dollars. I personally helicoptered over the Las Vegas Valley to see firsthand the devastation below, and I went to the worst affected area, the Miracle Mile Mobile Home Park, rolled up my pants legs and went to talk to those residents who had lost everything.

I greatly appreciate FEMA's decision to send in damage assessment teams to help the local governments in my Congressional District identify the losses and advise on how the damage can be mitigated. They will be in the field tomorrow and I will be in communication with them.

I also appreciate the interest and responsiveness of the Small Business Administration in the wake of this disaster. I know that our Federal disaster relief agencies will quickly act upon any requests from local and State officials for assistance. And as representative for the areas that were the hardest hit by this devastating flood, I will continue to communicate the needs of the Las Vegas community to Federal agencies.

The people of Las Vegas have banded together to help one another during this time of dire need for many of our residents. Now is the time for our Federal Government to come into Southern Nevada and lend a helping hand to a community ravaged by flood.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. THURMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness in the family.

Ms. BALDWIN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and Tuesday, July 13, on account of illness in the family.

Mr. POMEROY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business (funeral).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of inclement weather.

Mr. KIND (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a weather delay.

Mr. COMBEST (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and July 13 on account of a death in the family.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

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. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, July 13 and July 14.

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, July 13.

Mr. SCHAFFER, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MOORE, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Bills and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 323. An act to redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park and establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 376. An act to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce.

S. 416. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the city of Sisters, Oregon, a certain parcel of land for use in connection with a sewage treatment facility; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 700. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Ala Kahakai Trail as a National Historic Trail; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 768. An act to establish court-martial jurisdiction over civilians serving with the Armed Forces during contingency operations, and to establish Federal jurisdiction over crimes committed outside the United States by former members of the Armed Forces and civilians accompanying the Armed Forces outside the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services, in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 776. An act to authorize the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study for the preservation of the Loess Hills in western Iowa; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1027. An act to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes Resources Conservancy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution condemning Palestinian efforts to revive the original Palestine partition plan of November 29, 1947, and condemning the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for its April 27, 1999, resolution endorsing Palestinian self-determination on the basis of the original Palestine partition plan; to the Committee on International Relations.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 13, 1999, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2858. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Imported Fire Ant; Quarantined Areas and Treatment [Docket No. 98–125–1] received May 19, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2859. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Karnal Bunt Regulated Areas [Docket No. 96–016–24] (RIN: 0579–AA83) received June 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2860. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Area [Docket No. 98–083–4] received June 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2861. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mexican Fruit Fly Regulations; Removal of Regulated Area [Docket No. 98–082–4] received June 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2862. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oriental Fruit Fly; Designation of Quarantined Area [Docket No. 99–044–1] received June 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2863. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Use of Soy Protein Concentrate, Modified Food Starch, and Carrageenan as Binders in Certain Meat Products [Docket No. 94–015DF] (RIN: 0583–AB82) received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2864. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerance; Technical Amendment [OPP–300863A; FRL–6089–3] (RIN: 2070–AB78) received June 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2865. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cyfluthrin: [cyano[4-fluoro-3- phenoxyphenyl]-methyl-3-[2,2-dichloroethenyl] -2,2-dimethylcyclopropane carboxylate]; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP–300887; FRL–6088–9] (RIN: 2070–AB78) received June 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2866. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Aminoethoxyvinylglycine; Temporary Pesticide Tolerance [OPP–300858; FRL–6080–4] (RIN: 2070–AB78) received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2867. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Sulfosate; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP–300878; FRL–6086–6] (RIN: 2070–AB78) received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2868. A letter from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting notification that the Commander of the United States Air Force Academy is initiating a cost comparison of the Communications functions at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2869. A letter from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting notification that the Civil Engineer Squadron at MacDill AFB will become a Native American owned firm; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2870. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contract Actions for Leased Equipment [DFARS Case 99–D012] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2871. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense

Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Congressional Medal of Honor [DFARS Case 98–D304] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2872. A letter from the Senior Civilian Official, Department of Defense, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence for Community Management, transmitting a report regarding the continuity of performance of essential operations that are at risk of failure because of information technology and national security systems that are not Year 2000 compliant; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2873. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Organization and Functions, Availability and Release of Information, Contracting Outreach Program [Docket No. 99–07] (RIN: 1557–AB65) (RIN: 99–07) received May 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2874. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to authorize appropriations for the United States contribution to the HIPC Trust Fund, administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2875. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA–7713] received May 19, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2876. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received May 19, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2877. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—List of Communities Eligible for the Sale of Flood Insurance [Docket No. FEMA–7712] received May 19, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2878. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA–7285] received May 19, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2879. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations—received May 19, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2880. A letter from the Director, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office of Thrift Supervision's 1998 Annual Report to Congress on the Preservation of Minority Savings Institutions, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1462a(g); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2881. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Notice of Final Funding Priority for Fiscal Year 1999 for a Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project—received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2882. A letter from the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report on the efforts of the Administration's collaboration with the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research, to develop a public education program to combat drowsy driving due to fatigue, sleep disorders and inattention; to the Committee on Commerce.

2883. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Louisiana: Reasonable-Further-Progress Plan for the 1996–1999 Period, Attainment Demonstration, Contingency Plan, Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets, and 1990 Emission Inventory for the Baton Rouge Ozone Nonattainment Area; Louisiana Point Source Banking Regulations [LA–29–1–7403; FRL–6370–8] received June 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2884. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Foreword and Definitions, Revision to Definition for Sole Source of Heat and Emissions Standards, Nonsubstantive Changes; General Requirements, Open Burning and Nonsubstantive Changes; and Foreword and Definitions, Addition of Definition for PM10 Nonattainment Area [UT–001–0018; UT–001–0019; UT–001–0020; FRL–6368–8] received June 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2885. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Phoenix; Arizona Ozone Nonattainment Area, Revision to the 15 Percent Rate of Progress Plan [AZ–005–ROP; FRL–6371–2] received June 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2886. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Interim Final Stay of Action on Section 126 Petitions for Purposes of Reducing Interstate Ozone Transport [FRL No. 6364–4] (RIN: 2060–AH88) received June 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2887. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Hazardous Waste Management System; Modification of the Hazardous Waste Program; Hazardous Waste Lamps [FRL–6371–3] (RIN: 2050–AD93) received June 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2888. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Sustainable Development Challenge Grant Program [FRL–6370–4] received June 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2889. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference for Florida; Approval of Recodification of the Florida Administrative Code [FL–62–1–9610a; FL–66–1–9729a; FRL–6352–5] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2890. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Reasonably Available Control Technology Requirements for Nitrogen Oxides [DE011–1020; FRL–6357–7] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2891. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Florida: Approval of Revisions to the Florida State Implementation Plan [FL–61–2–9823a; FRL–6352–3] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2892. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Record Keeping Requirements for Low Volume Exemption and Low Release and Exposure Exemption; Technical Correction [OPPT–50636; FRL–6068–5] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2893. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Manzanita, Cannon Beach and Bay City, Oregon) [MM Docket No. 98–189; RM–9377; RM–9475) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2894. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Deer Lodge, Hamilton and SHELBY, Montana) [MM Docket No. 99–70 RM–9380] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2895. A letter from the Special Assistant, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Cannon Ball, North Dakota) [MM Docket No.99–4 RM–9429]; (Velva, North Dakota) [MM Docket. 99–5 RM–9430]; (Delhi, New York) [MM Docket No. 99–7 RM–9432]; (Flasher, North Dakota) [MM Docket No. 99–37 RM–9450]; (Berthold, North Dakota) [MM Docket No. 99–38 RM–9451]; (Ranier, Oregon) [MM Docket No. 99–39 RM–9464]; (Richardton, North Dakota) [MM Docket No. 99–40 RM–9465]; (Wimbledon, North Dakota) [MM Docket No. 99–41 RM–9466] Received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2896. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Tumon, Guam) [MM Docket No. 98–113 RM–9296] received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2897. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives; Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 98F–0824] received May 25, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2898. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the

Administration's final rule—Secondary Direct Food Additives Permitted in Food for Human Consumption; Boiler Water Additives [Docket No. 97F–0450] received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2899. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of General Counsel, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Formal and Informal Adjudicatory Hearing Procedures; Clarification of Eligibility to Participate (RIN: 3150–AG27) received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2900. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's report entitled ''Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences, Fiscal Year 1998'' for events at nuclear facilities, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5848; to the Committee on Commerce.

2901. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—NRC Generic Letter 99–02, ''Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-Grade Activated Charcoal''— received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2902. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the quarterly report on the denial of safeguards information for the period of January 1, through March 31, 1999, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2167(e); to the Committee on Commerce.

2903. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting authorization requests for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1110; to the Committee on Commerce.

2904. A letter from the Director, Congressional Relations, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1998, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 2076(j); to the Committee on Commerce.

2905. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his declaration of a National emergency with respect to the threat to the United States posed by the actions and policies of the Afghan Taliban and an executive order to deal with this threat, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(b); (H. Doc. No. 106—90); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

2906. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Department of the Army's proposed lease of defense articles to Greece (Transmittal No. 10–99), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

2907. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 99–19), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2908. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 99–18), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2909. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the President has authorized funds from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to meet the urgent and unexpected needs relating to the program under which the United States will provide refuge in the United States to refugees fleeing the Kosovo crisis, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(3); to the Committee on International Relations.

2910. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the President is considering Mark Wylea Erwin, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mauritius and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal and Islamic Republic of the Comoros and to the Republic of Seychelles, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3944(b)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

2911. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the President is considering Johnnie Carson, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kenya, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3944(b)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

2912. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the President is considering Gregory Lee Johnson, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Swaziland, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3944(b)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

2913. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the President is considering A. Peter Burleigh, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Palau, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3944(b)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

2914. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the President is considering Larry C. Napper, of Texas, to be Ambassador during tenure of service as Coordinator of the Support for East European Democracy Program, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3944(b)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

2915. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

2916. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Entity List: Addition of Entities located in the People's Republic of China; and Correction to Spelling of One Indian Entity Name [Docket No. 970428099–9105–09] (RIN: 0694–AB60) received June 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

2917. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Addition of Macau to the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No. 990318078–9078–01] (RIN: 0694–AB89) received June 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

2918. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the first of six annual reports by the Department of State on enforcement and monitoring of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; to the Committee on International Relations.

2919. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning efforts made by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to employ an adequate number of Americans during 1998; to the Committee on International Relations.

2920. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Office of the Inspector General's Semiannual Report, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3944(b)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2921. A letter from the Director, OCA, WCPS, SWSD, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of Kansas City, MO, Special Wage Schedule for Printing Positions (RIN: 3206–AI11) received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2922. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Additions to the Procurement List—received May 19, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2923. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List Additions—received June 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2924. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General of the U.S. International Trade Commission for the period October 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2925. A letter from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting the audited Fifty-Eighth Financial Statement for the period October 1, 1997—September 30, 1998, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2926. A letter from the General Counsel, Legal Services Corporation, transmitting the Legal Services Corporation's Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999, and the corresponding report of the Corporation's Board of Directors; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2927. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the NCUA Inspector General's semi-annual report for October 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2928. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the National Labor Relations Board for the Period October 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2929. A letter from the Director, Employment Service Staffing Reinvention Office, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Reemployment Rights of Employees Performing Military

Duty (RINS: 3206–AG02 and 3206–AH15) received June 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2930. A letter from the Director, Employment Service, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Statutory Bar to Appointment of Persons Who Fail to Register Under Selective Service Law; Technical Amendment (RIN: 3206–AI72) received June 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2931. A letter from the Director, WCPS, OCA, SWSD, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the Lubbock, Texas, Nonappropriated Fund Wage Area (RIN: 3206–AH88) received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2932. A letter from the Chairman, Postal Rate Commission, transmitting the annual report on International Mail Costs, Revenues, and Volumes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2933. A letter from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Postal Service, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Postal Service management response to the report for the period ending March 31, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2934. A letter from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 1998, through March 31, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2935. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the annual report on the state of internal controls over financial and administrative activities, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2936. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Treatment of Limited Liability Companies Under the Federal Election Campaign Act [Notice 1999–10] received June 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on House Administration.

2937. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Commercial Cod Harvest [Docket No. 990318076–9109–02; I.D. 052199E] received May 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2938. A letter from the Fisheries Biologist, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat: Petition To List Eleven New Species Genus of Bryozoans From Capron Shoal, Florida, as Threatened or Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) [Docket No. 990520140–9140–01; I.D. 041699A] received June 15, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2939. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; 1999 Specifications [Docket No. 981106278–8336–02; I.D. 060999A] (RIN: 0648–AL76) received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2940. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Federal Register Certifying Officer, Department of Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rul—Transfer of Debts to Treasury for Collection (RIN: 1510–AA68) received April 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2941. A letter from the Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Adjustment of Status; Continued Validity of Nonimmigrant Status, Unexpired Employment Authorization, and Travel Authorization for Certain Applicants Maintaining Nonimmigrant H or L Status [INS No. 1881–97] (RIN: 1115–AE96) received June 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2942. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the Sixteenth Annual Report of Accomplishments Under the Airport Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 1997, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. app. 2203(b)(2); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2943. A letter from the the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, the Department of the Army, transmitting a recommendation for authorization of a flood damage reduction and recreation project for the Upper Guadalupe River, Santa Clara County, California; (H. Doc. No. 106–89); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

2944. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Model S–76A Helicopters [Docket No. 99–SW–26–AD; Amendment 39–11205; AD 99–11–04] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2945. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747–300 and -400 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–45–AD; Amendment 39–11212; AD 99–14–04] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2946. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. PA–23, PA–30, PA–31, PA–34, PA–39, PA–40, and PA–42 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98–CE–77–AD; Amendment 39–11209; AD 99–14–01] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2947. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; LET Aeronautical Works Model L33 SOLO Sailplanes [Docket No. 98–CE–120–AD; Amendment 39–11210; AD 99–14–02] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2948. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC–12 and PC–12/45 Airplanes [Docket No. 98–CE–122–AD; Amendment 39–11211; AD 99–14–03] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2949. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; MT-Propeller Entwicklung GMBH Model MTV–3–B–C Propellers [Docket No. 97–ANE–36–AD; Amendment 39–11206; AD 97–21–01 R1] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2950. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada (BHTC) Model 206L–4 Helicopters [Docket No. 98–SW–62–AD; Amendment 39–11203; AD 99–13–10] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2951. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 777 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–116–AD; Amendment 39–11198; AD 99–13–05] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2952. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company (Robinson) Model R44 Helicopters [Docket No. 98–SW–71–AD; Amendment 39–11204; AD 99–13–11] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2953. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report on the FAA domestic positive passenger-baggage match program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2954. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Kokomo, IN [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–21] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2955. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Juneau, WI [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–22] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2956. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Neillsville, WI [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–23] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2957. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Savanna, IL [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–19] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2958. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the

Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Hamilton, OH [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–18] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2959. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Willmar, MN [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–17] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2960. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E airspace; De Kalb, IL [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–20] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2961. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Alexander Schleicher Segelflugzeugbau Model ASK 21 Gliders [Docket No. 91–CE–25–AD; Amendment 39–11149; AD 95–11–15–R1] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2962. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 777 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–116–AD; Amendment 39–11198; AD 99–13–05] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2963. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Model L–1011–385 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97–NM–11–AD; Amendment 39–11202; AD 99–13–08] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2964. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone: Rowayton Fireworks Display, Bayley Beach, Rowayton, CT [CGD01–99–081] (RIN: 2115–AA97) received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2965. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Local Regulations; 4th of July Celebration Ohio River Mile 469.2–470.5, Cincinnati, OH [CGD08–99–042] (RIN: 2115–AE46) received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2966. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Small Business Size Standards; Engineering Services, Architectural Services, Surveying, and Mapping Services—received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

2967. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Business Loan Program—received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

2968. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Disaster Assistance, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Disaster Loan Program; Correction—received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

2969. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Surety Guarantees, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Surety Bond Guarantees—received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

2970. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Financial Assistance, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Business Loan Program—received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

2971. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—VA Acquisition Regulation: Improper Business Practices and Personal Conflicts of Interest and Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses (RIN: 2900–AJ06) received June 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

2972. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Reinstatement of Benefits Eligibility Based Upon Terminated Marital Relationships (RIN: 2900–AJ53) received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

2973. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his determination to implement action to facilitate a positive Adjustment to competition from imports of lamb meat, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2253(b); (H. Doc. No. 106–91); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

2974. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 99–33] received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2975. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Consolidated Returns—Limitations on the Use of Certain Losses and Deductions [TD 8823] (RIN: 1545–AU31) received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2976. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Department Store Inventory Price Indexes—[Rev. Rul. 99–30] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2977. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on Prisoners Transferred from United States Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Federal Bureau of Prisons; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and the Judiciary.

2978. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification that Panama and Costa Rica have adopted a regulatory program governing the incidental taking of certain sea turtles, pursuant to Public Law 101–162, section 609(b)(2) (103 Sat. 1038); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

2979. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the transfer of up to $100M in defense articles and services to the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 118; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

2980. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of the intent to obligate funds for an additional program proposal for purposes of Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund activities; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

2981. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on violence in Indonesia during the May 1998 riots; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

2982. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled the ''Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1999''; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Government Reform.

2983. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Memorandum which serves as the ''Implementation Plan for Veterans Subvention''; jointly to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Ways and Means, and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Submitted on July 2, 1999]

Mr. BLILEY: Committee on Commerce. H.R. 805. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to affirm the rights of United States persons to use and sell encryption and to relax export controls on encryption; with an amendment (Rept. 106–117 Pt. 2). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. TALENT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 413. A bill to authorize qualified organizations to provide technical assistance and capacity building services to micro-enterprise development organizations and programs and to disadvantaged entrepreneurs using funds from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 106–184 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[Pursuant to the order of the House on July 1, 1999 the following reports were filed on July 2, 1999]

Mr. HOBSON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2465. A bill making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. 106–221). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. REGULA: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2466. A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. 106–222). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[Submitted July 12, 1999]

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on Science. H.R. 1551. A bill to authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's civil

aviation research and development programs for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 106–223). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1243. A bill to reauthorize the National Marine Sanctuaries Act; with amendments (Rept. 106–224). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mrs. MYRICK: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 242. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2465) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. 106–227). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 243. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. 106–228). Referred to the House Calendar.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calender, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. S. 361. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to John R. and Margaret J. Lowe of Big Horn County, Wyoming, certain land so as to correct an error in the patent issued to their predecessors in interest (Rept. 106–225). Referred to the Private Calendar.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. S. 449. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens of Big Horn County, Wyoming, certain land comprising the Steffens family property (Rept. 106–226). Referred to the Private Calendar.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[The following occurred on July 2, 1999]

H.R. 850. Referral to the Committee on International Relations extended for a period ending not later than July 16, 1999.

H.R. 850. Referral to the Committee on Armed Services and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence extended for a period ending not later than July 23, 1999.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GOODLING:

H.R. 2467. A bill to require labor organizations to secure prior, voluntary, written authorization as a condition of using any portion of dues or fees for activities not necessary to performing duties relating to the representation of employees in dealing with the employer on labor-management issues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2468. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require States, in awarding subgrants under the State charter school grant program, to give priority to charter schools that will provide a racially integrated educational experience; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

H.R. 2469. A bill to establish State revolving funds for school construction; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GREENWOOD (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 2470. A bill to ensure confidentiality with respect to medical records and health care-related information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mrs. KELLY, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. DANNER, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. FROST, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. WATERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BENTSEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DIXON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. WYNN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FORD, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. LEE, and Ms. KILPATRICK):

H.R. 2471. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for screenings, referrals, and education regarding osteoporosis; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. MCINTOSH:

H.R. 2472. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethoxy butanone (DMB); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2473. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dicholor aniline (DCA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2474. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on diphenyl sulfide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2475. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on trifluralin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2476. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on diethyl imidazolidinnone (DMI); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2477. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ethalfluralin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2478. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on benefluralin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2479. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole (AMT); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2480. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on diethyl phosphorochoridothiate (DEPCT); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2481. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on refined quinoline; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2482. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,2'-dithiobis(8-fluoro-5-methoxy [1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-c] pyrimidine (DMDS); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCKEON:

H.R. 2483. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers and in coordination with other Federal agency heads, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term solution to the problems of groundwater contamination, water supply, and reliability affecting the Eastern Santa Clara groundwater basin in California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MINGE:

H.R. 2484. A bill to provide that land which is owned by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota but which is not held in trust by the United States for the Community may be leased or transferred by the Community without further approval by the United States; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. STEARNS (for himself, Mr. SHOWS, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mrs. CUBIN):

H.R. 2485. A bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to permit family planning projects to offer adoption services; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER (for herself, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Ms. CARSON, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. FARR of California, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. THURMAN, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 2486. A bill to provide for infant crib safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. KUYKENDALL:

H. Res. 241. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the United States Women's Soccer Team and its winning performance in the 1999 Women's World Cup tournament; to the Committee on Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

150. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Guam, relative to Resolution No. 60 memorializing Guam's Delegate to Congress, to petition the United States Congress to include certain language in the proposed Omnibus Territories Act; to the Committee on Resources.

151. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Nevada, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 19 memorializing Congress permanently to mitigate the consequences of the provisions of Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

152. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Maine, relative to H.P. 1595 Joint Resolution memorializing the United States Congress to reauthorize the Northeat Interstate Dairy Compact; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

153. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, relative to Resolution No. 110–A memorializing Congress to remove the United States Navy from the territory it occupies on the island of Vieques; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Resources.

154. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Illinois, relative to Senate Resolution No. 70 memorializing Congress to hold

the Health Care Financing Authority accountable for the timely implementation of a fair prospective payment system; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

155. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Resolution No. 10 memorializing Congress to support the concept of creating interest-free loans to state and local governments and school districts to provide for capital projects for schools, roads, bridges, water and sewer projects, waste disposal projects, public housing, public buildings and environmental projects; jointly to the Committees on Banking and Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Education and the Workforce.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts introduced A bill (H.R. 2487) for the relief of Phin Cohen, M.D.; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 8: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 44: Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. HALL of Ohio, and Mr. HALL of Texas.

H.R. 65: Mr. CAMP, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. KOLBE.

H.R. 82: Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. LEE, Mr. POMEROY, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 194: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 205: Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. SMITH of Jersey.

H.R. 229: Mr. KLECZKA.

H.R. 230: Mr. BECERRA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. KLECZKA, and Mr. RAMSTAD.

H.R. 274: Mr. LUTHER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. FORBES, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. LAFALCE.

H.R. 296: Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. MCINTOSH.

H.R. 303: Ms. CARSON, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. CAMP, Mr. FORBES, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. OLVER, and Ms. SANCHEZ.

H.R. 329: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 353: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, and Mr. WATT of North Carolina.

H.R. 405: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 407: Mr. WHITFIELD and Mr. DOOLITTLE.

H.R. 423: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 424: Mr. RAMSTAD.

H.R. 430: Mr. HILL of Montana.

H.R. 456: Mr. MCINTOSH.

H.R. 488: Mr. MARTINEZ, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 531: Mr. ARMEY, Mrs. CUBIN, Ms. LEE, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 534: Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 583: Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 585: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 590: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 637: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 675: Mr. INSLEE

H.R. 750: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 783: Mr. BAKER and Mr. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 784: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 804: Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 809: Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 827: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 845: Ms. LEE and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 889: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 890: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 914: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 919: Mr. CAPUANO and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

H.R. 925: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 933: Ms. LEE and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 939: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1020: Mr. HOLDEN Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. INSLEE, Mrs. MORELLA, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1037: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MENDENDEZ, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1046: Mr. SABO, Mr. RILEY, and Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 1053: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1083: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. OBERSTAR.

H.R. 1090: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. PHELPS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. BALDACCI.

H.R. 1096: Mr. BROWN of California.

H.R. 1111: Mr. WEINER Mr. GREENWOOD Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. HALL of Texas.

H.R. 1163: Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 1168: Mr. HOEFFEL and Mr. HALL of Ohio.

H.R. 1173: Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1174: Ms. DUNN.

H.R. 1219: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 1246: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1248: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1256: Mrs. WILSON.

H.R. 1265: Mr. OSE.

H.R. 1285: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1287: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1290: Mr. HANSEN.

H.R. 1313: Mr. BONIOR and Mr. BENTSEN.

H.R. 1317: Mr. HULSHOF.

H.R. 1322: Mr. ENGLISH.

H.R. 1323: Mr. ROEMER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TALENT, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. LEE, and Mr. ISAKSON.

H.R. 1324: Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.

H.R. 1325: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. HULSHOF, and Mr. BECERRA.

H.R. 1330: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 1344: Mr. LAFALCE.

H.R. 1355: Mrs. BIGGERT and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 1358: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1366: Mrs. CUBIN and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1389: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. WAMP, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 1465: Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. METCALF, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. COOK, Mrs. BONO, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. GEJDENSON.

H.R. 1470: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 1478: Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 1485: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1505: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1590: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 1592: Mr. PITTS, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. MCINTOSH, and Mr. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 1650: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 1660: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1710: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1775: Mr. WYNN.

H.R. 1794: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCNULTY, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1810: Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. SHOWS.

H.R. 1824: Mr. PITTS and Mr. SWEENEY.

H.R. 1861: Mr. HOUGHTON and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1869: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1881: Mr. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 1885: Mr. LUTHER.

H.R. 1907: Mr. LARGENT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 1917: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GOODE, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. CAPPS, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 1921: Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.R. 1926: Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1933: Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 1937: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 1967: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1990: Ms. CARSON.

H.R. 2003: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2022: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 2023: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 2038: Mr. MATSUI, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. RAMSTAD.

H.R. 2054: Mr. HULSHOF.

H.R. 2056: Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut and Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 2077: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2116: Mrs. CUBIN and Mr. TANCREDO.

H.R. 2121: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. KING.

H.R. 2125: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 2136: Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2172: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 2202: Mr. FARR of California, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. HILL of Indiana.

H.R. 2221: Mr. DEMINT.

H.R. 2243: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 2255: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2282: Mr. BEREUTER, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. LAFALCE.

H.R. 2288: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2300: Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. OSE, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. RADANOVICH, and Mr. HYDE.

H.R. 2303: Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma.

H.R. 2331: Mrs. BONO.

H.R. 2337: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. BECERRA.

H.R. 2339: Mr. WISE, Mrs. KELLY, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 2367: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2370: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 2414: Mr. GARY MILLER of California.

H.R. 2436: Mr. PITTS and Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 2444: Ms. LEE and Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 2445: Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 2453: Mr. SUNUNU.

H.R. 2457: Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. DANNER, Ms. LEE, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. NADLER.

H.J. Res. 55: Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

H. Con. Res. 30: Mr. HALL of Texas and Mrs. CUBIN.

H. Con. Res. 34: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. KILDEE.

H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WOLF, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. POMBO, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H. Con. Res. 107: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania and Mr. BACHUS.

H. Con. Res. 116: Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO.

H. Con. Res. 119: Mr. SPRATT.

H. Con. Res. 120: Mr. MASCARA, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. SAXTON, and Mr. MATSUI.

H. Con. Res. 132: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. HALL of Ohio.

H. Con. Res. 136: Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. RUSH.

H. Con. Res. 140: Mr. LANTOS.

H. Con. Res. 145: Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. UNDERWOOD.

H. Res. 57: Mr. LANTOS.

H. Res. 107: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H. Res. 201: Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. BERRY, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

H. Res. 214: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

30. The SPEAKER presented a petition of South San Francisco Unified School District, Board of Trustees, relative to Resolution No. 99–55 petitioning Congress to restore parity to two classes of students by appropriating funds for IDEA to the full authorized level of funding for 40 percent of the excess costs of providing Special Education and related services; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

31. Also, a petition of Benicia Unified School District, relative to Resolution No. 98–99–35 petitioning Congress to restore parity to two classes of students by appropriating funds for IDEA to the full authorized level of funding for 40 percent of the excess costs of providing special education and related services; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

32. Also, a petition of the County of Jefferson, New York, Office of the County Administrator, relative to Resolution No. 126 petitioning the President and Congress to support the enactment of legislation providing for the establishment of a Northeast Dairy Compact to regulate the pricing of milk used only for fluid consumption in the Northeast region, regardless of where the milk originates; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. DEFAZIO

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Insert before the short title the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to carry out, or to pay the salaries of personnel of the Forest Service who carry out, the recreational fee demonstration program authorized by section 315 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (as contained in section 101(c) of Public Law 104–134; 16 U.S.C. 460l–6a note), for units of the National Forest System.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. DEFAZIO

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Insert before the short title the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to assess a fine or take any other enforcement action against a person for failure to pay a fee imposed under, or for violation of any other admission or user fee requirements of, the recreational fee demonstration program authorized by section 315 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (as contained in section 101(c) of Public Law 104–134; 16 U.S.C. 460l–6a note), regarding admission to units of the National Forest System and the use of outdoor recreation sites, facilities, visitor centers, equipment, and services at such units.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. FARR OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 3: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize, permit, administer, or promote the use of any jawed leghold trap or neck snare in any unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System except for research, subsistence, conservation, or facilities protection.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. HAYWORTH

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 76, line 16, strike ''and such new'' and all that follows through ''committed'' on line 22.

Page 80, strike line 11 and all that follows through ''agreements:'' on line 23.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. KUCINICH

AMENDMENT NO. 5: Page 105, beginning at line 11, strike '', or be expended'' and all that follows through line 14 and insert a period.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. MCGOVERN

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Page 2, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 3, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 19, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $30,000,000)''.

Page 69, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $29,000,000)''.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. MICA

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 19, line 20, before the dollar amount, insert ''$9,000,000 is for grants to the State of Florida for acquisition of land along the St. Johns River in Central Florida, and of which''.

Page 19, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $9,000,000)''.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Page 17, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

Page 36, line 23, after each of the two dollar amounts, insert the following: ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 9: Page 17, line 13, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

Page 38, line 4, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 10: Page 57, line 8, insert before the period the following: '': *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by this paragraph, $199,749,000 shall be for timber sales management and $123,776,000 shall be for wildlife and fisheries habitat management''.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 11: Insert before the short title the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to construct timber access roads in the National Forest System.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. NEY

AMENDMENT NO. 12: Page 39, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 6 line 4, after the first dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $20,000,000)''.

Page 69, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 14: Page 70, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $13,000,000)''.

Page 70, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $13,000,000)''.

Page 71, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $13,000,000)''.

Page 71, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $13,000,000)''.

H.R. 2466

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 15: Page 71, beginning on line 5, strike '', contingent on a cost share of 25 percent by each participating State or other qualified participant,''.