(Rept. No. 106–248) on the resolution (H. Res. 258) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1074) to provide Government-wide accounting of regulatory costs and benefits, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2465, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on 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:

Messrs. HOBSON, PORTER, WICKER, TIAHRT, WALSH, MILLER of Florida, ADERHOLT, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. YOUNG of Florida, OLVER, EDWARDS, FARR of California, BOYD, DICKS, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2490, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on the bill (H.R. 2490) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mrs. EMERSON, Messrs. SUNUNU, PETERSON of Pennsylvania, BLUNT, YOUNG of Florida, HOYER, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 987

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 987.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1018

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST) at 10 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.

FUELS REGULATORY RELIEF ACT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 880) to amend the Clean Air Act to remove flammable fuels from the list of substances with respect to which reporting and other activities are required under the risk management plan program, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, but I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) to explain his unanimous consent request.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), for yielding.

S. 880, as amended, would resolve the existing national security crisis presented by the EPA's distribution of chemical facility worst-case scenarios. It is critical that we resolve this issue immediately, as EPA already has received Freedom of Information Act requests for this material and cannot, without this bill, prevent inappropriate dissemination of the national database of worst-case scenarios.

The EPA also chose to include propane under the risk management program regulations intended to reduce the risks associated with toxic chemicals accidents. Propane, however, is not toxic.

While the threshold quantity for listed substances is determined by criteria that includes flammability and combustibility because propane is not toxic, it should not be on the list of covered substances in the first place. This legislation removes it from the list.

A bill I had in the House, H.R. 1301, that does this same thing, has 145 cosponsors. S. 880 successfully accomplishes this objective and also meets the important criteria of the risk criteria.

As the gentleman is well aware, S. 880 was amended through the cooperation and careful consideration of the minority and of the administration, and we will include a joint statement in the RECORD describing the bill. It is a balanced, bipartisan measure that will ensure that local citizens receive information concerning the risks presented by local chemical facilities while at the same time protecting our national security.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I wish to extend my thanks to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together to reach agreement on the Chemical Safety Information, Site Security, and Fuels Regulatory Relief Act. I concur with the joint statement of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) concerning S.88O.

This bill places a one-year moratorium on distribution of worst case scenario information to the general public and requires the administration to promulgate regulations on the dissemination of worst-case scenarios to the public after performing two separate assessments: One on the risk of terrorist activity associated with the posting of the information on the Internet and another on the incentives created by public disclosure of worst-case scenarios for reduction in the risk of accidental releases.

I expect the administration will find that the preparation in dissemination of these worst-case scenarios benefits the public in several ways. The public will be better prepared for accidental releases of extremely hazardous substances. The facilities that utilize these substances will manage them responsibly and the workers at these facilities will be able to engage in a productive dialogue with their employers about the use and management of these substances.

I know a number of responsible companies already have convened public meetings to share this worst case scenario information with emergency responders and other citizens in the communities that may be affected by the release of these substances.

To that end, I support the provisions of this bill that would require the facilities to submit worst-case scenarios to conduct an informational meeting in their communities during the moratorium period.

As well, it is my expectation that the regulations developed by the administration in the coming year will recognize the importance of community right to know. A citizen should be able to obtain worst case scenario information for all facilities that could affect her community or his community. With accurate information about chemical facilities in hand, neighbors, workers, local leaders, researchers and emergency response personnel can work with the owners and the managers of chemical facilities to build safer communities for everyone.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, with the support of every Democratic Member of the Commerce Health and Environment Subcommittee, I introduced H.R. 2257, the Chemical Security Act of 1999. This bill represented a consensus among Subcommittee Democrats that I believe would have recognized and respected the Right-to-Know laws while shielding chemical facilities and their employees from potential terrorist attacks.