

subdivisions thereof for the development and implementation of projects to restore, conserve, and manage Onondaga Lake.

(b) **PARTNERSHIP.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall establish a partnership with appropriate Federal agencies (including the Environmental Protection Agency) and the State of New York and political subdivisions thereof for the purpose of project development and implementation. Such partnership shall be dissolved not later than 15 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **COST SHARING.**—The non-Federal share of the cost of a project constructed under subsection (a) shall be not less than 30 percent of the total cost of the project and may be provided through in-kind services.

(d) **EFFECT ON LIABILITY.**—Financial assistance provided under this section shall not relieve from liability any person who would otherwise be liable under Federal or State law for damages, response costs, natural resource damages, restitution, equitable relief, or any other relief.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this section.

(f) **REPEAL.**—Section 401 of the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of 1990 (104 Stat. 3010) and section 411 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 (104 Stat. 4648) are repealed as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 588. EAST LYNN LAKE, WEST VIRGINIA.

The Secretary shall defer any decision relating to the leasing of mineral resources underlying East Lynn Lake, West Virginia, project lands to the Federal entity vested with such leasing authority.

SEC. 589. EEL RIVER, CALIFORNIA.

The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine if flooding in the City of Ferndale, California, is the result of a Federal flood control project on the Eel River. If the Secretary determines that the flooding is the result of the project, the Secretary shall take appropriate measures (including dredging of the Salt River and construction of sediment ponds at the confluence of Francis, Reas, and Williams Creeks) to mitigate the flooding.

SEC. 590. NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall review a report prepared by the non-Federal interest concerning flood protection for the Dark Hollow area of North Little Rock, Arkansas. If the Secretary determines that the report meets the evaluation and design standards of the Corps of Engineers and that the project is economically justified, technically sound, and environmentally acceptable, the Secretary shall carry out the project.

(b) **TREATMENT OF DESIGN AND PLAN PREPARATION COSTS.**—The costs of design and preparation of plans and specifications shall be included as project costs and paid during construction.

SEC. 591. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, MISSISSIPPI PLACE, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement to participate in a project for the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure and other improvements at Mississippi Place, St. Paul, Minnesota.

(b) **COST SHARING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Federal share of the cost of the project shall be 50 percent. The Federal share may be provided in the form of grants or reimbursements of project costs.

(2) **CREDIT FOR NON-FEDERAL WORK.**—The non-Federal interest shall receive credit toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the project for reasonable costs incurred by the non-Federal interests as a result of partici-

pation in the planning, design, and construction of the project.

(3) **LAND, EASEMENTS, AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY CREDIT.**—The non-Federal interest shall receive credit toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the project for land, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations provided by the non-Federal interest with respect to the project.

(4) **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.**—The non-Federal share of operation and maintenance costs for the project shall be 100 percent.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 to carry out this section.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title of the Senate bill was amended so as to read: "To provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insist on the House amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. SHUSTER, YOUNG of Alaska, BOEHLERT, BAKER, DOOLITTLE, SHERWOOD, OBERSTAR, BORSKI, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. BAIRD.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). 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.

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

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM ACT

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

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, over the last 24 hours we have sure heard it all from the floor of this House. The usual class warfare, us versus them; the usual class envy rhetoric concerning the rich. And how many folks watching

the national TV right this second making \$40,000 a year with a couple of kids know that they are rich, or making \$50,000 a year with four children and believe they are rich? Very few, I suspect.

We have seen revisionist history, Mr. Speaker, in how we got to a, what seemed to be just a few years ago, permanent deficit situation in this country as the minority party controlled this House for 40 years.

What we saw most of all, Mr. Speaker, however, was a great sense of frustration because the Speaker and this majority have moved a bill to return money to the people, to the pockets of the people, a comprehensive package that rewards married couples, senior citizens, working families, the self-employed schools, and distressed neighborhoods.

The Republican tax relief plan improves the lives, Mr. Speaker, of all Americans. One of the most unfair provisions in our present tax code, Mr. Speaker, is its treatment of married couples. They pay more in taxes simply because they choose to get married. The Republican plan ends this unfair so-called marriage penalty. It allows married couples to claim a standard deduction for a single taxpayer to the benefit of 42 million taxpayers.

Families with single people also benefit. The Republican tax plan provides for a phased in 10 percent deduction in individual rates over the next 10 years. Taxpayers know best how to spend their own money. Washington needs to get out of the way and let taxpayers control their own money. That thought is why many of us were sent to Washington in the first place.

The cost of education continues to rise. The Republican plan provides meaningful tax relief. First, our legislation increases from \$500 to \$2,000 the contribution limit for education savings accounts.

Second, the bill permits private universities to offer prepaid tuition plans and exempts the earnings from all prepaid plans from Federal taxation, a real good idea.

Third, the plan eliminates the 60-month limitation on the student loan interest deduction. The Republican plan also addresses the basic brick and mortar issues associated with quality education. Unlike the President's bad idea to take general fund revenue and build public schools, our public school construction initiative makes permanent statutory changes so that State and local governments issuing public school construction bonds can more easily comply with the appropriate rules.

Similar to education, the cost of health care keeps rising. The Republican plan makes health care and long-term care more affordable and accessible to all Americans. Of particular significance, our plan allows a 100 percent deduction for health care premiums and long-term care insurance premiums. It is about time.