

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to support the gentlewoman's amendment and hope that it will be promptly voted upon, unanimously.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the chairman for his support.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, we strongly support the amendment and urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank both of my colleagues for their support.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE). The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any further amendments?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCHUGH), having resumed the chair, Mr. SUNUNU, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1655) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the civilian energy and scientific research, development, and demonstration and related commercial application of energy technology programs, projects, and activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 289, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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. 1655, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

#### WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2490, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 291 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 291

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

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During the consideration of this resolution, all time is yielded for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed rule before the House today provides for consideration of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2490, the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2000. The proposed rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule also provides that the conference report will be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation, which makes the appropriations for the Treasury Department, United States Postal Service, the executive office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, is important legislation. A large portion of the activities funded under this bill are devoted to the salaries and expenses of approximately 163,000 employees who are responsible for administering programs such as drug interdiction, collection of revenues, presidential protection, violent crime reduction, and Federal financial management. Through a judicious bipartisan process of hearings and testimony, the Committee on Appropriations arrived at the funding levels contained within this legislation. The funding levels are consistent with this Congress's policy of fiscal discipline, yet provide sufficient funding for agencies within the bill's jurisdiction to carry out those important statutory responsibilities.

Americans who have experienced frustration with the Internal Revenue Service will be pleased to know that

this legislation also appropriates funds necessary to carry out the IRS reforms that were passed by the last Congress and stand to benefit taxpayers all across America.

This legislation was crafted in a bipartisan manner. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), chairman of the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, along with the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) deserve accolades for not only their hard work, but also for working together. This rule and conference report deserve bipartisan support today.

It is understandable that some Members may not feel this is the perfect appropriations legislation, but this legislation does represent a consensus, bipartisan agreement. Members should be reminded that the legislation maintains the fiscal restraints mandated in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary half-hour.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleagues, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), the chairman of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor. It has certainly had its ups and downs, and I am very happy to lend my full support to the bill that is before us today. The conferees that brought the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill back from the grave, and they are to be congratulated.

Once upon a time, Mr. Speaker, this bill contained some cuts that would have made it very hard for some of our major agencies to function. It was so bad, Mr. Speaker, that it passed the House by only one vote. But today, those cuts have been reversed. Today, this bill funds the Treasury Department at \$12 billion; it includes funding for the new law enforcement agencies; it funds the office of national drug control policy to the tune of \$460 million. Mr. Speaker, this bill also allows government agencies to use appropriated money to provide child care for lower-income Federal employees, which will help them make sure their children are well taken care of when they work.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill makes sure that the Federal employees receive a 4.8 percent COLA, equal to that of the military. Mr. Speaker, these people work hard for a living, and at the very least their salaries should keep up with inflation.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for their hard work, and I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the bill.