

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of 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 record votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 700) to reauthorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 4, strike out all after line 12 down to and including line 19 and insert:

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) The matter under the heading "MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND" in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 U.S.C. 4246; 112 Stat. 2681–237), is amended—

(A) by striking "section 5304 of" and all that follows through "section 6 of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997" and inserting "section 5 of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5304), part I of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4211 et seq.), and section 5 of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4264)";

(B) by striking "16 U.S.C. 4224" and inserting "section 2204 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4224)";

(C) by striking "16 U.S.C. 4225" and inserting "section 2205 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4225)"; and

(D) by striking "16 U.S.C. 4211" and inserting "section 2101 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4211)".

(2) Effective on the day after the date of enactment of the African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001 (107th Congress)—

(A) section 2104(a) of the African Elephant Conservation Act is amended by striking "this Act" and inserting "this title"; and

(B) section 2306(b) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(b)) is amended by striking "this Act" each place it appears and inserting "this title".

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
FOR NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION.

Section 10(a)(1) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "2003" and inserting "2005"; and

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking "\$20,000,000" and inserting "\$25,000,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Gilchrest) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST).

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

This legislation was introduced by our distinguished colleague the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and it was overwhelmingly approved by the House on June 12. This measure will extend the Asian Elephant Conservation Act at its existing authorization level.

Since its enactment in 1997, Congress has appropriated \$2.9 million to fund 46 conservation projects in 12 range countries. These funds, which are the only continuous source of money for the Asian elephants, have had a dramatic, positive impact on the ongoing international struggle to save this flagship species from extinction.

While many Americans were thrilled by the recent birth of an Asian elephant at the National Zoo, it is essential that natural habitat be preserved and protected for these animals. This is a fundamental goal of H.R. 700 because the battle to save the irreplaceable species is far from won.

During consideration in the other body, a number of technical corrections were made to the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. We have reviewed those modifications and support them.

Furthermore, the other body extended the authorization for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for 2 years and corrected a mistake made last year in their authorization levels. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was created by Congress in 1984 to conserve fish, wildlife and plants and the habitats on which they depend.

In nearly 20 years, the Foundation has funded over 5,000 projects which have restored nearly 20 million acres of habitat, and over 11,000 miles of streams and waterways have been enhanced. In addition, the Foundation has been extremely successful in leveraging limited public dollars with corporate, private and other nonprofit funds. By any objective standard, the foundation has done an effective job of promoting healthy populations of fish, wildlife and plants.

I support these improvements and I urge an aye vote on H.R. 700 so that we can send this important legislation to the President for his signature, and I urge an aye vote on this legislation.

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY PRESIDENT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, your committee on the part of the House to join a like committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled and is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make has performed that duty.

The President asked us to report that he will be pleased to deliver his message at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2002, to a joint session of the two Houses.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I second the thoughts of the majority leader, and both Democrats and Republicans will welcome the President here on Tuesday night for the State of the Union.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the committee.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise in support, Mr. Speaker, of H.R. 700, a bill to reauthorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act.

I would also like to recognize and applaud the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), for his continued leadership in protecting these magnificent, yet imperiled animals.

Unlike African elephants, the steep decline in the population of Asian elephants was not widely known until 1997. Sadly, we have learned that this population, at one time flourishing, is now fragmented into ever-shrinking remnant populations scattered across 13 countries throughout Southern and Southeast Asia.

Fortunately, the Asian Elephant Conservation Act has helped range states the address the multiple threats which have contributed to the decline of this keystone species in the wild.

Grants initiated under the Asian Elephant Conservation Program have provided valuable financial assistance to impoverished areas.

These funds have supported a wide assortment of projects within range states, including conservation, planning, scientific research, education and community outreach, as well as anti-poaching and law enforcement activities.

Progress on the ground is being made. That is why this legislation is fully supported by the administration and by many international conservation organizations, including the World Wildlife Fund and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 700 is virtually the same legislation that the House passed earlier this year by the lopsided vote of 401 to 15. The other technical amendments made by the other body to H.R. 700 are noncontroversial, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to reauthorize this important wildlife program.

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

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), the author of the legislation. (Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, during the years that I have been involved in this issue, from