

parts, then they must fill out very substantial paperwork, and very substantial reporting requirements are implicated in that instance, so that we are causing a great burden to shipping companies that are U.S.-flagged. Obviously, we want shipping to be U.S.-flagged. We know that that is a difficulty.

I have introduced this amendment to try to address that issue. Because I introduced the amendment as a "none of the funds" and it is, therefore, a very blunt instrument, I agree with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) that this amendment should not pass in its present form. Even if it were added to the bill, I would be in favor of dropping it in conference. Its purpose was solely to protect our ability to address this issue.

It is, however, my understanding from the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) and his staff that they share the view that this is a problem and that they are going to look at that and look at it closely. I do want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) for his attention to this matter and for his staff working with us to see if we can come to a resolution of this matter.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding and want to reassure him that his concerns are valid, legitimate concerns, and that we on the committee will look into this issue because it is something that needs to be resolved.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Are there further amendments?

If not, the Clerk will read the last two lines.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2003".

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, today I voted for the fiscal year 2003 Appropriations Bill for Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government. This bill contains key provisions that I have supported in Congress.

The appropriations bill before us contains a measure that prohibits the use of funds in the bill to finalize, implement, administer or enforce the proposed Treasury Department rule declaring that real estate brokerage is "an activity that is financial in nature or incidental to a financial activity." I agree with this prohibition and am a cosponsor of H.R. 3424, which would accomplish the same objective. The banking industry provides an invaluable function in our economy and the integrity of its operations and security of deposits is critical. The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act is speeding on-

going changes in the United States financial services industry and allows banks flexibility in responding to economic trends. However, I do not believe the benefits of allowing banks to engage in real estate brokerage and property management activities outweigh the risks.

Regarding the Postal Service, the bill specifically requires that six-day delivery of mail be continued. It also requires that mail for overseas voting and for the blind continue to be free. I have always believed post offices play an integral role in the livability of our communities. They serve as business, social and often historical centers in our neighborhoods. It's for these reasons that I am a sponsor of legislation, H.R. 1861, which requires the Postal Service to engage local officials and the public it serves when opening, closing, relocating, or renovating facilities. I hope we continue to work to ensure the Postal Service is a good partner with our communities and follows local laws and regulations.

I am pleased that the final bill, for the second year in a row, ends the travel ban to Cuba and allows for private financing of agricultural sales to Cuba by U.S. farmers. In addition, the House approved an amendment to allow Cuban-Americans to send money to their relatives in Cuba without restrictions. Food and medicine should not be used as weapons. The Cuban people should not have to suffer because the United States does not agree with the Cuban government. These provisions show that there is growing momentum in favor of getting rid of the embargo against Cuba altogether. Only through engagement will we be able to effectively promote the ideals of human rights and democracy.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) having assumed the chair, Mr. LATOURETTE, Chairman pro tempore 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. 5120) 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, 2003, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 488, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments 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? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

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

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4775) "An Act making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4965, PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 498 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 498

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4965) to prohibit the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the Committee on Rules met and granted a closed rule for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban of 2002. H.R. 4965 would ban performance of a partial-birth abortion except if it were necessary to save the mother's life. As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I am pleased to see the legislation reach the floor of the House. I also believe that President Bush deserves the opportunity to put an end to this horrific act of human violence by signing this legislation into law.

I must tell my colleagues, as a mother and a grandmother, it is still astonishing to me today that this is even remotely legal in America, but it is, and as we will no doubt hear on the floor today, it is practiced all too often in this country. The vast majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on