

Stenholm	Tierney	Waxman
Strickland	Toomey	Weiner
Stupak	Towns	Weldon (FL)
Sullivan	Turner (OH)	Weldon (PA)
Sweeney	Turner (TX)	Weller
Tancredo	Udall (CO)	Wexler
Tanner	Udall (NM)	Whitfield
Tauscher	Upton	Wicker
Tauzin	Van Hollen	Wilson (NM)
Taylor (MS)	Velazquez	Wilson (SC)
Taylor (NC)	Visclosky	Wolf
Terry	Vitter	Woolsey
Thomas	Walden (OR)	Wu
Thompson (CA)	Walsh	Wynn
Thompson (MS)	Wamp	Young (AK)
Thornberry	Waters	Young (FL)
Tiahrt	Watson	
Tiberi	Watt	

NOT VOTING—13

Ackerman	Cramer	Hulshof
Brown, Corrine	Cubin	Radanovich
Brown-Waite,	Feeney	Ryun (KS)
Ginny	Gephardt	Smith (WA)
Conyers	Granger	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1331

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve education and entrepreneurship benefits, housing benefits, and certain other benefits for veterans, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed four votes in the House of Representatives on June 24, 2003. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

The Previous Question on H.R. 293, the Rule for H.R. 2555, Homeland Security Appropriations Act for FY04. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Passage of H. Res. 293, Rule for H.R. 2555, Homeland Security Appropriations Act for FY04. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Passage of H.R. 923, Premier Certified Lenders Program Improvement Act of 2003. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Passage of H.R. 1460, Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2003. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on H.R. 2555.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 293 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2555.

□ 1334

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2555) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with Mr. GILLMOR in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this is a historic day. Only 4 months after the Department of Homeland Security was stood up, we now consider in the Congress the very first ever Homeland Security appropriations bill on the House floor.

The creation of the Department is by far the largest reorganization of the Federal Government in its history. Mr. Chairman, 180,000 employees, 22 security-related agencies merged into a single unit, agencies as diverse as the new Transportation Security Administration, FEMA, the Customs Service, the Secret Service, the Coast Guard, and some 18 other agencies throughout the government.

But, Mr. Chairman, I want to spend a couple of minutes talking about the breadth of the problem that we face.

On our borders, we have to protect ourselves: 2,000 miles of border with Mexico; 5,500 miles of border with Canada. There are 9,500 miles of shoreline. We have 157 ports of entry, 361 seaports. There are 440 million visitors who arrive in our country by land, sea, and air each year. There are 118 million vehicles that come here, 11 million of them trucks; 2.5 million railcars; and 17 million cargo containers that cross through our ports every year.

In transportation, there are some 768,000 commercial flights that enter the U.S. at 429 commercial airports, carrying some 635 million passengers a year. We have 18,000 general aviation airports. We have 143,000 miles of freight railways, 3.9 million miles of highways, and 550 major public transportation systems throughout our country. There are 590,000 bridges. There are 526,000 interstate trucking companies, 43,000 of them certified to carry hazardous materials.

We have 150 oil refineries, 86,000 miles of crude oil pipelines, 278,000 miles of natural gas pipelines. There are 66,000 chemical and hazardous materials plants. There are 1,800 Federal reservoirs. There are 9,300 power plants, including 104 nuclear, in our country.

And then there are all sorts of high-target, high-risk symbols of our Nation. We are speaking from one even as I talk now: the Capitol. We have the White House, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Statue of Liberty, the St. Louis Arch, the Golden Gate Bridge, and on and on and on, including some 463 skyscrapers in our land.

I mention those facts, Mr. Chairman, to highlight the enormous challenge that we face as we begin to tackle our homeland security needs. Protecting American citizens from harm is the first and foremost duty of the Federal Government, and this awesome task largely falls upon the shoulders of the Department of Homeland Security.

This bill, Mr. Chairman, provides \$29.4 billion for the Department. That is an increase of just over \$1 billion above what we were asked by the President, and \$535 million more than the current-year levels.

The bill recognizes that while the Department of Homeland Security has the lead in developing our national Homeland Security strategy, implementation of that strategy requires the active participation of State and local governments and the private sector.

When it comes down to it, homeland security, Mr. Chairman, is essentially hometown security; and it requires the active engagement of all Americans and all branches of government.

The bill before us today recognizes the role each stakeholder must play in this big mission. It funds not only the Department's first full year of operations, but also anticipated efforts of State and local governments and the private sector.

As we debate this bill today, I urge my colleagues to remember everything that has been accomplished since September 11. While some might suggest that we are not doing enough, I would say we are making tremendous progress in our war on terror. The glass is not half empty; it is half full.

Since September 11, we have provided \$75.8 billion for homeland security funding across the entire government. For these 22 agencies that now make up the new Department of Homeland Security, we have provided \$43.9 billion through fiscal year 2003; and in this bill, we add an additional \$29.4 billion, bringing the total provided to the Department to \$73.3 billion for fiscal years 2002 through 2004.

Protecting the Nation's borders is our first line of defense against terrorism. We include in the bill a total of \$9 billion for border protection and related activities. That is an increase of \$400 million over the current enacted levels, including \$2 billion for the U.S.