

advancing the economic opportunities of Americans. That is what is within this bill in many, many instances, beyond where the NASA centers are located.

I want to thank, again, the chairman and the ranking member for working together and having the focus of this bill really be on science and all that we can produce through scientific research.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I will just close by saying that a purpose for having an authorization is a portion of oversight. And I think Mr. FRANK really has been beneficial for us in making us justify ourselves, making us have part of this oversight. It is a better bill, a healthier bill for that. I think it can live up to the scrutiny.

With that, I would like to yield to my friend from Missouri for some remarks.

Mr. SKELTON. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mark Twain once said: The more you explain it to me, the more I don't understand it.

I want to know where the Defense bill is; 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, we ended our conference. By 5 o'clock, we filed the necessary signatures, both the Senate and the House, and yet the Defense bill is not even on any calendar whatsoever. This is outrageous.

I understand the Republican leadership wishes to put some extraneous matter onto the bill. But the proper procedure was followed. It was a torturous, difficult, but a fair ending, and we signed the report. Yet, the Defense bill is not there, being held up for some extraneous misunderstanding, reason. I just don't understand it.

I want that Defense bill on the floor. The United States of America wants it on the floor. We have young men and young women in uniform all over this world, Afghanistan, Iraq, and yet we can't get the bill here that authorizes a pay raise, TRICARE for reservists, all the ammunition that they need, the medical care that we need, the policies set forth in the detainee language, all of this that has been worked out. Yet we don't have the bill. I don't understand it.

Please explain it to us and to the American people: Where in the world is the Defense bill, the authorization bill?

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, as a House Republican who, I believe my fiscal conservative ratings are typically among the top ten most conservative in the House; I have no NASA facilities in my district; and I am a passionate advocate for NASA, a strong supporter of this legislation, because I recognize the importance of investing in our Nation's future through investments and the scientific and technological innovations that only NASA and the space program have been able to produce for us. From the Blackberry on our belts, the microcomputers, the

computer chips on our office desks, to satellite technology and cell phone technology to medical technology, NASA has touched every one of our lives. I applaud the chairman and the leadership for bringing this bill to the floor, and it is very important that we get behind President Bush's vision, because only by investing in NASA and strengthening our investment in scientific and medical research will we maintain America's leadership role in the world.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I again urge passage of this bill and yield the remainder of my time to my friend from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, just quickly, to follow up what Mr. SKELTON has talked about, the Defense authorization bill was signed, and here is what I read in CQ: "House Armed Services Chairman Duncan Hunter confirmed through a spokesman that he inserted the provision," this is totally extraneous, apparently, if that happened after the signatures, "at the behest of House leadership."

And this is a quote: "'Hunter reserves the right to support the leadership team,' said Harald Stavenas, his spokesman."

Get the authorization bill on the floor.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the staff who have worked so diligently on this bill all year and who have been really on constant alert since the loss of the space shuttle *Columbia*. That staff includes David Goldston, John Mimikakis, Bill Adkins, Roselee Roberts, Tom Hammond, Ken Monroe, Johannes Loschnigg, Shep Bryan, Ed Feddeman, Christy Carles, as well as the minority staff, Chuck Atkins and Dick Obermann. They have been a team working together in common cause.

I would also be remiss if I did not thank Administrator Griffin and his staff, particularly Brian Chase, who are always available and who were willing to work to reach a compromise. And might I say how refreshing it has been to be so candid as Administrator Griffin has been. Administrator Griffin continues to do a superb job, and we hope this bill will help him do that job, even though, like all of us, he would not have written each provision the way we did. But in the final analysis, we have got a good bill that is worthy of the support of this House. We have got a good bill that is good for America because of the vitality it brings to the economy, and we have got a good bill because Democrats and Republicans worked it out together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the Senate bill, S. 1281.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the conference report was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 863. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centenary of the bestowal of the Nobel Peace Prize on President Theodore Roosevelt, and for other purposes.

S. 959. An act to establish the Star-Spanned Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 1310. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation to increase the diameter of a natural gas pipeline located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, to allow certain commercial vehicles to continue to use Route 209 within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and to extend the termination date of the National Park System Advisory Board to January 1, 2007.

S. 1312. An act to amend a provision relating to employees of the United States assigned to, or employed by, an Indian tribe, and for other purposes.

S. 1892. An act to amend Public Law 107-153 to modify a certain date.

#### CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF S. 1281, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 324) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1281, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 324

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill (S. 1281) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for science, aeronautics, exploration, exploration capabilities, and the Inspector General, and for other purposes, for fiscal years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, the Secretary of the Senate shall correct the title so as to read: "An Act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration."*

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE REVISION ACT OF 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the