

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2303

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OBEY) at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 552 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2847.

□ 2304

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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, with Mr. ALTMIRE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, the bill had been read through page 101, line 20.

Pending is amendment No. 107 offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL). The gentleman from California has 1¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. The Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science is incredibly important to the commercial and recreational fishing industry on the east coast. It ensures fisheries managers have the best possible science when making decisions regarding a multi-billion dollar industry. This amendment would also arbitrarily cut much needed funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science addresses the most urgent scientific issues limiting successful management of the summer flounder and black sea bass fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic region. It is a multi-state multi-institutional partnership that will utilize academic and recreational/commercial fisheries resources to develop targeted science initiatives.

Summer flounder and black sea Bass are among the most valuable recreational fish in the Mid-Atlantic. Both are also important commercial species. This project will benefit the participating recreational and commercial fishermen of the Mid-Atlantic, their shore-based supporting industries, and tee many consumers of seafood that count these species among their preferred seafood items.

This program helps us incorporate critical information into the fisheries management process. By using the best possible science fisheries managers will be able to create healthy sustainable fisheries and protect the fishing industry.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment.

On behalf of eastern Long Island, I commend Chairman OBEY and Chairman MOLLOHAN for their leadership on the underlying bill, and I thank them on behalf of the taxpayers' best interests.

As many of my colleagues know, the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science conducts urgent research to revive and manage fisheries, including summer flounder and black sea bass fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic region.

I requested this, project along with my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats from New Jersey and New York, because the research to be conducted will help stimulate an industry that is critically important to my region—precisely what our economy is calling for and precisely the opposite of what has been suggested by the gentleman from California, whose district could not be further away or more detached from the jobs and families this research benefits. In fact, on Long Island, the fishing industry is a source of \$2 billion to the local economy and sustains more than 10,000 full and part-time jobs.

I do not presume to know what is of critical importance to the people and economies of Newport Beach or Laguna Beach and I doubt the gentleman from California has spoken to fishermen in my district who are struggling with outdated catch limits and quotas, and thus as a result, struggling to make a living.

This request is not a typical earmark. It does not serve only a single district. It was not requested by one member or one party. It is not a crutch for a fading industry. Rather, the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science is a reputable organization—with well-established federal and regional partnerships, such as the National Marine Fisheries Service, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission committees and assessment programs.

Additionally, the Partnership will serve critical needs in the region known as the Mid-Atlantic Bight, where the recreational and commercial fishing industries—and the jobs and families that support them—depend on summer flounder and black sea bass for their livelihood.

Providing data based on the best possible science—as this research funding provides—is vital to the health of our fisheries and the economic well-being of our fishermen.

If you support a down-payment on job creation and a prudent investment of taxpayer dollars in the future of this economy, vote against this misguided amendment and support the underlying bill.

The CHAIR. Does any Member seek recognition on the Campbell amendment?

If not, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 87 OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, designated as No. 87 in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 87 offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds provided in this Act under the heading "Department of Justice—General Administration—National Drug Intelligence Center" shall be available for operations of the National Drug Intelligence Center, and the amount otherwise provided under such heading is hereby reduced by \$44,023,000.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 552, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would strike funding for the National Drug Intelligence Center and reduce the cost of the bill by a commensurate amount. This is not the first time I have come to the floor to try to strike funding for the NDIC, but this is the first time I have tried to come and strike this earmark when it was requested by the President. In times past, the earmark was requested by another Member of Congress, but this time the President has taken it up.

After years of trying to close down this entity, the administration has decided that they want to keep it. It has been described by the previous administration as duplicative and ineffective. I think that just about every report we have seen on this center has said that. It is a considerable amount of money, I believe \$44 million. We should be saving that.

According to the administration officials, by including funding for the NDIC in his budget request, the President helped to establish the Department of Justice as the NDIC's permanent funding source. In this case, I think "permanent" is a troubling word, particularly when it regards the NDIC.

Reportedly, this shift will also change the NDIC's name to the Center For Strategic Excellence. As Shakespeare once wrote, A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. I submit that the metaphor remains true, only it is not the perfume of roses that we smell here with the NDIC.

The NDIC was established in 1993 and has been the recipient of more than 350 million taxpayer dollars in the 15 years it has been in existence. Despite all the money and time, the NDIC, according to the previous administration, "has proven ineffective in achieving its assigned mission."

Now, we all expect the Obama administration to disagree with many determinations by the Bush administration, but the criticism of the NDIC extends beyond the previous administration. A report by the GAO issued shortly after the NDIC's opening way back in 1993 cited 19 other drug intelligence centers that already existed whose functions