

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a step in the right direction and I believe that it is a positive step for John Nichols and veterans with similar ailments throughout our country.

Again, I want to thank the two gentlemen who have helped me so much with this constituent.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, we have some blue sheets that further explain this bill. If Members would come by the stands here, they could pick up these sheets.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank the distinguished gentleman and ranking member of the full committee for all his efforts, and also to the gentleman from Texas, [Mr. EDWARDS], the ranking member of the subcommittee, for all his hard work, and to the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], who is chairman of the subcommittee.

But we also owe a lot of thanks to the staff who have put in many hours in putting this bill together. I thank Members on both sides of the aisle. I urge, once again, passage of H.R. 1565.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX].

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I expressed the concerns of many of our veterans with the original version of H.R. 1565, which reauthorizes care for agent orange and radiation exposed veterans.

I am pleased that the House will now consider a compromise version which addresses this situation. It is important that we ensure that no agent orange-affected veterans are overlooked in the period between National Academy of Sciences reports.

I firmly believe that we must honor our commitment to care for our veterans, particularly those who have borne the sacrifices of battle for our country. I would like to express my appreciation to the men and women of the Vietnam Veterans of America and the American Legion, as well as to many of my colleagues on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, for their hard work on this issue.

I look forward to continuing our work together to address the needs of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. EVERETT].

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to congratulate the committee chairman, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP], the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY], the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], the gentleman from Texas [Mr. EDWARDS], the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX], the gentleman

from Illinois [Mr. EVANS], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. GUTIERREZ], and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY].

This truly, Mr. Speaker, has been an outstanding effort of bipartisanship, and I want to congratulate all those involved.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have been a part of the bipartisan effort that has unanimously brought H.R. 1565 to the floor out of the Veterans Committee. This is a necessary and important bill, and I am glad to speak in support of it today.

H.R. 1565 clarifies and simplifies the conditions for coverage for victims of agent orange exposure. Veterans who exhibit characteristics of the exposure will be covered, as will those whose condition demonstrates an association with the disease. Even when available medical data merits no conclusion on the source of their condition, the veteran will be covered. This bill gives veterans every benefit of the doubt.

In addition, veterans exposed to radiation during their time on active duty will be eligible for hospital and nursing home care where credible evidence exists of a positive association with the disease and the defoliant. As an extension of the Agent Orange Act of 1991, this bill will also require the Department of Veterans Affairs to work with the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate and review all issues pertaining to agent orange. This is a positive step that will allow veterans access to the best available information on their ailments.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this is a good day for our veterans and those who have suffered from agent orange. We must work together to protect the interests of our Nation's veterans, and this legislation marks a positive step in that direction.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1565, the extension of health care to veterans exposed to agent orange. The evidence continues to accumulate how horribly our Vietnam veterans are suffering due to this defoliant agent, which saturated their lungs, their food, and their skin.

During the war, millions of gallons of dioxin-contaminated agent orange and other herbicides were sprayed over Vietnam. Two decades later, we are seeing more and more health effects of that exposure among our 3 million service men and women who served there. The National Academy of Sciences is investigating reports of cancer, metabolic dysfunction, and a multitude of other disorders of the reproductive, respiratory, digestive, circulatory, and immune systems. We have no way of knowing what additional illnesses may develop. This bill very wisely leaves the option open for new illnesses and disorders to be treated.

This bill also makes VA benefits permanent for those military men and women exposed to radiation during the post-World War II occupation of Japan and during cold war nuclear testing in the Pacific. Diseases triggered by radiation-exposure continue to plague veterans, half a century later. While we remember our victory 50 years ago, we must not forget the suffering of those who helped bring that war to a close.

Finally, this bill ensures top treatment priority for veterans exposed to either radiation or agent orange. This is fitting, as these veterans

have struggled to cope with their illnesses have experienced much frustration and uncertainty over the years in their dealings with the Government. Today, it is the least we can do to respond to their illnesses without further delay.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress is talking a great deal about patriotism these days, during our debate over flag burning. But protecting the American flag is completely meaningless unless we take care of our surviving veterans who have sacrificed their health for this country. We must help them heal. We should decisively pass H.R. 1565.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 1565, which provides for priority health care to veterans exposed to agent orange, ionizing radiation, or other environmental hazards.

In 1992, this body required the National Academy of Science to conduct a comprehensive study of the health effects of exposure to agent orange and other herbicides. The NAS findings serve as the basis of H.R. 1565 which requires certain specific diseases to be considered related to exposure for treatment purposes—including those where there is insufficient evidence to prove a connection.

Often, many of our veterans, who served this country with distinction during their tour in Vietnam, have felt let down. They have felt that the Government has not recognized that some of their problems stem from exposure to agent orange and other herbicides. It is my hope that this legislation will help drive home the fact that we are aware of their tremendous sacrifices and give our support.

H.R. 1565 also provides for treatment for veterans subjected to ionizing radiation. These veterans also deserve our assistance.

I wish to compliment my colleagues, Representatives HUTCHINSON and EDWARDS, for their leadership on this legislation. I am pleased to offer my support.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1565, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend through December 31, 1997, the period during which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized to provide priority health care to certain veterans exposed to Agent Orange and to make such authority permanent in the case of certain veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 1868, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 170 and rule XXIII, 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. 1868.

□ 1258

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. 1868) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, with Mr. HANSEN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

□ 1300

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 22, 1995, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered under the 5-minute rule by titles and each title shall be considered as having been read.

Before consideration of any other amendment, it shall be in order to consider the amendments printed in part 1 of House Report 104-147. Those amendments will be considered in the order printed, by a Member designated in the report, may amend portions of the bill not yet read for amendment, are considered as having been read, are not subject to amendment, and are not subject to a demand for division of the question. Debate on each amendment is limited to 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent of the amendment.

After disposition of the amendments printed in part 1 of the report, the bill as then perfected will be considered as original text.

An amendment printed in part 2 of the report shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition to a Member who has caused an amendment to be printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered as having been read.

The clerk will read.

The clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1868

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to refresh the Members as to where we are. We had general debate, and since that time the weekend has intervened.

Just to bring the Members of Congress up to date on where we are on this foreign operations appropriation bill, H.R. 1868, let me tell the Members we have worked out a bipartisan agreement with both sides of the aisle, working very hard to bring to this floor a bill that both sides could support. The ranking member on the committee, the gentleman from Texas, CHARLIE WILSON, has been most cooperative, as have all Members of the other side that have approached the committee. We do not want to deny any Member the opportunity to address any issue they want to in this bill. Thus, the open rule.

However, I must tell the House that we have 73 pending amendments to this bill. We would like for them to be considered as expeditiously as possible. I have informed the leadership, and I have discussed it with the ranking member of our committee, we are willing to stay here until 4 o'clock in the morning if that, indeed, is what the Members want to do. We want to have everybody here. However, at the same time, we are going to ask Members to be as brief as possible.

First of all, this bill is \$11.99 billion in budget authority. Most importantly, it is a 22-percent reduction from 1995. It is nearly \$3 billion less than what the administration has requested.

The American people have sent us a strong message telling us to cut Government spending, and they said to cut foreign aid as well. That is precisely what this bill does. It is drafted in such a manner that it gives the administration a great deal of latitude. I would hope that we do not fall prey to some today who will be coming before us asking us to increase this measure.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate title I.

The text of title I is as follows:

TITLE I—EXPORT AND INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

The Export-Import Bank of the United States is authorized to make such expenditures within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to such corporation, and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations, as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, as may be necessary in carrying out the program for the current fiscal year for such corporation: *Provided*, That none of the funds available during the current fiscal year may be used to make expenditures, contracts, or commitments for the export of nuclear equipment, fuel or technology to any country other than a nuclear-weapon State as defined in Article IX of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons eligible to receive economic or military assistance under this Act that has detonated a nuclear explosive after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBSIDY APPROPRIATION

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees, insurance, and tied-aid grants as authorized by section 10 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, \$786,551,000 to remain available until September 30, 1997: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such sums shall remain available until 2010 for the disbursement of direct loans, loan guarantees, insurance and tied-aid grants obligated in fiscal years 1996 and 1997: *Provided further*, That up to \$100,000,000 of funds appropriated by this paragraph shall remain available until expended and may be used for tied-aid grant purposes: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this paragraph may be used for tied-aid credits or grants except through the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated by this paragraph are made available notwithstanding section 2(b)(2) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, in connection with the purchase or lease of any product by any East European country, any Baltic State, or any agency or national thereof.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan and insurance programs (to be computed on an accrual basis), including hire of passenger motor vehicles and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and not to exceed \$20,000 for official reception and representation expenses for members of the Board of Directors, \$45,228,000: *Provided*, That necessary expenses (including special services performed on a contract or fee basis, but not including other personal services) in connection with the collection of moneys owed the Export-Import Bank, repossession or sale of pledged collateral or other assets acquired by the Export-Import Bank in satisfaction of moneys owed the Export-Import Bank, or the investigation or appraisal of any property, or the evaluation of the legal or technical aspects of any transaction for which an application for a loan, guarantee or insurance commitment has been made, shall be considered nonadministrative expenses for the purposes of this heading: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 117 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1992, subsection (a) thereof shall remain in effect until October 1, 1996.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION NONCREDIT ACCOUNT

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation is authorized to make, without regard to fiscal year limitations, as provided by 31 U.S.C. 9104, such expenditures and commitments within the limits of funds available to it and in accordance with law as may be necessary: *Provided*, That the amount available for administrative expenses to carry out the credit and insurance programs (including an amount for official reception and representation expenses which shall not exceed \$35,000) shall not exceed \$26,500,000: *Provided further*, That project-specific transaction costs, including direct and indirect costs incurred in claims settlements, and other direct costs associated with services provided to specific investors or potential investors pursuant to section 234 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, shall not be considered administrative expenses for the purposes of this heading.

PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, \$79,000,000, as authorized by section 234 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to be derived by transfer from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation Noncredit Account: *Provided*, That such costs, including