

The Managers recognize that the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) is presently responsible for prioritizing Council program measures and making recommendations to the Council on projects to be funded through BPA's annual fish and wildlife budget. The Managers understand that each year roughly four hundred proposals are submitted for review by CBFWA in order to receive funding from BPA's annual budget. CBFWA's advice is important. CBFWA members, however, are also the Federal and State fish and wildlife agencies and the tribes who financially benefit from the program. The Managers believe that independent scientific review would remove any suggestion of conflict of interest in prioritizing programs, and add an important element of independent scientific review to the Council decision making process.

The bill language seeks to ensure that Northwest ratepayer dollars are being spent in a cost effective and objective manner. The bill language requires that the Council establish, from a list submitted by NAS, Scientific Peer Review Groups to assist the Panel in making its recommendations to the Council. Projects shall be reviewed based upon the following criteria: projects benefit fish and wildlife in the region; have a clearly defined objective and outcome; and are based on sound science principles.

After review of the projects by the Panel and Peer Review Groups, the Panel shall submit its recommendations on project priorities to the Council for consideration. The Council shall make the Panel's recommendations available to the public for review.

The Council shall review recommendations of the Panel, the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority, and others, in making its final recommendations to BPA of projects to be funded through BPA's annual fish and wildlife budget. If the Council does not follow the advice of the Panel, it is to explain in writing the basis for its decision. The Managers understand that ocean conditions are a contributing factor to the health of fish and wildlife populations in the region, and have directed the Council to consider the impacts of ocean conditions in making its recommendations to BPA to fund projects. Bill language also directs the Council to determine whether project recommendations employ cost effective measures to achieve its objectives. The bill language expressly states the Council, after review of Panel and other recommendations, has the authority to make final recommendations to BPA on project(s) to be funded through BPA's annual fish and wildlife budget.

The provision shall go into effect upon the date of enactment, and the Managers intend that the provision be used to start the planning process for the expenditure of BPA's FY98 fish and wildlife budget. This provision shall expire on September 30, 2000.

SEC. 513.—The conference agreement includes language renaming Cooper Lake in Texas as the "Jim Chapman Lake."

SEC. 514.—The conference agreement includes language naming a dam on the Rogue River in Jackson County, Oregon, as the "William L. Jess Dam and Intake Structure."

SEC. 515.—The conference agreement includes language designating a portion of the Red River in Louisiana as the "J. Bennett Johnston Waterway."

GENERAL PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

The conference agreement deletes language proposed by the House prohibiting the Tennessee Valley Authority from imposing a performance deposit in connection with permits issued for docks and other residential shoreline alternations.

The conference agreement deletes language proposed by the Senate pertaining to

the authority of the State of Oregon to enter into memorandum of understanding with the State of Washington to address issues regarding the Hanford Reservation.

The conference agreement deletes language proposed by the Senate which gives the State of Oregon an opportunity to review and comment on certain remedial actions at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in the State of Washington.

The conference agreement deletes language contained in sections 507 and 508 of the Senate bill which would have deferred principal and interest payments for one year on the water service contracts for the Nueces River and Canadian River projects in Texas.

The conference agreement deletes language proposed by the Senate, the text of S. 534, to provide authority for states to limit the interstate transportation of municipal solid waste and to provide for state and local government control of the movement of municipal solid waste and recyclable material.

The conference agreement deletes language proposed by the Senate expressing the sense of the Senate regarding a United States semiconductor trade agreement with Japan.

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 1997 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 1996 amount, the 1997 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 1997 follow:

New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996	\$19,935,654,000
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1997	20,648,952,000
House bill, fiscal year 1997	19,838,990,000
Senate bill, fiscal year 1997	20,736,858,700
Conference agreement, fiscal year 1997	20,401,108,000
Conference agreement compared with:	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996 ...	+465,454,000
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1997	-247,844,000
House bill, fiscal year 1997	+562,118,000
Senate bill, fiscal year 1997	-335,750,700

JOHN T. MYERS,
HAROLD ROGERS,
JOE KNOLLENBERG,
FRANK RIGGS,
RODNEY P.

FRELINGHUYSEN,
JIM BUNN,
MIKE PARKER,
BOB LIVINGSTON,
TOM BEVILL,
VIC FAZIO,
JIM CHAPMAN,
PETER J. VISLOSKEY,

Managers on the Part of the House.

PETE V. DOMENICI,
MARK O. HATFIELD,
THAD COCHRAN,
SLADE GORTON,
MITCH MCCONNELL,
ROBERT F. BENNETT,
CONRAD BURNS,
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON,
ROBERT C. BYRD,
FRITZ HOLLINGS,
HARRY REID,
J. ROBERT KERREY,
PATTY MURRAY,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

MAKING IN ORDER TODAY OR ANY DAY THEREAFTER CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3816, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on Thursday, September 12, 1996, or any day thereafter to consider a conference report to accompany the bill, H.R. 3816; that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived, and that the conference report be considered as read when called up.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND KENNETH P. ROGERS

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of pleasure today I would like to welcome to our body Pastor Ken Rogers of the Lewisville Bible Church, where my wife and I worship.

Ken is a native of New Jersey. He is a graduate of the Dallas Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Nebraska and in New York, and now resides in Lewisville, TX, with his wife Lou Ann and his two sons, Dan and Nate.

It is a very special thing for me to see him open our session today in prayer, and I would like to just share a thought with you that Ken shares with me often as he reminds me of a quote from George Washington, our Founding Father, where George Washington said, and I quote, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

COMMONSENSE GOVERNMENT REFORM NEEDED

(Mr. GINGRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I brought in an official congressional ice bucket, because I thought it was the perfect symbol of what we are trying to do and how it sometimes gets misrepresented.

When we became a majority for the first time in 40 years, we were trying, frankly, to pinch a few pennies to save some money and to be able to provide tax relief. As we looked around at things that we might not need to be doing, we discovered that ice buckets were being delivered every morning to

every office. We were under the impression that refrigerators have now been invented and were available, and in fact it turned out every office had refrigerators and virtually every staff member knew how to get ice out of the refrigerator. By eliminating the delivery of ice, we save \$400,000 a year.

In terms of being a commonsense Congress, I just think this ice bucket tells the story about as well as anything we have done. For years and years, long after refrigerators became common, ice was being delivered. The Washington bureaucracy just kept doing whatever it was doing, even if it made no sense.

Maybe to some folks \$400,000 a year is not a lot of money, but that is enough money to give over 300 families the tax relief Bob Dole is offering without increasing the deficit, and I would suggest that it is exactly the kind of commonsense reform, saving \$400,000 by stopping the ice bucket, that allows us to talk about returning money to the American people without doing anything to harm the Government that is necessary, but doing everything to cut out the waste that is unnecessary.

GAO REPORT ON THE DEBT CEILING CRISIS

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, the General Accounting Office recently released its report, demanded by the Republican majority, of the conduct of the Treasury Department and Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin during the debt ceiling crisis.

The GAO reports that the Treasury Department and Treasury Secretary Rubin conducted the Nation's debt management legally and properly during the debt ceiling crisis, avoiding default on our Nation's debt and a violation of the statutory debt limit.

In the wake of the GAO's finding that Secretary Rubin acted in accordance with statutory authority provided by the Congress, those Members of the majority that sought Mr. Rubin's impeachment or resignation owe him an apology.

The Republicans were wrong when they opposed the Clinton budget of 1993, which cut in half the debt. The Republicans were wrong when they sought the resignation of Secretary Rubin for keeping the Government solvent, and they are wrong now to go back to voodoo economics that is going to balloon the deficit. Let us not do that again, Mr. Speaker.

AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED RELIEF, NOT NEW TAXES

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the American people, are you working

harder and harder every day, every month, every year, and having less to show for it? Are you concerned that your children will not be better off than you are? Are you worried that they will not be able to enjoy and share the American dream as we know it? Do you have concerns that big Government, wasteful spending, and big bureaucracy has stolen the American dream?

I have those concerns. The Republican Congress and many Members on the Democrat side have those concerns, too. We have worked for a balanced budget. We have worked for commonsense reform of the bureaucracy. We have worked for affordable and accessible health care. We have worked to reduce taxes. It concerns me that President Clinton, when he talked about tax cuts at the Democrat Convention, actually his proposals increased taxes over \$64 billion, new dollars.

We do not need to increase taxes at this time. The American middle class people need tax relief, not additional taxes. Mr. Speaker, we need to reduce the size of government. We need to reduce spending. We do not need to increase taxes at this time.

WILL REPUBLICANS ICE MEDICARE WITH BOB DOLE'S PROPOSED TAX CUT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad the Speaker brought that ice bucket in here. My concern is that they are going to ice Medicare with that \$548 billion tax cut.

Yesterday, in front of the Republican Caucus Senator Dole said that this year's campaign is about trust. Senator Dole wants the American people to believe and trust that his proposed tax cuts will improve their economic conditions. He wants them to believe that a \$548 billion tax cut will not lead to higher budget deficits and increased interest rates, but major Republican economists say that Senator Dole's tax cuts will not work.

If history is any lesson, when Speaker GINGRICH and then Senator Dole tried to pass a \$245 billion tax cut last year, they went after Medicare, \$270 billion. Do not let them ice Medicare. Senator D'AMATO admitted that under the Dole plan funding for such programs as Medicare would definitely be affected. He went even as far as to say, I know I am not running this year, so he can tell the truth. Even former economic advisers to Reagan are now saying that tax cuts do not produce the kind of economic stimulation Senator Dole promised.

Mr. Speaker, let us not repeat the 1990's budget-busting plans.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION COMMEMORATING THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

(Mr. PORTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am going to introduce legislation commemorating an important story in our Nation's history, the underground railroad in my hometown of Cincinnati, which was a major stop in the underground railroad, a vital means for thousands of slaves to escape to freedom until the end of the Civil War.

The stories of the brave men, women, and children of all races that comprised the underground railroad experience have tremendous power to inspire us and teach us about racial understanding, about cooperation, reconciliation today, 130 years later.

The legislation I am introducing today is simple. It authorizes no additional Federal funding. The citizens of Cincinnati have already raised more than \$400,000 in private contributions for this effort. The bill designates the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati as an affiliated area within the National Park Service, and establishes a framework for cooperation between the Underground Railroad Center and the National Park Service.

People from around the country will be able to come to this center to learn more about this important chapter in our history. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the dedicated Cincinnatians who have led this effort, and I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in this.

TIME FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION AND LEE FRANKEL

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Florida tomato farmers have simply gone bankrupt. Mexican tomatoes are being dumped on our market, \$2 a crate. It cost about \$7 to produce them. Florida farmers went to the White House, and then came to Congress, and everybody laughed at them. They filed a section 201 lawsuit under the Trade Act. The International Trade Commission ruled in favor of Mexico.

The chief investigator, Lee Frankel, now works for the organization that imports most of the Mexican tomatoes, and is making most of the money on Mexican tomatoes. I say it is time for a grand jury to investigate the International Trade Commission and Lee Frankel, who I believe are lining their pockets and screwing American farmers.

Right to the point, I would also like to suggest to somebody they start looking inside those tomato trucks