

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair rules the gentleman is out of order.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman continues, will the Chair rule that he sit down?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will take that under advisement.

The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] may proceed in order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the American public has paid \$500,000 for this report and deserves the right to know what is in it.

This weekend the Speaker himself said: "I am totally in favor of releasing the report. The Speaker of the House is second in line to be President, is a very powerful position and the country deserves to know."

Mr. Speaker, the country does deserve the right to know, and they deserve to know right now. Stop the stonewalling, stop the delay, stop the stalling. Release the outside counsel's report now and let the public draw their own conclusion. Anything less—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is ignoring the rule of the Chair and he is referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and it strikes me that it is the appropriate time to have him sit down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair sustains the point of order. The gentleman's time has expired.

WHERE ARE THE FUNDS COMING FROM TO PAY FOR TAX CUTS?

(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, we heard earlier last week and over the weekend that this year's campaign is about trust. I am concerned about what may happen to some of our programs, that if we go forward with what Senator Dole wants, proposed tax cuts of \$548 billion, that could lead to higher deficits and also increased interest rates.

Mr. Speaker, I think we only need to look at recent history to show the concern that last year, in which there was only \$245 billion in tax cuts, Medicare was on the chopping block. Senator Dole has promised the American people he will not cut Medicare, Social Security, or veterans benefits to pay for the cuts, but we just do not know where the money is coming from. Where is it? Are we going to cut Border Patrol or education funding even more? Senator Dole's cut, according to the article in this week's Time Magazine, the Border Patrol, FBI, and drug enforcement programs may be faced with cuts as deep as 40 percent.

Yesterday, Senator Dole said he will get tough on drug enforcement and crime. I do not know if this is any trust. We need to know where these tax cuts are coming from to be paid for. Are they really going to come out of drug enforcement?

WHERE IS "IT" OF WHICH WE CANNOT SPEAK?

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, apparently under the ruling of the Chair, there is not a lot we can say here except there is a committee that we cannot talk about that has an "it" that we cannot name. But that "it" cost a half a million dollars and we cannot see it.

This morning's Washington Post has a clarification of what the Speaker said about the "it" in it. And I hope that everybody reads it, because while the Speaker said one thing on NBC, this morning's Washington Post clarifies that and sets out the different complaints that have been filed and what has happened to them.

I think it is very sad we cannot talk about "it" on the floor. Especially since the taxpayers paid for "it." And if I were a taxpayer, I think I would be angry and wondering what in the world is going on when the House Floor has been gagged from talking about the most important thing we could have in front of us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule IV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 5 p.m. today.

NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2679) to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments: Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

TITLE I—NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SEC. 101. REVISION OF BOUNDARY OF NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) TERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.—The secondary jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service over approximately 2,470 acres of land at the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Nebraska, as

depicted on a map entitled "Relinquishment of North Platte National Wildlife Refuge Secondary Jurisdiction", dated August 1995, and available for inspection at appropriate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is terminated.

(b) REVOCATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER.—Executive Order Number 2446, dated August 21, 1916, is revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (a).

TITLE II—PETTAQUAMSCUTT COVE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SEC. 201. EXPANSION OF PETTAQUAMSCUTT COVE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

Section 204 of Public Law 100-610 (16 U.S.C. 668dd note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) EXPANSION OF REFUGE.—

"(1) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire for addition to the refuge the area in Rhode Island known as 'Foddering Farm Acres', consisting of approximately 100 acres, adjacent to Long Cove and bordering on Foddering Farm Road to the south and Point Judith Road to the east, as depicted on a map entitled 'Pettaquamscutt Cove NWR Expansion Area', dated May 13, 1996, and available for inspection in appropriate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

"(2) BOUNDARY REVISION.—The boundaries of the refuge are revised to include the area described in paragraph (1).

"(f) FUTURE EXPANSION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire for addition to the refuge such lands, waters, and interests in land and water as the Secretary considers appropriate and shall adjust the boundaries of the refuge accordingly.

"(2) APPLICABLE LAWS.—Any acquisition described in paragraph (1) shall be carried out in accordance with all applicable laws."

SEC. 202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 206(a) of Public Law 100-610 (16 U.S.C. 668dd note) is amended by striking "designated in section 4(a)(1)" and inserting "designated or identified under section 204".

SEC. 203. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Public Law 100-610 (16 U.S.C. 668dd note) is amended—

(1) in section 201(a)—

(A) by striking "and the associated" and inserting "including the associated"; and

(B) by striking "and dividing" and inserting "dividing";

(2) in section 203, by striking "of this Act" and inserting "of this title";

(3) in section 204—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "of this Act" and inserting "of this title"; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "purpose of this Act" and inserting "purposes of this title";

(4) in the second sentence of section 205, by striking "of this Act" and inserting "of this title"; and

(5) in section 207, by striking "Act" and inserting "title".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on April 23 of this year, the House overwhelmingly adopted H.R. 2679, a bill introduced by our colleague from Nebraska, BILL BARRETT,

to remove certain lands from the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge.

The other body has now acted on this legislation and while they made no changes in the North Platte provision, they did add a new title to the bill dealing with the Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island.

This refuge was established in 1988 to protect valuable coastal wetlands that provide essential habitat to a diverse group of species of waterfowl, shore and wading birds, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. In fact, it is my understanding that this cove is the most important habitat in Rhode Island for the black duck population under the North American waterfowl management plan.

While the boundaries of the refuge now encompass about 460 acres of salt marsh and forest habitat, title II of H.R. 2679 will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire a 100-acre parcel of land known as Foddering Farm Acres. This property is privately owned and there are certain commercial interests that desire to develop these lands.

Fortunately, the people who own this property, the Rotelle family, have indicated their willingness to donate a portion of the value of the property to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Speaker, I have been advised by the author of this measure, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, that there is some urgency in moving this legislation forward.

I am pleased to present this bill to the House and strongly believe that these modifications in two refuge units in Nebraska and Rhode Island will greatly enhance the fundamental goal of our National Wildlife Refuge System.

I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 2679 and compliment BILL BARRETT and Senator JOHN CHAFEE for their outstanding leadership in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this noncontroversial bill. We are concurring in the Senate amendment and sending this bill to the President for his signature. The bill transfers land from the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Bureau of Land Management in Nebraska so that it can continue to be used for public recreation. The Senate added a provision, which I support, to authorize the expansion of a wildlife refuge in Rhode Island. This bill is sound management of our public lands, promotes wildlife conservation, and is supported by the administration. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT], the author of this bill.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] the subcommittee chairman, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of H.R. 2679. As all of my colleagues know, we are less than 2 months away from an election and, unfortunately, many people are not going to vote in November because they believe that their vote does not count; perhaps their voice cannot or will not be heard.

Those cynics who believe that one or two people cannot make a difference need to hear a little story and the many others that occur like it all the time in this country.

Let me share with you, Mr. Speaker, about a couple out in my district, Mr. and Mrs. Ehrhart, Barbara and Ed Ehrhart. They are residents of Lake Minatare, NE. That is the small lake outside of Scotts Bluff, which is a community in the panhandle of my district. Lake Minatare, which is part of the North Platte Wildlife Refuge, is a part of the particular bill in question and it is the residence of the Ehrharts.

Mr. Speaker, you may remember a few years ago when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was sued for allowing wildlife refuges to be administered without being in compliance with existing environmental regulations. The Fish and Wildlife Service decided that the best way at that time to bring Lake Minatare into compliance was to turn the lake into a nonresidential and nonrecreational area. This would have forced about 60 families out of their homes and closed the only major recreational facility in the area. The next closest major recreational lake was 100 miles away.

The Ehrharts, Mr. and Mrs. Ehrhart, decided that this so-called solution was unacceptable. They had made their home on this lake for 13 years and they were avid recreationists. They believed that the lake did not benefit the bird migrations. They thought that the refuge was built for irrigation, and a later impact statement did confirm that belief.

Barb and Ed Ehrhart met with local residents in the area. I met with them in their lake home one afternoon. They got excited and went to the community business interests and so forth and took their case to a little higher level. Thus began a letter writing campaign that conjured up about 5,000 individual letters into my office.

At the urging of the Ehrharts and the whole Scotts Bluff community, the agencies charged with administering the lake undertook an environmental assessment to determine the wildlife value of Lake Minatare. It was determined that the lake was not an effective refuge and that the boundaries should be altered to reflect the needs of that community.

So, Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 2679 to reflect those recommendations. I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Ehrhart and the community for the interest that they have shown in the future of this particular area. And I am very pleased to have been a part of the process. I would like to believe that Scotts Bluff County has learned a valuable lesson in how to work together and to manage the resources for the future.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I again thank Barb and Ed Ehrhart and the many, many people out across the country just like them; I thank my colleagues, of course, for their support of H.R. 2679; and again I thank the subcommittee chairman for yielding.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, before yielding back, let me yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON], my friend and the ranking member of the committee, for the great cooperation that he has shown on this bill, as well as many other bills that we have done together. I have a report here which I just looked at which indicates that already our subcommittee has had 13 bills signed into law in this session. Without the cooperation of the gentleman, and the other members of the minority, that would not have happened.

I would also like to point out, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT] has worked so hard and has been so diligent on this bill in overcoming hurdle after hurdle in the subcommittee and committee process. We were going to vote on this bill I think a week or two ago, and something came up and the gentleman was right back at it bringing to our attention the urgent nature of getting this done. So I commend the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT] for his very hard work.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House of Representatives is considering H.R. 2679, as amended by the Senate. By clearing this measure for President Clinton's signature, Congress is taking an important step toward protecting the environmental treasures of Rhode Island.

H.R. 2679 expands the Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge to include the vulnerable coastal wetlands that have been identified as vital habitat for a range of species. For example, our State's declining black duck population relies heavily on these areas.

H.R. 2679 also illustrates the great potential of cooperation between government and private citizens. Among the lands that this bill adds to the refuge are 100 acres known as Foddering Farms. The owners of this property are interested in donating a portion of its value to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, helping Congress to advance critical environmental interests at a reasonable cost.

In addition, H.R. 2679 allows the Fish and Wildlife Service to expand the refuge as other important habitats become available. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill and send it to President Clinton, who is committed to preserving our environment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2679.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2941) to improve the quantity and quality of the quarters of land management agency field employees, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2941

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "National Park Service Administrative Reform Act of 1996".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.*
- Sec. 2. National Park Service Housing Improvement Act.*
- Sec. 3. Minor boundary revision authority.*
- Sec. 4. Authorization for certain park facilities to be located outside of units of the National Park System.*
- Sec. 5. Elimination of unnecessary congressional reporting requirements.*
- Sec. 6. Senate confirmation of the Director of the National Park Service.*
- Sec. 7. National Park System Advisory Board authorization.*
- Sec. 8. Challenge cost-share agreement authority.*
- Sec. 9. Cost recovery for damage to national park resources.*

SEC. 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to develop where necessary an adequate supply of quality housing units for field employees of the National Park Service within a reasonable time frame;

(2) to expand the alternatives available for construction and repair of essential government housing;

(3) to rely on the private sector to finance or supply housing in carrying out this section, to the maximum extent possible, in order to reduce the need for Federal appropriations;

(4) to provide increased opportunities for the ownership of housing by field employees, together with the equity and tax benefits associated with home ownership;

(5) to ensure that adequate funds are available to provide for long-term maintenance needs of field employee housing; and

(6) to eliminate unnecessary government housing and locate such housing as is required in a manner such that primary resource values are not impaired.

(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—To enhance the ability of the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this section referred to as "the Secretary"), acting through the Director of the National Park Service, to effectively manage units of the National Park System, the Secretary is authorized where necessary and justified to make available employee housing, on or off the lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and to rent or lease such housing to field employees of the National Park Service at rates based on the reasonable value of the housing in accordance with requirements applicable under section 5911 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) REVIEW AND REVISION OF HOUSING CRITERIA.—Upon the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review and revise the existing criteria under which housing is provided to employees of the National Park Service. The review and revision shall include consideration of the following criteria:

(1) Required occupancy (whether and under what circumstances the National Park Service requires, as a condition of employment, that an employee live at a particular site or in a specific geographic area). For each instance in which occupancy is required, full consideration shall be given to the concept of adequate response time.

(2) Availability and adequacy of non-Federal housing in the geographic area, including consideration of the degree of isolation (the time and distance that separate other potential housing from the workplace of a National Park Service employee).

(3) Category of employment (seasonal or permanent).

(d) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—A report detailing the results of the revisions required by subsection (c) shall be submitted to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. The report shall include justifications for keeping, or for changing, each of the criteria or factors used by the Department of the Interior with regard to the provision of housing to employees of the National Park Service.

(e) REVIEW OF CONDITION OF AND COSTS RELATING TO HOUSING.—Using the revised criteria developed under subsection (c), the Secretary shall undertake a review, for each unit of the National Park System, of existing government-owned housing provided to employees of the National Park Service. The review shall include an assessment of the physical condition of such housing and the suitability of such housing to effectively carry out the missions of the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. For each unit of such housing, the Secretary shall determine whether the unit is needed and justified. The review shall include estimates of the cost of bringing each such unit that is needed and justified into usable condition that meets all applicable legal housing requirements or, if the unit is determined to be obsolete but is still warranted to carry out the missions of the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, the cost of replacing the unit.

(f) AUTHORIZATION FOR HOUSING AGREEMENTS.—For those units of the National Park System for which the review required by subsections (c) and (e) has been completed, the Secretary is authorized, pursuant

to the authorities contained in this Act and subject to the appropriation of necessary funds in advance, to enter into housing agreements with housing entities under which such housing entities may develop, construct, rehabilitate, or manage housing, located on or off public lands, for rent or lease to National Park Service employees who meet the housing eligibility criteria developed by the Secretary pursuant to this Act.

(g) JOINT PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING PROGRAMS.—

(1) LEASE TO BUILD PROGRAM.—Subject to the appropriation of necessary funds in advance, the Secretary may—

(A) lease Federal land and interests in land to qualified persons for the construction of field employee quarters for any period not to exceed 50 years; and

(B) lease developed and undeveloped non-Federal land for providing field employee quarters.

(2) COMPETITIVE LEASING.—Each lease under paragraph (1)(A) shall be awarded through the use of publicly advertised, competitively bid, or competitively negotiated contracting procedures, except that a lease to a field employee housing cooperative may be awarded noncompetitively if construction on the leased land is then competitively bid or competitively negotiated.

(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Each lease under paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) shall stipulate whether operation and maintenance of field employee quarters is to be provided by the lessee, field employees or the Federal Government;

(B) shall require that the construction and rehabilitation of field employee quarters be done in accordance with the requirements of the National Park Service and local applicable building codes and industry standards;

(C) shall contain such additional terms and conditions as may be appropriate to protect the Federal interest, including limits on rents the lessee may charge field employees for the occupancy of quarters, conditions on maintenance and repairs, and agreements on the provision of charges for utilities and other infrastructure; and

(D) may be granted at less than fair market value if the Secretary determines that such lease will improve the quality and availability of field employee quarters available.

(4) CONTRIBUTIONS BY UNITED STATES.—The Secretary may make payments, subject to appropriations, or contributions in kind either in advance of or on a continuing basis to reduce the costs of planning, construction, or rehabilitation of quarters on or off Federal lands under a lease under this subsection.

(5) THIRD PARTY PARTICIPATION.—A lease under this subsection may include provision for participation by a third party, when third party presence is needed or required, and approved by the Secretary.

(h) RENTAL GUARANTEE PROGRAM.—

(1) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to the appropriation of necessary funds in advance, the Secretary may enter into a lease to build arrangement as set forth in subsection (g) with further agreement to guarantee the occupancy of field employee quarters constructed or rehabilitated under such lease. A guarantee made under this subsection shall be in writing.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may not guarantee—

(A) the occupancy of more than 75 percent of the units constructed or rehabilitated under such lease; and

(B) at a rental rate that exceeds the rate based on the reasonable value of the housing in accordance with requirements applicable