

There was no objection.

TENSAS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2660) to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 2, after line 12 insert:

SEC. 2. BAYOU SAUVAGE URBAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) REFUGE EXPANSION.—Section 502(b)(1) of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-645; 100 Stat. 3590), is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: "In addition, the Secretary may acquire, within such period as may be necessary, an area of approximately 4,228 acres, consisting of approximately 3,928 acres located north of Interstate 10 between Little Woods and Pointe-aux-Herbes and approximately 300 acres south of Interstate 10 between the Maxent Canal and Michoud Boulevard that contains the Big Oak Island archaeological site, as depicted on the map entitled "Bayou Sauvage Urban National Wildlife Refuge Expansion", dated August, 1996, on file with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service."

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

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

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

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on April 23 of this year, the House overwhelmingly adopted H.R. 2660, a bill introduced by our colleague from Louisiana, JIM MCCRERY, to increase the authorization level for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

The other body has not acted on this legislation and while they made no changes in the Tensas River provision, they did add a new title to the bill dealing with the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana.

This refuge was established in 1986 to protect 19,000 areas of coastal wetlands. In fact, the refuge, which is located within the corporate limits of the city of New Orleans, has the distinction of having the largest amount of coastal wetlands in the United States that is easily accessible to city residents.

Title II of H.R. 2660 will allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire an additional 4,228 acres of land. According to the authors of this provision, the inclusion of this property within the refuge will enhance the populations of migratory, shore, and wading birds, protect threatened and endangered species, encourage natural diversity of fish and wildlife species, and provide valuable opportunities to the public for

environmental education on some of our Nation's essential coastal wetlands.

I am pleased to present this bill to the House and strongly believe that these modifications in two refuge units in Louisiana are consistent with the fundamental goals of our National Wildlife Refuge System.

I urge a vote in favor of H.R. 2660 and compliment JIM MCCRERY for his outstanding leadership in this matter.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I support this piece of legislation. It expands our national wildlife refuge system. It authorizes land acquisition in the State of Louisiana for the protection and conservation of wildlife. The administration also has given its support of this legislation. I want to commend the gentleman from Louisiana who is the chief sponsor of this legislation. I urge the adoption of this bill.

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Shreveport, LA [Mr. MCCRERY], the author of this bill.

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], the chairman of the subcommittee, for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] for his kind remarks, and also the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS], the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, for their help and cooperation in getting this bill to the floor.

Also, as we all know, staff always play an important part in getting legislation through the various hoops and hurdles in the legislative process, and I want to thank the staff of the subcommittee as well for their hard work, particularly Harry Burroughs.

This bill, as Chairman SAXTON explained, would increase to \$20 million the authorization for land purchases in the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge encompasses 64,000 acres in two parishes, or counties, in my district, Tensas and Madison Parishes, and the refuge is home to some of the Nation's rarest species, including the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon.

The Tensas Refuge also hosts the largest remaining population of the endangered Louisiana black bear. Also, a wide variety of plant species are found in this tract, including the largest tract of bottomland hardwoods remaining in the Mississippi River delta.

So it is a very important piece of land, and we want to preserve it for future generations. We have done a good job in seeing to that so far.

This bill, by the way, will not enlarge the boundaries of the refuge. It simply will allow us to purchase from willing sellers inholdings within the current boundaries of the refuge, and this will make management of the area easier and more effective, and no land will be purchased from anyone other than willing sellers and owners of inholdings in this existing refuge.

In closing, let me again thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS], and the members of the subcommittee and the full committee for their support in getting this legislation to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support it and urge its approval.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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. 2660.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment 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 and include extraneous material on the Senate amendments to H.R. 2660.

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

There was no objection.

WYOMING FISH AND WILDLIFE FACILITY

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1802) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain property containing a fish and wildlife facility to the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1802

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO WYOMING.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey in "as is" condition, to the State of Wyoming without reimbursement—

(A) all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the portion of the property commonly known as "Ranch A" in Crook County, Wyoming, other than the portion described in paragraph (2), consisting of

approximately 600 acres of land (including all real property, buildings, and all other improvements to real property) and all personal property (including art, historic light fixtures, wildlife mounts, draperies, rugs, and furniture directly related to the site, including personal property on loan to museums and other entities at the time of transfer);

(B) all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to all buildings and related improvements and all personal property associated with the building on the portion of the property described in paragraph (2); and

(C) a permanent right of way across the portion of the property described in paragraph (2) to use the buildings conveyed under subparagraph (B).

(2) RANCH A.—Subject to the exceptions described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), the United States shall retain all right, title, and interest in and to the portion of the property commonly known as "Ranch A" in Crook County, Wyoming, described as Township 52 North, Range 61 West, Section 24 N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, consisting of approximately 80 acres of land.

(b) USE AND REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

(1) USE.—The property conveyed to the State of Wyoming under this section shall be retained by the State and be used by the State for the purposes of—

(A) fish and wildlife management and educational activities; and

(B) using, maintaining, displaying, and restoring, through State or local agreements, or both, the museum-quality real and personal property and the historical interests and significance of the real and personal property, consistent with applicable Federal and State laws.

(2) ACCESS BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The State of Wyoming shall provide access to the property for institutions of higher education at a compensation level that is agreed to by the State and the institutions of higher education.

(3) REVERSION.—All right, title, and interest in and to the property described in subsection (a) shall revert to the United States if—

(A) the property is used by the State of Wyoming for any other purpose than the purposes set forth in paragraph (1);

(B) there is any development of the property (including commercial or recreational development, but not including the construction of small structures, to be used for the purposes set forth in subsection (b)(1), on land conveyed to the State of Wyoming under subsection (a)(1)(A)); or

(C) the State does not make every reasonable effort to protect and maintain the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat on the property.

(c) ADDITION TO THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST.—

(1) TRANSFER.—Administrative jurisdiction of the property described in subsection (a)(2) is transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture, to be included in and managed as part of the Black Hills National Forest.

(2) NO HUNTING OR MINERAL DEVELOPMENT.—No hunting or mineral development shall be permitted on any of the land transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture by paragraph (1).

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

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

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

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, S. 1802 is the Senate version of H.R. 3579, a bill to transfer the property known as Ranch A to the State of Wyoming. H.R. 3579 was introduced by Congresswoman BARBARA CUBIN on June 5, 1996, and passed the House on September 4, 1996.

Ranch A consists of a lodge, a barn, and associate buildings and includes approximately 680 acres. The property is located in Crook County, WY, which is within Sand Creek Canyon and includes the headwaters of Sand Creek.

The Fish and Wildlife Service acquired the Ranch A property in 1963, but has had little to no oversight of it since 1986. The Wyoming Department of Game and Fish currently manages the majority of the Ranch A property and, up until 1995, raised trout and transplanted the trout to waters around the State of Wyoming.

The bill authorizes the transfer of 600 acres to the State of Wyoming to be used by the State for fish and wildlife management and educational activities. S. 1802 also transfers 80 acres to the Black Hills National Forest.

S. 1802 is similar to measures the House of Representatives has approved to transfer certain Federal fish hatcheries to non-Federal control, and it contains the standard language requiring that the property revert to the Federal Government, if it is used for something other than the authorized purposes.

I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial piece of legislation and I compliment our distinguished colleague, BARBARA CUBIN, for her effective leadership on behalf of her Wyoming constituents.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of no opposition of this bill on our side of the aisle. This bill is similar to the one that was passed by the House of Representatives. The earlier sponsor of this legislation was the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN]. At this time there were still some disagreements over the legislation but we are told that this has been resolved and I understand that as the chief sponsor from the other body, Senate bill 1802, the gentleman from South Dakota, Mr. DASCHLE, apparently this bill does represent the compromise that was worked out with the Members involved between Wyoming and South Dakota, obviously, and the compromise has been reached by the interested parties. We therefore have no reason to object to the passage of this legislation today. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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 pass the Senate bill, S. 1802.

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

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 and include extraneous material on the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN COMMUNITY CHARTER REVOCATION

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3068) to accept the request of the Prairie Island Indian Community to revoke their charter of incorporation issued under the Indian Reorganization Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

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

SECTION 1. REVOCATION OF CHARTER OF INCORPORATION OF THE PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN COMMUNITY UNDER THE INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT.

(a) ACCEPTANCE OF REQUEST TO REVOKE CHARTER.—The request of the Prairie Island Indian Community to surrender the charter of incorporation issued to that community on July 23, 1937, pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934, commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act" (48 Stat. 988, chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 477) is hereby accepted.

(b) REVOCATION OF CHAPTER.—The charter of incorporation referred to in subsection (a) is hereby revoked.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE JICARILLA APACHE TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT.

Section 8(e)(3) The Jicarilla Apache Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act (106 Stat. 2241) is amended by striking "December 31, 1996" and inserting "December 31, 1998".

SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1992.

Section 3711(b)(1) of the San Carlos Apache Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4752) is amended by striking "December 31, 1996" and inserting "June 30, 1997".

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

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

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

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