Saxton

Martinez

Goodling

WICKER, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641), to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for appointment of U.S. marshals by the Director of the U.S. Marshals Service, pursuant to House Resolution 418, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were-yeas 351, nays 72, not voting 10, as follows:

Abercrombie Ackerman Allard Andrews Archer Armey Bachus Baesler Baker (CA) Baker (LA) Baldacci Ballenger Barcia Barr Barrett (NE) Bartlett Barton Bass Bateman Becerra Beilenson Bentsen Bereuter Bevill Bilbray Bilirakis Bliley Blute Boehlert Boehner Bonilla Bono Borski Boucher Brewster Browder Brown (CA) Brown (OH) Brownback Bryant (TN) Bunn Bunning

[Roll No. 141] YEAS-351 Burr Doggett Burton Dooley Doolittle Buyer Callahan Dornan Calvert Doyle Camp Dreier Campbell Dunn Canady Durbin Cardin Edwards Castle Ehlers Chabot Ehrlich Chambliss Emerson English Chapman Chenoweth Ensign Christensen Evans Chrvsler Everett Clement Ewing Clinger Farr Fawell Coble Coburn Fazio Collins (GA) Fields (TX) Combest Flanagan Condit Foley Cooley Fowler Fox Cramer Frank (MA) Crane Franks (CT) Franks (NJ) Crapo Cremeans Frelinghuysen Cubin Frisa Cunningham Frost Danner Funderburk Davis Furse de la Garza Gallegly Deal Ganske DeLauro Gekas DeLay Geren Deutsch Gilchrest Diaz-Balart Gillmor Dickey Gilman Gonzalez Goodlatte Dicks Dixon

Cox

Gordon Graham Greene (UT) Greenwood Gunderson Gutierrez Gutknecht Hall (OH) Hall (TX) Hamilton Hancock Hansen Harman Hastert Hastings (WA) Haves Hayworth Hefley Heineman Herger Hilleary Hobson Hoekstra Hoke Horn Hostettler Houghton Hoyer Hunter Hutchinson Hvde Inglis Istook Johnson (CT) Johnson (SD) Johnson, Sam Johnston Jones Kasich Kellv Kennedy (RI) Kennelly Kim King Kingston Klug Knollenberg Kolbe LaFalce LaHood Lantos Largent Latham LaTourette Laughlin Lazio Leach Levin Lewis (CA) Lewis (KY) Lightfoot Lincoln Linder Lipinski Livingston LoBiondo Lofgren Longley Lowey Lucas Luther Maloney Manton Manzullo Markey Barrett (WI) Bishop Bonior Brown (FL) Clayton Clyburn Coleman Collins (IL) Collins (MI) Convers Costello Covne Cummings DeFazio Dellums Dingell Duncan Engel Eshoo Fattah Fields (LA)

Martini Mascara Matsui McCarthy McCollum McCrery McDade McHale McHugh McInnis McIntosh McKeon Meehan Menendez Metcalf Mevers Mica Millender-McDonald Miller (CA) Miller (FL) Minge Mink Moakley Montgomery Moorhead Moran Morella Myrick Nadler Nethercutt Neumann Nev Norwood Nussle Oberstar Ortiz Orton Oxley Packard Pallone Parker Pastor Paxon Payne (VA) Pelosi Peterson (MN) Petri Pickett Pombo Pomeroy Porter Portman Pryce Quillen Quinn Radanovich Ramstad Reed Regula Richardson Riggs Rivers Roberts Rogers Rohrabacher Ros-Lehtinen Rose Roth Roukema Roybal-Allard Royce Sabo Salmon Sanford NAYS-72 Filner Flake Foglietta Forbes Ford Gejdenson Gephardt Gibbons Green (TX) Hastings (FL) Hefner Hilliard Hinchey Holden Jackson (IL) Jackson-Lee Peterson (FL) (TX) Poshard Rahall Jacobs Jefferson Rangel Johnson, E. B. Kanjorski Roemer

Scarborough Schaefer Schiff Schroeder Schumer Scott Seastrand Sensenbrenner Serrano Shadegg Shaw Shavs Shuster Sisisky Skaggs Skeen Skelton Slaughter Smith (MI) Smith (NJ) Smith (TX) Smith (WA) Solomon Souder Spence Spratt Stearns Stenholm Stockman Studds Stump Stupak Talent Tanner Tate Tauzin Taylor (MS) Taylor (NC) Tejeda Thomas Thornberry Thornton Thurman Tiahrt Torkildsen Torres Torricelli Traficant Upton Velazquez Vento Volkmer Vucanovich Walsh Wamp Ward Watt (NC) Watts (OK) Waxman Weldon (FL) Weldon (PA) Weller Whitfield Wicker Wilson Wise Wolf Woolsey Yates Young (AK) Young (FL) Zeliff Zimmer Kennedy (MA) Kildee Klink Lewis (GA) McDermott McKinney McNulty Meek Mollohan Murtha Neal Obey Olver Owens Payne (NJ)

Rush

Berman Clay Goss

Sanders Sawyer Stark Stokes

Williams Wynn

Walker

NOT VOTING-10

Thompson

Visclosky

Towns

Waters

Kaptur Bryant (TX) Kleczka Myers

White Molinari

\Box 1429

Mr. HOYER and Mr. TORRES changed their vote from "nay" to 'yea.

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for appointment of United States marshals by the Attorney General."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2641, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida? There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2149, OCEAN SHIPPING **REFORM ACT OF 1995**

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 419 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 419

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2149) to reduce regulation, promote efficiencies, and encourage competition in the international ocean transportation system of the United States. to eliminate the Federal Maritime Commission, and for other purposes. The first read-ing of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Before consideration of any other amendment it shall be in order to consider the amendment printed in part 1 of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative Shuster of Pennsylvania or his designee. That amendment shall be considered as read, may amend portions of the bill not yet read for amendment, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. Points of order against that amendment for

failure to comply with clause 7 of rule XVI are waived. If that amendment is adopted, the bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment. The bill, as amended, shall be considered by title rather than by section. The first section and each title shall be considered as read. During further consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The amendment printed in part 2 of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered as read, may amend portions of the bill not yet read for amendment, shall not be subject to an amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. QUILLEN] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. **QUILLEN**. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the cus-tomary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. QULLLEN

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker. I ask unanimous consent that the pending resolution be amended in the form of the amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. QUILLEN: Page 3, line 12, strike "an amendment" and insert in lieu thereof "amendment (except pro forma amendments)"

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I want to inform my dear friend from Tennessee that this side has read the amendment and we perfectly concur with it and we have no objection to the unanimous-consent request.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment is agreed to. Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, House

Resolution 419 is an open rule, providing 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation.

The rule provides for the consideration of a manager's amendment printed in part 1 of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution.

The amendment may amend portions of the bill not yet read for amendment and is debatable for 10 minutes equally divided between the proponent and an opponent. It shall not be subject to amendment or to a demand for division of the question. If adopted, the amendment is considered as part of the base text for further amendment purposes.

Additionally, the germaneness rule is waived against the manager's amendment printed in part 1 of the report.

The rule provides that the bill, as amended, shall be considered by title material for the RECORD.

rather than by section, and that the first section and each title shall be considered as read.

Members who have preprinted their amendments in the RECORD prior to their consideration will be given priority in recognition to offer their amendments.

The rule further provides that the amendment printed in part 2 of the report may amend portions of the bill not yet read for amendment, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that the merchant marine was vital to national security and very necessary for the economic well being of this country. They have played a vital role in every major conflict this country has been in. I am a strong champion for any bill that aids our ocean shippers. That is why I am a strong supporter of H.R. 2149, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act.

H.R. 2149 is a bipartisan plan to deregulate the last area of regulated transportation and the bill would permit carriers and shippers to develop transportation arrangements to meet their specific needs.

Mr. Speaker, as strongly as I support the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, I oppose the Oberstar amendment and urge its defeat

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule for a good bill. I urge all Members to support the rule and the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS UNDER SPECIAL RULES REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE,1 103D CONGRESS V. 104TH CONGRESS

[As of May 1, 1996]

Rule type		103d Congress		104th Congress	
		Percent of total	Number of rules	Percent of total	
Open/Modified-open 2 Modified Closed 3 Closed 4	46 49 9	44 47 9	64 26 17	60 24 16	
Total	104	100	107	100	

¹ This table applies only to rules which provide for the original consideration of bills, joint resolutions or budget resolutions and which provide for an amendment process. It does not apply to special rules which only waive points of order against appropriations bills which are already privileged and are considered under an open amendment process under House rules. ² An open rule is one under which any Member may offer a germane amendment under the five-minute rule. A modified open rule is one under which any Member may offer a germane amendment process under House rules. ³ An modified closed rule is one under which any Member may offer a germane amendment to preprinted in the Congressional Record. ³ A modified closed rule is one under which the Rules Committee limits the amendments by preprinted in the Congressional Record. ³ A modified closed rule is one under which the Rules Committee limits the amendments that may be offered only to those amendments designated in the special rule or the Rules Committee report to accompany it, or which preclude amendment. ⁴ A closed rule is one under which no amendments may be offered (other than amendments) recommended by the committee in reporting the bill).

SPECIAL RULES REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE, 104TH CONGRESS

[As of May 1, 1996]

H. Res. No. (Date rept.)	Rule type	Bill No.	Subject	Disposition of rule
H. Res. 38 (1/18/95) H. Res. 44 (1/24/95)	0 MC	H.R. 5 H. Con. Res. 17 H.J. Res. 1	Unfunded Mandate Reform Social Security Balanced Budget Amdt	A: 350–71 (1/19/95). A: 255–172 (1/25/95).
H. Res. 51 (1/31/95) H. Res. 52 (1/31/95) H. Res. 53 (1/31/95) H. Res. 55 (2/1/95) H. Res. 60 (2/6/95) H. Res. 61 (2/6/95) H. Res. 63 (2/8/95) H. Res. 63 (2/9/95) H. Res. 79 (2/10/95) H. Res. 83 (2/13/95) H. Res. 83 (2/13/95)	0 0 0 0 0 0 MO MO MO MC	H.R. 101 H.R. 400 H.R. 440 H.R. 465 H.R. 665 H.R. 666 H.R. 667 H.R. 667 H.R. 728 H.R. 7 H.R. 7 H.R. 831	Land Transfer ^T Taos Pueblo Indians	A: voice vote (2/1/95). A: voice vote (2/1/95). A: voice vote (2/1/95). A: voice vote (2/1/95). A: voice vote (2/7/95). A: voice vote (2/7/95). A: voice vote (2/10/95). A: voice vote (2/10/95). A: voice vote (2/13/95). P0: 229–100: A: 227–127 (2/15/95). P0: 230–191: A: 229–188 (2/21/95).
H. Res. 91 (2/21/95) H. Res. 92 (2/21/95)	0 MC	H.R. 830 H.R. 889	Paperwork Reduction Act	A: voice vote (2/22/95). A: 282–144 (2/22/95).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD – HOUSE

H4331

SPECIAL RULES REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE, 104TH CONGRESS-Continued

[As of May 1, 1996]

H. Res. No. (Date rept.)	Rule type	Bill No.	Subject	Disposition of rule
H. Res. 93 (2/22/95) H. Res. 96 (2/24/95)				A: 252-175 (2/23/95).
H. Res. 100 (2/27/95)	0	H.R. 926	. Regulatory Reform and Relief Act	A: voice vote (2/28/95).
H. Res. 101 (2/28/95) H. Res. 103 (3/3/95)	MO MO		Private Property Protection Act Securities Litigation Reform	A: 271–151 (3/2/95).
H. Res. 104 (3/3/95)	MO	H.R. 988	. Attorney Accountability Act	A: voice vote (3/6/95).
H. Res. 105 (3/6/95) H. Res. 108 (3/7/95)				
H. Res. 109 (3/8/95)	MC		, 	PQ: 234-191 A: 247-181 (3/9/95).
H. Res. 115 (3/14/95) H. Res. 116 (3/15/95)	MC	H.J. Res. 73	. Term Limits Const. Amdt	A: voice vote (3/28/95).
H. Res. 117 (3/16/95) H. Res. 119 (3/21/95)				A: voice vote (3/21/95). A: 217–211 (3/22/95).
H. Res. 125 (4/3/95)	0	H.R. 1271	. Family Privacy Protection Act	A: 423–1 (4/4/95).
H. Res. 126 (4/3/95) H. Res. 128 (4/4/95)	MC	H.R. 1215	Older Persons Housing Act Contract With America Tax Relief Act of 1995	A: 228–204 (4/5/95).
H. Res. 130 (4/5/95) H. Res. 136 (5/1/95)	MC	H.R. 483	. Medicare Select Expansion	A: 253–172 (4/6/95).
H. Res. 139 (5/3/95)	0	H.R. 1361	. Coast Guard Auth. FY 1996	A: voice vote (5/9/95).
H. Res. 140 (5/9/95) H. Res. 144 (5/11/95)		H.R. 961 H.R. 535		
H. Res. 145 (5/11/95)	0	H.R. 584	. Fish Hatchery—lowa	A: voice vote (5/15/95).
H. Res. 146 (5/11/95) H. Res. 149 (5/16/95)	MC	H. Con. Res. 67	. Budget Resolution FY 1996	PQ: 252-170 A: 255-168 (5/17/95).
H. Res. 155 (5/22/95) H. Res. 164 (6/8/95)			American Overseas Interests Act Nat. Defense Auth. FY 1996	A: 233–176 (5/23/95). PQ: 225–191 A: 233–183 (6/13/95).
H. Res. 167 (6/15/95)	0	H.R. 1817	. MilCon Appropriations FY 1996	PQ: 223-180 A: 245-155 (6/16/95).
H. Res. 169 (6/19/95) H. Res. 170 (6/20/95)	0	H.R. 1868	. For. Ops. Approps. FY 1996	PQ: 221–178 A: 217–175 (6/22/95).
H. Res. 171 (6/22/95) H. Res. 173 (6/27/95)	0	H.R. 1905	. Energy & Water Approps. FY 1996	A: voice vote (7/12/95).
H. Res. 176 (6/28/95)	MC	H.R. 1944	. Emer. Supp. Approps	PQ: 236–194 A: 234–192 (6/29/95).
H. Res. 185 (7/11/95) H. Res. 187 (7/12/95)		H.R. 1977 H.R. 1977	Interior Approps. FY 1996 Interior Approps. FY 1996 #2	PQ: 235–193 D: 192–238 (7/12/95). PQ: 230–194 A: 229–195 (7/13/95).
H. Res. 188 (7/12/95)	0	H.R. 1976	Agriculture Approps. FY 1996	PQ: 242–185 A: voice vote (7/18/95).
H. Res. 190 (7/17/95) H. Res. 193 (7/19/95)	C	H.J. Res. 96	. Disapproval of MFN to China	A: voice vote (7/20/95).
H. Res. 194 (7/19/95) H. Res. 197 (7/21/95)	0	H.R. 2002	. Transportation Approps. FY 1996	PQ: 217-202 (7/21/95).
H. Res. 198 (7/21/95)	0	H.R. 2076	. Commerce, State Approps. FY 1996	A: voice vote (7/25/95).
H. Res. 201 (7/25/95) H. Res. 204 (7/28/95)	0 MC	H.R. 2099 S. 21	VA/HUD Approps. FY 1996 Terminating U.S. Arms Embargo on Bosnia	A: 230–189 (7/25/95). A: voice vote (8/1/95).
H. Res. 205 (7/28/95)	0	H.R. 2126	. Defense Approps. FY 1996	A: 409–1 (7/31/95).
H. Res. 207 (8/1/95) H. Res. 208 (8/1/95)	0	H.R. 2127	. Labor, HHS Approps. FY 1996	A: 323–104 (8/2/95).
H. Res. 215 (9/7/95) H. Res. 216 (9/7/95)		H.R. 1594 H.R. 1655		A: voice vote (9/12/95).
H. Res. 218 (9/12/95)	0	H.R. 1162	. Deficit Reduction Lockbox	A: voice vote (9/13/95).
H. Res. 219 (9/12/95) H. Res. 222 (9/18/95)	0	H.R. 1617		A: 388–2 (9/19/95).
H. Res. 224 (9/19/95) H. Res. 225 (9/19/95)	0	H.R. 2274	. Natl. Highway System	PQ: 241-173 A: 375-39-1 (9/20/95).
H. Res. 226 (9/21/95)	0	H.R. 743	. Team Act	A: 344–66–1 (9/27/95).
H. Res. 227 (9/21/95) H. Res. 228 (9/21/95)		H.R. 1170 H.R. 1601	3-Judge Court Internati. Space Station	
H. Res. 230 (9/27/95)	C	H.J. Res. 108	. Continuing Resolution FY 1996	A: voice vote (9/28/95).
H. Res. 234 (9/29/95) H. Res. 237 (10/17/95)		H.R. 2259	Disapprove Sentencing Guidelines	A: voice vote (10/18/95).
H. Res. 238 (10/18/95) H. Res. 239 (10/19/95)			. Medicare Preservation Act	PQ: 231–194 A: 227–192 (10/19/95).
H. Res. 245 (10/25/95)		H. Con. Res. 109	. Social Security Earnings Reform	PQ: 228–191 A: 235–185 (10/26/95).
H. Res. 251 (10/31/95)	C		Seven-Year Bálanced Budget Partial Birth Abortion Ban	A: 237–190 (11/1/95).
H. Res. 252 (10/31/95) H. Res. 257 (11/7/95)	MO	H.R. 2546 H.J. Res. 115	D.C. Approps Cont. Res. FY 1996	A: 241–181 (11/1/95).
H. Res. 258 (11/8/95)	MC	H.R. 2586	. Debt Limit	A: 220–200 (11/10/95).
H. Res. 259 (11/9/95) H. Res. 261 (11/9/95)	0 C			
H. Res. 262 (11/9/95)	C	H.R. 2586	. Increase Debt Limit	A: 220–185 (11/10/95).
H. Res. 269 (11/15/95) H. Res. 270 (11/15/95)	<u>C</u>	H.J. Res. 122	. Further Cont. Resolution	A: 229–176 (11/15/95).
H. Res. 273 (11/16/95) H. Res. 284 (11/29/95)		H.R. 2606	. Prohibition on Funds for Bosnia	
H. Res. 287 (11/30/95)	0	H.R. 1350	. Maritime Security Act	A: voice vote (12/6/95).
H. Res. 293 (12/7/95) H. Res. 303 (12/13/95)	C 0	H.R. 2621 H.R. 1745	. Utah Public Lands.	
H. Res. 309 (12/18/95) H. Res. 313 (12/19/95)	C	H.Con. Res. 122 H.R. 558	. Budget Res. W/President	
H. Res. 323 (12/21/95)	C	H.R. 2677	. Natl. Parks & Wildlife Refuge	Tabled (2/28/96).
H. Res. 366 (2/27/96) H. Res. 368 (2/28/96)	MC 0	H.R. 2854 H.R. 994		
H. Res. 371 (3/6/96)	C	H.R. 3021	. Debt Limit Increase	A: voice vote (3/7/96).
H. Res. 372 (3/6/96) H. Res. 380 (3/12/96)	MC	H.R. 2703	. Effective Death Penalty	A: 251–157 (3/13/96).
H. Res. 384 (3/14/96) H. Res. 386 (3/20/96)			Immigration	
H. Res. 388 (3/20/96)	C	H.R. 125	. Gun Crime Enforcement	A: 244–166 (3/22/96).
H. Res. 391 (3/27/96) H. Res. 392 (3/27/96)	MC	H.R. 3103	. Health Coverage Affordability	PQ: 229-186 A: Voice Vote (3/29/96).
H. Res. 395 (3/29/96) H. Res. 396 (3/29/96)	MC	H.J. Res. 159	. Tax Limitation Const. Amdmt	PQ: 232–168 A: 234–162 (4/15/96).
H. Res. 409 (4/23/96)	0	H.R. 2715	. Paperwork Elimination Act	A: voice vote (4/24/96).
H. Res. 410 (4/23/96) H. Res. 411 (4/23/96)	U 0	H.R. 1675 H.J. Res. 175		A: voice vote (4/24/96). A: voice vote (4/24/96).
H. Res. 418 (4/30/96) H. Res. 419 (4/30/96)	0	H.R. 2641	. U.S. Marshals Service	PQ: 219–203 A: voice vote (5/1/96).
11. NCS. 417 (4/30/70)	U	H.R. 2149	Ocean Shipping Reform	

Codes: O-open rule; MO-modified open rule; MC-modified closed rule; C-closed rule; A-adoption vote; D-defeated; PO-previous question vote. Source: Notices of Action Taken, Committee on Rules, 104th Congress.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time. Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. Speaker, I thank

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Tennessee, Mr. QUILLEN, for yielding me the customary half hour, and I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this bill is being considered under an open rule, but I am sorry to hear that it was not the subject of a single congressional hearing in the House. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for the consideration of a bill that's in serious need of an amendment.

Lucky for thousands of American workers, it's an open rule and we have a good chance of making the necessary improvements. Because unless we fix this bill, it will lead to increased prices for consumers by eliminating the public disclosure of shipping rates. It will prevent small shippers from competing with the largest, most powerful shippers and remove the enforcement of contracts with workers.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of people depend on these jobs including longshoremen, warehousing workers, trucking employees, and rail employees in addition to the thousands of people who work in and around port communities. If this bill is not fixed, their wages could go down, or they could lose their jobs.

Like the bill, Mr. OBERSTAR's amendment will lighten some of the regulatory burden and eliminate the Federal Maritime Commission. However, the Oberstar amendment will also ensure a level playing field for all shippers; continue worker protections, and keep costs down for consumers.

I have always supported the Federal Maritime Commission. I believe they have done excellent work, and served the country well. I am pleased that although the time may have come to transfer their responsibilities elsewhere the good work they started on behalf of American workers and American consumers can continue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and to vote to improve this bill with the Oberstar amendment.

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

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE].

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I have no problem coming to this floor to engage in open debate. This is, after all, our reason for being, to debate issues openly and notoriously in the hope of improving it. I do, however, Mr. Speaker, have problems when Members assure me that they are with me, then, as a result of what I call political intimidation, conclude that they are not only not with me but against me.

Oh, I am not angry. I am not that thin-skinned. I am disappointed, because we changed our position in reliance upon their assurances that they were supportive of this good legislation only to learn at the last minute that their support had vanished like the morning dew.

This bill, I say to my colleagues, promotes a sound fiscal approach by dismantling the Federal Maritime Commission and saving taxpayers approximately \$20 million per year. The Federal Maritime Commission, my friends, is a vestige of the Federal bureaucracy whose usefulness, if any, has been served.

Just yesterday, at the House Committee on Rules meeting, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAK-LEY] asked the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR] why he was

going about his dismantling FMC, and here I am paraphrasing, and the gentleman from Minnesota replied to the gentleman from Massachusetts, its time has come.

And, folks, the time has come. It is time for us to move along and this is an excellent way to dismantle big Government.

This bill, secondly, promotes and encourages competition. It has the support, and, Mr. Speaker, I hope the Members are listening to this, it has the support of these groups: The American Farm Bureau. And I would say to the gentleman from Tennessee that I am told that they represent 4.5 million farm families.

□ 1445

The National Retail Federation, the American Forest and Paper Association, the American Automobile Association, Sea-Land Service, American President Lines, the two largest carriers in this country, the National Broiler Council, the National Turkey Federation, and I could to on and on.

But as evidenced by the aforementioned support, Mr. Speaker, this bill affects America. The title, Ocean Shipping Reform Act, might imply to the uninformed that this affects only ports and only coastal communities. This bill, Mr. Speaker and my friends, affects people, individuals and corporations across this land who produce goods and/or services, Americans who live in New England, who live in Dixie, who live on the Great Plains, the Pacific Northwest, the scenic Southwest. Americans all will benefit, directly or indirectly, with the passage of this bill without any amendments.

This bill could be labeled, Mr. Speaker, America's bill. It is a good bill. I urge passage of this rule.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], the ranking minority member.

Mr. ÖBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I do support this rule. I appreciate very much your comments about the amendment that I will offer in accordance with the rule. It is an open rule. It does provide us with 1 hour of general debate, makes in order my amendment. That is fair.

The rule inadvertently made a mistake on debate on my amendment. That has been corrected, and I appreciate that gesture on the part of the floor manager for the Republican side.

I have come to this floor many times in support of deregulation of aviation, of trucking, of bus, of railroad industries, and I stand here in support of deregulation of ocean shipping with some adjustments.

The goals in most of the provisions of H.R. 2149, the bill we will be considering this afternoon, are basically good goals and good provisions. They eliminate the Federal Maritime Commission, prohibit ocean carrier conferences from restricting the rights of individual carriers to make contracts with shippers, eliminate the requirement that tariffs have to be filed with a government agency. But it does not go far enough, or perhaps it goes too far.

My first concern is that the bill allows carriers and conferences, 85 percent of whom fly a foreign flag, to enter into secret contracts with shippers. Under existing law, the essential terms of those contracts must be disclosed. That is what we do in the airline industry today. Nothing wrong with that.

Allowing secret contracts would lead to contracts that would discriminate against small shippers and disadvantage smaller carriers and smaller ports. They have raised concerns about this legislation. That is why I have an amendment to require these be open contracts, as current law requires.

Secret agreements would also permit foreign carriers to set the market price for U.S. exports, while U.S. carriers would have no ability to learn the essential terms of the secret contracts and offer competitive rates.

My other concern focuses on the agency that will take over the residual functions of the Federal Maritime Commission. The bill would vest that authority to the Secretary of Transportation.

Well, I may trust this Secretary. I do not necessarily want to have confidence in every Secretary. I do not believe that major authority should be placed in a department that is subject to the ever-changing political winds or whims of any particular Secretary. My amendment would address those concerns by requiring public disclosure of the essential terms of carrier conference contracts.

Second, it will vest the remaining enforcement responsibilities of the Federal Maritime Commission in the Surface Transportation Board, an independent transportation agency that already oversees water carriers transporting goods to certain destinations.

My amendment leaves in place the objectives, major objectives of this legislation. The Federal Maritime Commission is eliminated. Restrictions on the contents of contracts between shippers and carriers would be eliminated. Laws related to unfair trade practices of foreign carriers and foreign governments would be strengthened.

But I must say, my colleagues, and I am sorry that I do not see the gentleman on the floor right now, the chairman of the subcommittee, who said certain people were subjected to political intimidation. I am sure that those words were directed to our side of the aisle and possibly to this Member, and I just wanted to ask the gentleman, since when do citizens of this country not have the right, provided in our Constitution, to petition their government for redress of grievances? Since when do we say to people who will be adversely affected by legislation, you have no voice, you have no

way to express yourself, you have no opportunity to come before the body of this country that makes policy and express your dismay and ask for redress of grievances?

That is not political intimidation. That is the right of every citizen of this country to walk into our offices and to say, "I do not like the way things are happening, I do not like this law, I do not like this bill. Please correct it for me." We do that time and again, and that is right and that is fair, and my amendment is not being subjected to any kind of secret process. It is being debated right here openly on that floor, and I resent that kind of language. It is inappropriate.

We did have hearings on the concept of deregulation. There was a bill drafted by the committee at the conclusion, and a markup was held. There were no hearings on that bill, and I am not faulting that process. I am just saying that people have come since then and said 8 months later, after this bill was considered in committee, "We find fault with the bill. We do not think that it is appropriate to proceed in this manner. We want redress of our grievances." Small ports, small shippers, maritime labor, who have concerns.

Those concerns are going to be addressed in my amendment in an open, fair debate, no political intimidation. That is sheer nonsense and inappropriate and I resent it.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Transportation.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I did not realize we would be debating the substance of this bill in the rule, but since my good friend from Minnesota is, then I think that I need to respond.

I cannot tell you how deeply disappointed I am that I believed we had a deal. We had a very delicate compromise in which everybody gave up something: the shippers, the carriers, all interested parties.

In fact, while the shippers were very much opposed to retaining antitrust immunity, this is in the bill. They swallowed hard. On the other hand, in exchange for their swallowing hard, private contracts were permitted, private contracts which are at the heart of the Staggers Act, in the railroad industry, are permitted with rail; private contracts between shippers and carriers which are permitted in the trucking industry.

Indeed, one of the essential parts of deregulation is to permit private contracts between shippers and carriers, and indeed, that was part of the deal. In fact I must particularly remind my good friend from Minnesota, who indeed is a good friend, in fact I am reminded of something that somebody told me earlier today about a chaplain saying the prayer in the Louisiana State legislature when he prayed, "O Lord, help us make our words sweet today because we might have to eat them tomorrow."

Well, I must remind my good friend from Minnesota that this legislation was passed overwhelmingly by voice vote out of our committee; that my good friend from Minnesota said and I quote him:

I am a strong supporter of the legislation that we consider today, as are my fellow committee Democrats. The basis for this legislation has been the strong bipartisan, cooperative manner in which the bill has been developed.

Then he went on to say:

The bill accomplishes preservation of the committee carrier system, which is important to the carriers, but it also injects a very healthy and significant dose of flexibility and competitive opportunity.

And then he said:

Most importantly, Mr. Chairman, prior to the bipartisanship that we developed on the committee on this bill, it enjoys the support of carriers, of labor, and of the shipping community, without which we could not move the legislation. We'd have a room full of people buzzing around and all sorts of conflicts. But because we've come to this—as we are fond of saying in this committee over and over again—a delicate balance, we've got a good compromise of different interests.

Indeed, just less than a month ago my dear friend from Minnesota, in a speech, also said:

Our committee has reported the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1995 to the House and proposed that we deregulate the ocean transportation industry in ways that are similar to what we have already done in the trucking, rail, and airline industries. We would eliminate tariff filings and allow for confidential service contracts.

Let me repeat that: "We would eliminate tariff filings and allow for confidential service contracts." That was part of the deal. That was the compromise. Now to be told a few days ago that, "Well, we really did not mean it when we make a deal, we do not stick to the deal, but at the last minute we try to change the deal," I find that extremely disappointing.

My good friend went on to say:

As we deregulate transportation industries carefully over the years, each time the result has been lower rates and greater cargo and passengers movement.

So if we decrease the cost of international shipping through deregulation of the ocean transportation system, and at the same time expand our port access infrastructure, everyone can and will win.

So I cannot tell you how deeply disappointed I am that after we crafted a very, very delicate compromise, after management, labor, carriers, shippers, all came to the table, all gave up something and we passed this out by voice vote, with nary a "nay" expressed, with, as my good friend from Minnesota says, strong bipartisan support from the Democrats and the Republicans, now at the last minute to be told that "Well, the deal really was not a deal, now we want changes."

So I am very disappointed by this, and if the gentleman has time on his own time, I would be happy to address him. My time has expired, I understand.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT].

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to start out by commending the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Chairman SHUSTER, and the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. OBERSTAR, and the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. COBLE, the subcommittee chairman, who worked hard. He is a friend of mine.

I was the ranking member at the time this bill was approved, and I remember much the things now being rehashed except to say that there was always one little asterisk in this whole process, and that was labor's concern over the secret opportunities of these contracts and certain antitrust considerations right from the beginning.

□ 1500

We went along, and there was supposedly a mild-mannered agreement, gentleman's agreement, but there was never total confirmation of support from those people who were concerned.

I will yield to the gentleman when I conclude this because I would like to make this statement:

The Oberstar amendment and the original bill are not far apart. The Federal Maritime Commission has done a great job; it will be eliminated, as will all of the other salient points that are brought up in the legislation before us. Where the bill currently stands and the Oberstar amendment currently fits deals with the issue of repealing the requirement that the essential terms of contracts between ocean carriers and shippers be disclosed to the public. They would not be allowed to be disclosed to the public, and on the surface it does not seem to be a problem. That is the way it was some time ago, especially when we look at the way rail and highway shipping industries operate. But unlike rail and highway industries, in ocean shipping most of the carriers are a part of conferences that are immune from U.S. antitrust laws.

This combination, I say to my colleagues, of antitrust immunity and secret contracts, in our opinion, and in the opinion of many in the industry now, would greatly compromise the competitive balance between ocean carriers and shippers.

I am of the conclusion, as is the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR] and many others in labor, that the only way to fully protect small carriers and shippers as well as small- to mid-sized ports is to preserve the requirements in existing law for disclosure of the essential terms of ocean shipping contracts. With that, that is the issue that separates us.

But I started out, I said I wanted to compliment the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER]. Three of my amendments are included in this bill and are included in the Oberstar substitute as well which would broaden the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to take action against foreign governments and entities that take actions that are unfair, predatory, or anticompetitive, and disadvantageous to all carriers. The original Tranficant language in the bill was criticized because it focused solely on the impact on U.S. carriers. It has been broadened, and it affects both domestic and foreign carriers.

The second amendment clarifies the manner in which regulations shall be issued by the Secretary on making determinations that prices charged by carriers are unfair, predatory, and anticompetitive. It ensures that, if a carrier is investigated by the Secretary and found not to have violated the law, the information will not be made public. Congress would have access to the information.

Finally, it would require the Secretary of Transportation to report to the Congress annually on any action taken to enforce U.S. laws prohibiting unfair, predatory, and anticompetitive foreign trade practices and the effect of U.S. maritime labor on the actions of foreign governments and carriers.

I do not know about all the small detail between the two heavyweights on our committee, but we have been truly a bipartisan committee from the day that I have first been elected and served on this committee. I do not know of any two finer Members that serve. But I do know this as the ranking member at the time, not knowing the words that were repeated by the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], but there was always that element of doubt and concern from labor over that issue of disclosure/nondisclosure. With that, I would urge all to support the Oberstar amendment.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. My good friend said in the committee, and I am quoting him now: Mr. Chairman, I am in strong support of this legislation. The bill was developed in a bipartisan manner, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, I would further say I am sure my good friend would not want to mislead the body and certainly would not do that on purpose. I am sure the gentleman would not intentionally mislead the body.

Talk about antitrust immunity here in ocean shipping, well antitrust immunity continues to exist in rail and trucking as well, and in fact in rail and in trucking the right to enter into these private contracts exists.

So the Staggers Act, which has been extraordinarily successful in revitalizing the rail industry, has the very provision in it that we have in this bill and which was supported not only in the committee by the gentleman and the Democratic side, but in a speech less than a month ago by my good friend from Minnesota.

So I find it extraordinary that we have this disagreement.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Reclaiming my time, if we went back into the archives and looked at all the memorializations of any speeches made by every Member, I am sure we would find some unusual trespasses.

Let me say this before I would yield. There is one thing that I do recall, and there was one great concern over this bill. That is the issue that was brought forth in the Oberstar language. I think it is at the right place where the deliberative body here shall make that decision, in the Congress here, the whole House, and I support the Oberstar language. I think it clarifies it, it stabilizes it, and in fact solidifies what we do here today for small ports, small business and for labor.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the chairman would not want to mislead people either into thinking that labor was at the table, as he said, because in the list of witnesses on the one hearing we had, there was no representation from labor. There was no testimony from labor. So they were not part of the deal. Those maritime interests that are concerned about this issue were not part of any deal.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. I would say to my friend I was quoting my friend from Minnesota who said, and I quote, on this bill it enjoys the support of carriers, of labor, of labor, and of the shipping community. I was quoting my good friend from Minnesota.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I advise the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY] that I have no further requests for time at this time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. I would like to inform the gentleman from Tennessee that I do not have any requests for time either, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

Ackerman Allard Andrews Archer Armey Bachus Baesler Baker (CA) Baker (LA) Baldacci Ballenger Barcia Barr Barrett (NE) Barrett (WI) Bartlett Barton Bass Bateman Becerra Beilenson Bentsen Bereuter Bevill Bilbray Bilirakis Bishop Bliley Blute Boehlert Roehner Bonilla Bonior Bono Borski Boucher Brewster Browder Brown (CA) Brown (FL) Brown (OH) Brownback Bryant (TN) Bunn Bunning Burr Burton Buyer Callahan Calvert Camp Campbell Canady Cardin Castle Chabot Chambliss Chapman Chenoweth Christensen Chrysler Clayton Clement Clinger Clyburn Coble Coburn Coleman Collins (GA) Collins (IL) Collins (MI) Combest Condit Convers Coolev Costello Cox Coyne Cramer Crane Crapo Cremeans Cubin Cummings Cunningham Davis de la Garza Deal DeFazio DeLauro DeLay Dellums Deutsch Diaz-Balart Dickey

May 1, 1996

[Roll No. 142] YEAS-422

Dicks

Dixon

Dingell

Doggett

Dooley Doolittle

Dornan

Doyle

Dreier

Dunn

Durbin

Ehlers

Ehrlich

Engel

Eshoo

Evans

Farr

Everett

Fattah

Fawell

Fields (LA)

Fields (TX)

Fazio

Filner

Flake

Folev

Forbes

Fowler

Frank (MA)

Franks (CT)

Franks (NJ)

Funderburk

Frelinghuysen

Ford

Fox

Frisa

Frost

Furse

Gallegly

Gejdenson

Gephardt

Ganske

Gekas

Geren

Gibbons

Gillmor

Gilman

Gonzalez

Goodlatte

Goodling

Gordon

Graham

Green (TX)

Greenwood

Gunderson

Gutierrez

Gutknecht

Hall (OH)

Hall (TX)

Hamilton

Hancock

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Hastert

Hayes Hayworth

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Hunter

Hyde

Inglis

Hoekstra

Heineman

Hastings (FL)

Hastings (WA)

Greene (UT)

Gilchrest

Flanagan

Foglietta

English Ensign

Emerson

Edwards

Duncan

Abercrombie

Istook Jackson (IL) Jackson-Lee (TX)Jacobs Jefferson Johnson (CT) Johnson (SD) Johnson, E. B. Johnson, Sam Johnston Jones Kanjorski Kasich Kelly Kennedy (MA) Kennedy (RI) Kennelly Kildee Kim King Kingston Kleczka Klink Klug Knollenberg Kolbe LaFalce LaHood Lantos Largent Latham LaTourette Laughlin Lazio Leach Levin Lewis (CA) Lewis (GA) Lewis (KY) Lightfoot Lincoln Linder Lipinski Livingston LoBiondo Lofgren Longley Lowey Lucas Luther Maloney Manton Manzullo Markey Martinez Martini Mascara Matsui McCollum McCrery McDade McDermott McHale McHugh McInnis McIntosh McKeon McKinney Meehan Meek Menendez Metcalf Meyers Mica Millender-McDonald Miller (CA) Miller (FL) Minge Mink Moakley Mollohan Montgomery Moorhead Moran Morella Murtha Myrick Nadler Neal Nethercutt Neumann Nev Norwood

Oberstar Rush Obey Sabo Olver Salmon Ortiz Sanders Sanford Orton Owens Sawyer Oxley Saxton Packard Pallone Schaefer Schiff Parker Pastor Paxon Schumer Payne (NJ) Scott Payne (VA) Pelosi Peterson (FL) Serrano Shadegg Peterson (MN) Petri Shaw Pickett Shays Pombo Shuster Pomerov Sisisky Skaggs Porter Portman Skeen Poshard Skelton Pryce Quillen Quinn Radanovich Rahall Ramstad Solomon Rangel Souder Reed Spence Regula Spratt Richardson Stark Riggs Stearns Rivers Roberts Roemer Stokes Studds Rogers Rohrabacher Stump Ros-Lehtinen Stupak Talent Rose Roth Tanner Roukema Tate Roybal-Allard Tauzin Royce

Taylor (NC) Tejeda Thomas Thompson Thornberry Thornton Thurman Scarborough Tiahrt Torkildsen Torres Schroeder Torricelli Towns Traficant Seastrand Upton Sensenbrenner Velazquez Vento Visclosky Volkmer Vucanovich Walker Walsh Wamp Ward Waters Slaughter Watt (NC) Smith (MI) Watts (OK) Smith (NJ) Waxman Smith (TX) Weldon (FL) Smith (WA) Weldon (PA) Weller White Whitfield Wicker Williams Wilson Stenholm Wise Stockman Wolf Woolsey Wvnn Yates Young (AK) Young (FL) Zeliff Zimmer Taylor (MS)

NOT VOTING-11

Berman Bryant (TX) Clay Danner	Ewing Goss Kaptur McCarthy	McNulty Molinari Myers

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 142 on House Resolution 419 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 30, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 138. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 138.

□ 1530

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2796

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 2796.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE FOR PRINTING AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 3230, OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is planning to meet on Thursday, May 9 to hear testimony on Friday, May 10 to grant a rule which may restrict amendments for consideration of H.R. 3230, the fiscal 1997 defense authorization bill.

The important part is, any Member contemplating an amendment to this bill should submit 55 copies of the amendment and a brief explanation to the Rules Committee in room 312 in the Capitol no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, May 8.

OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 419 and rule XXIII. the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2149.

□ 1531

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 2149) to reduce regulation, promote efficiencies, and encourage competition in the international ocean transportation system of the United States, to eliminate the Federal Maritime Commission, and for other purposes, with Mr. REGULA in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER] and the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBER-STAR] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER].

Mr. SHUŠTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it is not often that we can bring to the floor a piece of legislation that can boost the entire United States economy but this legislation, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, can do just that.

Mr. Chairman, while it is true that by abolishing the Federal Maritime Commission, which this bill does, we can save about \$20 million a year in the Federal expenditures, that really does not tell the story. The real story here is that by abolishing the Federal Maritime Commission, by eliminating the tariff filings, we can stimulate this segment of American transportation to the point that we can save for America close to \$2 billion a year in increased productivity through increased competition.

Yes, this abolishes the Federal Maritime Commission. Yes, it eliminates tariff filings, although it requires that such filings be made public. But it also provides for private contracts. This is at the heart of the bill, because if we are going to retain antitrust immunity, which this bill does, and which the shippers were very much opposed to but in the spirit of compromise agreed to, if we are going to retain antitrust immunity, then it is crucial that the carriers and the shippers be able to enter into private contracts.

This is not a new idea. This is an idea which has been proven, and it has been proven through the Staggers Act, which was the Rail Reform Act. The railroads have the ability with their shippers to enter into private contracts, and we all know the great success story of the revitalization of the railroad industry. The trucking industry has the ability to enter into private contracts with shippers and carriers. The aviation industry has the ability to enter into private contracts with shippers and carriers.

Indeed, every mode of transportation in America, freight transportation, has the ability to enter into these private contracts except for ocean carriage, and that is one of the fundamental reforms that we make today. We say that as all the other modes may do, now shippers and the carriers in ocean shipping can also enter into private carriage. It is a critical, fundamental part of the compromise of this legislation.

Beyond that, we are told by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that the shipping cartels fix prices and that is what we have had up to this point in ocean shipping, cartels fixing prices enforced by the Federal Maritime Com-mission. We are told by the Department of Agriculture that that price-fixing amounted to an 18-percent surcharge on the total ocean transportation cost of agricultural products.

And so indeed by injecting this competition, we are going to be able to make agriculture more productive. Indeed, we are going to be able to make virtually all modes that rely on ocean shipping more productive.

It is important to emphasize, Mr. Chairman, the United States is the only country in the world that maintains an agency to regulate and enforce Government ocean shipping controls. The time has come to eliminate the Federal Maritime Commission.

There are several points that served as a basis for the delicate compromise on this legislation, a compromise which had strong bipartisan support, indeed was passed out of committee by voice vote with nary a negative expression against this legislation. Republicans and Democrats alike cosponsored this legislation and passed it overwhelmingly, if not unanimously, out of the committee by voice vote.

The agreement was very simple. The shippers agreed that the ocean carriers