

money will not disappear. It will simply spill over into the funding of the Clean Water Act. While I do not doubt that it could be put to good use there, I believe that our States and our local water systems and ultimately the ratepayers want this money used for the safe drinking water revolving fund established by this bill. Thus the sole guardians of the firewall provisions will be the very individuals whose projects received dollar one if the firewall is to be stripped out. I hope our colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will work with us to ensure quick conference, a quick resolution and a fair and a proper result.

With the firewall in place, the revolving fund should be largely shielded; and with this motion to instruct, the firewall should remain in place. We would then hopefully have a bill that both sides of this House will be proud of. It will also be a bill that can and will be signed by the President.

We can still pass this bill by August 1. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this motion to instruct the conferees.

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

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS].

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY] for yielding this time to me, and I rise to speak on the motion to instruct.

I think the motion reflects the understandings reached concerning the inclusion of title V within H.R. 3604, the bill to amend and reauthorize the Safe Drinking Water Act approved by the Commerce Committee.

In general, H.R. 3604 provides for a new State revolving fund—or SRF. The express purpose of the SRF is to provide loans and loan guarantees for expenditures that will facilitate compliance with national drinking water standards. SRF funds may only be used for compliance efforts or for other efforts that would significantly further the health protection objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA has estimated that \$8.6 billion is currently needed to bring public water systems into compliance with current standards. H.R. 3604 will go a long way toward meeting this need, but the fund needs to be insulated from demands which could compete with its basic purpose.

The language offered in the motion to instruct merely reflects the desire expressed by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to similarly protect the SRF. Statutory language to this effect was included in H.R. 2747, a bill reported from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to provide water supply infrastructure assistance. H.R. 3604 adopted nearly identical provisions. I therefore urge the adoption of the motion to instruct by the full House of Representatives.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. BOEHLERT], a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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

□ 1745

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman's motion is a motion to instruct the House conferees to express the House position, a position developed by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, so it is always a pleasure for me to stand on the floor of this House and to thank my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL], when he is endorsing a position taken by the subcommittee that I am privileged to chair.

I do not have a problem with his language, not at all. Our committee included that language regarding the 75-percent trigger in the safe drinking water bill precisely to address the same type of concerns, real or perceived, that the gentleman has raised. Title V of the House-passed drinking water bill will supplement, not undermine, let me stress that, supplement, not undermine the State revolving fund.

Everyone agrees our priorities should be to capitalize the State revolving fund. The 75-percent trigger is just one of several safeguards to ensure this remains a priority.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat, I am pleased to stand on this floor and thank the gentleman from Michigan, the senior Democrat on the Committee on Commerce, for recognizing the work of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. It is through these partnerships that we address a very important national problem and get some results.

I want to comfort my colleague by reminding him that there are no earmarks in this bill, that the funding is contingent upon Congress first appropriating adequate amounts for the State revolving fund, and the grants program is intended for hardship communities and areas. My distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Michigan, I think would agree that they are the communities that deserve the most consideration as we try to go forward and guarantee a cleaner, safer, healthier environment for all Americans.

We have worked well together, and I am pleased to support the gentleman's instructions.

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

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. STUPAK].

The motion to instruct was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of the Senate bill (except for sections 28(a) and 28(e)) and the House amendment (except for title V), and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BLILEY, BILIRAKIS, CRAPO, BILBRAY, DINGELL, WAXMAN, and STUPAK.

From the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of sections 28(a) and 28(e) of the Senate bill, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BLILEY, BILIRAKIS, and DINGELL.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Science, for consideration of that portion of section 3 that adds a new section 1478 and sections 23, 25(f), and 28(f) of the Senate bill, and that portion of section 308 that adds a new section 1452(n) and section 402 and title VI of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. WALKER, ROHRBACHER, and ROEMER.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for the consideration of that portion of section 3 that adds a new section 1471(c) and sections 9, 17, 22(d), 25(a), 25(g), 28(a), 28(e), 28(h), and 28(i) of the Senate bill, and title V of the House amendment and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SHUSTER, BOEHLERT, WAMP, BORSKI, and MENENDEZ, provided, Mr. BLUTE is appointed in lieu of Mr. WAMP for consideration of title V of the House amendment.

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3230) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. DELLUMS
Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DELLUMS moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on

the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3230 be instructed to insist upon—

(1) a total level of funding for operations and maintenance not less than the total of the amounts provided in section 301 of the House bill;

(2) a level of funding for military personnel not less than the amount provided in section 421 of the House bill; and

(3) a total level of funding for military construction and military family housing not less than the total of the amounts provided in division B of the House bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS].

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

Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees today because of my concern that the resolution of issues between the House-passed defense authorization bill and the Senate amendment not be concluded at the expense of our men and women in uniform and their ability to perform their mission.

I am concerned that the conferees may overlook these vital requirements in favor of the plus-ups in major acquisition programs that the service chiefs have not asked for and for which there exists, in this gentleman's opinion, no legitimate military requirement.

Several important accounts are at stake, Mr. Speaker. We have very real quality-of-life concerns for our men and women in uniform and a need to ensure that our military construction accounts are funded sufficiently to meet those requirements. We are conducting operations and training that demand real resources, and our readiness accounts should not be depleted. Perhaps, most importantly, we need to ensure that our military personnel receive the pay and benefits for which they are more than deserving. The quickest way to a hollow force is the loss of neglected personnel.

Mr. Speaker, a consistent theme of this year's defense debate has been the "modernization crisis" caused by a "procurement holiday."

In this gentleman's opinion, Mr. Speaker, the testimony before our committee demonstrates the validity of the administration's modernization strategy. By being able to utilize the equipment made excess by the drawdown of our forces, we have been able to forestall procurement expenditures into the future.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the House should stand by its authorization levels in the personnel, military construction, and readiness accounts, and send a clear message to the other body that in resolving the differences between our two bills that we will make only those investments in modernization that can be justified by requirements, by development and testing, and in relationship to our other priorities.

Last year the House passed, nearly unanimously, a measure instructing conferees not to recede from the House readiness funding level. Nonetheless, some readiness funding was indeed sacrificed to save procurement programs that the service chiefs had not requested.

In offering this motion, Mr. Speaker, it is this gentleman's hope that we will be able again to send a message to the other body that we remain serious about our commitment to our personnel, their quality of life, and their readiness, and that we will not retreat this year from our baseline commitment to meeting those needs.

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

□ 1800

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the gentleman from South Carolina, FLOYD SPENCE, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on National Security, and agree with my colleague in the motion to instruct. We on this side have looked at the motion and agree with the contents and think it is well stated. Certainly we agree with it, and we think our actions speak to the points raised in the motion to instruct.

The chairman of the full committee would be here, but at this point in time he is joining a number of our colleagues as we in this body pay tribute to the distinguished former chairman of our committee, Les Aspin, in unveiling the portrait of him which will hang in our committee hearing room. So Chairman SPENCE is speaking at this point in time or else he would be here on the floor to lead this discussion.

But I rise to say to my friend and colleague and distinguished ranking member of the full committee that we agree with him and we agree with the motion in terms of the three key issues and areas that he has focused on, and we think our actions in the bill in fact speak to those issues. We think that we have addressed the issue of modernization but, at the same point in time, have taken those steps in terms of readiness, in terms of quality of life, that will allow us to keep up the morale and protect the well-being of those troops that are serving this country today around the world.

In the area of key personnel actions, Mr. Speaker, we have included a 4.6 percent increase in the bachelor allowance for quarters to combine the department's highly touted underfunded 6-year effort to reduce out-of-pocket housing expenses. We support a 3 percent military pay raise. We provide for a substantial package of enhancements for permanent change of station move reimbursements, and we establish a minimum variable housing allowance to ensure all service personnel are compensated at a level sufficient to acquire safe and adequate housing in high-cost areas.

In the area of key infrastructure improvements, Mr. Speaker, we provide \$214 million, 38 percent above the President's request, in added funding to the construction of new barracks and dormitories. We provide \$303 million, 45 percent above the President's request, in added funding for the construction of new family housing units and the improvement of existing units. We provide \$28 million, nearly 5 times the President's request, in added funding to build new child development centers. We provide \$25 million, more than double the President's request in added funding to support the ability of the Secretary of Defense to enter into public-private partnerships to produce more military housing at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in terms of key morale, welfare and recreation improvements, we provide \$60 million in additional funding for high priority MWR programs identified by the Defense Science Board Task Force on Quality of Life.

Mr. Speaker, there are just a few of the highlights, but they are totally consistent with the points raised by the distinguished ranking member of this committee. They are well founded, and therefore, on behalf of FLOYD SPENCE, I would say that the majority agrees with this motion to instruct.

We look forward to working with the distinguished ranking member as we move toward the conference and, as conferees are appointed, to negotiate the differences that we have with our Senate counterparts and reach a final bill that hopefully the President will sign into law.

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion offered by my good friend and colleague from California.

The military personnel provisions passed by the House of Representatives as part of the fiscal year 1997 defense authorization bill solidly support quality of life and readiness efforts. These provisions reflect the continued support of this House for our military service members.

To highlight just a few of these provisions, the military personnel titles include a 3 percent military pay raise, requested by the President, as well as a 4.6 percent increase in the basic allowance for quarters—BAQ. This increase in BAQ will fully fund a 1 percent reduction in out-of-pocket housing expenses for service members.

The military personnel titles passed by the House provide the Secretary of Defense with the authority to establish a minimum variable housing allowance so that even very junior service members can acquire safe and adequate housing in high cost areas. Additionally, there are provisions that make several enhancements to the reimbursements for permanent change of station moves. Military members should not be forced to use their personal savings to offset the cost of a Government-directed move.

To minimize the readiness impact of continued shortfalls in the Army military personnel account, the House bill includes nearly \$150 million more than the President's budget request for the Army military personnel account.

The House bill also restores the nearly half a billion dollar shortfall in the defense health program. Medical care consistently rates as a top quality of life issue. Not resolving this issue would have dire consequences for active-duty family members and retirees who have a difficult enough time already trying to obtain medical care in military facilities. Failure to meet this need would involve a significant breach of faith with our military members and retirees.

I remind my colleagues that the most important component of readiness is people. The people serving in uniform today were selectively recruited and carefully trained. They are truly the finest force that the United States has ever had.

Readiness must be preserved both in the near-term and in the long-term. Readiness problems compound quickly and cannot be repaired easily or inexpensively. The military personnel that we put in harm's way deserve a full and continuing commitment from this Congress. The House of Representatives has met that commitment in the DOD bill we passed.

The military personnel provisions of the House bill continue the progress toward an improved quality of life for our military men and women while ensuring a well-trained, ready force. It confirms our commitment to readiness, training and taking care of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

I urge my colleagues to ratify their effort by voting for Mr. DELLUM's motion to instruct House conferees to support the higher House figure for military personnel and readiness programs.

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

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank my distinguished colleague for his remarks. I appreciate his comments and further appreciate the support. This is a bipartisan motion to instruct conferees.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS].

The motion to instruct was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO CLOSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON H.R. 3230, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997, WHEN CLASSIFIED NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania moves, pursuant to clause 6(a) of Rule XXVIII, that con-

ference committee meetings on the bill H.R. 3230, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense programs of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the armed forces, and for other purposes, be closed to the public at such times as classified national security information is under consideration, provided, however, that any sitting Member of Congress shall have the right to attend any closed or open meeting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON].

Under the rule, the vote on this motion must be taken by the yeas and nays.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 3, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 326]

YEAS—412

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allard
Andrews
Archer
Army
Bachus
Baesler
Baker (CA)
Baker (LA)
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Becerra
Beilenson
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Bevill
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blute
Boehler
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boucher
Brewster
Browder
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brownback
Bryant (TN)
Bryant (TX)
Bunn
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Chrystler
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clinger

Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Coleman
Collins (GA)
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cooley
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crapo
Cremeans
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis
Deal
DeLauro
DeLay
Dellums
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Dornan
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Engel
English
Ensign
Eshoo
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Fawell
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Fields (TX)
Filner
Flake
Flanagan
Foglietta
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fowler
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (CT)

Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frisa
Frost
Funderburk
Furse
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Cox
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Greene (UT)
Greenwood
Gunderson
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hancock
Hansen
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hefner
Heineman
Herger
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hoke
Holden
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inglis
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jacobs
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Johnston
Jones
Kanjorski

Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kim
King
Kingston
Klecicka
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaHood
Lantos
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Laughlin
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lightfoot
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Longley
Lowey
Lucas
Luther
Maloney
Manton
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Martini
Cox
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Menendez
Metcalfe
Meyers
Mica
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Molinari

Mollohan
Montgomery
Moorhead
Moran
Morella
Myers
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Orton
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Parker
Pastor
Paxon
Payne (NJ)
Payne (VA)
Pelosi
Peterson (FL)
Peterson (MN)
Lipinski
Pickett
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Poshard
Pryce
Quillen
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reed
Regula
Richardson
Riggs
Rivers
Roberts
Roemer
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roth
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Sabo
Salmon
Sanders
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer
Schiff
Schroeder
Schumer

Scott
Seastrand
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Shuster
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Stockman
Stokes
Studds
Stump
Talent
Tanner
Tate
Tauzin
Petri
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Tejeda
Thomas
Thompson
Thornberry
Thornton
Thurman
Tiahrt
Torkildsen
Torres
Torrice
Towns
Traficant
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Volkmer
Vucanovich
Walker
Walsh
Wamp
Ward
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Williams
Wise
Woolsey
Wynn
Young (AK)
Zeliff
Zimmer

NAYS—3

DeFazio Stark Waters

NOT VOTING—18

Chapman
de la Garza
Durbin
Geren
Hall (OH)
Hunter
Lincoln
McDade
Miller (CA)
Murtha
Packard
Rose
Slaughter
Stupak
Wilson
Wolf
Yates
Young (FL)

□ 1834

So the motion was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise our Members on both