

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	Clyburn	Franks (NJ)
Ackerman	Coble	Frelinghuysen
Allard	Coburn	Frisa
Andrews	Coleman	Frost
Archer	Collins (GA)	Funderburk
Armey	Collins (IL)	Furse
Bachus	Collins (MI)	Galleghy
Baesler	Combest	Ganske
Baker (CA)	Condit	Gejdenson
Baker (LA)	Conyers	Gekas
Baldacci	Cooley	Gephardt
Ballenger	Costello	Gibbons
Barcia	Cox	Gilchrest
Barr	Coyne	Gillmor
Barrett (NE)	Cramer	Gilman
Barrett (WI)	Crane	Gonzalez
Bartlett	Crapo	Goodlatte
Barton	Cremeans	Goodling
Bass	Cubin	Gordon
Bateman	Cummings	Goss
Becerra	Cunningham	Graham
Beilenson	Danner	Green (TX)
Bentsen	Davis	Greene (UT)
Bereuter	Deal	Greenwood
Berman	DeLauro	Gunderson
Bevill	DeLay	Gutierrez
Bilbray	Dellums	Gutknecht
Bilirakis	Deutsch	Hall (TX)
Bishop	Diaz-Balart	Hamilton
Bliley	Dickey	Hancock
Blumenauer	Dicks	Hansen
Blute	Dingell	Harman
Boehlert	Dixon	Hastert
Boehner	Doggett	Hastings (FL)
Bonilla	Doolittle	Hastings (WA)
Bonior	Dornan	Hayes
Bono	Doyle	Hayworth
Borski	Dreier	Hefley
Boucher	Duncan	Hefner
Brewster	Dunn	Heineman
Browder	Edwards	Herger
Brown (CA)	Ehlers	Hilleary
Brown (FL)	Ehrlich	Hilliard
Brown (OH)	Engel	Hinchee
Brownback	English	Hobson
Bryant (TN)	Ensign	Hoekstra
Bryant (TX)	Eshoo	Hoke
Bunn	Evans	Holden
Bunning	Everett	Horn
Burr	Ewing	Hostettler
Burton	Farr	Houghton
Buyer	Fattah	Hoyer
Callahan	Fawell	Hutchinson
Calvert	Fazio	Hyde
Camp	Fields (LA)	Inglis
Campbell	Fields (TX)	Istook
Canady	Filner	Jackson (IL)
Cardin	Flake	Jackson-Lee
Castle	Flanagan	(TX)
Chabot	Foglietta	Jacobs
Chambliss	Foley	Jefferson
Chenoweth	Forbes	Johnson (CT)
Christensen	Ford	Johnson (SD)
Chrystler	Fowler	Johnson, E. B.
Clay	Fox	Johnson, Sam
Clayton	Frank (MA)	Johnston
Clement	Franks (CT)	Jones
Clinger		Kanjorski

Kaptur	Mollohan	Scott
Kasich	Montgomery	Seastrand
Kelly	Moorhead	Sensenbrenner
Kennedy (MA)	Moran	Serrano
Kennedy (RI)	Morella	Shadegg
Kennelly	Myers	Shaw
Kildee	Myrick	Shays
Kim	Nadler	Shuster
King	Neal	Sisisky
Kingston	Nethercutt	Skaggs
Klecza	Neumann	Skeen
Klink	Ney	Skelton
Klug	Norwood	Smith (MI)
Knollenberg	Nussle	Smith (NJ)
Kolbe	Oberstar	Smith (TX)
LaFalce	Obey	Smith (WA)
LaHood	Olver	Solomon
Lantos	Ortiz	Souder
Largent	Orton	Spence
Latham	Owens	Spratt
LaTourette	Oxley	Stearns
Laughlin	Pallone	Stenholm
Lazio	Parker	Stockman
Leach	Pastor	Stokes
Levin	Paxon	Studds
Lewis (CA)	Payne (NJ)	Stump
Lewis (GA)	Payne (VA)	Talent
Lewis (KY)	Pelosi	Tanner
Lightfoot	Peterson (FL)	Tate
Linder	Peterson (MN)	Tauzin
Lipinski	Petri	Taylor (MS)
Livingston	Pickett	Taylor (NC)
LoBiondo	Pombo	Tejeda
Lofgren	Pomeroy	Thomas
Longley	Porter	Thompson
Lowe	Portman	Thornberry
Lucas	Poshard	Thornton
Luther	Pryce	Thurman
Maloney	Quillen	Tiahrt
Manton	Quinn	Torkildsen
Manzullo	Radanovich	Torres
Markey	Rahall	Torricelli
Martinez	Ramstad	Towns
Martini	Rangel	Traficant
Mascara	Reed	Upton
Matsui	Regula	Velazquez
McCarthy	Richardson	Vento
McCollum	Riggs	Visclosky
McCrery	Rivers	Volkmer
McDermott	Roberts	Vucanovich
McHale	Roemer	Walker
McHugh	Rogers	Walsh
McInnis	Rohrabacher	Wamp
McIntosh	Ros-Lehtinen	Ward
McKeon	Roth	Watt (NC)
McKinney	Roukema	Watts (OK)
McNulty	Roybal-Allard	Waxman
Meehan	Royce	Weldon (FL)
Meek	Rush	Weldon (PA)
Menendez	Sabo	Weller
Metcalfe	Salmon	White
Meyers	Sanders	Whitfield
Mica	Sanford	Wicker
Millender-	Sawyer	Williams
McDonald	Saxton	Wise
Miller (FL)	Scarborough	Woolsey
Minge	Schaefer	Wynn
Mink	Schiff	Young (AK)
Moakley	Schroeder	Zeliff
Molinari	Schumer	Zimmer

NAYS—3

DeFazio Stark Waters

NOT VOTING—18

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

sides of the aisle that we have had the final vote for this evening. In just a few minutes we will be making a unanimous consent request that has been cleared on both sides of the aisle, that has been fully vetted, that would allow us, if accepted, to proceed with 2 hours of general debate this evening on the welfare reform bill.

We would then come back in the morning to open business at 9 a.m. We would have an agreed-upon number of 1-minute at the outset of our morning's work and we would then go back to this bill for further debate, consideration of the amendments made in order under the rule, and then continue on that bill with the expectation of completing our work between 5 and 6, but certainly enabling everybody to make their 6 o'clock departure time tomorrow evening.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, if the majority leader would yield, my understanding is that the rule is likely to have 2 hours of general debate for tomorrow also; is that accurate?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct.

Mr. SABO. And 1 hour on the Castle-Tanner substitute?

Mr. ARMEY. There will be 1 hour on a majority substitute, whatever that should be.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, one final point. I should also advise Members that in the matter of rearranging the schedule for the orderly conduct of our business, we have deferred consideration of campaign finance reform until Wednesday of next week.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3734, WELFARE AND MEDICAID REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time for the Speaker, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXII, to declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3734) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997, that the first reading of the bill be dispensed with, that all points of order against consideration of the bill be waived, that general debate be confined to the bill and be limited to 2 hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, that after general debate the Committee of the Whole rise without motion, and that no further consideration of the bill be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 359

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 359.

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

There was no objection.

#### WELFARE AND MEDICAID REFORM ACT OF 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today 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. 3734.

□ 1640

#### 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. 3734) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997, with Mr. GREENE of Utah in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] and the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. SABO], will each control 60 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH].

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

Madam Chairman, today we have the beginning of a debate that really represents wonderful news for America. Frankly, the third time, they say in lore, is always a charm. Well, this is the third time we are going to bring to the floor, and we are going to pass, a welfare reform bill that ends welfare as we know it and provides a new level of opportunity for all Americans, opportunity for people who find themselves in need of assistance and opportunity for those folks who get up and go to work every morning and ask nothing from their government other than to have their level of taxation kept at a minimum and to have the maximum amount of personal liberty.

Now, Madam Chairman, this welfare bill that we are about to consider today is something that I think Americans have been asking for virtually all

of my adult life. And let me tell my colleagues what it is about. It is founded on the basis of Judeo-Christianity. Judeo-Christianity says it is a sin not to help people who need help, but it also says it is equally a sin to continue to help people who need to learn how to help themselves.

What we have in this bill is a generous amount of continued assistance for those people who find themselves in real need. I was born and raised in a community where we had a public housing development just down the street, and we always believed that it was necessary that people get the kind of help they need to lift themselves up by their bootstraps, to get the kind of help from those people in our society who have been successful, who have been blessed; and that from those people who are the most successful there is a need and a reason and, frankly, an ultimatum in some respects to make sure that we help those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves dependent.

Now, at the same time, we also believed in the community where I was born and raised that we need to give people an opportunity to be able to lift themselves out of these situations that make them dependent. I think we all recognize in this country that if we have a program that traps people in dependence, it is wrong.

In other words, we do not want to have created a welfare system in our country where people have learned to depend on it and not to be able to depend on themselves.

□ 1845

Frankly, it is not fair to those folks. It is certainly not fair to their children who get raised in an environment where they seem to get confused about the issue of dependency and independence. I believe virtually everybody in this country wants to be independent from help from others. I believe that virtually everybody in this country wants to have a job. But I think that we have created some systems, including the current welfare system, that have provided too many of the wrong incentives for people to avoid work or to be lulled into a sense of dependency. It is wrong. It is wrong for the people on the system. It is wrong for their children.

So what we attempt to do in this welfare bill is to provide generous amounts of money so that the children of people on welfare can be taken care of while the people who are on welfare get trained and get a job. We say at the end of the day, you must go and find a job. We will train you. We will help you find a job. And at the end of the day, you are going to have to get off of welfare and you are going to have to go to work. I think that is what most people in this country want.

Second, however, it will not just be a victory for those who have found themselves trapped in the system that in some respects has robbed themselves