

families will receive a decent wage. Those coming off welfare because of reform need to have an opportunity to move to a job where they can make a living.

The first test of sincerity on the welfare reform bill is whether we will leave this week defying the Republican leadership, Mr. Dole and Mr. GINGRICH, and increase the minimum wage. If we fail to do that, the critics can just say that this welfare reform debate was political hot air.

#### PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Agriculture; the Committee on Banking and Financial Services; the Committee on Commerce; the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; the Committee on International Relations; the Committee on the Judiciary; the Committee on Resources; the Committee on Science; the Committee on Small Business; the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

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

There was no objection.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3754, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3754) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived, and that the conference report be considered as read when called up.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today,

I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3754) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3754 and that they may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Wednesday, July 31, 1996, at page H9450).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD] and the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. THORNTON] each will control 30 minutes.

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

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

This is the conference report on the legislative branch appropriations bill. It will cut from the 1996 program level over \$22 million and will keep us on the glidepath to a balanced budget.

#### HIGHLIGHTS—H.R. 3754 CONFERENCE REPORT CONTINUING PROGRAM OF OVERALL SAVINGS

\$22.3 million below 1996 program level (budget authority); \$48.6 million below in outlays.

Two-year reduction of \$226 million in BA and \$236 million in outlays.

Cut funding for 616 jobs in this bill; two year total of 1643 FTE'S=6.4 percent of legislative workforce.

House budget down by \$45 million and House staff down by 854 FTE's over 96-97 period.

If entire Federal budget were reduced proportionately, Federal budget would show a \$100 billion surplus (based on closed model extrapolation).

#### FRANKED MAIL REFORM

Make permanent law the 90-day before election ban on unsolicited mass mailings.

#### MOVING TOWARD CYBERCONGRESS

\$211 million provided for operations and investments in computers and telecommunications—12.5 percent of entire legislative budget (Senate excluded).

Expanding public access through Internet to public laws, Congressional debate, Congressional schedule, and other legislative matter via THOMAS and GPO ACCESS.

Established a legislative branch-wide information system working group—under

guidance of House Oversight Committee and Senate Rules Committee.

Directed a study of audio broadcasts of House proceedings.

#### STREAMLINING

Completing two-year program to downsize General Accounting Office by 25 percent.

Eliminated funding for jobs not being utilized by several agencies.

Converting permanent edition of bound Congressional Record, a 26 volume document, to CD-ROM: will expedite availability by at least 2 years, enhance the research capabilities of the document, and save over \$1 million annually.

Converting Congressional Serial Set, a 60 volume document to CD-ROM: will expedite availability by several years, enhance its use as a research tool, and save over \$1 million annually.

Clerk of the House will expand capability of House to use electronic formats for legislative documents to reduce printing and distribution costs.

Have deferred to authorizing Committees the Public Printer's plan to convert Federal Depository Program to electronic format.

#### INCREASING USE OF PRIVATE SECTOR

Outsourcing custodial work at Ford House Office Building; directed Architect to transfer affected staff to comparable jobs at comparable pay.

Conducting studies of other outsourcing possibilities at Power Plant, care and maintenance of other Congressional buildings.

Continue public-private sector collaboration on National Digital Library.

Public Printer to determine potential for privatizing GPO plant workload.

Looking for alternatives for operating the Botanic Garden.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT COMPARED TO HOUSE BILL

Added \$1.1 million for the Capitol Police.

Added \$244,000 for CBO.

Added \$1 million for the Library of Congress to pay for a Management study.

Added \$750,000 for a new backup power supply for the Library's computers.

\$250,000 reduction for the Joint Economic Committee; conferees believe the need for this joint committee should be reviewed with the idea that it will be phased out in the future. In the meantime, funding continues at a reduced level.

General Provisions; the bill contains a provision that will bring greater standardization to legislative information processes.

The Capitol Police will be able to elect to use comp time in lieu of paid overtime.

There is a provision that will remove copyright prohibitions from reproduction and distribution of braille and other special materials for the blind and other readers with disabilities.

#### COMPARED TO 602(B)'S

\$15 million below Budget Authority target. \$17 million below Outlay target.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT COMPARED TO ITEMS IN ORIGINAL HOUSE BILL

The House bill sent to the Senate was \$37.4 million below 1996 in BA and \$52.5 million below in outlays.

The conference agreement is \$34.4 million below in BA and \$48.5 below in outlays.

## FY 1997 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 3754)

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
TITLE I - CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS						
SENATE						
Expense Allowances						
Expense allowances:						
Vice President.....	10,000	10,000		10,000	10,000	
President Pro Tempore of the Senate.....	10,000	10,000		10,000	10,000	
Majority Leader of the Senate.....	10,000	10,000		10,000	10,000	
Minority Leader of the Senate.....	10,000	10,000		10,000	10,000	
Majority Whip of the Senate.....	5,000	5,000		5,000	5,000	
Minority Whip of the Senate.....	5,000	5,000		5,000	5,000	
Chairman of the Majority Conference Committee.....	3,000	3,000		3,000	3,000	
Chairman of the Minority Conference Committee.....	3,000	3,000		3,000	3,000	
Subtotal, expense allowances.....	56,000	56,000		56,000	56,000	
Representation allowances for the Majority and Minority Leaders.....	30,000	30,000		30,000	30,000	
Total, Expense allowances and representation.....	86,000	86,000		86,000	86,000	
Salaries, Officers and Employees						
Office of the Vice President.....	1,513,000	1,570,000		1,513,000	1,513,000	
Office of the President Pro Tempore.....	325,000	325,000		325,000	325,000	
Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders.....	2,195,000	2,377,000		2,195,000	2,195,000	
Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips.....	656,000	682,000		1,156,000	1,156,000	+ 500,000
Conference committees.....	1,992,000	2,068,000		1,992,000	1,992,000	
Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority.....	360,000	367,000		384,000	384,000	+ 24,000
Policy Committees.....	1,930,000	2,002,000		1,930,000	1,930,000	
Office of the Chaplain.....	192,000	234,000		234,000	234,000	+ 42,000
Office of the Secretary.....	12,128,000	12,959,000		12,714,000	12,714,000	+ 586,000
Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.....	31,889,000	34,037,000		34,037,000	34,037,000	+ 2,148,000
Offices of the Secretaries for the Majority and Minority.....	1,047,000	1,135,000		1,135,000	1,135,000	+ 88,000
Agency contributions and related expenses.....	15,500,000	18,482,000		17,000,000	17,000,000	+ 1,500,000
Total, salaries, officers and employees.....	69,727,000	76,238,000		74,615,000	74,615,000	+ 4,888,000
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate						
Salaries and expenses.....	3,381,000	3,447,000		3,447,000	3,447,000	+ 66,000
Office of Senate Legal Counsel						
Salaries and expenses.....	936,000	960,000		936,000	936,000	
Expense Allowances of the Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, and Secretaries for the Majority and Minority of the Senate: Expenses allowances.....						
	12,000	12,000		12,000	12,000	
Contingent Expenses of the Senate						
Inquiries and Investigations.....	66,395,000	70,561,000		69,561,000	69,561,000	+ 3,166,000
Expenses of United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.....	305,000			305,000	305,000	
Secretary of the Senate.....	1,266,000	1,266,000		1,511,000	1,511,000	+ 245,000
Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.....	61,347,000	65,931,000		65,931,000	65,931,000	+ 4,584,000
Miscellaneous items.....	6,644,000	6,791,000		6,791,000	6,791,000	+ 147,000
Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account.....	204,029,000	226,825,000		208,000,000	208,000,000	+ 3,971,000
Office of Senate Fair Employment Practices.....	778,000					- 778,000
Settlements and Awards Reserve.....	1,000,000	1,000,000				- 1,000,000
Stationery (revolving fund).....	13,000	13,000		13,000	13,000	
Official Mail Costs						
Expenses.....	11,000,000	36,500,000		10,000,000	10,000,000	- 1,000,000
Total, contingent expenses of the Senate.....	352,777,000	408,887,000		362,112,000	362,112,000	+ 9,335,000
Total, Senate.....	426,919,000	489,630,000		441,208,000	441,208,000	+ 14,289,000

## FY 1997 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 3754)— continued

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
<b>HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</b>						
<b>Payments to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress</b>						
Gratuities, deceased Members .....					133,600	+ 133,600
<b>Salaries and Expenses</b>						
<b>House Leadership Offices</b>						
Office of the Speaker .....	1,478,000	1,621,000	1,535,000	1,535,000	1,535,000	+ 57,000
Office of the Majority Floor Leader .....	1,470,000	1,561,000	1,526,000	1,526,000	1,526,000	+ 56,000
Office of the Minority Floor Leader .....	1,480,000	1,574,000	1,534,000	1,534,000	1,534,000	+ 54,000
Office of the Majority Whip .....	928,000	976,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	+ 29,000
Office of the Minority Whip .....	918,000	963,000	949,000	949,000	949,000	+ 31,000
Speaker's Office for Legislative Floor Activities .....	378,000	385,000	376,000	378,000	378,000	
House Republican Steering Committee .....	664,000	681,000	664,000	664,000	664,000	
House Republican Conference .....	1,083,000	1,146,000	1,130,000	1,130,000	1,130,000	+ 47,000
House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee .....	1,181,000	1,211,000	1,191,000	1,191,000	1,191,000	+ 10,000
House Democratic Caucus .....	566,000	616,000	603,000	603,000	603,000	+ 37,000
Nine minority employees .....	1,127,000	1,155,000	1,127,000	1,127,000	1,127,000	
Subtotal, House Leadership Offices .....	11,271,000	11,889,000	11,562,000	11,562,000	11,562,000	+ 321,000
<b>Members' Representational Allowances</b>						
Expenses .....	360,503,000	368,898,000	363,313,000	363,313,000	363,313,000	+ 2,810,000
<b>Committee Employees</b>						
Standing Committees, Special and Select (except Appropriations) Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investiga- tions) .....	78,629,000	80,524,000	80,222,000	80,222,000	80,222,000	+ 1,583,000
	16,945,000	18,430,000	17,580,000	17,580,000	17,580,000	+ 635,000
Subtotal, Committee employees .....	95,574,000	98,954,000	97,802,000	97,802,000	97,802,000	+ 2,228,000
<b>Salaries, Officers and Employees</b>						
Office of the Clerk .....	13,807,000	15,370,000	15,074,000	15,074,000	15,074,000	+ 1,267,000
Office of the Sergeant at Arms .....	3,410,000	3,889,000	3,638,000	3,638,000	3,638,000	+ 228,000
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer .....	53,556,000	70,464,000	55,209,000	55,209,000	55,209,000	+ 1,653,000
Office of Inspector General .....	3,954,000	4,048,000	3,954,000	3,954,000	3,954,000	
Office of Compliance .....	858,000					-858,000
Transfer to new Office of Compliance .....	-500,000					+ 500,000
Office of the Chaplain .....	126,000	128,000	126,000	126,000	126,000	
Office of the Parliamentarian .....	1,180,000	1,036,000	1,036,000	1,036,000	1,036,000	-144,000
Office of the Parliamentarian .....	(775,000)	(713,000)	(713,000)	(713,000)	(713,000)	(-62,000)
Compilation of precedents of the House of Representatives .....	(405,000)	(323,000)	(323,000)	(323,000)	(323,000)	(-82,000)
Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House .....	1,700,000	1,817,000	1,767,000	1,767,000	1,767,000	+ 67,000
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House .....	4,524,000	4,763,000	4,687,000	4,687,000	4,687,000	+ 163,000
Other authorized employees .....	837,000	1,000,000	768,000	768,000	768,000	-69,000
Former Speakers .....	(666,000)	(825,000)	(594,000)	(594,000)	(594,000)	(-72,000)
Technical Assistants, Office of the Attending Physician .....	(171,000)	(175,000)	(174,000)	(174,000)	(174,000)	(+ 3,000)
Subtotal, Salaries, Officers and Employees .....	83,452,000	102,515,000	86,259,000	86,259,000	86,259,000	+ 2,807,000
<b>Allowances and Expenses</b>						
Supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims	994,000	2,301,000	2,374,000	2,374,000	2,374,000	+ 1,380,000
Official mail (committees, leadership, administrative and legisla- tive offices) .....	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	
Reemployed annuitants reimbursements .....	68,000	71,000	71,000	71,000	71,000	+ 3,000
Government contributions .....	117,541,000	122,508,000	120,779,000	120,779,000	120,779,000	+ 3,238,000
Miscellaneous items .....	658,000	641,000	641,000	641,000	641,000	-17,000
Subtotal, Allowances and expenses .....	120,261,000	126,521,000	124,865,000	124,865,000	124,865,000	+ 4,604,000
<b>Total, House of Representatives .....</b>	<b>671,061,000</b>	<b>738,777,000</b>	<b>683,831,000</b>	<b>683,831,000</b>	<b>683,964,600</b>	<b>+ 12,903,600</b>

## FY 1997 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 3754)—continued

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
<b>JOINT ITEMS</b>						
Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 1997 .....		950,000	950,000	950,000	950,000	+950,000
Joint Economic Committee.....	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	750,000	2,750,000	-250,000
Joint Committee on Printing.....	750,000	777,000	777,000	777,000	777,000	+27,000
Joint Committee on Taxation.....	5,116,000	7,716,000	5,470,000	5,470,000	5,470,000	+354,000
<b>Office of the Attending Physician</b>						
Medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances .....	1,260,000	1,225,000	1,225,000	1,225,000	1,225,000	-35,000
<b>Capitol Police Board</b>						
<b>Capitol Police</b>						
Salaries:						
Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives .....	34,213,000	37,286,000	32,927,000	34,213,000	33,437,000	-776,000
Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate .....	35,919,000	39,108,000	35,465,000	35,919,000	35,919,000	
Subtotal, salaries .....	70,132,000	76,394,000	68,392,000	70,132,000	69,356,000	-776,000
General expenses .....	2,580,000	7,608,000	2,685,000	2,880,000	2,782,000	+222,000
Subtotal, Capitol Police.....	72,692,000	84,000,000	71,077,000	73,012,000	72,138,000	-554,000
Capitol Guide Service and Special Services Office.....	1,991,000	1,991,000	1,991,000	1,991,000	1,991,000	
Statements of Appropriations.....	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	
Total, Joint Items .....	84,839,000	99,689,000	84,520,000	84,205,000	85,331,000	+492,000
<b>OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE</b>						
Salaries and expenses .....	2,000,000	3,268,000	2,609,000	2,609,000	2,609,000	+609,000
Transfer from House of Rep. Office of Compliance.....	500,000					-500,000
Total, Office of Compliance.....	2,500,000	3,268,000	2,609,000	2,609,000	2,609,000	+109,000
<b>OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT</b>						
Salaries and expenses .....	3,615,000					-3,615,000
Reappropriation.....	2,500,000					-2,500,000
Total, Office of Technology Assessment.....	6,115,000					-6,115,000
<b>CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE</b>						
Salaries and expenses .....	24,288,000	24,775,000	24,288,000	24,775,000	24,532,000	+244,000
<b>ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL</b>						
<b>Office of the Architect of the Capitol</b>						
Salaries .....	8,568,000	8,714,000	8,454,000	8,454,000	8,454,000	-115,000
Travel (limitation on official travel expenses) .....	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	
Contingent expenses .....	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Subtotal, Office of the Architect of the Capitol.....	8,669,000	8,814,000	8,554,000	8,554,000	8,554,000	-115,000
<b>Capitol Buildings and Grounds</b>						
Capitol buildings .....	22,882,000	23,679,000	23,255,000	23,555,000	23,255,000	+373,000
Capitol grounds.....	5,143,000	5,020,000	5,020,000	5,020,000	5,020,000	-123,000
Senate office buildings.....	41,757,000	39,840,000		39,840,000	39,840,000	-2,117,000
House office buildings .....	33,001,000	32,556,000	32,556,000	32,556,000	32,556,000	-445,000
Capitol Power Plant .....	35,518,000	34,749,000	34,749,000	34,749,000	34,749,000	-769,000
Offsetting collections .....	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	
Net subtotal, Capitol Power Plant .....	31,518,000	30,749,000	30,749,000	30,749,000	30,749,000	-769,000
Subtotal, Capitol buildings and grounds.....	134,301,000	131,844,000	91,580,000	131,520,000	131,220,000	-3,081,000
Total, Architect of the Capitol .....	142,970,000	140,458,000	100,134,000	140,074,000	139,774,000	-3,196,000
<b>LIBRARY OF CONGRESS</b>						
<b>Congressional Research Service</b>						
Salaries and expenses .....	60,084,000	63,056,000	62,641,000	62,641,000	62,641,000	+2,557,000
<b>GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE</b>						
Congressional printing and binding .....	83,770,000	83,770,000	81,669,000	81,669,000	81,669,000	-2,101,000
Total, title I, Congressional Operations.....	1,502,546,000	1,643,423,000	1,039,692,000	1,521,012,000	1,521,728,600	+19,182,600

## FY 1997 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 3754)— continued

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
<b>TITLE II - OTHER AGENCIES</b>						
<b>BOTANIC GARDEN</b>						
Salaries and expenses .....	3,053,000	2,902,000	2,902,000	2,902,000	2,902,000	-151,000
<b>LIBRARY OF CONGRESS</b>						
Salaries and expenses .....	211,864,000	226,235,000	215,007,000	216,007,000	216,007,000	+4,343,000
Authority to spend receipts .....	-7,869,000	-7,869,000	-7,869,000	-7,869,000	-7,869,000	.....
Net subtotal, Salaries and expenses.....	203,795,000	218,366,000	207,138,000	208,138,000	208,138,000	+4,343,000
Copyright Office, salaries and expenses .....	30,818,000	34,566,000	33,402,000	33,402,000	33,402,000	+2,584,000
Authority to spend receipts .....	-18,830,000	-22,278,000	-22,269,000	-22,269,000	-22,269,000	-2,439,000
Net subtotal, Copyright Office.....	10,988,000	12,288,000	11,133,000	11,133,000	11,133,000	+145,000
Books for the blind and physically handicapped, salaries and expenses .....	44,951,000	46,057,000	44,964,000	44,964,000	44,964,000	+13,000
Furniture and furnishings.....	4,882,000	4,882,000	4,882,000	4,882,000	4,882,000	.....
Total, Library of Congress (except CRS).....	264,616,000	281,593,000	268,117,000	269,117,000	269,117,000	+4,501,000
<b>ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL</b>						
<b>Library Buildings and Grounds</b>						
Structural and mechanical care .....	12,428,000	9,003,000	9,003,000	10,453,000	9,753,000	-2,675,000
<b>GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE</b>						
<b>Office of Superintendent of Documents</b>						
Salaries and expenses .....	30,307,000	30,827,000	29,077,000	29,077,000	29,077,000	-1,230,000
<b>GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE</b>						
Salaries and expenses .....	382,806,000	377,773,000	338,425,000	338,425,000	338,425,000	-44,381,000
Offsetting collections.....	-8,400,000	-6,100,000	-5,905,000	-5,905,000	-5,905,000	+2,495,000
Total, General Accounting Office .....	374,406,000	371,673,000	332,520,000	332,520,000	332,520,000	-41,886,000
Total, title II, Other agencies.....	684,810,000	695,998,000	641,619,000	644,069,000	643,369,000	-41,441,000
Grand total.....	2,187,356,000	2,339,421,000	1,681,311,000	2,165,081,000	2,165,097,800	-22,258,400
<b>TITLE I - CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS</b>						
Senate .....	426,919,000	489,630,000	.....	441,208,000	441,208,000	+14,289,000
House of Representatives .....	671,061,000	738,777,000	683,831,000	683,831,000	683,964,600	+12,903,600
Joint items .....	84,839,000	99,689,000	84,520,000	84,205,000	85,331,000	+492,000
Office of Compliance.....	2,500,000	3,268,000	2,609,000	2,609,000	2,609,000	+109,000
Office of Technology Assessment.....	6,115,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-6,115,000
Congressional Budget Office.....	24,288,000	24,775,000	24,288,000	24,775,000	24,532,000	+244,000
Architect of the Capitol .....	142,970,000	140,458,000	100,134,000	140,074,000	139,774,000	-3,196,000
Library of Congress: Congressional Research Service.....	60,084,000	63,056,000	62,641,000	62,641,000	62,641,000	+2,557,000
Congressional printing and binding, Government Printing Office .....	83,770,000	83,770,000	81,669,000	81,669,000	81,669,000	-2,101,000
Total, title I, Congressional operations .....	1,502,546,000	1,643,423,000	1,039,692,000	1,521,012,000	1,521,728,600	+19,182,600
<b>TITLE II - OTHER AGENCIES</b>						
Botanic Garden .....	3,053,000	2,902,000	2,902,000	2,902,000	2,902,000	-151,000
Library of Congress (except CRS).....	264,616,000	281,593,000	268,117,000	269,117,000	269,117,000	+4,501,000
Architect of the Capitol (Library buildings and grounds).....	12,428,000	9,003,000	9,003,000	10,453,000	9,753,000	-2,675,000
Government Printing Office (except congressional printing and binding) .....	30,307,000	30,827,000	29,077,000	29,077,000	29,077,000	-1,230,000
General Accounting Office.....	374,406,000	371,673,000	332,520,000	332,520,000	332,520,000	-41,886,000
Total, title II, Other agencies.....	684,810,000	695,998,000	641,619,000	644,069,000	643,369,000	-41,441,000
Grand total.....	2,187,356,000	2,339,421,000	1,681,311,000	2,165,081,000	2,165,097,800	-22,258,400

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

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

I rise to express my appreciation to the conference for following the instructions of this House and instructing action on the conference report and to commend the chairman, the gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD], for his efforts.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on the conference report will be postponed.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3603, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider a conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived, and that the conference report be considered as read when called up.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Tuesday, July 30, 1996, at page H9368.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN] and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN].

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3603, and that they may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

I will be brief and ask that my formal remarks be inserted in the RECORD. This conference report is almost the same as the bill that passed the House on June 12.

Mr. Speaker, this conference agreement has programs that benefit every one of our constituents and their lives every day no matter where they live or what they do. I respectfully ask that we get an "aye" vote on the conference agreement on H.R. 3603.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to you today the conference agreement for H.R. 3603, a bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for fiscal year 1997.

This is a solid bipartisan bill which advances both the goals of budget reduction and the support of a large number of programs important to the health and safety of the American people.

Going into conference with the Senate, our bills were \$316 million apart in discretionary spending, with the House having the lower mark. The leadership of both committees split the difference, giving the House an additional \$158 million.

This conference agreement is essentially the same as the bill that passed the House on June 12. The additional money added in the conference has gone almost entirely for rural development, research and education programs all of which have high priority and long-term benefits.

I want to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that this agreement is right on our required spending targets. Discretionary spending is at \$12.96 billion which is \$350 million less than fiscal year 1996. Mandatory spending is at \$39.9 billion which is \$9.9 billion less than the current year. Total spending in the bill is \$52.8 billion

which is \$10.2 billion less than the current year and \$5.6 billion below the administration request.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, this agreement supports programs which benefit every one of your constituents every day, no matter if they live in rural America, the suburbs or in our great cities.

It supports the food stamp program, the Women, Infants and Children feeding program, school lunch, school breakfast, elderly feeding programs, and other essential services.

Our rural development funding brings clean water, affordable housing, jobs, and economic growth to rural America.

Our research programs support the finest and most efficient agricultural system in the world. This system not only delivers an abundance of food to the American consumer but this year it creates a more than \$30 billion trade surplus in agricultural products, meaning jobs in the food processing, transportation and service industries in every State.

This conference report also supports the Food and Drug Administration and the food safety and inspection service which protect our supply of food, medicines and medical devices. I want to point out, Mr. Chairman, that this agreement fully funds the food safety and inspection service as it launches the most comprehensive change ever in our Federal meat and poultry inspection system.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to point out one matter than I know is of concern to a number of Members and that is the formula grants to 1890's colleges and Tuskegee University. For the fiscal year 1997, cuts were made in extension grants using an across-the-board formula with last year's grants as a base. There was an error in the calculation of the grant formula for 1890's colleges and Tuskegee University. I have discussed this with representatives of these institutions and I want to assure them and my colleagues that I will work to correct this error at the first opportunity.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I mentioned at the start that this is a bipartisan effort and I want to point out that the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. DURBIN, successfully added a package of reforms to the rural housing programs which have been needed for quite some time. These reforms are not only good for rural Americans in need of housing but they are good for the taxpayer as well.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you and your colleagues for the opportunity to appear before you here today. I believe this will be the first domestic conference report to clear the Congress. On behalf of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I respectfully ask for the support of all my colleagues in the House. Vote "yes" on the conference report for H.R. 3603.