Chenoweth Gunderson Christensen Gutierrez Chrysler Gutknecht Clay Hall (OH) Clayton Hall (TX) Hamilton Clement Clinger Hancock Clyburn Hansen Harman Coburn Hastert Hastings (FL) Coleman Collins (GA) Hastings (WA) Hayes Hayworth Hefley Collins (IL) Collins (MI) Combest Hefner Condit Conyers Heineman Cooley Herger Costello Hilleary Cox Hilliard Hinchey Coyne Cramer Hobson Crane Hoekstra Crapo Hoke Holden Cremeans Cubin Horn Hostettler Cummings Cunningham Houghton Danner Hover Davis Hunter de la Garza Hutchinson Hyde DeFazio Inglis Istook DeLauro DeLay Jackson (IL) Dellums Jackson-Lee (TX) Deutsch Dicks Jacobs Dingell Jefferson Johnson (CT) Dixon Doggett Johnson (SD) Johnson, E. B. Doolittle Johnson Sam Johnston Dornan Jones Kanjorski Doyle Dreier Kaptur Duncan Dunn Kasich Durbin Kelly Edwards Kennedy (MA) Kennedy (RI) Ehlers Ehrlich Kennelly Kildee Engel English Kim Ensign King Eshoo Kingston Evans Kleczka Everett Klink Ewing Klug Knollenberg Fattah Kolbe LaFalce Fawell LaHood Fazio Fields (LA) Lantos Fields (TX) Largent Filner Latham Flake LaTourette Flanagan Laughlin Foglietta Lazio Leach Folev Forbes Levin Fowler Lewis (CA) Lewis (GA) Fox Frank (MA) Lewis (KY) Franks (CT) Lightfoot Franks (NJ) Linder Lipinski Frelinghuysen Frisa Livingston LoBiondo Frost Funderburk Lofgren Furse Longley Gallegly Lowey Ganske Lucas Geidenson Luther Gekas Maloney Gephardt Manton Manzullo Geren Gibbons Markey Gilchrest Martinez Gillmor Martini Gilman Mascara Gonzalez Matsui McCarthy Goodlatte Goodling McCollum Gordon McCrery McDermott Goss Green (TX) McHale Greene (UT) McHugh Greenwood McInnis

McIntosh McKeon McKinney McNulty Meehan Meek Menendez Metcalf Meyers Mica Millender-McDonald Miller (CA) Miller (FL) Minge Mink Moakley Molinari Mollohan Montgomery Moorhead Morella Murtha Myers Myrick Nadler Neal Nethercutt Neumann Ney Norwood Nussle Oberstar Obey Olver Ortiz Orton Owens Oxlev Packard Pallone Parker Pastor Paxon Payne (NJ) Payne (VA) Pelosi Peterson (FL) Peterson (MN) Petri Pickett Pombo Pomeroy Porter Portman Poshard Pryce Quillen Quinn Radanovich Rahall Ramstad Rangel Reed Regula Richardson Riggs Rivers Roberts Roemer Rogers Rohrabacher Ros-Lehtinen Rose Roth Roukema Roybal-Allard Rovce Rush Sabo Salmon Sanders Sanford Sawyer Saxton Scarborough Schaefer Schiff Schroeder Schumer Scott Seastrand Sensenbrenner Serrano Shadegg Shaw Shays

Shuster

Walker Sisisky Tate Skaggs Tauzin Walsh Wamp Skeen Taylor (MS) Skelton Taylor (NC) Ward Slaughter Tejeda Waters Smith (MI) Thomas Watt (NC) Smith (N.J) Watts (OK) Thompson Smith (TX) Thornberry Waxman Weldon (FL) Smith (WA) Thornton Weldon (PA) Solomon Thurman Souder Weller Torkildsen Spence White Whitfield Spratt Torres Torricelli Wicker Stearns Stenholm Towns Wise Wolf Stockman Traficant Upton Woolsey Studds Velazquez Wynn Stump Vento Yates Stupak Young (AK) Visclosky Talent Volkmer Zeliff Vucanovich Zimmer Tanner

NAYS-2

Williams Stark

NOT VOTING-10

Ford Wilson Bateman Young (FL) Brownback Graham Diaz-Balart Lincoln McDade Dickey

□ 2015

So the conference report was agreed

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 393, I was inadvertently detained and missed the rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 393, I am advised I was not recorded as voting. Since I was present on the floor, I do not know why. Had I been recorded, I would have voted "ave."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 393, I was attending a committee markup. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF CON-FERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3517, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AP-PROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997, AND CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3845, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AP-PROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider conference reports to accompany the bills H.R. 3517 and 3845, that all points of order against both conference reports and against their consideration be waived, and that both conference reports be considered as read when called up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Navada?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3517. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the converence report on the bill (H.R. 3517) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

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 H8958.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANO-VICH] and the gentlemen from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANO-VICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3517, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, The conference report we present to the House today for military construction, family housing, and base closure recommends a total appropriation of \$9.9 billion. This represents a \$1.2 billion, or 10-percent, decrease from last year. The conference report is \$50 million below the House-passed level and is within the subcommittee's revised 602(b) allocation.

Mr. Speaker, the House conferees had more than 200 differences to resolve, representing over \$1 billion. We have done so in an equitable manner. At the same time, we held to our priorities and provided an additional \$195 million for troop housing and \$271 million for family housing above the President's request.

Overall, the agreement recommends \$4 billion for items related to family housing; \$2.5 billion for the implementation of base realignments and closures; and \$3.2 billion for military construction.

Mr. Speaker, the projects to be implemented with this appropriation are still subject to authorization. We have worked closely with the National Security Committee in crafting this bill. This cooperation has been invaluable and I understand they support this agreement.

As always, I want to express my appreciation to all members of the subcommittee and especially our ranking member, Mr. HEFNER, for this cooperation in crafting this agreement. It has been done in a bipartisan manner and tary personnel and their families. I is an equitable compromise.

This bill represents an investment program that has significant payback in economic terms and in better living and working conditions for our mili-

urge my colleagues to support this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following material for the RECORD:

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1997 (H.R. 3517)

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	. House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
Military construction, Army	633,814,000 -6,385,000	434,723,000	603,584,000	448,973,000 -2,028,000	565,688,000 -2,028,000	-68,126,000 +4,357,000
Total, Military construction, Army (net)	627,429,000	434,723,000	603,584,000	446,945,000	563,660,000	-63,769,000
Military construction, Navy	554,636,000 -6,385,000	525,346,000	724,476,000 -12,000,000	642,484,000 -11,300,000	707,094,000 -11,300,000	+ 152,458,000 -4,915,000
Total, Military construction, Navy (net)	548,251,000	525,346,000	712,476,000	631,184,000	695,794,000	+147,543,000
Military construction, Air Force	587,234,000 -15,150,000	603,059,000	678,914,000	704,689,000 -2,100,000	754,064,000 -2,100,000	+ 166,830,000 + 13,050,000
Total, Military construction, Air Force (net)	572,084,000	603,059,000	678,914,000	702,589,000	751,964,000	+179,880,000
Military construction, Defense-wide	640,357,000 -41,866,000	812,945,000	772,345,000	771,758,000 -7,000,000	763,922,000 -7,000,000	+123,565,000 +34,866,000
Total, Military construction, Defense-wide (net)	598,491,000	812,945,000	772,345,000	764,758,000	756,922,000	+158,431,000
Total, Active components	2,346,255,000	2,376,073,000	2,767,319,000	2,545,476,000	2,768,340,000	+422,085,000
Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing		-				
Improvement Fund		·····	10,000,000		5,000,000	+5,000,000
Military construction, Army National Guard	137,110,000	7,600,000	41,316,000	142,948,000	78,086,000	-59,024,000
Military construction, Air National Guard	171,272,000 -6,700,000	75,394,000	118,394,000	224,444,000	189,855,000	+18,583,000 +6,700,000
Total, Military construction, Air National Guard (net)	164,572,000	75,394,000	118,394,000	224,444,000	189,855,000	+25,283,000
Military construction, Army Reserve	72,728,000	48,459,000	50,159,000	75,474,000	55,543,000	-17,185,000
Military construction, Naval Reserve	19,055,000 36,482,000	10,983,000 51,655,000	33,169,000 51,655,000	49,883,000 67,805,000	37,579,000 52,805,000	+18,524,000 +16,323,000
Total, Reserve components	429,947,000	194,091,000	294,693,000	560,554,000	413,868,000	-16,079,000
Total, Military construction	2,776,202,000 (2,852,688,000) (-76,486,000)	2,570,164,000 (2,570,164,000)	3,072,012,000 (3,084,012,000) (-12,000,000)	3,106,030,000 (3,128,458,000) (-22,428,000)	3,187,208,000 (3,209,636,000) (-22,428,000)	+411,006,000 (+356,948,000) (+54,058,000)
NATO Security Investment Program	161,000,000	197,000,000	177,000,000	172,000,000	172,000,000	+11,000,000
Supplemental appropriation	37,500,000					-37,500,000
Total, NATO	198,500,000	197,000,000	177,000,000	172,000,000	172,000,000	-26,500,000
Family housing, Army: Construction	116,656,000	75,013,000	176,603,000	189,319,000	158.503.000	+41,847,000
Operation and Maintenance	1,335,596,000	1,212,466,000	1,257,466,000	1,212,466,000	1,212,466,000	-123,130,000
Total, Family housing, Army	1,452,252,000	1,287,479,000	1,434,069,000	1,401,785,000	1,370,969,000	-81,283,000
Construction	525,058,000 1,048,329,000	403,726,000 1,014,241,000	532,456,000 1,058,241,000	418,326,000 1,014,241,000	499,886,000 1,014,241,000	-25,172,000 -34,088,000
Total, Family housing, Navy	1,573,387,000	1,417,967,000	1,590,697,000	1,432,567,000	1,514,127,000	-59,260,000
Family housing, Air Force:						
Construction Operation and Maintenance	297,738,000 849,213,000	231,236,000 829,474,000	304,068,000 840,474,000	291,464,000 829,474,000	317,507,000 816,509,000	+19,769,000 -32,704,000
Total, Family housing, Air Force	1,146,951,000	1,060,710,000	1,144,542,000	1,120,938,000	1,134,016,000	-12,935,000
Family housing, Defense-wide:		-				
Construction Operation and Maintenance	3,772,000 30,467,000	4,371,000 30,963,000	4,371,000 30,963,000	4,371,000 30,963,000	4,371,000 30,963,000	+599,000 +496,000
Total, Family housing, Defense-wide	34,239,000	35,334,000	35,334,000	35,334,000	35,334,000	+1,095,000
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund Homeowners Assistance Fund, Defense	22,000,000 75,586,000	20,000,000 36,181,000	35,000,000 36,181,000	20,000,000 36,181,000	25,000,000 36,181,000	+3,000,000 -39,405,000
Total, Family housing	4,304,415,000	3,857,671,000	4,275,823,000	4,046,805,000	4,115,627,000	-188,788,000
	(943,224,000)	(714,346,000)	(1,017,498,000)	(903,480,000)	(980,267,000)	(+37,043,000)
Construction		(3 087 144 000)	(3 187 144 000)	(3 027 144 000)	(3 074 170 000)	(-100 AGE GGA)
Construction Operation and Maintenance Family Housing Improvement Fund	(3,263,605,000) (22,000,000)	(3,087,144,000) (20,000,000)	(3,187,144,000) (35,000,000)	(3,087,144,000) (20,000,000)	(3,074,179,000) (25,000,000)	(-189,426,000) (+3,000,000)

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1997 (H.R. 3517) — continued

FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
				-	
964,843,000	352,800,000	352,800,000	352,800,000	352,800,000	-612,043,000
	971,925,000	971,925,000	971,925,000	971,925,000	-1,176,555,000
784,569,000	1,182,749,000	1,182,749,000	1,182,749,000	1,182,749,000	+398,180,000
3,897,892,000	2,507,474,000	2,507,474,000	2,507,474,000	2,507,474,000	-1,390,418,000
-					
11,177,009,000	9,132,309,000	10,032,309,000	9,832,309,000	9,982,309,000	-1,194,700,000
	(9,132,309,000)	(10,044,309,000)	(9,854,737,000)	(10,004,737,000)	(-1,248,758,000)
(-76,486,000)		(-12,000,000)	(-22,428,000)	(-22,428,000)	(+54,058,000)
	964,843,000 2,148,480,000 784,569,000 3,897,892,000 11,177,009,000 (11,253,495,000)	Enacted Estimate 984,843,000 352,800,000 2,148,480,000 971,925,000 784,599,000 1,182,749,000 3,897,892,000 2,507,474,000 11,177,009,000 9,132,309,000 (11,253,495,000) (9,132,309,000)	Enacted Estimate House 984,843,000 352,800,000 352,800,000 2,148,480,000 971,925,000 971,925,000 784,589,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 3,897,892,000 2,507,474,000 2,507,474,000 11,177,009,000 9,132,309,000 10,032,309,000 (11,253,495,000) (9,132,309,000) (10,044,309,000)	Enacted Estimate House Senate 984,843,000 352,800,000 352,800,000 352,800,000 2,148,480,000 971,925,000 971,925,000 971,925,000 784,589,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 3,897,892,000 2,507,474,000 2,507,474,000 2,507,474,000 11,177,009,000 9,132,309,000 10,032,309,000 9,832,309,000 (11,253,495,000) (9,132,309,000) (10,044,309,000) (9,854,737,000)	Enacted Estimate House Senate Conference 984,843,000 352,800,000 352,800,000 352,800,000 352,800,000 352,800,000 352,800,000 971,925,000 971,925,000 971,925,000 971,925,000 971,925,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 1,182,749,000 2,507,474,000 2,507,474,000 2,507,474,000 9,832,309,000 9,982,309,000 1,1253,495,000 9,982,309,000 10,004,737,000 (10,004,737,000) <td< td=""></td<>

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

I rise today in support of the military construction appropriations conference report, which was signed by all the conferees, and has strong bipartisan support.

I also want to compliment the distinguished chairwoman of the Military Construction Subcommittee for her fine work. Mrs. VUCANOVICH has worked hard to produce a good bill that responds to needs of our service men and women, and she has done so in a bipartisan fashion. She will be missed on both sides of the aisle. Our service people and their families will also miss Mrs. VUCANOVICH, who worked so very hard for their well being.

The bill contains almost \$10 billion in total funding and responds to the highest priority requirements of the Joint Chiefs and administration

There has been a significant reduction in funds for military housing with all the base closures, bottom up reviews and 5-year plans. I am very pleased that the conference agreement continues our bipartisan effort to address the quality-of-life issues for both enlisted personnel and families of military members, including facilities in North Carolina. It may not seem that glamorous to fund barracks, family housing and child care centers, but if you have had any exposure to the military way of life, you know that providing a decent place to live is an important factor in military readiness.

This bill also takes care of many other critical needs of the Department including the base closure construction and clean-up requirements, critically needed medical facilities, major new homeporting facilities and other operational upgrades. I'm pleased to see the report includes funding for both a hospital and a clinic badly needed at Fort Bragg, as well as completing an important land acquisition there.

It is an excellent bill and I urge all Members to support this bipartisan conference report.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a very good bill. We are happy with the end product that we have here. I would just like to take this time to tell the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANOVICH], the chairman, that we are going to miss her in this body and congratulate her and the staff on a job well done on this military construction bill. It is a very good bill. It enhances the quality of life for our military personnel.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise as well and express my admiration and respect for the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANOVICH], the chairman of this subcommittee. She has done an outstanding job both as a member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction of the Committee on Appropriations, and as chairman of that subcommittee. I had the privilege of serving with her as a member of that subcommittee for a number of years. Her leaving the House will be a loss not only to the House, but to the men and women of the Armed Services for whom

she has done a great deal in terms of quality of life and in terms of assuring ourselves that from a military infrastructure standpoint we have facilities that are adequate not only to protect the quality of life for our men and women in the Armed Services, but also to protect our readiness.

I wanted to rise, Mr. Speaker, and pay tribute to her. This will be probably the last time, at least in terms of a sole bill, and hopefully this bill is going to be signed relatively soon, that she will be presenting this legislation. As one who has had the opportunity to this institution and a credit to her State and a credit to our country.

I also want to say, of course, that the gentleman from North Carolina, BILL HEFNER, the ranking member, who has been the chairman of this committee, worked very closely with the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANOVICH] himself, is someone who has been a leader on behalf of the quality of life of our men and women in the Armed Services. I rise in strong support of this legislation and congratulate both the chairman and the ranking member on their leadership in this effort.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3517, the military construction appropriation conference report. I want to especially commend chairwoman VUCANOVICH for the good work, and to let her know that this House will sorely miss her.

Contained in the conference report is funding which will allow the army to finish the planning and design work, and to purchase the land for the construction of a new national ground intelligence center (NGIC) in Charlottesville, VA.

The NGIC's mission is to produce scientific, technical and general military intelligence on foreign ground forces. The NGIC currently occupies six geographically separate buildings in Charlottesville. By all accounts, these facilities are woefully inadequate to fulfill the NGIC's vital mission. In 1986, an army corps of engineers facility requirement review concluded that the Charlottesville facilities "are grossly inadequate in virtually every parameter measured."

There are critical management inefficiencies and costs associated with operating an intelligence organization spread out over six locations. In addition, the main building in downtown Charlottesville has serious structural and environmental safety shortcomings, as well as electric power and mechanical deficiencies.

For many years, the army has been working to build a suitable facility to house the NGIC. A number of studies—including the BRACC—have determined that relocation of the NGIC outside of Charlottesville is neither operationally nor economically feasible.

Once again, I applaud chairman Vucanovich for her leadership is helping to give the NGIC the facility that it so urgently needs.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Military Construction Appropriations Conference Report for fiscal year 1997. I would like to thank the chairwoman of this committee, BARBARA VUCANOVICH, who has once again moved this bill swiftly through the Appropriations Committee and the conference committee, and I am sad to say will

be doing it for the last time. I want to wish her well and would like to personally thank her for the service that she has provided to this important subcommittee and this institution. I would also like to thank the ranking member of the Subcommittee, BILL HEFNER, for his help and assistance in bringing this legislation to the floor.

This bill provides nearly \$10 billion in fiscal year 1997 for military construction, family housing and military base closures. This bill continues this House's commitment to funding initiatives that upgrade the quality of life for the men and women of the armed forces and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight a few important projects in the bill that are important to the Air Force bases in my district.

The first project is the ongoing renovation of the dormitories at Travis AFB. This bill provides funding for one dormitory scheduled for construction this year, and funding to speed up construction of a second dorm at Travis. Additionally, this bill includes \$8.63 million for the construction of 70 multi-family housing units for enlisted personnel stationed at Travis. This project goes a long way to improve Travis' housing situation. The construction of the dormitories are part of a base-wide project to upgrade and improve base housing in order to meet Air Force requirements.

This bill also provides funds to replace Travis' underground fueling system. The system was designed to provide a quick and efficient way to refuel two jets at one time. Travis currently relies on an underground system from the 1950's, which often fails because of electrical shorts which occur after rainstorms. The new fuel system is safer and more efficient than the fuel trucks on the runway. It will also put an end to the occasional leaks which are so bad for the environment.

These upgrades are a clear sign that Travis is, and will remain, vital to Air Mobility Command's mission.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also provides for three projects at Beale AFB: the closure of Landfill No. 2, the CARS Deployable Ground Station Support Facility and 56 units of family housing

ing.

Funding for the closure of Landfill No. 2 will allow the base to comply with California standards governing landfills. Currently, Beale is out of compliance with California law.

The bill also will provide for the construction of a new home for the Contingency Airborne Reconnaissance System [CARS] Deployable Ground Station [DGS]. The DGS is an important mission that provides Air Force commanders with a satellite downlink that provides critical information from the battlefield. The current facility is stationed in mobile trailers and is unable to adequately support this mission. Failure to provide adequate support for this function would significantly degrade CARS operational capability to provide theater commanders worldwide with dynamic, responsive intelligence support for battlefield management and execution.

Finally, funding is provided for 56 family housing units on base. Funding for the 56 units of family housing at Beale is the second phase of a multi-year plan to eventually replace 1,700 family housing units on base. The new housing will significantly improve the quality of life for those stationed on base. Current housing facilities are substandard and are in need of being replaced.

Mr. Speaker, each of the initiatives I have outlined will help maintain Travis AFB and Beale AFB as critical defense assets and as integral parts of their respective communities. The projects that I have indicated are important to the ongoing missions at each base.

In closing, I want to reiterate my support for this important bill that provides for the quality of life for our troops and is vitally important to maintaining military readiness.

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

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the kind words from the gentleman from Maryland. It has been a great honor to serve this body and to carry this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). 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 the provisions of clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question are post-poned until the end of consideration of the conference report on the bill, H.R. 3845.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3845, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPRO-PRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3845) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

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 earlier today.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York [Mr. WALSH] and the gentleman from California [Mr. DIXON] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. WALSH].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3845, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. The conference agreement we bring to the House this evening is essentially the same bill that was passed by this House 2 weeks ago. Our conference agreement includes \$719 million in Federal funds and is within our 602(b) allocation in both budget authority and outlays. In District funds, we retain the ceiling of \$5.108 billion on total operating expenses, and we were successful in getting a deficit cap reduced to \$74 million instead of \$99 million, as proposed by the consensus in the Senate bill.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members of the subcommittee for their hard work. This is a good conference agreement. I urge the Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, this evening we have before the House the conference agreement on H.R. 3845, the District of Columbia Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1997. It is essentially the same bill that was passed by this House 2 weeks ago with a few exceptions that I will highlight in a moment.

Our conference agreement includes \$719 million in federal funds and is within our 602(b) allocation in both budget authority and outlays.

In Federal funds, the \$719 million agreed to by the conferees is \$1 million above the amounts recommended in the bill as passed by the House and Senate. The efforts of the gentleman from California [Mr. DIXON], the ranking member on our subcommittee, resulted in this \$1 million being added to our bill for the control board to contract with private entities to inspect, flush, and repair the drinking water distribution system in the District. There is a strong Federal interest in assuring that those who visit, live, and work in the Nation's Capital have safe water to drink.

In District funds, we retain the ceiling of \$5.108 billion on total operating expenses for fiscal year 1997, and we were successful in getting the deficit cap reduced to \$74 million instead of \$99 million as proposed in the consensus budget and the Senate bill.

Mr. Speaker, there are four items I want to mention briefly.

First, on the abortion issue, the Senate receded to the House language that no appropriated funds, Federal or local, are available for abortions except to save the mother's life, or in cases of rape or incest.

Regarding the domestic partners provision, the House language was agreed to by the conferees and provides that no funds, Federal or local, are to be used for a registration system or to implement or enforce the District's Domestic Partners Act.

Mr. Speaker, our subcommittee is concerned about deficit spending by the District government and borrowing long term to finance those deficits. We are urging the Mayor, the Council, and the control board to hold spending to the level of revenues collected. The District cannot spend its way to prosperity; nor can it borrow its way to prosperity.

And lastly, we have included an important provision regarding the Chief Financial Officer. Language in section 142 makes clear that all financial personnel in the executive branch of the District government, including all independent agencies and excluding the legislative and judicial branches, are under the exclusive control of the CFO. The CFO is making progress. It has been reported that the time delay in making vendor payments has been reduced from months to between 30 to 45 days. This is good progress.

I would like to thank the members of the sbucommittee for their hard work on this billthe gentleman from Texas [Mr. BONILLA], the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON], the gentleman from New Jersev [Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN], the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN], the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. PARKER], the gentleman from California [Mr. DIXON], the ranking member on our subcommittee and my predecessor as subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO], the gentlelady from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR], and the ranking member of the committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY].

I want to especially thank the full committee chairman, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], for his extraordinary efforts on this bill. He took time to participate in our markups and meetings while still tending to other important appropriations matters.

Each of these Members is to be commended. I also want to thank the House and Senate staff as well as my personal staff for their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, at this point in the RECORD, I will insert a tabulation summarizing the conference action.

[The tabulation referred to follows:]