

part of the Senate that we considered important in helping us proceed with the longer term bill next year—including preserving the budget baseline and providing additional contract authority to the States so that they would not be dependent exclusively on balances of unobligated funds.

I hope this serves as a forewarning to the "Donor" States that they need to be vigilant as we continue to develop a final formula for a multi-year bill.

Chairman SHUSTER and I remain committed to modernizing the ISTEA formulas. Current formulas clearly are indefensible and have the perverse effect of reducing overall support for a strong Federal highway program. I urge the House to approve S. 1519.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and if the gentleman is prepared to yield back his time, I will do the same.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1519.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1519, the Senate bill just considered and passed.

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

There was no objection.

#### AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2979) to authorize acquisition of certain real property for the Library of Congress, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2979

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. ACQUISITION OF FACILITY IN CULPEPER, VIRGINIA.

(a) ACQUISITION.—The Architect of the Capitol may acquire on behalf of the United States Government by transfer of title, without reimbursement or transfer of funds, the following property:

(1) Three parcels totaling approximately 41 acres, more or less, located in Culpeper County, Virginia, and identified as Culpeper County Tax Parcel Numbers 51-80B, 51-80C, and 51-80D, further described as real estate

(consisting of 15.949 acres) conveyed to Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond by deed from Russell H. Inskeep and Jean H. Inskeep, his wife, dated October 1, 1964, and recorded October 7, 1964, in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court of Culpeper County, Virginia, in Deed Book 177, page 431, and real estate (consisting of 20.498 acres and consisting of 4.502 acres) conveyed to Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond by deed from Russell H. Inskeep and Jean H. Inskeep, his wife, dated November 11, 1974, and recorded November 12, 1974, in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court of Culpeper County, Virginia, in Deed Book 247, page 246.

(2) Improvements to such real property.

(b) USES.—Effective on the date on which the Architect of the Capitol acquires the property under subsection (a) such property shall be available to the Librarian of Congress for use as a national audiovisual conservation center.

#### SEC. 2 LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

Section 11 of the Act entitled "An Act relating the policing of the buildings of the Library of Congress" approved August 4, 1950 (2 U.S.C. 167(j)), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) For the purposes of this Act, the term 'Library of Congress buildings and grounds' shall include the following property:

"(1) Three parcels totaling approximately 41 acres, more or less, located in Culpeper County, Virginia, and identified as Culpeper County Tax Parcel Numbers 51-80B, 51-80C, and 51-80D, further described as real estate (consisting of 15.949 acres) conveyed to Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond by deed from Russell H. Inskeep and Jean H. Inskeep, his wife, dated October 1, 1964, and recorded October 7, 1964, in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court of Culpeper County, Virginia, in Deed Book 177, page 431; and real estate (consisting of 20.498 acres and consisting of 4.502 acres) conveyed to Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond by deed from Russell H. Inskeep and Jean H. Inskeep, his wife, dated November 11, 1974, and recorded November 12, 1974, in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court of Culpeper County, Virginia, in Deed Book 247, page 246.

"(2) Improvements to such real property."

#### SEC. 3. ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFERRED GIFT OR TRUST FUNDS.

Gifts or trust funds given to the Library or the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for the structural and mechanical work and refurbishment of Library buildings and grounds specified in section 1 shall be transferred to the Architect of the Capitol to be spent in accordance with the provisions of the first section of the Act of June 29, 1922 (2 U.S.C. 141).

#### SEC. 4. FUND FOR TRANSFERRED FUNDS

There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund consisting of those gift or trust funds transferred to the Architect of the Capitol under section 3. Upon prior approval of the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives and Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, amounts in the fund shall be available to the Architect of the Capitol, subject to appropriation, to remain available until expended, for the structural and mechanical work and refurbishment of Library buildings and grounds. Such funds shall be available for expenditure in fiscal year 1998, subject to the prior approval of the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

#### SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the provisions of this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) SPECIAL RULE FOR INCLUSION OF PROPERTY WITHIN LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.—The amendment made by section 2 shall take effect upon the acquisition by the Architect of the Capitol of the property described in section 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] and the gentlewoman from Michigan [Ms. KILPATRICK] each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2979 is an attempt at the end of this Congress, in working with the Senate, and the Senate has a bill they are attempting to move on the other side which would authorize the Architect of the Capitol to acquire on behalf of the United States Government a gift of property located in Culpeper, Virginia.

This property is unique in terms of the uses that the Librarian will make of it. As my colleagues may know, in the early 20th century, the then new technology captured the American experience on film and in various forms of audio retention.

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Unfortunately, in the late 19th and early 20th century, the technology produced a product which, over time, can become highly volatile. Many of these early film archives are currently preserved on military bases, much as you would munitions.

Our goal was to seek a facility which would allow the Librarian not only to preserve these artifacts but, in the process of preserving them, make them available for those who might wish to utilize the Library's resources, as they do with books and other artifacts that the Library of Congress now holds.

Since, for example, the acetate film is located on military bases, pretty obviously we cannot just use any building. We are very, very fortunate in having in Culpeper, Virginia, a facility which has been made available which, with relatively minor changes beyond the already wonderful facility that it is, will allow us to accomplish this long-desired goal of the Librarian.

In addition to that, the funds for this facility are a gift. We have some benefactors who are willing to provide the funds that will not only allow us to purchase the Culpeper facility, but funds that will allow us to begin to do the kinds of things that we need to do to it to make it an even more enhanced repository.

So what this bill does is allow us to acquire the property. It provides for the transfer of gifts to the Library trust fund controlled by the authorizing committees, the Committee on House Oversight and the Committee on Rules in the Senate, for appropriated funds controlled by the appropriations committees.

We have incorporated in the bill an amendment that was requested on the Senate side by the minority, agreed to

by the chairman of the Committee on Rules, the distinguished gentleman from Virginia, Senator WARNER, and I would ask that all Members support this marvelous acquisition for the retention of these films and audio artifacts.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I will place in the RECORD a letter from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure clearly indicating that, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of that committee, and we certainly acknowledge the jurisdiction of that committee, in the interest of the time line which we need to make this decision, that the committee would not exercise its jurisdiction in this matter but certainly retains its jurisdiction over this subject matter.

The letter referred to is as follows:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE, CONGRESS OF  
THE UNITED STATES, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, November 12, 1997.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,  
Chairman, Committee on House Oversight,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR BILL: I am writing in reference to H.R. 2979, a bill authorizing the acquisition of certain real property for the Library of Congress, which was initially referred to the Committee on House Oversight.

As you know, pursuant to clause 1(q)(11) of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction over measures relating to the construction, reconstruction, maintenance and care of the buildings and grounds of the Library of Congress. H.R. 2979 would expand the Library of Congress's real property inventory, and thus expand this Committee's jurisdictional responsibilities with regard to any form of building repair or improvements.

It is clear that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 2979. However, as I do not wish to prevent or prolong consideration of the measure, I will not request a sequential referral of this bill. Nonetheless, this decision should not be deemed a waiver of this Committee's jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in the bill, jurisdictional prerogatives of similar provisions in the future, or the right to be conferees should the bill go to conference.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2979, and ask that a copy of my letter on this matter be placed in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the Floor.

I am pleased to support the concept of the legislation, and I look forward to working with you on future matters related to the Library of Congress.

With warm, personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,  
Chairman.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, if I could, the minority side is not represented at the moment, and I would ask to claim the time on the minority side, since we are not represented.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO].

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am not particularly aware of the merits of this bill, but I would like to go to the procedure before us.

The House is being kept here because Republicans are unable to get the Committee on Rules to meet and bring forward the appropriations bills. We could bring those bills forward tomorrow in the regular order. There is no reason the House, which was kept in session until midnight or later 3 or 4 nights last weekend while they tried to force the votes on fast track, there is no reason to keep the House here again tonight.

So I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the other side consider where we are going. The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is here, and perhaps he has some news about the appropriations bill.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I most certainly do. Let me say, I may be the most optimistic Member of this body, but let me say I think we are getting out of here tomorrow afternoon. The reason is that the Committee on Rules was scheduled to meet about 45 minutes ago with the minority members, but the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], a very respected and outstanding Member of this body, asked for another hour to look at two conference reports, one the D.C. appropriations conference report, the other the foreign operations conference report. They are completed. We will meet at 10 minutes of 9:00. Because the gentleman wants me to, I will be down here at 9 o'clock with both of them.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, if I could ask the gentleman, he will be out here at 9 o'clock with both the bills. Is that as good a promise as the moving target on fast track last week, which was going to be on the hour or the half-hour for 5 hours?

Mr. SOLOMON. Give or take a few minutes one way or the other.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman. I accept that rather strong assurance from the chairman that within 40 minutes we will be completing the real business before the House, as opposed to the legislation before us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of the time to the gentleman from Michigan [Ms. KILPATRICK].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan [Ms. KILPATRICK] is recognized to control the time.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the gentleman from Oregon characterizes this as not the real legislation before the House. Quite frankly, it is in the best tradition. There are private individuals

who are contributing more than \$10 million so that all Americans can have access to historical artifacts.

Frankly, the gentleman does a disservice to the House and those individuals who continue to contribute major sums so that the American people can enjoy these kinds of artifacts in a preserved fashion, not just at the time they are produced through the 20th century but for all times.

If the gentleman believes this trivializes the House, then I really wish the gentleman would not claim time if he has no understanding whatsoever of the material in front of him.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). The gentleman will state the point of personal privilege.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Having been demeaned by the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, I would like the opportunity to respond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman demand that words spoken in debate be taken down?

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman from Michigan [Ms. KILPATRICK] yield me 1 minute?

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is not in order for the gentleman to have time yielded at this point.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I control the time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I will wait for 1 minute later to respond.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY], in whose district this facility resides, and whose help was instrumental in acquiring this property for a very attractive price, which allows us to stretch this gift far beyond just the purchase of the property, but to add improvements to the property as well.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, which will allow the Library of Congress to accept a gift of the Federal Reserve facility located at Mount Pony in Culpeper County, VA. I also rise today to recognize and thank the gentleman from California, Mr. BILL THOMAS and the gentleman from New York, Mr. JIM WALSH, for their hard work on this important legislation.

The Library of Congress has had statutory responsibility for collecting and preserving audiovisual materials for nearly 100 years. The Library presently holds the most comprehensive collection in the world in all audiovisual formats, from nitrate to digitalized materials. The Library presently stores these materials at scattered locations throughout the United States, including a facility in Suitland, MD.

The General Services Administration has, however, ordered the Library to

vacate its 27 nitrate vaults in Suitland by May 1998 in order that they may be torn down. This leaves the Library in a precarious position. They need a place to store the film. They want it to be local, and they want to establish a permanent facility for this material so that they do not have to constantly look for short-term storage solutions.

Located in Culpeper County, VA, which is just a short drive from the Capitol, is a Federal Reserve facility which was created as a high security facility for currency and gold reserve storage.

However, the Federal Reserve back in Richmond has been attempting to sell the property for the past 7 years because it no longer needs it. The Richmond Fed has placed an end-of-the-year deadline on the sale of this facility. If the facility is not sold, they are going to transfer it to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving.

The Library views the Federal Reserve facility in Culpeper as the most cost-effective solution to their problem. It is large enough to accommodate their needs, it is close enough to Washington, and it has the climate controls necessary for storing the material. Essentially, the facility is perfect for the creation of a single, centralized national audiovisual and digital master conservation center. In this center the Library will store, preserve, process, and make accessible the entire national audiovisual collection.

The important thing about this legislation is that it will enable the Library to do what it needs to in order to preserve the material, but it will not cost the American taxpayers any money. The cost of purchasing the facility has been donated generously by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation.

Moreover, the Packard Foundation will provide funds, as the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS], the chairman of the committee, has said, will provide funds not only for the purchase of the facility, but they are providing millions of dollars for the restoration and refurbishment of the facility.

This is a good bill and it is a necessary bill, because if we do not act before adjournment, the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank will proceed with the transfer of the Culpeper facility to the BPE. The Library will miss a golden opportunity if we do not act now, so I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

I thank the gentleman from California for all of his work.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFazio].

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time. I am glad we are back in the regular order and that the ranking member representing the minority is now on the floor of the House.

I am sorry that the majority felt that they had to proceed out of the reg-

ular order with this legislation and, in fact, that they felt that they had to hold the House here late in the evening for legislation which could have been dispatched tomorrow during regular business hours.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation, as described by the gentleman from Virginia, whom I do hold in high regard, obviously has merit, and we appreciate the gift. I wish that the Library of Congress did not have to go begging for gifts and that the Republican majority would better fund the Library of Congress, but given the fact that they do not have adequate funds, these sorts of gifts are absolutely vital to maintain our national heritage.

To the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS], whom I hold in minimally high regard, I do not appreciate his words, and I would say that they are generally characteristic of his performance on the floor. That is why he is held in minimal high regard by so many Members of this body.

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

The gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFazio] does not understand what is going on around here, notwithstanding his ability to come to the microphone and make pronouncements.

We proceeded in regular order tonight. This was scheduled sometime ago by the Committee on Rules. If Members from the minority are not able to be here, I am sure there are good reasons. I said I would wait. I was instructed by the minority to go forward, so the gentleman from Oregon is simply misinformed.

As a matter of fact, we tried to do this last Monday night, but in terms of their unwillingness to move needed legislation, the objections that were heard on his side of the aisle required us to wait until Wednesday to conclude this.

Notwithstanding his involvement in this process and his clear statement on the record that this is not real work, or his attempts to make light of Americans wishing to assist through their ability to contribute to the Library of Congress and to the Smithsonian, this is important legislation, timely legislation, and necessary legislation.

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I, too, believe that this is valuable legislation before us. Any time a citizen of America would want to donate to the better good of this country, we all would welcome that. Certainly we do in this instance.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation which authorizes the acquisition, without cost to the Government, of an existing facility to be used by the Library of Congress. The Library plans to convert a vacant building now owned by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond to an audio-visual preservation center.

The building is located in Culpeper, VA. It will be acquired through a most generous do-

nation by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. The Packard Foundation will also contribute \$4.5 million above the purchase price of \$5.5 million to equip and maintain the building.

The Librarian of Congress says he needs this building and its 40 acre site to consolidate the extensive film, video tape, and sound recording materials now stored in five separate locations. This facility will become the national center for the storage and processing of these collections. The Library will then be able to vacate outdated facilities at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, underground vaults in Boyers, PA, three warehouses in the Washington suburbs, and in the main Library itself.

The Library's intent will be to establish a modern audio-visual collections center which will contain the necessary climate controls to process and store nitrate and acetate film and movies, and a variety of multimedia video and sound recordings. It will also be possible to connect the Culpeper facility to the main Library with fiber optic links to make accessible the entire national audio-visual collection.

We have not yet seen the complete scope of the project nor do we yet have a complete cost analysis based on construction design and estimates. The Library, however, has provided estimates prepared by an accounting firm that indicates placing the center at Culpeper will cost less than the additional investments that would otherwise be necessary to update current storage and processing facilities or to build new facilities elsewhere.

The Library and the Architect of the Capitol will prepare the requisite estimates for the normal appropriations cycle. They will be reviewed by the Committee on Appropriations in regular order. It is my hope that most of all of the funds can be derived from additional philanthropic support to minimize the need for taxpayer funding of this new operation. That is the intent of the Librarian, as I understand it.

I support this authorization. The Librarian has made the case for it and I commend the chairman of the Committee on House Oversight, BILL THOMAS, for bringing this legislation to the House.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2979, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2979, as amended.