

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1997 will save \$105 million. I believe the actual amount will be higher, as GSA suggests, particularly if implementation is performed diligently. Poor management of the Federal Government's massive travel expenditures is wasting millions of tax dollars every year. The Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1997 will improve Federal agency operations and enhance efficiency. I look forward to the passage of H.R. 930.

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My thanks to the chairman for working with the minority in drafting the manager's amendment to this bill. The Government spends over \$7.5 billion annually on travel and relocation costs. I rise in support of this bill and in support of streamlining Government paperwork and saving the taxpayers millions in Government travel expenses.

It is so simple. H.R. 930 just calls for the use of one travel card, one bill to pay, one bill to check. If every Government employee simply used this card for all travel related expenses, taxpayers would gain \$105 million. The card comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee. Employees must be reimbursed within a month of their payment. H.R. 930 does allow the agency to deduct certain unpaid travel charges from paychecks, unless the employee is disputing the charges.

Even those deductions will not exceed 15 percent of the traveler's wages. H.R. 930 also calls for a review of shipping and other transportation expenses before they are paid. That seems extremely reasonable.

Do not we all look at our bills before we pay them? This measure alone will save \$50 million a year. Simplicity saves. Complications cost. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY], the ranking Democrat on the subcommittee, for her complete cooperation in this further economy which the subcommittee has made over the last 2½ years.

I think we saved \$2 to \$3 billion in legislation last year. And, as was noted, GSA says we will save \$50 million this year. The Congressional Budget Office says we will save \$150 million over the next 5 years.

In any case, it is real money and it is money the taxpayers do not have to expend by more efficiency and effectiveness.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will pass H.R. 930, the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1997 under suspension of the rules. I would like to discuss a provision of that bill which was not raised today concerning the pilot programs on travel which agencies may conduct under the bill.

Mr. Speaker, one of the pilot programs which I would like to see conducted involves not only sound management practices, but family values as well. Last year, H.R. 3637, the Travel Reform and Savings Act, contained a provision which would have given discretionary authority to an agency to pay employment assistance services to a spouse of an employee relocated to another duty station by the agency. That provision was not specifically included in H.R. 930. However, there is authority under section 4 of that bill to test this worthy provision, subject to certain congressional oversight procedures. GSA's general counsel's office concurs with this reading of the legislation, and Chairman HORN indicated a positive reaction to this suggestion at a subcommittee hearing held on the bill.

Authorizing employment services on behalf of a spouse of a relocated employee is one of the recommendations of an indepth report by the interagency Joint Financial Management Improvement project. As that report points out, private sector companies have already discovered that to recruit and retain the best work force and ensure that relocated employees are fully productive, some form of employment assistance for relocating spouses represents money well spent. I am persuaded that what makes sense for the private sector makes sense in most cases for the Government. We need to determine if that is the case here.

As I said, section 4 of H.R. 930 authorizes GSA to approve test programs in connection with payment of employee relocation. I believe that such a test program may well show that such assistance is in the best interest of the Government. And I believe it would be cost effective in terms of improved employee performance and reliability. We need to find out. In that regard, it is important to note that Congress will have an opportunity to preview proposed test programs and to review a report of their results. We can then make a fully informed decision about the extent to which these services are in the Government's interest.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I believe we need to test this proposal and urge GSA to favorably consider such a pilot program.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 930, 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.

DONATING RETIRING FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINES TO HANDLERS

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 173) to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to authorize donation of surplus Federal law enforcement canines to their handlers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 173

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION TO DONATE SURPLUS LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINES TO THEIR HANDLERS.

Section 203 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 484) is amended by adding at the end of the following:

“(r) The head of a Federal agency having control of a canine that has been used by a Federal agency in the performance of law enforcement duties and that has been determined by the agency to be no longer needed for official purposes may donate the canine to an individual who has experience handling canines in the performance of those duties.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] will each control 20 minutes.

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, this measure concerns Federal surplus property in the form of dogs. Typically, these dogs are trained in law enforcement and drug interdiction. The bulk of the 500 dogs currently serving the Federal Government are used by the Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and other law enforcement agencies.

Under current law, when an agency no longer needs a dog, it is screened to see if another Federal agency needs that dog. If no Federal use is required, the dog can be donated to a State or local law enforcement agency.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the minority has no objection to this bill. We support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. GALLEGLY], the author of this innovative piece of legislation.

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

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 173, legislation I introduced to address the unique situation encountered when Federal law enforcement canines are no longer able to perform the duties for which they were trained.

Essentially, this bill streamlines the adoption of Federal law enforcement canines by handlers and allows for a more humane end to the canine's career. As my colleagues know, these trained dogs are considered Federal property, but when their service comes to an end, they are declared surplus property.

Under GSA regulations to dispose of Federal property, agencies must follow certain procedures that ensure the maximum amount competition for the purchase of such property.

In many cases, such as the Border Patrol, Park Police, Customs, and Secret Service, this surplus property is a

canine that has served alongside officers enforcing our laws. Because of their unique role, many of these animals have had protection training, which could make them a danger to public safety if they are handled by someone who had not been trained in this capacity.

As a result, these canines should not simply be sold to the highest bidder at an auction to be taken home as a family pet. Unfortunately, if no appropriate trained handler comes forward to bid on the property, there is a possibility that this dog would be caged or even in some cases destroyed.

This is hardly humane, a hardly humane treatment of an animal that has spent its life protecting Americans and upholding our laws.

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According to the CRS research, there are over 500 canines in service of the Federal Government. H.R. 173 would allow the surplus canines to be donated to their handlers, who would thereby assume all the costs and responsibilities related to the care of that animal.

This is a simple solution to a unique problem that confronts our Federal law enforcement canine units. H.R. 173 removes the hoops agencies must jump through to place a canine that has served our country with a handler and a nurturing home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] and the committee's action on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 173 to ease the adoption of Federal law enforcement canines.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 173, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to authorize donation of Federal law enforcement canines that are no longer needed for official purposes to individuals with experience handling canines in the performance of law enforcement duties."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF JACKIE ROBINSON

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 61) honoring the lifetime achievements of Jackie Robinson.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 61

Whereas Jackie Robinson was the first four sport letterman at the University of California at Los Angeles;

Whereas on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson was the first African-American to cross the color barrier and play for a major league baseball team;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, whose career began in the Negro Leagues, went on to be named Rookie of the Year and subsequently led the Brooklyn Dodgers to six National League pennants and a World Series championship;

Whereas Jackie Robinson's inspiring career earned him recognition as the first African-American to win a batting title, lead the league in stolen bases, play in an All-Star game, win a Most Valuable Player award, play in the World Series and be elected to baseball's Hall of Fame;

Whereas after retiring from baseball Jackie Robinson was active in the civil rights movement and founded the first bank owned by African-Americans in New York City;

Whereas his legacy continues to uplift the Nation through the Jackie Robinson Foundation that has provided 425 scholarships to needy students;

Whereas Jackie Robinson's courage, dignity, and example taught the Nation that what matters most is not the color of a man's skin but rather the content of his character;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, in his career, consistently demonstrated that how you play the game is more important than the final score;

Whereas Jackie Robinson's life and heritage help make the American dream more accessible to all; and

Whereas April 15, 1997, marks the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's entrance into major league baseball: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the achievements and contributions of Jackie Robinson be honored and celebrated; that his dedication and sacrifice be recognized; and that his contributions to African-Americans and to the Nation be remembered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] and the gentleman from New York [Mrs. Maloney] each will control 20 minutes.

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may yield my time to the gentleman from Oklahoma, [Mr. WATTS], and that he be permitted to yield blocks of time.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS].

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 61. This resolution encourages all Americans to remember the achievements of Jackie Robinson at this important time in our country's history.

There is something magical about the firsts in our society. I sometimes think God gave them broader shoulders to carry the tremendous load they have had to bear to make life better and pro-

vide greater opportunities for the rest of us.

The list of firsts is long and should never be forgotten. The Rosa Parkses, the Frederick Douglasses, the Arthur Ashes, the Marian Andersons, the James Merediths, the Jesse Owens and, in Oklahoma, Prentiss Gault and Ada Louis Sipuels, and most recently in our Nation we know of Tiger Woods. These are all men and women who had the courage, heart and insight to be the first to create change in our society.

Being the first can often be lonely, but these American heroes have had the strength to push ahead and find justice where injustice had prevailed.

As a former professional athlete, I am thankful for the Jackie Robinsons and the firsts of this world. They have gone before and not only opened the door but they have left it wide open for people like me.

April 15, 1947, was the first day that Jackie Robinson crossed the color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers. What made Jackie Robinson so memorable was that his list of achievements did not stop with that crashing of racial barriers. His accomplishments, including being named Rookie of the Year and leading the Dodgers to six National League pennants, including a World Series championship, matched his bravery.

Jackie Robinson understood that he could lock arms with other blacks and fight racism and fight bigotry, but he also understood that success is determined by the individual effort, not by the group.

Jackie was a true entrepreneur. His life did not stop with baseball. He went on to be active in the Civil Rights movement during the 1960's. He served in Governor Nelson Rockefeller's administration and started the first black-owned bank in New York City, as well as a construction firm.

Last night the Nation celebrated this anniversary during the fifth inning of the Dodgers-Mets game. Mrs. Robinson graciously accepted the accolades and America paused to recognize number 42.

Athletics is one of the few arenas today where we are judged on our merits. If an individual is good enough to play, they play. Jackie is an icon because of his integrity and character and what he proved by being the first and opening the door. He accomplished more for all people than he could have accomplished in Washington with more legislation.

There is a lesson in the life of Jackie Robinson for all of us.

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Jackie Robinson is a true American hero. Fifty years ago yesterday he stood up against racism, prejudice and hate and changed this country for the better. We applaud the strength that