

We can't change nature, but we can change the rules to help not hinder our farm families.

Mr. Speaker, my friends and neighbors look to Congress for help. And, that's what this bill would deliver. I agree with Chairman BOB SMITH and I'm a cosponsor of this important legislation. I urge Members to support this legislation. It's good for the environment, good for the farmer, and good for the taxpayer.

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

□ 1445

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. SMITH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1342, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO FRANK SINATRA

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 279) to award a congressional gold medal to Francis Albert Sinatra.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 279

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

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to Francis Albert "Frank" Sinatra a gold medal of appropriate design, in recognition of his accomplishments as an entertainer and humanitarian, which include—

(1) having a career in the entertainment industry spanning 5 decades where he produced, directed, or appeared in more than 50 motion pictures, recorded thousands of songs with annual sales numbering in the millions, and won many major awards in American popular entertainment including 7 Grammys, a Peabody, an Emmy and a Best Supporting Actor Oscar; and

(2) earning the Life Achievement Award of the NAACP, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his humanitarian and social justice efforts.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$30,000 to carry out this section.

SEC. 2. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) STRIKING AND SALE.—The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 1 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT OF APPROPRIATION.—The appropriation used to carry out section 1 shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of sales under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

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

This afternoon, I rise in support of H.R. 279, the bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Francis Albert Sinatra, a man who is perhaps better known to many Americans as Old Blue Eyes, the Chairman of the Board, or simply the Voice.

Mr. Speaker, the standard for a Congressional Gold Medal is that the recipient must be someone who has performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major achievement in the recipient's field long after the achievement itself. Frank Sinatra's career in music and entertainment clearly meets and exceeds this standard.

Frank Sinatra is perhaps the greatest singer of popular American music of this century. His career spans over 6 decades. Sinatra's style, phrasing, timing and of course his voice have influenced and set the standard for American singers since World War II. In my home State of Delaware and across the country, there are radio stations that for years have devoted weekly shows of 3 hours or more to the music of Frank Sinatra.

There are few musicians or singers whose music can inspire and sustain that type of long-term interest and enthusiasm. From his big band days with the Harry James and Tommy Dorsey orchestras to his seminal work on the Capitol label with the Nelson Riddle orchestra in the 1950's, Frank Sinatra became the preeminent American popular singer.

He made the swinging Sinatra style of the 1960's and the 1970's the standard and continued to gain new fans in the 1980's and 1990's. Frank Sinatra helped define what Americans listen to and what people all over the world consider to be American music. From his own contemporaries to rock musicians today, everyone recognizes the impact Frank Sinatra has had on American popular music and culture.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation did not materialize overnight. It represents the hard work of a number of Members, particularly the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO], the sponsor, with bipartisan help from his colleagues the gentleman from New York [Mr. KING], the gentleman from California [Mr. BONO], and others. The gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] has been a longtime advocate of a Congressional Gold Medal for Frank Sinatra.

This legislation has not received any special treatment. I told the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] that it must demonstrate broad support by getting 290 cosponsors in the House. To their credit, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO], the gentleman from New York [Mr. KING], the gentleman from California [Mr. BONO], and other Members went to work to develop the support necessary to give Frank Sinatra the highest civilian honor this Congress can award. The bill has 302 cosponsors, including bipartisan support from Members of the House leadership, and the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] wants to be a sponsor, too. He just asked me.

Mr. Speaker, before the ranking member of the subcommittee is recognized, I urge the House to show its high hopes, think of a summer wind, say I get a kick out of you and make 1997 a very good year by awarding this gold medal to the man who did it my way. I urge the immediate adoption of H.R. 279.

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

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

First of all, let me thank the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] for expediting getting this bill to the floor. As always, the gentleman has been most gracious with his time and flexibility to allow us to bring this bill out today. I also wish to congratulate the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] for his sponsorship, his diligence, his tenacity. I am grateful that the gentleman has expedited this bill coming, furthermore, because the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] has driven me crazy trying to make sure that at the point that he had his 290 signatures we would be willing to bring it to the floor.

So I think this is a great day for us and a great day for the Sinatra family, Frank especially, and a great day for the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] and the leadership that he has provided.

I do not intend to take much time. Several Members have comments and remarks about Mr. Sinatra to make. But let me just say that although Mr. Sinatra is from Hoboken, NJ, he has always identified with the State and city of New York. Everyone knows his rendition of "New York, New York."

Few, however, realize his accomplishments as a complete entertainer. He has won an Emmy, Grammy, Peabody, and an Oscar. He has also been honored

with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences Humanitarian Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the NAACP.

Other Members will undoubtedly comment on the more personal reflections about Mr. Sinatra, but from my viewpoint he is an American icon. His influence is still felt today as it was when he first entered into the entertainment field, and he represents an entire generation of complete and gifted entertainers that the younger generations would do well to emulate.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will close and extend my support for unanimous passage of this great honor and look forward to giving whatever support is necessary in assuring that Frank Sinatra is given his just and proper due as an American citizen and as one who has contributed so much to us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO], the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. SERRANO. I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, let me first of all thank the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE], the gentleman from New York [Mr. KING], and the gentleman from California [Mr. BONO], the leadership of both Houses, the gentleman from New York [Mr. QUINN], and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] for giving me the support necessary to bring this bill to the floor and certainly the 303 cosponsors to sign on to this bill.

I guess the best way to begin is the way I most like to start when I talk to people about Frank Sinatra. When my father came back from the Army after World War II, he brought home with him to Puerto Rico a set of 78 RPM records. It was my introduction to the English language, and it was my introduction to the voice of Frank Sinatra. I immediately fell in love with both. The English language I try to perfect on a daily basis, and the Frank Sinatra singing I was smart enough not to try to imitate. But throughout all of these 40 odd years, the love affair between Mr. Sinatra's talent and this person born in Puerto Rico and raised in the Bronx has been something that as I step back today even I find extraordinary.

I own 290 Sinatra records, LP's, hundreds of CD's and tapes, pictures, books, over 30 films, on video of course. My e-mail address is Frank 2 even though my name is JOSE, and one can hear Mr. Sinatra on my answering machine. I have been influenced by his singing to the point which I suspect is the reason why I am a New Yorker who says Tuesday rather than Tuesday because Mr. Sinatra would have never sung Tuesday. His language and his style was used by many to perfect their English.

I do not remember the last day that I have not listened to a Sinatra record. I do not remember the last time that I

passed up a radio station that was playing his music. His music to me is no different than his music to so many other people. It serves this incurable romantic with the ability to listen to the best music the world has ever heard. Whether it was a swinging ballad or a sad, tear-jerking ballad, Sinatra did it his way and did it better than anyone else.

In the other language that I operate in, from Julio Iglesias to local singers like Danny Rivera, when you talk to them, they all tell you that the master of them all is and has been Frank Sinatra. Who stays at the top of their game for 60 years? We have had a couple of people here who stayed past 50, and we knew what a record they set. Longevity for him has been something to really look at. But then there is Frank Sinatra the humanitarian, Frank Sinatra the American citizen, the one who raised money for so many different organizations, the one who sold war bonds at the beginning of his career and, may I say, this bill mandates that the Mint will sell replicas of this medal to the public, and I suspect that at the end of the career Sinatra once again will be part of pulling a lot of money into the Treasury.

For me personally, this is a very important day, because it is my way of saying thank you. It is my way of saying thank you to this individual who brought so much joy to the world through his singing and through his talent. It is my way, also, of saying thank you for not being afraid in a society that is pretty tough to cry in public, for, you see, Mr. Sinatra in his love songs cried on a daily basis, and we Americans are not supposed to cry.

My father once told me, in Spanish, that the English language had taken a bad rap, that some people had suggested that it was not a romantic language, and my father Jose, I will never forget this, said to me, but if the language is sung and spoken properly, it is as romantic as Spanish, French, or Italian. Well, my father was right. And Mr. Sinatra was the living example and is the living example of the fact that English is indeed a romantic language.

He is watching us today on TV at this very moment. His family is all watching the proceedings of the House. He has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He has received the NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award. He has received an Oscar for humanitarian work in addition to an Oscar for costarring in a movie. He has received every possible award you can receive in this country, in Israel and France, in Italy, in Brazil, all over the world.

But today as the people's representative, we are all saying that we are a grateful Nation. We say thank you, Frank Sinatra, thank you for singing, thank you for performing, thank you for being you.

I say personally, thank you, Frank Sinatra, for proving that my father was right. English indeed is a beautiful and romantic language and you showed the world how to do it right.

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

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

To my friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO], we have some time over here and if I could, if the Speaker would allow us to yield time to him to sing whatever he would like of Frank Sinatra's works. I even have a tape that my chief of staff said was his best, "Only the Lonely." We could put that on and the gentleman could sing for a while. We would appreciate that.

Mr. FLAKE. If the gentleman will yield, I think the gentleman ought to be made to sing it in Spanish and in English. I think that would be great for us.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] has done an admirable job on this legislation. It is not easy to get 300 signatures of the Members of Congress to anything, for all that matters. We did sort of crack the whip on it, he has worked on it a long time, and I do congratulate him. This is a great day for him as well as the Sinatra family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. KING].

□ 1500

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] for yielding this time to me, and I thank him for the tremendous job he has done in moving this to the floor, and of course the distinguished ranking member, my neighbor in the next-door community of Queens, NY [Mr. FLAKE] for always being such a worthy advocate of so many good causes, and most importantly of course we have to commend and congratulate the gentleman from Bronx, NY [Mr. SERRANO] for all he has done. And I fully concur with the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] in that the other gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] drove us all crazy in getting this done. There was not a day that went by that he was not on the floor working it, making sure that I was working and making sure that the gentleman from California [Mr. BONO] was working, making sure that everything was in order to make sure that this was done and done properly. I just want to thank the gentleman from New York, [Mr. SERRANO] for once again showing the tremendous leadership that he shows on so many of the issues and, of course, to commend the gentleman from California [Mr. BONO] for his work, and also Senator D'AMATO, who has attained the passage of similar legislation in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Sinatra is truly an American legend. Frank Sinatra, as much as anyone ever, deserves this gold medal which is being voted to him today. Frank Sinatra, as the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] has pointed out, was and is an amazing singer, a person who was able to touch

the hearts of so many millions of Americans generation after generation. He was also an outstanding actor. He also, though, probably most importantly personified what it means to be an American. Frank Sinatra gave of himself to so many philanthropic causes and charitable causes, helped out so many people which most people do not even know about, always there, a helping hand, a person willing to help out and a person who fought his way up, a person who climbed out of poverty, a person who worked his way up all the way to the top to the very pinnacle of success, but never ever forgot where he came from.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] said, Frank Sinatra certainly did do it his way, and today this is a most fitting tribute to him and to his family for all that he has meant to so many generations of Americans. I know my father, my uncles and my mother and all of us always cherished the voice of Frank Sinatra and cherished what Frank Sinatra meant to so many people. And as a New Yorker, without any reflection on Chicago or whatever, I would say that "New York, New York" is the national anthem of New York. It was sung by Frank Sinatra and in many ways personifies the spirit of New York.

So I am very proud to be joining with all of my colleagues today in supporting this legislation, and again I want to thank my friends, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] and the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] for their help, and I certainly urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the sponsors of this resolution awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Frank Sinatra. This honor is special for me since my congressional district is the birth place of the "Chairman of the Board."

Frank Sinatra has been the idol of generations of Americans from the 1930's onward. His unique voice has touched Americans of all races and nationalities. In addition to his talents as a singer, he has had a distinguished acting career, including earning an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1953 for his performance in "From Here to Eternity."

His countless musical hits will inspire Americans for generations. Although his accomplishments in the field of entertainment are legendary, he has also donated his time and effort to charitable and philanthropic work for organizations such as the Red Cross and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society among others.

With these accomplishments, he has distinguished himself as a great American. He serves as a notable example of the worthwhile contributions Italian-Americans have made to the Nation. From the Hoboken Four to Hoboken's No. 1, it is only fitting to honor Frank Sinatra, Hoboken's favorite son, with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I stand before the House today to encourage each and every one of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the talents, accomplishments, and legacy of one Francis Albert Sinatra.

The world has been paying tribute to Frank Sinatra for more than 50 years, and I dare say will continue for another 550, so rather than try to top all the accolades that have already been heaped on this great artist, I will simply offer some thoughts on the impact Frank Sinatra has made on me and on the rich and diverse community that is the 3rd Congressional District of Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the great fortune to attend a number of Frank Sinatra's live performances at The Centrum in Worcester, MA. To walk into that great hall and see the wonderful diversity of Sinatra lovers is testament to the impact this man has had on American culture. White, Black, young, old and in-between, Democrats and Republicans, we were all brought together by the common thread of our love and appreciation for the music of Frank Sinatra.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal level, I owe much to the "Chairman of the Board." It is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that I first wooed my wife with the lyrics of a popular Sinatra ballad, "I've Got the World on a String." And I dare say, millions of my fellow Americans can track the progress of their romances through the lyrics and croonings of "Old Blue Eyes."

Sinatra is romance, Mr. Speaker, Sinatra is love. Just listen to the titles of some of Frank's love songs: "Almost Like Being in Love;" "At Long Last Love;" "Can I Steal a Little Love;" "Don't Take Your Love From Me;" "Everybody Loves Somebody;" "Falling in Love With Love;" "I Can't Believe That You're in Love With Me;" "I Fall in Love Too Easily;" "I Love Paris;" "I Love You;" "I Wish I Were in Love Again;" "I Would Be in Love Anyway;" "Let's Fall in Love;" "The Look of Love;" "Love's Been Good to Me;" "Love Walked In;" "Love and Marriage;" "Lover;" "Melody of Love;" "The One I Love Belongs to Somebody Else;" "Our Love is Here to Stay;" "This Love of Mine;" "This Was My Love;" "To Love and Be Loved;" and one of my favorites, "What is This Thing Called Love?"

Frank Sinatra did not invent American popular music; and he certainly was not alone among the many great artists, composers, arrangers, and musicians who—together—comprise the foundation of this most American of music forms. However, Mr. Speaker, it was Frank Sinatra who defined American popular music—from the moment he first appeared on the stage during the years of the Roosevelt administration—through the years of Mitch Miller, Elvis, the Beatles, heavy metal, disco, punk, rap, new wave, grunge, and everything in between. Sinatra endures, Mr. Speaker, because his music, his grace, his presence and his message are worth enduring.

Say what you like, Mr. Speaker, but when our children, and our children's children look back on this great century—the American century—the paramount cultural icon of the period will be Francis Albert Sinatra.

His voice, his style, his artistry, his class, all qualify him for this tribute today. As Frank's daughter, Nancy, put it: "He is a man with a public image built partly on fact and largely on myth. He is a man who embraces consistency, yet embodies contradiction. A man who treats the room to caviar and champagne and himself to a sandwich and Coca-Cola." Well, Mr. Speaker, it is time for this body to treat Frank Sinatra to some caviar and champagne. It is time to recognize the man and his music. Frank, God bless you, thank you, and on be-

half of all of your friends and fans in the 3rd Congressional District of Massachusetts, thank you for sharing your many gifts with us.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage the passage of the legislation, and I, too, yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 279.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking and Financial Services be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 305) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Francis Albert "Frank" Sinatra in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions through his entertainment career and humanitarian activities, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 305

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) Francis Albert "Frank" Sinatra has touched the lives of millions around the world and across generations through his outstanding career in entertainment, which has spanned more than 5 decades;

(2) Frank Sinatra has significantly contributed to the entertainment industry through his endeavors as a producer, director, actor, and gifted vocalist;

(3) the humanitarian contributions of Frank Sinatra have been recognized in the forms of a Life-time Achievement Award from the NAACP, the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award, and the George Foster Peabody Award; and

(4) the entertainment accomplishments of Frank Sinatra, including the release of more than 50 albums and appearances in more than 60 films, have been recognized in the forms of the Screen Actors Guild Award, the Kennedy Center Honors, 8 Grammy Awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, 2 Academy Awards from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and an Emmy Award.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design to Francis Albert "Frank" Sinatra in

recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions through his entertainment career and numerous humanitarian activities.

(b) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, and at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is hereby authorized to be charged against the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized by this Act.

(b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the sales of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A similar House bill (H.R. 279) was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING TRANSFER TO STATES OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR DONATION TO NON-PROFIT PROVIDERS OF NECESSARIES TO IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 680) to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to authorize the transfer to States of surplus personal property for donation to nonprofit providers of necessities to impoverished families and individuals, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 680

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

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR DONATION TO PROVIDERS OF NECESSARIES TO IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

Section 203(j)(3)(B) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 484(j)(3)(B)) is amended by inserting after "homeless individuals" the following: "providers of assistance to families or individuals whose annual incomes are below the poverty line (as that term is defined in section 673 of the Community Services Block Grant Act)."

SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY FOR PROVIDING HOUSING OR HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 203(k) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 484(k)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6)(A) Under such regulations as the Administrator may prescribe, the Adminis-

trator may, in the discretion of the Administrator, assign to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for disposal such surplus real property, including buildings, fixtures, and equipment situated thereon, as is recommended by the Secretary as being needed for providing housing or housing assistance for low-income individuals or families.

"(B) Subject to the disapproval of the Administrator within 30 days after notice to the Administrator by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development of a proposed transfer of property for the purpose of providing such housing or housing assistance, the Secretary, through such officers or employees of the Department of Housing and Urban Development as the Secretary may designate, may sell or lease such property for that purpose to any State, any political subdivision or instrumentality of a State, or any nonprofit organization that exists for the primary purpose of providing housing or housing assistance for low-income individuals or families.

"(C) The Administrator shall disapprove a proposed transfer of property under this paragraph unless the Administrator determines that the property will be used for low-income housing opportunities through the construction, rehabilitation, or refurbishment of self-help housing, under terms that require that—

"(i) any individual or family receiving housing or housing assistance constructed, rehabilitated, or refurbished through use of the property shall contribute a significant amount of labor toward the construction, rehabilitation, or refurbishment; and

"(ii) dwellings constructed, rehabilitated, or refurbished through use of the property shall be quality dwellings that comply with local building and safety codes and standards and shall be available at prices below prevailing market prices.

"(D)(i) In fixing the sale or lease value of property to be disposed of under this paragraph, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall take into consideration and discount the value with respect to any benefit which has accrued or may accrue to the United States from the use of such property by any such State, political subdivision, instrumentality, or nonprofit organization.

"(ii) The amount of the discount under clause (i) shall be 75 percent of the market value of the property except that the Secretary may discount by a greater percentage if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that a higher percentage is justified."

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 203(k)(4) of such Act (40 U.S.C. 484(k)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking "or" after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, through such officers or employees of the Department of Housing and Urban Development as the Secretary may designate, in the case of property transferred under paragraph (6),"

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 yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 680, originally introduced by the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMIL-

TON], is a bill for the transfer of surplus personal property for donation to providers of necessities to impoverished families and individuals. This bill would authorize the transfer of surplus personal property to organizations that provide assistance to impoverished individuals. Currently Federal agencies declare about \$6 billion per year in excess Federal personal property. The property is screened by other Federal agencies to determine whether the property is needed by another Federal user. The remaining property is declared surplus and donated to State and local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other eligible groups. Agencies then sell the remaining property, generally the oldest and most obsolete property, generating very little in proceeds, about \$8 million annually.

H.R. 680 would expand the list of entities eligible to receive surplus property by authorizing the donation of surplus property to charities that provide services to poor families. These groups would be eligible for the property on the same basis as State and local government agencies. This is especially important because State and local governments and charitable organizations are assuming an even greater role in social programs as Federal assistance policies are implemented. Private charities such as food banks and Habitat for Humanity are a major source of support for the poor. The administrator of General Services may establish under this legislation restrictions on resale as necessary to insure that any property transferred is used to promote the public purpose of assisting poor families.

A volunteer conference known as the President's Summit for America's Future is currently being held in Philadelphia. This worthy goal of community voluntarism will be assisted by the passage of H.R. 680.

In addition, H.R. 680 would make available surplus Federal real estate to self-help housing groups such as Habitat For Humanity. This would promote home ownership by providing a public benefit discount to such organizations.

It is not intended that real property transferred under this act shall be used for any purpose other than providing for the construction, rehabilitation, or refurbishment of housing for occupation by low-income individuals who provided some portion of the labor associated with the housing. Congress does not intend to authorize the transfer of real property under this section for subsequent sale by any self-help housing organization except to the owner-occupant. The administrator of General Services shall condition the donation of this real property upon several requirements: First, that the housing be occupied by the owner-occupant rather than any rental tenant of the owner for a period to be established by the administrator; and second, that the self-help housing organization

limit the sale until after such reasonable period of time as the administrator considers necessary to promote home ownership while protecting the Federal financial interests. Through a contract or mortgage, the administrator shall require that the self-help housing organization ensure that any sale by the owner-occupant prior to the end of a 5-year period causes the property to revert to the self-help housing group.

Additionally, the administrator of the General Services Administration may require by contract or mortgage the owner-occupant to repay any assistance given by the Federal Government or the self-help housing organization if the property is sold within a longer period of time determined by the administrator. It is expected that the administrator would phase out this requirement after a period of 30 years. Assistance under this authority is deemed to be the difference between the estimated fair market value and the amount which the self-help housing organization paid; that is, the public benefit discount.

Additionally, Congress expects that the public benefit discount shall be 75 percent of the estimated fair market value of the property in order to get at least a 25-percent return for the taxpayers who initially purchased the property. In setting the amount of the public benefit discount, the administrator should determine whether the amount of discount would interfere with or substantially defeat the intent of this act.

I look forward to the passage of H.R. 680, and, Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY], the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Government, Management, Information, and Technology of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight that developed this legislation in consultation with the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON].

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 680.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that one person's junk can be another person's jewel. That is why the Federal Government must, like any other well run organization, offer those goods, that it can no longer use, to people who need them.

Current law limits the Federal Government's ability to give. It allows donations only to homeless people. That is an admirable start. H.R. 680, as amended, extends the giving arm of government to people who may not have lost their homes but are needy. The change will allow food banks and other organizations to better serve those people who, according to local standards, are living in poverty.

In New York City, I am assured that organizations such as City Harvest, the Phoenix House, Day Top Village and local branches of the Salvation Army,

where the real war on poverty is waged, will be better off with passage of this amendment.

In addition, we all know that land is one of America's most precious resources. When the Federal Government finds itself with more than it needs, it has a moral responsibility to use it to help others.

H.R. 680, as amended by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER], would also allow the donation of Federal surplus land to nonprofit groups such as the Habitat for Humanity, which provides homes for low-income families. People will only have to contribute a significant amount of good old-fashioned sweat equity instead of dollars to the actual building of the home in order to qualify. Of course, all local building codes must be met. These provisions preserve the GSA central role in the disposal process and have been very carefully crafted to prevent abuse.

My thanks to the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] for seriously considering the concerns of the minority and incorporating them in the manager's amendment; the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the author of this bill, also deserves all our thanks for his efforts to achieve this clearly needed change to help the impoverished; and also the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER].

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her kind comments. She has been instrumental in developing most of the legislation that comes out of our subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER] who has had a major hand in developing this legislation.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my colleagues who serve on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight for their work in moving this bill, and in particular the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] for the work that they have done in putting this package together, particularly the manager's amendment, to help deal with those who are in need in our society.

As we all know, President Clinton is in Philadelphia in an effort to promote volunteerism throughout the Nation, and I commend him for doing so. I think it is particularly appropriate today that we are considering H.R. 680. This legislation removes obstacles to volunteerism and literally puts tools in the hands of real people who want to make a difference in their own neighborhoods.

While current law allows Federal agencies to use surplus property to help low-income families, it prohibits private volunteer groups such as Habitat for Humanity from doing so. I learned about this firsthand in my own

community when the Voice of America found surplus property in my district. The local community, putting together a plan to use that property, wanted to include a section for a local Habitat for Humanity group and were told clearly by GSA that they could not do so and were prevented from doing so by Federal law.

If our goal is to make it easier for individuals to do for themselves what Government cannot, then this simply does not make sense.

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Habitat for Humanity and other volunteer groups like it have proved that they often do a better job than Government in helping low income families, but in this case Washington has not let them. H.R. 680 will finally solve this problem by simply adding private volunteer groups like Habitat to the list of community organizations that qualify for land that the Federal Government no longer needs. By giving these groups access to the land and tools that they need, they will be able to make a difference in their communities. I think we take a positive first step toward helping ordinary Americans answer the President's bipartisan call to community service. I hope that the President and others will join us in this important effort.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to add that as we speak, as we are on this floor, the President and former presidents are holding a bipartisan conference on volunteerism. This legislation is a concrete tool that will help not-for-profits and private volunteer organizations really participate more in volunteer efforts by enabling them to gain surplus property, both land and other surplus property, to meet needs for the poor in our country. It is an important piece of legislation. It is creative, it does not cost taxpayers one cent, and yet it will help many, many people.

I congratulate my colleagues for working on this, particularly the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the original sponsor, and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER], for the meaningful amendment which he added.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I think as most would agree from their comments, this is a very innovative, progressive piece of legislation, one that is bipartisan in nature, which will meet needs all over this country and help provide home ownership for a lot of our citizens who are at the poverty level in this country and cannot afford access to housing.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the passage of this legislation.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 680, which would

give more community organizations the ability to draw resources from the Federal Surplus Program.

Families across the Nation donate unwanted but usable items to organizations such as Good Will and the Salvation Army who, in turn, distribute them to families in need. The Federal Government also donates excess personal property, through the Federal Surplus Program. Usable items such as office equipment, vehicles, furniture, clothing, and other supplies are transferred to the States, who serve as collection points and distribute the items to community organizations who assist needy families and individuals.

However, current law limits the Government's donations through this initiative by restricting which organizations can receive the property. Subsequently, many organizations that could benefit from this program cannot participate. While the organizations currently taking advantage of this program are deserving of this benefit, so are many other entities that work to improve the safety and well-being of poor families in our communities. I would like to reiterate that this legislation does not give any organization or category of organizations priority to the donated items. It simply gives additional organizations the opportunity to participate in the Federal Surplus Program.

Throughout Allegheny County in my home State of Pennsylvania, there are organizations dedicated to helping those who are less fortunate, but they do not fit into categories currently eligible to participate in the Federal Surplus Program. For example, the Twin Rivers and Pittsburgh affiliates of Habitat for Humanity build affordable housing for families with low incomes. Constitution equipment has been available through the Federal Surplus Program in the past, which could go a long way in helping these groups serve more families. However, under current law, Habitat affiliates are not eligible to receive such items. Additionally, food banks, such as the Hunger Services Network, the Lutheran Service Society, and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, which provide vital nutritional support to so many families and individuals, would become eligible for the program if this legislation were passed.

Many organizations, in addition to those I have mentioned today, would be helped by the passage of this important measure. For all of these organizations, and the individuals and families they serve, it is my hope that the 105th Congress can approve this legislation, and it is enacted into law.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 680, a bill I introduced that would amend the Federal Property Act to make Federal surplus personal property available for donation to nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations that serve the poor.

I would like to take this opportunity, first, to thank Congressman STEPHEN HORN, chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Management; Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, ranking Democrat on the subcommittee; Congressman DAN BURTON, chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee; and Congressman HENRY WAXMAN, ranking Democrat on the full committee. I appreciate their support for and prompt consideration of H.R. 680 this year.

I also would like to thank Congressman JOHN BOEHNER for his leadership on this

measure. His amendment relating to surplus real property has improved the bill, and I appreciate his involvement.

I introduced this bill in previous Congresses and again this year to fill a significant gap in the donation program for Federal surplus property. The House approved an identical measure in the 103d Congress, and I am pleased the House is considering the measure again today.

In 1976 Congress authorized the General Services Administration [GSA] to transfer surplus personal property to States so that it could be donated for public purposes. States established surplus property agencies to serve as central collection and distribution points for eligible recipients, including public entities and certain nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, such as schools, hospitals, and groups whose sole mission is providing services to the homeless.

This program has been successful in States throughout the country. Personal property made available through the program has included tools, office machines and supplies, furniture, appliances, medical supplies, clothing, construction equipment, communications equipment, and vehicles.

There is, however, a major gap in the existing program. Under current law, surplus property cannot be made available for donation to many nonprofit organizations that serve the poor. Habitat for Humanity and good banks, for example, do provide services to the homeless, but this is not their exclusive mission. They also provide services to needy individuals who are not homeless, and, consequently, are ineligible for the donation program.

Making Federal surplus property available to these organizations would greatly assist them in aiding the poor. It would help the food banks that provide food to shelters, soup kitchens, and food pantries, as well as groups that recycle building materials for use in the repair and construction of homes for low-income families.

H.R. 680 would amend current law to make these organizations eligible for the Federal Surplus Program. The proposed change in law would not give these organizations preference, but just make them one of many eligible nonprofit entities.

H.R. 680 is not controversial. The House approved an identical bill—H.R. 2461—in the 103d Congress with bipartisan support. The CBO concluded at the time that the bill would result in no cost to the Federal Government or State and local governments. GSA supports this proposal. Senator LUGAR has introduced an identical bill in the other body this year.

Federal, State, and local governments have been looking to nonprofits to assume more responsibility for providing needed services to the poor, particularly in an era of budget constraints. H.R. 680 will help nonprofits provide those services more effectively by granting them access to donated Federal surplus property.

I strongly support H.R. 680, and urge my colleagues to approve the measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore Mr. SNOWBARGER. 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. 680, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXTENDING THE ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS RESEARCH PROGRAM

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 363) to amend section 2118 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to extend the Electric and Magnetic Fields Research and Public Information Dissemination program, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 363

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS.

Section 2118 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13478) is amended—

(1) in subsections (c)(5), (e)(5), (g)(3)(B), (j)(1), and (l) by striking "1997" each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof "1998"; and

(2) in subsection (j)(1), by striking "\$65,000,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$46,000,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. DAN SCHAEFER, and the gentleman from Texas Mr. HALL, each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. DAN SCHAEFER.

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 363 extends for a period of 1 year the Department of Energy's authorization to conduct research on electric and magnetic fields. In 1992 it became clear to Congress that there was a need for more research and more coordination within this particular area and more public dissemination of the information, mainly on the health effects of EMF, and thus the 5-year DOE-EMF RAPID program was authorized.

Since its creation, the RAPID program has added a great deal to our understanding on the effects of EMF. Unfortunately, however, the authorization to conduct the 5-year EMF RAPID program will expire before the program is scheduled to conclude. At the subcommittee hearing we learned this is not because the program is behind schedule, but because money was not appropriated for the program until after the first year's authorization had already passed. We want to now extend that authorization for one year to get this concluded in a logical manner.