

Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 6, 1997.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken on Wednesday, May 7, 1997.

TRADE AGENCIES AUTHORIZATIONS

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1463) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the Customs Service, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the International Trade Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1463

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

SECTION 1. CUSTOMS AND TRADE AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998 AND 1999.

(a) UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 301(b) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) FOR NONCOMMERCIAL OPERATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for the salaries and expenses of the Customs Service that are incurred in noncommercial operations not to exceed the following:

“(A) \$668,397,000 for fiscal year 1998.

“(B) \$684,018,000 for fiscal year 1999.

“(2) FOR COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS.—(A) There are authorized to be appropriated for the salaries and expenses of the Customs Service that are incurred in commercial operations not less than the following:

“(i) \$901,441,000 for fiscal year 1998.

“(ii) \$930,447,000 for fiscal year 1999.

“(B) The monies authorized to be appropriated under subparagraph (A) for any fiscal year, except for such sums as may be necessary for the salaries and expenses of the Customs Service that are incurred in connection with the processing of merchandise that is exempt from the fees imposed under section 13031(a) (9) and (10) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, shall be appropriated from the Customs User Fee Account.

“(3) FOR AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION.—There are authorized to be appropriated for the operation (including salaries and ex-

penses) and maintenance of the air and marine interdiction programs of the Customs Service not to exceed the following:

“(A) \$95,258,000 for fiscal year 1998.

“(B) \$98,226,000 for fiscal year 1999.”.

(2) SUBMISSION OF OUT-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS.—Section 301(a) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) By no later than the date on which the President submits to the Congress the budget of the United States Government for a fiscal year, the Commissioner of Customs shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate the projected amount of funds for the succeeding fiscal year that will be necessary for the operations of the Customs Service as provided for in subsection (b).”.

(b) OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 141(g)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171(g)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(g)(1)(A) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office for the purposes of carrying out its functions not to exceed the following:

“(i) \$22,092,000 for fiscal year 1998.

“(ii) \$24,300,000 for fiscal year 1999.

“(B) Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under subparagraph (A) for any fiscal year—

“(i) not to exceed \$98,000 may be used for entertainment and representation expenses of the Office; and

“(ii) not to exceed \$2,500,000 shall remain available until expended.”.

(2) SUBMISSION OF OUT-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS.—Section 141(g) of the Trade Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) By no later than the date on which the President submits to the Congress the budget of the United States Government for a fiscal year, the United States Trade Representative shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate the projected amount of funds for the succeeding fiscal year that will be necessary for the Office to carry out its functions.”.

(c) UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 330(e)(2) is amended to read as follows:

“(2)(A) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for necessary expenses (including the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia and elsewhere) not to exceed the following:

“(i) \$41,980,000 for fiscal year 1998.

“(ii) \$46,125,400 for fiscal year 1999.

“(B) Not to exceed \$2,500 of the amount authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year under subparagraph (A) may be used, subject to the approval of the Chairman of the Commission, for reception and entertainment expenses.

“(C) No part of any sum that is appropriated under the authority of subparagraph (A) may be used by the Commission in the making of any special study, investigation, or report that is requested by any agency of the executive branch unless that agency reimburses the Commission for the cost thereof.”.

(2) SUBMISSION OF OUT-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS.—Section 330(e) of the Tariff Act of 1930 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) By no later than the date on which the President submits to the Congress the budget of the United States Government for a fis-

cal year, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate the projected amount of funds for the succeeding fiscal year that will be necessary for the Commission to carry out its functions.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRANE. 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 H.R. 1463.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1463, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the U.S. Customs Service, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the International Trade Commission.

I would first like to note that a full authorization for these three agencies has not been achieved since 1990, and that those authorizations expired in 1992. I was therefore pleased that the President's modest budget submission for 1998 for these agencies could be well received by the Committee on Ways and Means. This prudent approach allowed the committee to work in a bipartisan manner to authorize appropriations which matched the President's request.

Passage of H.R. 1463 will send a strong message to our colleagues in the Senate to develop the same bipartisan view that the committees of jurisdiction must reassert their authorities over these agencies through the budget process. The bill will also provide a guideline for the appropriations committees as they consider the levels of funding necessary for these agencies to fulfill their statutory functions. H.R. 1463 produces no increase in the Federal deficit.

While H.R. 1463 does not exceed the President's overall budget submission, the Committee on Ways and Means has made one important amendment to the authorizations for the Customs Service. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. SHAW] has acted to allocate additional resources within the Customs budget to that agency's law enforcement profile by authorizing appropriations over the next 2 years for additional equipment and Customs special agents to fight the war on drugs.

The role of the Customs Service, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the International Trade Commission in advancing our bipartisan agenda for free and open trade should not be underestimated. I am proud to support H.R. 1463 and the statement it makes

in continuing the work of these agencies.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of H.R. 1463, as amended, to authorize fiscal year 1998 and 1999 appropriations for the U.S. Customs Service, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. International Trade Commission.

As the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE], the subcommittee chairman, has reported, the bill came out of the Committee on Ways and Means by voice vote and is noncontroversial. It authorizes the funding levels requested by the President in his budget submission for each of these three major trade agencies.

The gentleman from Florida [Mr. SHAW], with my support, had an amendment that passed successfully that reallocates \$5 million of the Customs commercial operations to drug interdiction efforts. We hope that these additional resources will effectively counteract the increased threat of drug smuggling in the south Florida area, as well as continued interdiction along the Southwest border and Puerto Rico. The additional drug enforcement funds will also enable Customs to increase the number of special agents dedicated to counter-narcotics and anti-money laundering activities, including their relocation to high threat drug zones.

H.R. 1463, as amended, provides the minimum funding levels necessary for the Customs Service, the U.S. Trade Representative, and the International Trade Commission to carry out their essential trade functions as mandated by the U.S. Congress. I urge support of this bill and urge my colleagues to pass it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI], the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Trade, and ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to yield time to other Members.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. Watkins].

[Mr. WATKINS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.]

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1463, and I thank the Speaker for allowing me the opportunity to come to the floor today as we debate this important legislation to reauthorize the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Customs Service and the International Trade Commission. I would like to also thank Ambassador Barshevsky and also Deputy Trade Representative Lang, and the entire staff at the USTR's office for all the work they do on behalf of the American people.

I am proud to come to the floor today and express my support for this legislation. H.R. 1463 will give the USTR's office the necessary resources to fight for fair treatment, and that is what we are asking for, fair treatment for American goods and services throughout the world.

As many of my colleagues know, I am an outspoken, strong advocate for the U.S. cattle and beef industry in their fight for open markets overseas. Since 1989, the European Union has had in place a ban on beef treated with growth producing hormones. Since these hormones are used in virtually all U.S. beef, this is a ban on all of our cattle people.

There is no scientific basis for this ban. These hormones have been proven safe in studies by the FDA, the Lamm Commission, the World Health Organization, and the EU's own Scientific Conference on Growth Promotion in Meat Production. This, Mr. Speaker, is merely a blatantly unfair economic trade barrier against our U.S. cattle people.

This ban has been in place for 8 years now, and costs American cattlemen hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Currently this case is before the WTO, the World Trade Organization, and a ruling is expected any day. I am confident that the Dispute Settlement Panel will rule on the basis of sound science and will find in favor of the United States.

However, I feel compelled to urge the USTR to remain vigilant in this case, to stay on guard. It is my understanding that even if the United States wins in this case, which it should based on all scientific evidence, it could take an additional 18 months or longer to end this dispute. This is wrong. This dispute has already drug on for some 10 years. This unmerited ban, unfair ban, coupled with the past 2 years of economic distress of the livestock industry, is a hardship on our producers and makes it hard for them to enjoy continued economic prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the USTR's office to take two specific actions: First, to examine ways to speed up the WTO's dispute settlement process so that future disputes do not drag out for years and years at a time. I would like the USTR's office to come back to Congress, to the committee, with specific proposals to speed up the process, and will push for their adoption at the WTO. We in Washington must always remember that our failure to act promptly can do tremendous harm to the people we represent.

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In many cases such as this one, justice delayed is justice denied.

The second action, I would also urge the USTR's office to continue to seek input and recommendations from the private sector, private sector businesses, and industries and agricultures, when negotiating agreements. There should never have been accepted a ban,

hormone ban, on U.S. beef that could be sold to Europe. After all, as we evaluate these bans, these are unfair trade practices against the people that we represent that are trying to make a living.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for their leadership and also the ranking members on the committee for their strong support of H.R. 1463. And I ask all the leaders of the USTR to take some bold action, some stern action, and let us do what is necessary to have fair trade practices and free trade practices for the business industry that are counted on in this country.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1463, as amended, to authorize fiscal year 1988-99 appropriations for the U.S. Customs Service, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the U.S. International Trade Commission. The Committee on Ways and Means has a long tradition of strong bipartisan support for the work of these three major trade agencies within its jurisdiction. The bill recognizes and supports the essential functions and activities of these trade agencies by authorizing the funding levels requested by the President. The bill also reflects overall budgetary constraints by authorizing the minimum amounts necessary for each of these agencies to carry out their statutory responsibilities.

The Customs Service has undergone a major reorganization, and it is modernizing its operations in order to carry out its main functions of trade law enforcement and revenue collections in addition to illegal drug interdiction and cargo and passenger processing in an effective and cost-efficient manner. The authorized funding increase for Customs is only about 3 percent, and it reflects these savings while providing additional resources to counteract drug smuggling and to update equipment.

I might point out that the Customs Commissioner, George Weise, was formerly a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means staff. He was the staff director of the Subcommittee on Trade before resuming his role at the Customs Service, and Mr. Weise has announced recently that he will be retiring from that service, and we wish him the best of luck and obviously offer him all the congratulations for all the wonderful work he has done.

The authorization for the Office of U.S. Trade Representative covers cost to maintain current services and current staffing levels. The amounts are modest and justified for an agency which Congress has granted the primary responsibility for developing and coordinating the Nation's trade policies and for conducting trade negotiations. The ITC has streamlined its operations by reducing staff by over 20 percent since 1992, consolidating offices and increasing productivity. A 3-percent increase in authorization for the

fiscal year 1998 maintains a current level of services and staff levels for the ITC to conduct its investigatory functions under the various import statutes and to apply objective analysis and advisory reports of the President and the Congress.

The bill also authorizes additional funds for the year 1999 requested by the ITC to cover the estimated costs to conduct so-called sunset reviews of 315 outstanding antidumping and countervailing duties orders as required by the Uruguay round implementation legislation of 1994. During the markup and also during the hearing on this particular matter, I indicated to the ITC officials that should they need more resources, given the fact that they have 315 antidumping and countervailing duty orders to review, they should come back to our committee because certainly we want to make sure that they complete these reviews in a timely manner.

I would now conclude, Mr. Speaker, that the Subcommittee on Trade has held oversight hearings on the budget request and reviewed the activities of all three of these agencies as indicated by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE]. There is no known opposition to the authorization levels in the bill as reported by the committee, and I certainly urge passage of H.R. 1463.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1463, the Trade Agencies Authorization Act.

While this bill contains many worthy provisions, this legislation is especially deserving of support because it authorizes the resources necessary for the Customs Service to interdict the flow of illegal drugs into this country. As a Member of Congress from south Florida, I can attest that in my home State, the fight to keep illegal drugs from reaching our streets is an ongoing, daily battle, which we are losing.

Mr. Speaker, there are three main reasons why the Customs Service's interdiction efforts must be bolstered, and especially in south Florida. First, in the past few years, Congress and the administration have poured resources into such interdiction efforts as Operation Hardline along the Mexican border, and Operation Gateway in Puerto Rico. These operations did help stem the flow of illegal drugs into those areas. However, these operations had one unintended side effect: Drug traffickers began to avoid those areas, and redirected their smuggling efforts toward another major gateway of drugs into our country, south Florida.

Second, Customs agents in south Florida do not have the resources they need to effectively engage drug traffickers. Right now, smugglers' boats can outrun the older Customs Service vessels patrolling the waters off of Dade and Broward Counties. Simply put, Customs needs better and faster boats to combat this threat.

Finally, the drug lords already have a distribution network in place in south Florida, which greatly eases the distribution of their deadly product. And with 2,276 miles of coastline, along with countless inlets, coves, and tiny keys, the topography of Florida makes it attractive to drug smugglers.

For these reasons, during markup in the Ways and Means Committee of this bill, I offered an amendment that would redirect \$10 million in the Customs Service budget toward interdicting drugs. My amendment transfers \$5 million from the commercial account of the Customs Service budget equally per year to the noncommercial account, and the air and marine account. My amendment was enthusiastically supported by Mr. RANGEL, and passed the Committee by voice vote.

Furthermore, contained in the report accompanying H.R. 1463 is language making Customs aware that the purpose of my amendment is to shift funds toward rebuilding the marine interdiction program in south Florida, and to hire more special agents and intelligence officers dedicated to counternarcotics and money laundering. If the funds authorized in my amendment are fully appropriated and properly allocated, the Customs Service marine program in south Florida could return to its 1993 level—the year President Clinton took office.

Mr. Speaker, this reallocation of funds sends a strong message to the Customs Service that Congress wants a greater focus on interdicting illegal drugs, especially in south Florida. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1463.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1463, 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.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 93) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Bureau of Labor Statistics alone should make any adjustments, if any are needed, to the methodology used to determine the Consumer Price Index.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 93

Whereas the Consumer Price Index currently informs our Nation's monetary policy, and determines both the level of taxes paid and the amount of government benefits received by millions of Americans, many of them on fixed incomes;

Whereas the Consumer Price Index is assumed in these uses to be an accurate and appropriate measurement;

Whereas the Consumer Price Index is only useful if it is a technical, not a political measurement;

Whereas it is of the utmost importance to maintain the integrity and objectivity of the determination process and of the reliability of the Federal statistical system;

Whereas it is the Bureau of Labor Statistics that has the expertise, tools, resources, and experience to maintain this integrity and objectivity; and

Whereas it is vital to protect our senior citizens and others on fixed incomes that we use the most appropriate and accurate criteria: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That any adjustments to the methodology used to determine the Consumer Price Index should be made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics alone.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. SOUDER] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FATTAH] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. SOUDER].

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 93 which expresses the sense of the House that any adjustments to the methodology to be used to determine the Consumer Price Index should be made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This resolution is consistent with the agreement for a balanced budget that was recently entered into between administration and congressional leaders and reaffirms our commitment that the Consumer Price Index should be based on sound and nonpartisan deliberation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 93. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are considering this resolution to protect the integrity of the process for adjusting the CPI, the Consumer Price Index. House Resolution 93 clarifies that adjustments of the CPI should be made solely by technicians at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and it should not be left subject to the whims of politics.

I want to commend my colleague from Pennsylvania, [Mr. FOX] and the gentlewoman from New York, [Mrs. MALONEY], the gentleman from Pennsylvania, [Mr. ENGLISH], and the gentleman from Massachusetts, [Mr. KENNEDY] and others for their leadership on this important issue. I recognize that there has been extensive debate regarding the termination and accuracy of the CPI. However, as this resolution plainly acknowledges, the Bureau of Labor Statistics alone has the integrity, the objectivity and the experience to make this determination.

Mr. Speaker, the CPI should accurately reflect the rate of inflation and should not be manipulated for purposes of balancing the Federal budget. CPI adjustment could have a profound effect on the tax burdens of the American people. In addition, indexing affects the income of over 70 million Americans. Some 43 million Social Security beneficiaries, 4 million military and Federal civil service retirees and survivors, and 23 million food stamp recipients have their lives directly impacted by the CPI and changes thereto. Even the cost of lunches for 24 million children who participate in the school lunch program is affected.

So when we look at who is dependent on the accurate assessment of the