

more than half the year, to free yourself and your family from the heavy hand of the Government's costs.

The average American will be working 183 days this year to pay for the ever-growing spending and regulations that originate from this town every year. According to the Americans for Tax Reform Foundation, Government spending at all levels equals more than \$3.5 trillion.

The resolution of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] sends a message to American taxpayers that this Congress understands their burden and we are committed to doing everything possible to deliver tax relief as well as relief from the web of regulations that burden so many Americans each year.

I urge my colleagues to support resolution 102.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina. I appreciate his comments.

In summary, I would like to say that House Concurrent Resolution 102 talks directly about the problem that we have about Government spending and overregulation in our Government. Whereas there are \$3 trillion 520 billion that are spent each year, of this, \$785 billion is related to Federal regulatory costs. This body will be taking under hand the opportunity just in the coming weeks to talk about a tax cut for hard-working Americans that is only \$85 billion. Mr. Speaker, of that figure, we can see that \$785 billion, a larger, much larger figure, is just for regulation. We can do a better job.

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time.

I yield myself such time as I may consume only to point out that this resolution does not save a dime of taxpayers' money. It simply tells the American people we feel your pain, and we are spending a little bit more money to process a resolution on the House floor to tell you that. I do not know what other purpose it serves, and I have no other point to make.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 102.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 102.

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

There was no objection.

#### EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1553) to amend the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 to extend the authorization of the Assassination Records Review Board until September 30, 1998.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1553

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

#### SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD.

The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 U.S.C. 2107 note) is amended—

(1) in section 7(o)(1), by striking "September 30, 1996" and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting "September 30, 1998,"; and

(2) in section 13(a), by striking "such sums" and all that follows through "expended" and inserting "to carry out the provisions of this Act \$1,600,000 for fiscal year 1998".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SESSIONS] and the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SESSIONS].

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1553 is extension of authorization of the Assassination Records Review Board. Mr. Speaker, the House is considering a very important piece of legislation, H.R. 1553, which extends the authorization of the Assassination Records Review Board for 1 year and authorizes \$1.5 million for the review board to complete its final work, which will be done during fiscal year 1998.

This bill was introduced by the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON], chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on May 8, 1997, and included as its original co-sponsors the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES], who sponsored the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Reports Collection Act, and who also chaired the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

In 1992, almost 30 years after the assassination of President Kennedy, nearly 1 million records compiled by official investigators of the assassination still have not been made public. Congress decided to set up a process for

reviewing and releasing to the public the records surrounding the Kennedy assassination. The result was that on October 26, 1992, President Bush signed the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 into law. The original act provided a 3-year timetable for a review board to complete its work.

Unfortunately, extensive delays in the appointment of the review board's members delayed the board from beginning its work in a timely manner. In 1994, Congress restarted the clock and extended the 1992 law's termination date for 1 year until September 30, 1996. The review board subsequently exercised its authority under the statute to continue operating for 1 additional year.

I believe that the public has a right to know what is contained in the Federal Government's records on the Kennedy assassination. By releasing these documents to the public, we advance the cause of total accountability to the citizens of our country. As a representative of the city of Dallas, TX, I want to assure the American people that all Texans from all over the State will stop at nothing less than knowing the whole truth about this tragedy as it occurred in our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1553 extends the authorization of the Assassination Review Board for just one year to allow the board to finish reviewing, and then to make public, the records relating to the assassination of our President John F. Kennedy. Under current law, the authorization expires at the end of fiscal year 1997.

In his testimony last month before the Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice, review board chairman John Tunheim assured the members of this subcommittee that only 1 additional year would be needed for the board to finish reviewing and releasing the remaining documents related to the Kennedy assassination and to issue its final report. I believe that it is important that we see this progress through to its conclusion, and accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

I rise in support of the reauthorization of the JFK Assassination Review Board. The board has performed a valuable service to the public in guiding the release of over a million pages of information relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. Unfortunately, the work is not complete. This bill will give the review board an additional year to finish the task, and the board has assured us that 1 year is sufficient.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1553, which I introduced in

May, along with Congressman HENRY WAXMAN and Congressman LOUIS STOKES.

H.R. 1553 amends the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 to provide one additional year for the Assassination Records Review Board to complete its work, which is to review and publicly release documents relating to the Kennedy assassination at the earliest possible date. The American people have a right to demand accountability by the Federal Government regarding the Kennedy assassination records. By allowing the Review Board to finish its work and make the Kennedy assassination documents public, Congress will demonstrate to Americans that the Government has nothing to hide.

H.R. 1553 would extend the Review Board's September 30, 1997, termination date under current law to September 30, 1998. H.R. 1553 authorizes \$1.6 million in fiscal year 1998 for this purpose. I would note that Congressman STOKES, who is an original cosponsor of my bill, sponsored the 1992 act in the House and chaired the House Select Committee on Assassinations that was established in 1976.

The purpose of the 1992 legislation was to publicly release records relating to the Kennedy assassination at the earliest possible date. The Assassination Records Review Board was set up to review and release the voluminous amounts of information in the Government's possession. The FBI, the Secret Service, the CIA, the Warren Commission, the Rockefeller Commission, the Church Committee in the Senate, and the House Select Committee on Assassinations have all held assassination records, and related documents have also been in the possession of certain State and local authorities as well as private citizens.

When the 1992 legislation was considered, nearly 1 million pages of data compiled by official investigations of the assassination had not been made available to the public, some 30 years after the tragedy. In creating the Review Board, Congress believed that simply making all relevant information available to the public was the best way to respond to the continuing high level of interest in the Kennedy assassination, and was preferable to undertaking a new congressional investigation. The 1992 law requires the Review Board to presume that documents relating to the assassination should be made public unless there is clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.

As a result of the Review Board's efforts, more than 14,000 documents have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the JFK collection. That collection now totals approximately 3.7 million pages and is used extensively by researchers from all over the United States. The Review Board was in the news in April of this year when it voted to make public the Abraham Zapruder film of the Kennedy assassination.

The John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 originally provided a 3-year timetable for the Assassination Records Review Board to complete its work. Unfortunately, there were lengthy delays in the appointment of board members, and as a consequence, the Review Board was scheduled to cease operations before it began its work. Therefore, in 1994, Congress "restarted the clock" by extending the 1992 law's termination date for 1 year, to September 30, 1996. The Review Board subsequently exercised its au-

thority to continue operating for one additional year, until September 30, 1997. Because the review process proved to be more complex and time-consuming than anticipated, the President included in his fiscal year 1998 budget a request for a 1-year extension of the Review Board's authorization.

I support the Assassination Records Review Board's request for a 1-year extension of its authorization so that it can complete its mission in a professional and thorough manner. However, let me make it very clear that, as chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, I do not intend to support any additional extension of the Review Board's life beyond September 30, 1998. On June 4, 1997, the chairman of the Review Board, John Tunheim, testified before the National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice Subcommittee, and in his testimony he assured the subcommittee that one additional year would be sufficient for the Review Board to finish its work.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1553.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding to me. I rise in support of this bill and I want to commend Chairman BURTON and ranking Member Mr. WAXMAN for bringing this bill to the floor. As an original cosponsor of this legislation, and as the former chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, I have a strong interest in this issue.

In 1978, the House Select Committee on Assassinations completed a 2-year investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The completed investigation included the publishing of 9 volumes of hearings with the testimony of 55 witnesses and 619 exhibits.

In the years following the Assassination Committee's work, old issues and new theories continued to surface about the assassination of President Kennedy. Therefore in 1992, I authored, and the Congress passed, the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collect Act. This law created the Assassination Records Review Board which was given the responsibility to identify, secure, and make available, all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. We felt that an independent board would represent the most effective and efficient vehicle to make all assassination records available to the public.

To date, the Assassination Records Review Board has acted to transfer more than 14,000 documents to the JFK collection at the National Archives. The collection currently totals 3.7 million pages. It is used extensively by researchers from all over the United States. Further, by the end of fiscal year 1997, the Review Board will have reviewed and processed assassination records that more than 30 different government offices have identified, not including files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Because of the Review Board's diligent efforts, some very important documents have been made public. They include: thousands of CIA documents on Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination of President Kennedy; thousands of records from the House Assassinations Committee, including a staff report of Oswald's travel to Mexico City; thousands of records from the FBI which document the agency's interest in Oswald before the Kennedy assassination; and extensive FBI files on its investigation of the assassination.

Mr. Speaker, it is our understanding that the Review Board will need more time to process the classified records that remain, primarily records from the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The additional year will permit the review board to complete this work, close out the operation, and submit its final report.

It is a credit to this institution that we can provide historians and the American public with all relevant information concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. It is my belief that we should allow the Assassination Records Review Board to complete this important undertaking. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of H.R. 1553.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SESSIONS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1553.

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.

#### NOTICE OF ALTERATION OF ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1119, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 169 and as the designee of the chairman of Committee on National Security, I request that during further consideration of H.R. 1119 in the Committee of Whole and following consideration of amendment No. 15, printed in part 2 of House Report 105-137, as modified by section 8(b) of House Resolution 169, the following amendments be considered in the following order:

Amendment No. 1, printed in part 2 of House Report 105-137; amendment No. 34, printed in part 2 of House Report 105-137; amendment No. 10, printed in part 1 of House Report 105-137; amendment No. 11, printed in part 1 of House Report 105-137; amendment No. 7, printed in part 1 of House Report 105-137, as modified by section 8(a) of House Resolution 169; the amendment printed in section 8(c) of House Resolution 169; amendment No. 35 printed in part 2 of House Report 105-137.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 169 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1119.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House