

punishment and rehabilitation targeted to getting young people back on track to productive lives.

Again, I rise in strong support of this bill and I urge my colleagues to support this valuable piece of crime legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1818, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. RIGGS. 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. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1818.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate bill, S. 768.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2035) to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2035

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER NAVAL VESSELS.

(a) BRAZIL.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer to the Government of Brazil the "HUNLEY" class submarine tender HOLLAND (AS 32).

(b) CHILE.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer to the Government of Chile the "KAISER" class oiler ISHERWOOD (T-AO 191).

(c) EGYPT.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer to the Government of Egypt the "KNOX" class frigates PAUL (FF 1080), MILLER (FF 1091), JESSE L. BROWN (FFT 1089), and MOINSTER (FFT 1097), and the "OLIVER HAZARD PERRY" class frigates FAHRION (FFG 22) and LEWIS B. PULLER (FFG 23).

(d) ISRAEL.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer to the Government of Israel the "NEWPORT" class tank landing ship PEORIA (LST 1183).

(e) MALAYSIA.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer to the Government of Malaysia the "NEWPORT" class tank landing ship BARBOUR COUNTY (LST 1195).

(f) MEXICO.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer to the Government of Mexico the "KNOX" class frigate ROARK (FF 1053).

(g) TAIWAN.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (which is the Taiwan instrumentality designated pursuant to section 10(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act) the "KNOX" class frigates WHIPPLE (FF 1062) and DOWNES (FF 1070).

(h) THAILAND.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer to the Government of Thailand the "NEWPORT" class tank landing ship SCHENECTADY (LST 1185).

(i) FORM OF TRANSFERS.—Each transfer authorized by this section shall be on a sales basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761; relating to the foreign military sales program).

SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States and the Republic of the Philippines have a long tradition of international cooperation and mutual support.

(2) The United States strongly desires to continue mutual cooperation as a partner in matters of international security and scientific research.

(3) The President and the Department of Defense possess assets which can contribute positively to international security and scientific research.

(b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the President should use the authority under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761) to transfer on a sales basis, subject to vessel availability, to the Republic of the Philippines, not more than one "STALWART" or "VICTORIOUS" class ocean surveillance ship (T-AGOS).

SEC. 3. COSTS OF TRANSFERS.

Any expense of the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this Act shall be charged to the recipient.

SEC. 4. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.

The authority granted by section 1 shall expire at the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT OF VESSELS IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.

The Secretary of the Navy shall require, to the maximum extent possible, as a condition of a transfer of a vessel under this Act, that the country to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel joins the naval forces of that country, performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for the transfer by sale of certain surplus naval vessels. It would authorize the transfer of 14 vessels, in all, to 8 countries: Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand, and Taiwan.

This legislation was approved unanimously by our Committee on International Relations on June 25.

I would like to underscore that none of these proposed transfers is a grant. As a result of these sales, our Treasury will be receiving \$162.6 million. These 14 ships involve 5 classes: 7 *Knox* class frigates, 3 *Newport* class tank landing ships, 2 *Perry* class guided missile frigates, 1 *Hunley* class submarine tender and 1 *Kaiser* class oiler.

It is important to note that our Navy expects that by proceeding with these sales, our Nation will realize an additional \$195 million for training, for supplies, for support, and for repair services.

I would also like to note to my colleagues that the proposed legislation includes language similar to that included in prior ship transfer legislation requiring the Secretary of the Navy to the maximum extent feasible to require that any repair or reactivation work be done in the United States in our own shipyards. It is my understanding from the Navy that each of the recipient countries have agreed to that proviso with respect to these proposed transfers.

Finally, I understand that our Navy strongly supports the transfer of these vessels to advance the valuable cooperative relationships that we have developed with each of these nation's navies. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2035. I want to extend my commendation and congratulations to the chairman for bringing what I consider to be an excellent bill before the House.

□ 1315

I believe because of the gentleman's leadership and the work of the Committee on International Relations the Congress, over a period of months, has been able to effect an important change in ship transfer policy.

Now the clear emphasis, as the gentleman from New York has said, in U.S. policy today is on the sale of naval vessels instead of grants. All 14 naval vessels in this package are sales, and the bill will result in \$162.6 million in revenues to the United States Treasury. The United States Navy will also save money not spent on storage or scrapping costs. Work in the U.S. shipyards prior to ship transfer will result in an additional \$190 million in contracts for American workers. Now this package also benefits U.S. foreign policy and U.S. defense policy through enhanced navy-to-navy ties and improved interoperability.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think the bill has positive benefits for the United States

Navy, positive benefits for U.S. shipyards, positive benefits for the United States Treasury, and positive benefits for U.S. foreign policy. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD].

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding, and, Mr. Speaker, I wish to engage the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations in a colloquy.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I will be pleased to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from Guam.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in section 5 of H.R. 2035 concerning the repair and refurbishment of vessels in U.S. shipyards, the Secretary of the Navy is compelled to require to the maximum extent possible as a condition of transfer of a vessel to a foreign country that the country have repair or refurbishment of that vessel performed at a shipyard located in the United States.

Is it the gentleman's intention that in this provision territories, including a place that the gentleman from New York lived in for a while, Guam, is included in the definition of the United States?

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. The answer is, yes, the committee intends that the territories be included in a definition of the United States for purposes of this provision.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for this clarification, and both him and the ranking member for their hard work on this issue. This will serve to clarify the legislation, and, hopefully, we will not have to do this again in future legislation regarding naval vessels and that this could be an important item for the people of Guam in particular, since the ship repair facility has recently closed down and has become privatized.

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

Mr. GILMAN. 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 New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2035, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation just considered.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2107, and that I may be permitted to include tables, charts, and other material.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 181 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. 2107.

□ 1320

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2107) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. CALVERT, Chairman pro tempore, in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Friday, July 11, 1997, a request for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] had been postponed and the bill has been read through page 76, line 22.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I know some of my colleagues will be interested in the schedule, so I might advise the body that it would be our intent to finish the amendments this afternoon, whatever amount of time that takes. We also have some limitations to debate. Then any votes will be rolled until 5 o'clock. We presently have the vote on the National Endowment for the Humanities pending, and I am sure there will be some additional votes.

At 5 o'clock we will vote on the amendments, and then it is my understanding from the leadership that they would like to vote on the suspensions, and the Journal, and then we would hope to get to final passage on the Interior bill some time around 8 o'clock tonight.

I might say to my colleagues I hope that in the intervening time this after-

noon that they will take the opportunity to look at the bill. There are a lot of good features in this bill. I am pleased that we can say we are a little under last year's amount, but at the same time we have taken care of a lot of high priority items within the funds provided in this bill.

It goes without saying we have dozens and dozens of Member projects in this bill. We had 2,000 requests from Members for projects. Many of them overlapped obviously. But we tried, as much as possible, to prioritize these without regard to party, or to region, then simply make the best judgment we could in light of the availability of resources.

In terms of priorities, and I think this is very important, we added \$78 million to the National Parks; that is a \$78 million increase over last year, recognizing the pressures on the parks for visitations, to manage those who would seek the opportunity to visit our parks and to ensure that they have a positive experience.

We added \$57 million for the National Forest System. We are getting enormous pressure on the national forests. Most people do not realize how important these lands are for the recreation users. And I have repeated this fact many times, but it bears another statement, and that is that the National Forest System has triple the visitor days of the Park System. Why? Because it has available a multiplicity of uses: We can hunt, we can fish, we can camp, we can bird watch, we can hike. In some areas we can run an all terrain vehicle; some areas, a snowmobile, a wide diversity of opportunities that are available in the national forests.

And I think a very important point is that the national forests provide an opportunity for family vacations, where the individual has got a couple weeks, can either rent or own a camper, go into a national forest and spend a couple of weeks with his or her family getting a better understanding of our natural heritage.

The allowable timber cut in our national forests, which this committee establishes as a cap, has been declining. In 1990 it was more than 11 billion board feet. Today it is down to 3.8 billion board feet.

And I would also point out in conjunction with that that we are growing each year 17 billion board feet, which means that we have a net increase in board feet in our national forests of almost 14 billion board feet.

Also, I think one of the good features in this bill is that we have emphasized forest health. We have a forest health program to address the problem of insects, of diseases, of the many things that create problems for our national forests, and we have recognized also the President's Northwest Forest Plan, which was the result of a compromise that President Clinton and Vice President Gore worked out some years ago, and we have supported that with significant dollars and language.