

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I hear this call for campaign finance reform. We can pass all the laws in the world, but if some people are not going to live by the laws on the books, what point is it to change the law?

Now, it was not the Republicans that invited people into the White House at \$50,000 a pop for the Lincoln Bedroom. It was not Republicans who dealt with arms merchants, foreign agents, and narcotics dealers, and had their pictures taken for massive amounts of money. All of those things are against the law. It was not Republicans that made phone calls out of the White House, against the advice of the counsel to the White House.

And yet they say they want to change the law. For what purpose? It is time they obeyed the law on the books.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2016, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2016) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. HEFNER

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. HEFNER moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2016, be instructed to insist on the House position with respect to funding for Family Housing, Dormitories and Barracks for military personnel serving worldwide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER].

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

Mr. Speaker, when the House passed the military construction bill, it included funding for many important projects for family housing, barracks, and dormitories. By a vote of 395 to 134, we agreed to place a high priority on the quality of life of our men and women in the military and their families as they serve us around the world.

The other body, however, does not seem to feel as we do; \$145 million was cut for family housing and \$65 million was cut from barracks. We give them the best training in the world, but with

the lack of decent housing, we cannot get them to reenlist in the services.

These young men and women are sent to the far corners of the world, but we cannot provide proper care and a proper place for them to live. Whether it is a base near your district or in Korea or Germany, these people deserve adequate housing.

My motion, Mr. Speaker, provides specific direction to the conferees to make certain that in resolving the differences between the House and the other body, a high priority is given to the quality of life of the men and women serving us in the military.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PACKARD. 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. 2016, and that I may include tabular and extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on the motion to instruct, I wholeheartedly agree with the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER]. We have made a very, very significant step forward in the House bill to emphasize quality-of-life issues, housing, barracks, day care centers, hospitals, dental centers, and a variety of other areas to make life more pleasant and agreeable for our men and women in the services. So we have built our bill, the House bill, around these basic concepts of emphasizing quality of life.

This motion to instruct simply restates what we agreed to do in our committee as we wrote and marked up our bill to this point. I deeply appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER] to continue to emphasize these quality-of-life principles as we go to conference. I hope the Senate will agree with our concepts of what is important.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly agree with the motion to instruct and recommend that it pass.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER].

The motion to instruct was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

Messrs: PACKARD, PORTER, HOBSON, WICKER, KINGSTON, PARKER, TIAHRT, WAMP, LIVINGSTON, HEFNER, OLVER, EDWARDS, DICKS, HOYER, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2158, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2158) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. STOKES

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. STOKES moves that the managers on the part of the House be instructed to insist on the position of the House regarding the total funding level provided for the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Hazardous Substance Superfund' account.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] will be recognized for 30 minutes and the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES].

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

Mr. Speaker, nearly one person in four in this country lives close to a Superfund site. We know all too well what the result of that fact is: too many reported cases of cancer and other diseases caused by breathing, eating, and drinking too many hazardous contaminants.

This motion is pretty simple. If you want to be on record for doing as much as possible to clean up Superfund sites around the country and reduce the amounts of hazardous pollutants to which your constituents are exposed, you vote for this motion.

Supporting this motion does not bust the budget. Although the budget resolution assumed funding for the Superfund program at the enhanced level of \$2.1 billion, the level called for by the administration as part of the so-called Kalamazoo initiative, the House level is still \$600 million below that.

The total Superfund spending in the House-passed bill is \$1.5 billion, compared with \$1.4 billion in the Senate. The House amount is definitely superior to the Senate's recommendation in several ways: The House version provides \$28 million, or 14 percent more,

for Superfund enhancement activities, \$5 million more for research activities, and \$12 million more for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Mr. Speaker, much criticism has been lodged against the operation of the Superfund program since its inception. I think most Members would agree that reforms are needed. However, until the authorization committees are able to reach agreement on what these reforms should be, we should still be trying to do all we can to get Superfund sites cleaned up.

This administration has made good progress in getting Superfund appropriations spent on actual cleanup and not on litigation and administrative costs.

I strongly urge an "aye" vote to keep Superfund moneys flowing at as high a level as possible to clean up as many sites as quickly as we can.

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

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Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly am not going to object to this suggestion by my colleague. By way of commentary, however, I must say that it was at least 15 years ago as a member of this committee I traveled to the northern part of the State of New York, and during that trip I visited a place called Love Canal. At that point in time we knew that the Superfund program had many a problem. The new Administrator indicated to us that this was a program and project that was very, very important but which was broken.

I certainly do hope that between now and the time we go to conference that my colleague will join with me one more time in asking the administration for their suggestion as to how we fix this program, for she has been talking about it publicly a lot, but I have seen no recommendation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES].

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. LEWIS of California, DELAY, WALSH, HOBSON, KNOLLENBERG, FRELINGHUYSEN, NEUMANN, WICKER, LIVINGSTON, STOKES, MOLLOHAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2169, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2169) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES OFFERED BY
MR. SABO

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. SABO moves that in resolving the differences between the House and Senate, the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2169, be instructed to insist on the House position with respect to providing \$200 million for operating assistance under the transit formula grants program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. SABO] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. SABO].

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

Mr. Speaker, I will be brief. This motion simply instructs the conferees to insist on the \$200 million included in the House bill for transit operating assistance.

In my judgment, we have cut operating assistance too much already over the years. Unfortunately, the Senate has no funding for operating assistance, and this motion simply insists that the conferees stay with the decision adopted by the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I share the gentleman's concern with regard to the operating assistance, and wish it could be higher, but I think that \$200 million is certainly the bottom we should go. I think it is a good motion, and we certainly accept it. I commend the gentleman for offering it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. SABO].

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. WOLF, DELAY, REGULA, ROGERS, PACKARD, CALLAHAN, TIAHRT, ADERHOLT, LIVINGSTON, SABO, FOGLIETTA, TORRES, OLVER, PASTOR, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2203, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. MCDADE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2203) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998 and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES OFFERED BY
MR. FAZIO OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. FAZIO of California moves that in resolving the differences between House and Senate, the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2203, be instructed to recede to the Senate on funding levels provided for nonproliferation and arms control programs under the Department of Energy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MCDADE] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my reason for offering this motion to instruct conferees is simply that I believe the House would be advised to support the Senate figures on nuclear nonproliferation so we do no damage to our efforts to verify nuclear testing. The research and development account, which is very important to the Department, shows that we have taken a \$20 million reduction in excess of what the Senate provided in this area. It seems to me these are very important funds to meet established milestones for the demonstration and delivery of state-of-the-art nuclear detection technologies.

In addition, the legislation that the House passed could well be determined to be inadequate in terms of funding the Department's threat assessment program, which is a core program which provides for our Government's full capability to assess nuclear-related domestic threats.