

the Treasury and the mint working out and refining all of the details.

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would just like to thank the chairman of the committee. This has been 3 wonderful years. I have enjoyed my tenure here over the last 11 years, both as a chairman of the Subcommittee on General Oversight and Investigations at a point and also as ranking member.

I can honestly say that I do not leave the Congress because of the changes that have taken place in leadership. I leave the Congress because the Lord has blessed me to build a wonderful church community in Jamaica, Queens, NY, with over 9,000 members in that church now and a myriad of community development programs, over 800 employees. It is impossible for me to maintain both my church responsibilities and the responsibilities of this Congress.

I was called at 15 to preach, and I was pastoring by the time I was 19. I am 52 now, so I know what my calling is, and though I leave this place with some regret, because I have been very fortunate to work with both sides of the aisle, no one any greater than the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] for the last 3 years. I certainly do appreciate the kind of respect that we have had for each other and the kind of work that we have been able to do. Hopefully as I leave, I am certain there are persons who can take up this mantle and continue in that kind of relationship.

I look forward to my days. Someone said I was going so I would have a lighter schedule. I would assure my colleagues that my schedule will be much heavier than it is even here. But I cannot do two full-time jobs. I have been working overtime in both. I am just privileged to have had this opportunity to be here.

My one regret about my congressional life is that my mother and father did not live long enough to see me come here, but I know that they rejoice in what I have been able to do.

I do hope the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE], soon to be ranking member, who has served on this committee with me and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. Gonzalez], who was chairman and ranking member, they have been exemplary in their work with me and legislation, and I am grateful for that.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. PEASE]. 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. 2414, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum

is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1515

PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION FOR ARBITRATION IN U.S. DISTRICT COURTS

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 996) to provide for the authorization of appropriations in each fiscal year for arbitration in United States district courts, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 996

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

SECTION 1. ARBITRATION IN DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 905 of the Judicial Improvements and Access to Justice Act (28 U.S.C. 651 note) is amended in the first sentence by striking "for each of the fiscal years 1994 through 1997" and inserting "for each fiscal year".

SEC. 2. ENHANCEMENT OF JUDICIAL INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.

Section 103(b)(2) of the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-650; 104 Stat. 5096; 28 U.S.C. 471 note) is amended—

- (1) by inserting "(A)" after "(2)";
- (2) by striking "sections 471 through 478" and inserting "sections 472, 473, 474, 475, 477, and 478"; and
- (3) by adding at the end of the following new subparagraph:

"(B) The requirements set forth in section 476 of title 28, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall remain in effect permanently."

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.

Section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 133 note) is amended—

- (1) by striking paragraph (1) and redesignating the succeeding paragraphs accordingly; and
- (2) by striking the last 3 sentences and inserting the following: "Except with respect to the western district of Michigan and the eastern district of Pennsylvania, the first vacancy in the office of district judge in each of the judicial districts named in this subsection, occurring 10 years or more after the confirmation date of the judge named to fill the temporary judgeship created by this subsection, shall not be filled. The first vacancy in the office of district judge in the western district of Michigan, occurring after December 1, 1995, shall not be filled. The first vacancy in the office of district judge in the eastern district of Pennsylvania, occurring 5 years or more after the confirmation date of the judge named to fill the temporary judgeship created for such district under this subsection, shall not be filled. For districts named in this subsection for which multiple judgeships are created by this Act, the last of those judgeships filled shall be the judgeships created under this section."

"(B) The requirements set forth in section 476 of title 28, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall remain in effect permanently."

SEC. 4. TRANSFER OF FEDERAL COURT JUDGESHIP.

The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by amending the item relating to Louisiana to read as follows:

"Louisiana:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| "Eastern | 12 |
| "Middle | 3 |
| "Western | 7" |

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. PEASE]. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE] and the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of S. 996, a bill introduced to reauthorize the existing Federal court arbitration programs established in Chapter 44 of Title 28 of the U.S. Code.

On June 23 of this year we passed by voice vote the House version of this bill, H.R. 1581. The bill reauthorizes 20 pilot arbitration programs which have been in existence in the U.S. district courts around the country for 20 years. These programs have been unquestionably successful over the years in resolving Federal litigation in a fair and expeditious manner and improving the efficiency of those Federal courts which participate in the program.

Upon consideration of this bill by the Senate an amendment was adopted to reauthorize another very successful reform from the Civil Justice Reform Act, the requirement that a list of each Federal judge's 6-month-old motions and 3-year-old cases be published and disseminated twice each year. According to one report, this reporting requirement has led to a 25-percent reduction in the number of cases pending more than 3 years in the Federal system.

The version of S. 996 being considered today contains two additional provisions. The first is an amendment to reauthorize for 5 more years certain temporary judgeships which are due to expire this year. Statistics compiled from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts indicate that the case loads in these districts require the continued use of temporary judgeships to prevent case backlogs. The amendment contains provisions similar to those introduced by the gentleman from Illinois, [Mr. HYDE] chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and Senator ORRIN HATCH, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The other provision would transfer a Federal judgeship from the Eastern District of Louisiana to the Middle District of Louisiana. The amendment seeks to alleviate the burdensome caseload facing the Middle District there,

which is four times the national average. The change is similar to the legislation Senator JOHN BREAUX has pending in the other body.

The current authorization of the arbitration programs expires on September 30 of this year, and thus there is some urgency, Mr. Speaker, in reauthorizing these very successful programs prior to that date.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bipartisan bill.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as well in support of S. 996, the House version of which was reported out of the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 23 of this year. S. 996 includes an extension of certain arbitration programs in the Federal district courts that have been in place now for 20 years. It is well known that as the court systems have increased both the interests of the public and the number of litigation matters that have appeared before our Federal courts around the Nation, and arbitration has been a very effective and useful tool to bring parties to the opportunity of resolution and fairness and equity and justice, and as proponents of that on the floor of the House I think it is extremely important that we give this vehicle an opportunity to work further.

This bill also creates a reauthorization of caseload reporting requirements from Federal courts, and might I say that as we secure these caseload requirements it was noted that part of the result is to assist judges in making sure they clean up cases that have been on the dockets for 3 years and motions for 6 months. I also hope, however, that the utilization of this data helps us to recognize the great burden that is placed on many of our district courts and will see us encouraging, one, the creation of new courts to help alleviate the burden because where we have burden and case logs, cases jammed, we also have a denial of justice. So this would hopefully help us to remedy the problems that we might have in overload in many of our Federal courts. This legislation also creates an extension of certain temporary judgeships and a transfer of a judgeship from one Louisiana district to another.

I am aware at this time, Mr. Speaker, of no objections to this legislation before us. I certainly would like to commend the hard work of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE] who worked very hard on this legislation. I am sure that many of our courts around the Nation, our Federal district courts, will appreciate some of the assistance that is given to them through this legislation, and I also thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK], for his leadership, along with our staffs for concluding work on this important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for her generous comments.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 996, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

REGARDING CANADIAN BORDER BOAT LANDING PERMIT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2027) to provide for the revision of the requirements for a Canadian border boat landing permit pursuant to section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and to require the Attorney General to report to the Congress on the impact of such revision.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2027

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

SECTION 1. CHANGE IN CANADIAN BORDER BOAT LANDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REVISED REGULATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, shall issue revised regulations for the implementation of section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the requirement that certain individuals entering the United States from Canada by boat obtain a landing permit. The revised regulations shall provide that, in the case of a United States citizen traveling in a boat of not more than 65 feet in length (including a boat of not more than 65 feet in length (including a boat used for commercial purposes) on a trip between the United States and Canada of not more than 72 hours duration, the citizen need not obtain such a permit if—

(1) the citizen carries a United States passport for the duration of the trip; and
(2) the citizen is not an owner, or an operator, of the boat.

(b) SUNSET.—The revised regulations issued under subsection (a) shall cease to be effective on December 31, 1998. After such date, the regulations that were in effect on the day before the enactment of this Act with respect to the requirement that certain individuals entering the United States from Canada by boat obtain a landing permit shall resume to be effective, in the same manner and to the same extent as if this Act had not been enacted.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 1999, the Attorney General shall report to the Congress on the impact of the revised regulations issued under subsection (a) on the number and nature of unauthorized entrances by individuals into the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH] and the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT] each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time and effort the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. LATOURETTE] has devoted in working with me to devise a bill that addresses the legitimate concerns of his Great Lakes constituency while at the same time keeping the U.S. border as secure as possible. H.R. 2027 carefully balances the two competing interests. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation.

By way of background American and Canadian small boat operators and their passengers returning to the U.S. from Canadian waters must either enter through a port of entry or possess approved I-68 forms issued by the INS and good for 1 year. While the I-68 forms allow individuals on boats to enter the United States without being inspected at each docking, the persons are physically inspected and entered into INS records once a year in applying at INS offices for the forms. H.R. 2027 would set up a pilot program whereby a United States citizen passenger on a small boat would be able to return from Canadian waters without an inspection or an I-68 form as long as the passenger was carrying an United States passport.

I do not want to leave the impression that I do not have concerns about any waiving of the I-68 requirement. The Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims recently held a hearing on alien smuggling in which it was learned that smuggling from Canada has been increasing and will continue to increase as beefed-up border control presence makes the southern border less hospitable. Unfortunately, smugglers will look for any available weak link in our border security apparatus.

However there are two aspects to the bill of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. LATOURETTE] that minimize these security concerns. First, passengers must still carry U.S. passports. Because a passport is the identification document most difficult to counterfeit, alien smugglers will find it difficult to use.