

the INS to reduce the number of documents acceptable for employment verification purposes. The INS informs us that the agency cannot, within the original deadline of the end of the month, issue appropriate regulations and properly educate employers. The bill, therefore, grants the INS a 6-month extension of that deadline.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the substitute amendment to S. 1198.

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

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, as amended.

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

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT] I rise in support.

□ 1215

There are some difficulties with the bill. There are some Members on this side of the aisle who would have preferred for us to have a permanent extension, and the Senate did pass a permanent extension, but we have worked together in a bipartisan way. We understand the White House would prefer it to be permanent, but they are in support of however we can work it out over here. So I rise in behalf of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT] in support of the bill today.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. CONDIT] for his comments and his support for this bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I intend to support S. 1198 as substituted by the gentleman from Texas.

The availability of visas for religious workers to come and do good in our country is important. We all agree on that.

I would prefer a permanent extension of these visas, but can vote for Chairman SMITH's 3-year extension before us today.

I recommend that my colleagues join me in supporting this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. UPTON]. The question on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1198, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. TRAFICANT. 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 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE, FISCAL YEARS 1998 AND 1999

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1161), to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize appropriations for refugee and entrant assistance for fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1161

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 414(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1524(a)) is amended by striking "fiscal year 1995, fiscal year 1996, and fiscal year 1997" and inserting "each of fiscal years 1998 and 1999".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect October 1, 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH] and the gentleman from California [Mr. CONDIT] 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 may 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 rise in support of the Senate bill, S. 1161, as passed by the Senate, and urge my colleagues to support it.

S. 1161 simply reauthorizes refugee resettlement funds for 2 years. The language "such sums as are necessary" allows the Committee on Appropriations to adjust the funds available, based upon the number of refugees resettled in the United States for fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

While I hope that the number of refugees being settled in the United States declines in the upcoming years, I also hope that those refugees who need to be resettled in the United States have programs available to help ease them into the American way of life.

Since the existence of several programs hinge on enactment of reauthorization of the programs, passage of this bill is necessary. I urge the adoption of the bill.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill on behalf of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT], and urge its passage. This is another bipartisan piece of legislation that the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH] has managed and we urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT].

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend and compliment the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH] and I want to compliment the gentleman from California [Mr. CONDIT], who has been an outspoken leader in many areas; responsible for the Blue Dogs in this Congress, has helped to fashion some important policy changes, and I want to personally thank him on behalf of the American people for some of his efforts.

I rise on a different issue, and I do not want to belabor and take a lot of time, Mr. Speaker. What I have to talk about is very important. Albanian Prime Minister Nano is in Washington today. I want to warn my colleagues, I want to warn this committee, I want to warn this Congress and I want to warn this Government about the serious problems in Albania.

There was recently an assassination attempt on one of the prominent members of the democratic party in Albania. Nano's socialist government has denied freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly. In Macedonia the rights of ethnic Albanians are literally being trampled upon. They are being treated like cattle, treated like dogs. Families are in misery. It is unbelievable. And through all of this, our Government has actually remained silent.

I want to let this Congress know that the silence in America is deafening in Albania and deafening to the free people throughout our world. Unbelievable to me. It is time for the United States of America to make it clear to Prime Minister Nano that we will not tolerate or stand by while Albanians are being systematically abused and persecuted. The message must be loud, the message must be consistent, the message must be clear: Let there be no mistake. Nano's socialist party is the old Communist Party, and they have destroyed the rights of Albanian people for years and years. The legacy speaks for itself.

The United States should offer no aid. The United States should offer no solace to this Nano government who has repeatedly demonstrated a lack of respect for rights and a willingness to abuse the Albanian people.

I will today, on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies appropriation bill, seek a colloquy and look for report language directing policy to this issue. I thank the gentleman for his leadership that has provided freedom for many people throughout the world, and I ask for the gentleman's support in my effort with the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS], chairman of the Subcommittee on

Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary of the Committee on Appropriations.

With that, I thank the gentleman for allowing me this time. It is unusual for me to speak out, but I have become aware of this through a very good friend and former Member, Joseph DiGarde. This is a tragedy, this is a shame, this is a human rights concern beyond reproach, and Congress must not allow this deafening silence throughout the world.

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

Once again, I urge the House to pass the bill. It is a bipartisan approach. I must say that I appreciate the kind words of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT]. He says that rarely does he speak out, but he can always be counted on to speak out and do what is right for this country. I think he is a great American and I appreciate his efforts and all he has done for this House and for this country.

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

Mr. SMITH 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 Texas [Mr. SMITH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1161.

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 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PROVIDING PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF AU PAIR PROGRAMS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1211) to provide permanent authority for the administration of au pair programs.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1211

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR AU PAIR PROGRAMS.

Section 1(b) of the Act entitled "An Act to extend au pair programs", approved December 23, 1995 (Public Law 104-72; 109 Stat. 776) is amended by striking "through fiscal year 1997".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Today we bring to the floor the Senate bill, S. 1211, a permanent extension

of the au pair program. The date of the present program's expiration is approaching, and so it is imperative to continue the program through this legislation.

The au pair program gives young people from many different countries a chance to visit the United States and to live with an American family for up to a year, assisting with child care and other needs around the home. It is a way for providing for round-trip travel, tuition fees, and weekly stipend. It is of assistance both to our country and to the individual visitor who learns more about the United States.

This is a bipartisan, noncontroversial measure. It has already passed the other body, and I hope that my colleagues in the House will support this bill in passage and promptly send it to the President for signature.

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

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

I commend the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL], for bringing before the House this bill to permanently extend the authority of USIA to run the au pair program. I have had my doubts about whether the program should be run by USIA. I understand the program brings many positive experiences, both to the au pairs as well as to the host families.

The 1995 lapse in authorization was very disruptive to the program and its participants, and to the U.S. host families. Another such interruption will be avoided by passing this bill before authorization would expire on September 30. Given its long history and the favorable October 1996 report to Congress by USIA, the au pair program should no longer be subject to uncertainty and short-term authorizations.

I urge the adoption of the measure. I commend again the chief sponsors of it, including the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL].

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to simply add that it is always a pleasure to be on the floor with my colleague and good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1211, the Senate bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1211.

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 of rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CLINT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1116) to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District and the Fabens Independent School District.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1116

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

SECTION. 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.

Subject to section 2, the Secretary of State shall execute and file in the appropriate office such instrument as may be necessary to release the reversionary interest of the United States in the 40-acre tract of land referred to in Public Law 85-42.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

The release under section 1 shall be made upon condition that the Clint Independent School District and the Fabens Independent School District in the State of Texas use any proceeds received from the disposal of such land for public educational purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] each will control 20 minutes.

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, this bill is authored by our colleague and friend, Mr. REYES, from Texas, and I expect that we will hear from him as soon as the opportunity arises on the Democratic side of the aisle, but I wish to begin by giving him credit for authorship of the bill. It is my privilege to bring the bill to the floor. This bill will provide for the reversionary interest to be conveyed from the United States, in which it presently lies, to the Clint Independent School District and the Fabens Independent School District in the State of Texas.

The present reversionary interest is exercised by the United States through the Department of State. The Department of State has informed us that it no longer has any interest in the property. Through this bill, the State Department relinquishes its reversionary interest and gives it back to local school districts in Texas.

It is an utterly noncontroversial, bipartisan measure. The two local school districts will benefit from it. Their educational programs will benefit from