

around the world, that this Congress is so adamant to speak out against, should not be encouraged or tolerated by our own Government policies. This ought to be boiler plate law and policy on our every action. Export-Import financing should promote progress in wages, living standards, and human rights here in the United States and around the globe. I've been encouraged by new progress on this topic regards many imports to the United States of America. U.S. sponsored financing should not undermine progress in these important areas or legitimize the negative status quo. U.S. Labor protections are just one reason why the United States has a good economy in the world today. Why should we lower the standards and protections that provide the foundation for U.S. prosperity? I urge my colleagues to support the Vento amendment which places the interests and well-being of our children ahead of international corporate profits.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I do not rise in opposition.

Madam Chairman, this amendment, as has been so fairly stated by its sponsor, prohibits the use of Exim assistance for exports to companies that employ child labor.

The majority does not intend to object to the amendment. The gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO] seeks to address a very serious human rights concern that is being examined in a number of fora, including the OECD, as well as by our own Customs Department.

Although we have doubts that Eximbank is the appropriate vehicle through which to address this issue, the amendment is certainly a powerful symbol of congressional concerns that inhumane child labor practices should not be tolerated.

Having said that, let me register some apprehensions the majority has regarding how the amendment would be implemented. Is there any comprehensive list available to the Bank of companies that employ child labor? Would the amendment apply retrospectively to new transactions only? How would it be enforced? Would foreign buyers of U.S. goods see this as an extraterritorial of U.S. laws?

It would be my hope that we would work with the sponsor of the amendment and the minority to iron out these details later in conference with the other body.

Having said that, we will not oppose the amendment. And I applaud the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO] for his thoughtful initiative.

Mr. VENTO. Madam Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CASTLE. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. VENTO. Madam Chairman, I appreciate the support of the subcommittee chairman and the questions he raised. There are not such lists, but there are other questions that we need to work together on. I appreciate his support, and I pledge myself to work with that and make this a part of the explicit policy of the Eximbank, the U.S. Export Bank, I guess, if we are successful with the new nomenclature

of the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE].

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, I would just say with respect to the name change, after some of the debates I have heard here in the 2 days we have debated this, I hope we can make this name change sooner rather than later. There seems to be a lot of confusion about what this bank does, I believe.

In any event, with respect to the amendment, it has been stated and we will support it.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO].

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SOLOMON] having assumed the chair, [Mrs. EMERSON], Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1370) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, had come to no resolution thereon.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SOLOMON). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SHAW] at 5 p.m.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 1, 1997, I missed rollcall votes 484 to 489. I was presenting testimony on behalf of my legislation, H.R. 765, to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call 484, 485, 487, 488 and 489. I would have voted "no" on roll call 486.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2160, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 232 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 232

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2160) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have adopted the concurrent resolution specified in section 3.

SEC. 3. The text of the concurrent resolution described in section 2 is as follows:

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of H.R. 2160 the Clerk of the House shall, in title IV, in the item relating to 'Domestic Food Programs—Food Stamp Program', strike the period and insert the following: ' : *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for studies and evaluations.'.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington [Mr. HASTINGS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Hall), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 232 provides for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2160, a bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and its consideration, and upon its adoption the House shall be considered to have adopted the text of the following concurrent resolution: "Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that in the enrollment of H.R. 2160 the Clerk of the House shall, in title IV, in the item relating to 'Domestic Food Programs—Food Stamp Program', strike the period and insert the following: ' : provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for studies and evaluations.'." This amendment, I understand, has been agreed to.

Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations, the distinguished gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN], and the ranking minority member, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR], are to be commended for their leadership on the House-Senate conference committee. They have brought to the House floor a conference report which largely reflects the priorities agreed upon earlier this year when the House passed H.R. 2160 by a vote of 395 to 14.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report appropriates \$49.6 billion in new fiscal year 1998 budget authority for agriculture programs, which is \$103 million more than the House-passed bill but \$3.6 billion less than was appropriated in fiscal year 1997. When scorekeeping adjustments are taken into account, the bill provides \$35.8 billion for mandatory programs, which is about 80 percent of the total appropriated, and \$13.8 billion for discretionary programs.

This conference report cuts food stamps by \$2.5 billion from last year. It increases funding for the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children by \$118 million over fiscal year 1997. It cuts funding for the Commodity Credit Corporation, maintains level funding for the Federal Crop Insurance and increases funding for both the Agriculture Research Service and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this rule also self-executes one minor technical correction which was inadvertently omitted from the conference report itself. Once again, I commend the House conferees on their work on this important agreement and urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the accompanying conference report.

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank my colleague from Washington [Mr. HASTINGS] for yielding me the time.

As he explained, this resolution is a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2160, which is a bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food and Drug Administration programs for fiscal 1998. The rule also self-executes an amendment to correct a technical problem.

On September 15, the Department of Agriculture released new statistics revealing that 11 million people in the United States experienced moderate or severe hunger, including more than 4 million children. In a Nation as rich as ours, this is unacceptable. Private charities cannot do the job alone.

This bill funds critical food and nutrition programs that are essential to ensuring a minimal safety net. The programs protect children, the elderly and other vulnerable populations from facing the harsh realities of hunger.

I am pleased that the conference agreement provides a slight increase above the original House level for child nutrition programs. These programs are important to maintain the health of the next generation of Americans. I am also pleased to see a small increase in funding over the House position for overseas food assistance programs. These programs save lives and show America's commitment to reducing hunger worldwide.

I commend the chairman and ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for their work on this bill. Mr. Speaker, this rule was approved by the Committee on Rules on a voice vote. I urge adoption of the rule and of the conference report.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BURR].

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule, even though some have signed off on this crazy agreement. This rule waives all points of order. Earlier this year as the Committee on Appropriations moved this bill through this House, one section was struck. It was a section that dealt with reauthorizing the fees that pharmaceutical companies pay to have the approval process expedited for their drugs that are currently under the approval process at FDA. It was struck because in fact it is not the authority of the appropriators to authorize and extend that. Today we are faced with a rule that waves the point of order, does not allow us to strike from this conference report an issue that is clearly the responsibility of the Committee on Commerce.

What are we in fact here to talk about? We are here on the brink of the ability to for once help patients in America, because user fees are great if in fact we have a process at FDA that works. For the first time since I have been here, the Food and Drug Administration was willing and has sat down and talked about real reform and real modernization at the approval process, real reforms that mean quality of care and better health for Americans.

In fact, with the passage of this, with this point of order not having an opportunity to be raised, we put that in question. We put in question, can we actually get modernization of the Food and Drug Administration? Will the Bonnie Skyler of the world, who wait for noninvasive glucose monitors so she will not have to prick her finger 4 times a day at 4 years old to check her blood sugar, will she still have to do it with this? Probably so. Because we are so close but we have allowed this to step in the way. I urge my colleagues in this House to defeat this rule. Let us send it back to the Committee on

Rules. Let us do the work in a manner that we are supposed to.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. 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. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 367, nays 34, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 490]

YEAS—367

Abercrombie	Combest	Gilchrest
Ackerman	Cook	Gillmor
Aderholt	Cooksey	Goodlatte
Allen	Cox	Goodling
Andrews	Coyne	Gordon
Archer	Cramer	Goss
Armey	Crane	Granger
Bachus	Crapo	Green
Baker	Cummings	Gutierrez
Barcia	Cunningham	Gutknecht
Barrett (NE)	Danner	Hall (OH)
Barrett (WI)	Davis (FL)	Hall (TX)
Bartlett	Davis (IL)	Hamilton
Bass	Davis (VA)	Hansen
Bateman	DeGette	Harman
Bentsen	Delahunt	Hastert
Bereuter	DeLauro	Hastings (FL)
Berman	DeLay	Hastings (WA)
Berry	Dellums	Hayworth
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart	Hefner
Bishop	Dickey	Herger
Blagojevich	Dingell	Hill
Bliley	Doggett	Hilleary
Blumenauer	Doolittle	Hinchey
Blunt	Doyle	Hinojosa
Boehlert	Dreier	Hobson
Boehner	Duncan	Hoekstra
Bonilla	Dunn	Holden
Bonior	Edwards	Hooley
Bono	Ehlers	Horn
Borski	Ehrlich	Hostettler
Boswell	Emerson	Houghton
Boucher	Engel	Hoyer
Boyd	English	Hulshof
Brady	Ensign	Hutchinson
Brown (CA)	Eshoo	Hyde
Brown (OH)	Etheridge	Inglis
Bryant	Evans	Istook
Bunning	Everett	Jackson (IL)
Burton	Ewing	Jackson-Lee
Buyer	Farr	(TX)
Callahan	Fattah	Jefferson
Calvert	Fawell	Jenkins
Camp	Fazio	John
Campbell	Filner	Johnson (CT)
Canady	Flake	Johnson (WI)
Cannon	Foley	Johnson, E. B.
Capps	Forbes	Johnson, Sam
Cardin	Ford	Kanjorski
Carson	Fowler	Kaptur
Castle	Fox	Kasich
Chabot	Frank (MA)	Kelly
Chambliss	Franks (NJ)	Kennedy (MA)
Chenoweth	Frelinghuysen	Kennedy (RI)
Christensen	Frost	Kennelly
Clay	Furse	Kildee
Clayton	Gallegly	Kilpatrick
Clement	Gejdenson	Kim
Clyburn	Gekas	Kind (WI)
Collins	Gibbons	King (NY)

Kingston
Klecza
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Manton
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Nethercutt
Neumann

NAYS—34

Baessler
Ballenger
Barton
Burr
Coble
Condit
Costello
Deal
DeFazio
Deutsch
Ganske
Goode

NOT VOTING—32

Baldacci
Barr
Becerra
Billbray
Brown (FL)
Coburn
Conyers
Cubin
Dicks
Dixon
Dooley

Ney
Northup
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pappas
Parker
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Paxon
Payne
Pease
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rangel
Redmond
Regula
Reyes
Riggs
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryun
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Schaefer, Dan
Schaffer, Bob
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shaw
Shays

Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith, Adam
Smith, Linda
Snowbarger
Snyder
Solomon
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stokes
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thompson
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tierney
Torres
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
White
Wicker
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates
Young (FL)

Rohrabacher
Scarborough
Shadegg
Souder
Stenholm
Sununu
Taylor (MS)
Thurman
Whitfield
Young (AK)

□ 1733

The Clerk announced the following pair:

On this vote:

Mr. Smith of Oregon for, with Mrs. Cubin against.

Messrs. GRAHAM, DEUTSCH, BAESLER, NORWOOD, KLINK, and SHADEGG changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. SNOWBARGER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in getting back from my district, and missed rollcall vote No. 490. But had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 490, on the Rule House Resolution 232, calling up the Agriculture Appropriations Act Conference Agreement for FY 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. SHAW]. Pursuant to House Resolution 232, House Concurrent Resolution 167 is considered as adopted.

The text of House Concurrent Resolution 167 is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 167

"Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That in the enrollment of H.R. 2160 the Clerk of the House shall, in title IV, in the item relating to 'Domestic Food Programs—Food Stamp Program', strike the period and insert the following: ' : Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for studies and evaluations'."

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 629, TEXAS LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL COMPACT CONSENT ACT

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-299) on the resolution (H.Res. 258) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 629) to grant the consent of the Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2160, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 232, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2160)

making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of September 17, 1997, at page H7509.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN] and the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2160 and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House a conference report on H.R. 2160, providing appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies.

Mr. Speaker, the House voted overwhelmingly in favor of this bill on July 24. Since then, we were given an additional \$100 million in the combined allocation process with the Senate. That money has been spent on rural development, research, and conservation, making it an even stronger bill than before while still remaining within our revised allocation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill benefits every American every day, and this is incorporated in this bill. It is truly a bipartisan bill. All of our subcommittee members and many other Members from both sides of the aisle have helped put this bill together, which I think was reflected in the earlier House vote.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], and the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR], the distinguished subcommittee ranking member, for their support. I ask my colleagues to send this conference report on to the Senate and the President with a strong "yes" vote.