

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 7, 1997.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 750, the Hong Kong Reversion Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations on March 6, 1997.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Joseph C. Whitehill.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL,
Director.

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE

H.R. 750, HONG KONG REVERSION ACT—AS ORDERED REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON MARCH 6, 1997

CBO estimates that the bill would result in no significant costs to the federal government. Because it would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 750 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-383) allows the laws of the United States to be applied to Hong Kong without change after its reversion to China so long as Hong Kong remains sufficiently autonomous to justify a separate treatment. H.R. 750 would require that the Secretary of State's report on conditions in Hong Kong required by the earlier act address specific issues regarding Hong Kong's cooperation with U.S. agencies and continued autonomy.

In addition, H.R. 750 would continue, after Hong Kong reverts to China, some of the privileges and immunities that employees of the Hong Kong economic and trade offices currently enjoy as part of the British consular presence.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Joseph C. Whitehill. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 570, the Hong Kong Reversion Act. I commend Chairman BEREUTER and Ranking Member BERMAN for bringing this bill to the floor today. While there are differing views in Congress about the direction which United States-China policy should take, we are all united in our concern about the future of Hong Kong. On July 1, 1997, less than 4 months from now, control over Hong Kong will revert to China. This action defines the future for a freedom-loving people, who will find themselves under the jurisdiction of an authoritarian regime.

There is much at stake with this takeover and the people of Hong Kong are not the only ones who will feel its effects. Hong Kong's very viability as a global financial center will be threatened if the Chinese Government does not act responsibly and does not respect internationally recognized basic human rights and fundamental principles. Transparency, access to unbiased information in real time, and recourse to an independent judicial system are all critical components of long-term economic growth. Restrictions on freedom of the press

and freedom of speech stifle a citizenry and undermine its economy. Unfortunately, the future picture for Hong Kong is already clouded.

In 1984, the United Kingdom and China in 1984 created a framework for Hong Kong's reversion in the Sino-British Joint Declaration. The Joint Declaration established a "one-country, two-system" arrangement, under which Hong Kong would enjoy a "high degree of autonomy" in its operation for the next 50 years. Recently, serious questions have arisen about China's intentions to adhere to its agreement in light of actions by Beijing, including abolishing Hong Kong's democratically elected legislature, and repealing its Bill of Rights and other ordinances ensuring the rights of freedom of association and assembly.

H.R. 750 reaffirms congressional support for the autonomy of Hong Kong and implements a series of reports and guidelines to determine whether China is fulfilling its obligations under the 1984 Joint Declaration. Under the bill, the President of the United States could modify current United States law and policies involving Hong Kong, should he determine that "Hong Kong is not sufficiently autonomous * * *". While this bill does not go as far as I believe it should go in protecting the people of Hong Kong, it is an important step.

No discussion of Hong Kong's future would be complete without acknowledging the ongoing struggle of its brave prodemocracy movement to ensure basic freedoms for its people. The courage and commitment of Hong Kong's prodemocracy activists, led by Martin Lee, and including Emily Lau and Christine Loh, is exemplary. We must speak out on their behalf to support their efforts and to ensure their safety.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. 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 Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 750, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. BEREUTER. 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. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the measure just considered.

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

There was no objection.

MAKING CERTAIN TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 RELATING TO GRADUATION DATA DISCLOSURES

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 914) to make certain technical corrections in the Higher Education Act of 1965 relating to graduation data disclosures, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 914

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

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO DISCLOSURES REQUIRED WITH RESPECT TO GRADUATION RATES.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(B), by striking "June 30" and inserting "August 31"; and

(2) in subsection (e)(9), by striking "August 30" and inserting "August 31".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a) are effective upon enactment.

(2) INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.—No institution shall be required to comply with the amendment made by subsection (a)(1) before July 1, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. McKEON] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are taking up H.R. 914, which the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] and I introduced, and which was reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce by voice vote.

H.R. 914 makes a technical correction to the student right-to-know provisions of the Higher Education Act. The student right-to-know provisions of the Higher Education Act require institutions of higher education to report graduation rates for their student body.

These statistics are compiled for the student body at large and for student athletes as well. Unfortunately, a change made in the fiscal year 1996 omnibus appropriations bill resulted in these rates being calculated at different points in time during the academic year. Rates for the student body at large are calculated as of June 30, while rates for student athletes are calculated as of August 30.

As a result of this mistake, institutions will be required to keep two sets of records for calculating and reporting graduation rates. This amendment corrects the problem by conforming the section of the Higher Education Act dealing with the reporting date for student athletes to the section of the Higher Education Act that requires preparation of graduation rates for all students.

This amendment will set August 31 as the uniform reporting date, which allows institutions to more accurately reflect the manner in which they collect the data on graduation rates, and eliminates the burdensome task of preparing two distinct sets of graduation rates.

The amendment is drafted to allow institutions to comply with the revised dates immediately, as it is our understanding that a majority of institutions wish to use the revised date, and we encourage them to do so.

However, we do not want to penalize those institutions that, for whatever reason, could not immediately comply with the date change. For this reason, the effective date for mandatory compliance with this amendment begins on July 1, 1998. This should allow sufficient time for all institutions to make any system changes necessary to comply with the date change. The higher education community requested our assistance in conforming the reporting dates for graduation rates, with the concurrence of the Department of Education. The technical correction has no budget impact.

I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for his cooperation in moving ahead with this technical correction, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 914.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge adoption of this amendment, of which I am a co-sponsor. It is purely a technical amendment. It would change the August 30 date in the Federal right-to-know law in two places in order to reflect the fact that the month of August actually has 31 days.

The overall importance of the amendment, however, cannot be minimized. The provision to be amended relieves institutions of higher education from collecting separate sets of graduation rates in order to comply with the Federal law. Institutions would be allowed to use data that they are already collecting in order to meet the requirements of the Federal law. The simple date change from August 30 to August 31 will accomplish that objective once and hopefully forever. I urge the amendment's approval.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. McKEON] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 914, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McKEON. 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. 914.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 5 p.m.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Joint Resolution 32, de novo;
House Concurrent Resolution 16, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 68, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 750, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

GRANTING CONSENT TO CERTAIN AMENDMENTS ENACTED BY HAWAIIAN LEGISLATURE TO HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT OF 1920

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question de novo of suspending the rules and passing the joint resolution, House Joint Resolution 32.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, House Joint Resolution 32.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONCERNING URGENT NEED TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS OF SOUTH ASIANS LIVING IN THE GANGES AND BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER BASIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of sus-

pending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 16, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 16, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 1, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No 36]

YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Cramer	Gutknecht
Ackerman	Crane	Hall (OH)
Aderholt	Crapo	Hall (TX)
Allen	Cubin	Hamilton
Archer	Cummings	Hansen
Armey	Cunningham	Harman
Bachus	Danner	Hastert
Baesler	Davis (FL)	Hastings (FL)
Baker	Davis (IL)	Hastings (WA)
Baldacci	Davis (VA)	Hayworth
Ballenger	Deal	Hefley
Barcia	DeFazio	Hefner
Barr	DeGette	Herger
Barrett (NE)	Delahunt	Hill
Barrett (WI)	DeLauro	Hilleary
Bartlett	DeLay	Hilliard
Barton	Dellums	Hinchey
Bass	Deutsch	Hinojosa
Bateman	Diaz-Balart	Hobson
Becerra	Dickey	Hoekstra
Bentsen	Dicks	Holden
Bereuter	Dingell	Hooley
Berman	Dixon	Horn
Berry	Doggett	Hostettler
Bilbray	Dooley	Houghton
Bilirakis	Doolittle	Hoyer
Bishop	Doyle	Hulshof
Blagojevich	Dreier	Hunter
Bliley	Duncan	Hutchinson
Blumenauer	Dunn	Hyde
Blunt	Edwards	Inglis
Boehlert	Ehlers	Istook
Boehner	Ehrlich	Jackson (IL)
Bonilla	Emerson	Jackson-Lee
Bonior	Engel	(TX)
Bono	English	Jefferson
Borski	Ensign	Jenkins
Boswell	Eshoo	John
Boucher	Etheridge	Johnson (CT)
Boyd	Evans	Johnson (WI)
Brady	Everett	Johnson, E. B.
Brown (CA)	Ewing	Johnson, Sam
Brown (FL)	Farr	Jones
Brown (OH)	Fattah	Kanjorski
Bryant	Fawell	Kasich
Bunning	Fazio	Kelly
Burr	Filner	Kennedy (MA)
Burton	Foglietta	Kennedy (RI)
Buyer	Foley	Kennelly
Callahan	Forbes	Kildee
Calvert	Ford	Kilpatrick
Camp	Fowler	Kim
Campbell	Fox	Kind (WI)
Canady	Frank (MA)	King (NY)
Cannon	Franks (NJ)	Kingston
Capps	Frelinghuysen	Klecza
Cardin	Frost	Klink
Castle	Gallegly	Klug
Chabot	Ganske	Knollenberg
Chambliss	Gekas	Kolbe
Chenoweth	Gibbons	Kucinich
Christensen	Gilchrest	LaFalce
Clay	Gillmor	LaHood
Clayton	Gilman	Lampson
Clement	Gonzalez	Lantos
Coburn	Goode	Latham
Collins	Goodlatte	LaTourette
Combest	Goodling	Lazio
Condit	Gordon	Leach
Conyers	Goss	Levin
Cook	Graham	Lewis (CA)
Cooksey	Granger	Lewis (GA)
Costello	Green	Lewis (KY)
Cox	Greenwood	Linder
Coyne	Gutierrez	Lipinski