

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a very special occasion, the marriage today of Kevin McCarthy of Long Island and Leslie Nolan.

Many of my colleagues know the tragic event which compelled Kevin's mother, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MCCARTHY], to seek congressional office, the reckless act of violence on the Long Island railroad that fatally injured her husband and left her son critically injured.

It is often impossible for a family to get through such a devastating experience. Yet the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MCCARTHY] and her son Kevin focused their energies on making a difference and ensuring that such a heinous crime could not so easily happen to another American family.

They are courageous people who refused to give up in the face of tragedy.

Kevin and Leslie met during his mother's successful 1996 congressional campaign. The positive energy surrounding that race must have worn off on these two, for by spring they were engaged. It is rare that we have the opportunity in the well of the House to celebrate the momentous events in people's personal lives and to recognize the silver lining which life offers us.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Kevin and Leslie all the best as they enter this exciting time in their lives. May they accept our sincere congratulations and remember that our thoughts will always be with them.

MORE ON THE IRS

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, if a child molester, a bank robber or a mass murderer is hauled before the bar of justice, they are afforded the procedural presumption of "innocent until proven guilty." It is painfully ironic that when an honest American taxpayer is hauled before the IRS for an audit, the presumption often works in just the opposite fashion: presumed guilty until proven innocent.

Recently, the Republican chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, the distinguished gentleman from Texas, offered a proposal that would end this injustice: he proposed that taxpayers be given the same presumption the law affords criminals charged with a public offense. Unbelievably, White House spokesman responded to this proposal by saying it would undermine the ability of the IRS to collect all taxes that are legitimately owed.

In response, columnist Joseph Sobran today hit the nail on the head. He wrote, "the IRS is the last bastion of law and order, if you equate law and order with government vigilantism."

IN SUPPORT OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, over 200 years ago John Hancock and dozens of other patriots signed the Declaration of Independence to proclaim their independence from England.

Well, today, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from both sides of the aisle and I are putting our John Hancock on a discharge petition on campaign finance reform. We are doing this to declare this Government's independence from big money and special interests. Just as King George refused the American Colonies the representation they deserve, so has the Republican leadership continued to refuse the American people the debate on campaign finance reform that they want and that they deserve. The colonists declared no taxation without representation. It is time for us to say, no adjournment without a debate on campaign finance reform.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question de novo of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 318, noes 56, not voting 59, as follows:

[Roll No. 526]

AYES—318

Ackerman	Bunning	Davis (VA)
Aderholt	Burr	Deal
Allen	Burton	DeGette
Andrews	Buyer	Delahunt
Armey	Callahan	DeLay
Bachus	Calvert	Deutsch
Baessler	Camp	Diaz-Balart
Baker	Campbell	Dicks
Barcia	Canady	Dingell
Barr	Cannon	Dooley
Barrett (NE)	Capps	Doyle
Barrett (WI)	Cardin	Dreier
Bartlett	Carson	Duncan
Barton	Castle	Dunn
Bass	Chabot	Edwards
Bateman	Chambliss	Ehlers
Bentsen	Christensen	Ehrlich
Berman	Clayton	Emerson
Berry	Clement	Engel
Bilbray	Coble	Eshoo
Bilirakis	Coburn	Etheridge
Bishop	Collins	Evans
Blagojevich	Combest	Ewing
Bliley	Condit	Farr
Blumenauer	Conyers	Fattah
Blunt	Cook	Flake
Boehlert	Cox	Foley
Boehner	Coyne	Forbes
Bonilla	Cramer	Ford
Boswell	Crapo	Fowler
Boucher	Cummings	Frank (MA)
Boyd	Cunningham	Franks (NJ)
Brady	Danner	Frelinghuysen
Brown (FL)	Davis (FL)	Frost
Bryant	Davis (IL)	Furse

Gallegly	Linder	Rogers
Ganske	Lipinski	Ros-Lehtinen
Gejdenson	Livingston	Rothman
Gilchrest	Lofgren	Roukema
Gilman	Lowe	Royce
Goode	Lucas	Rush
Goodlatte	Luther	Salmon
Goodling	Maloney (CT)	Sanchez
Gordon	Manton	Sandlin
Goss	Manzullo	Sanford
Graham	Mascara	Sawyer
Granger	Matsui	Saxton
Green	McCarthy (MO)	Schaefer, Dan
Greenwood	McCollum	Schumer
Hall (OH)	McHale	Scott
Hall (TX)	McHugh	Sensenbrenner
Hamilton	McInnis	Serrano
Hansen	McIntyre	Shadegg
Harman	McKeon	Shaw
Hastert	McKinney	Shays
Hastings (FL)	Meehan	Sherman
Hastings (WA)	Metcalfe	Shimkus
Hayworth	Mica	Shuster
Hefner	Millender-McDonald	Skaggs
Herger	Miller (FL)	Skeen
Hill	Minge	Skelton
Hinojosa	Mink	Slaughter
Hobson	Moakley	Smith (MI)
Hoekstra	Moran (KS)	Smith (NJ)
Holden	Murtha	Smith (TX)
Hooley	Myrick	Smith, Adam
Horn	Neal	Smith, Linda
Hostettler	Nethercutt	Snowbarger
Hoyer	Neumann	Snyder
Hutchinson	Ney	Solomon
Hyde	Northup	Spence
Inglis	Norwood	Spratt
Istook	Nussle	Stabenow
Jackson (IL)	Obey	Stark
Jackson-Lee (TX)	Olver	Stenholm
Jenkins	Ortiz	Strickland
John	Oxley	Stump
Johnson (CT)	Packard	Sununu
Johnson, Sam	Pappas	Talent
Jones	Parker	Tanner
Kanjorski	Pastor	Tauzin
Kaptur	Paul	Taylor (NC)
Kelly	Paxon	Thomas
Kennedy (MA)	Pease	Thornberry
Kennedy (RI)	Pelosi	Thune
Kennelly	Peterson (MN)	Thurman
Kildee	Peterson (PA)	Tiahrt
Kilpatrick	Petri	Tierney
Kim	Pickering	Trafficant
Kind (WI)	Pitts	Turner
King (NY)	Pomeroy	Upton
Kingston	Portman	Vento
Klink	Poshard	Walsh
Klug	Price (NC)	Wamp
Knollenberg	Pryce (OH)	Watkins
LaFalce	Quinn	Watt (NC)
LaHood	Radanovich	Watts (OK)
Lampson	Rahall	Waxman
Lantos	Redmond	Weldon (FL)
Largent	Regula	Wexler
Latham	Reyes	Weygand
LaTourette	Riley	White
Lazio	Rivers	Wolf
Levin	Rodriguez	Woolsey
Lewis (CA)	Roemer	Wynn
Lewis (KY)	Rogan	Yates

NOES—56

Abercrombie	Gutierrez	Miller (CA)
Baldacci	Gutknecht	Oberstar
Becerra	Hefley	Pallone
Bonior	Hilleary	Pascarell
Borski	Hilliard	Pickett
Clay	Hinchey	Ramstad
Clyburn	Hulshof	Sabo
Costello	Jefferson	Schaffer, Bob
DeFazio	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.	Stupak
Doggett	Kucinich	Tauscher
English	Lewis (GA)	Taylor (MS)
Ensign	LoBiondo	Thompson
Everett	Maloney (NY)	Velazquez
Fazio	McDermott	Visclosky
Filner	McGovern	Weller
Fox	McNulty	Wicker
Gephardt	Meek	Wise
Gibbons	Menendez	

NOT VOTING—59

Archer	Brown (CA)	Crane
Ballenger	Brown (OH)	Cubin
Bereuter	Chenoweth	Dellums
Bono	Cooksey	Dickey

Dixon	McCrery	Sanders
Doolittle	McDade	Scarborough
Fawell	McIntosh	Schiff
Foglietta	Mollohan	Sisisky
Gekas	Moran (VA)	Smith (OR)
Gillmor	Morella	Souder
Gonzalez	Nadler	Stearns
Houghton	Owens	Stokes
Hunter	Payne	Torres
Kasich	Pombo	Towns
Klecicka	Porter	Waters
Kolbe	Rangel	Weldon (PA)
Leach	Riggs	Whitfield
Markay	Rohrabacher	Young (AK)
Martinez	Roybal-Allard	Young (FL)
McCarthy (NY)	Ryun	

□ 0939

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, is it not customary for lines forming to sign discharge petitions, that they do so along the side, so that they are not in the middle of the gentlewoman from New York who is trying to present a rule?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The Chair is advised the last several times discharge petitions were filed, the line of Members proceeded from the far right-hand aisle so as not to interfere with debate of the House.

The Chair will insist that Members not stand between the Chair and the Members speaking and that Members not congregate in the well during the debate.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2107, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 277 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 277

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2107) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies 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. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York [Ms. SLAUGHTER], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 277 waives all points of order against the conference report and against its con-

sideration. The rule also provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. The conference report for the Department of the Interior and related agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998 incorporates a total of \$13.8 billion for the fiscal year 1998.

□ 0945

Mr. Speaker, the agenda of the majority has been misrepresented on a number of issues in the past, one of those issues being our commitment to preserving our natural treasures and the environment. In the 104th Congress, we passed a very proenvironment farm bill, a safe drinking water bill, and nine other major bills that had the support of countless environmental groups. Today we have before us a funding bill that takes care of our national parks and protects our environmental resources by providing funding increases for the national parks, the National Forest System, national wildlife operations, and Everglades restoration.

I am also very pleased that the Interior bill amends the recreational fee demonstration program that will now allow parks, forests, and other public lands to keep all the fees that are collected. This initiative, when combined with the \$362 million remaining from the \$699 million appropriation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, will help address the backlog in maintenance on public lands.

We all want our children and grandchildren to enjoy the natural beauty of our Nation's treasures, and I believe that this effort will ensure a better maintained and operated parks system for future generations. Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased that the Interior bill includes funding increases for some quality museums and artistic institutions, including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, the Holocaust Memorial Council, and the Kennedy Center.

I am not, however, supportive of the funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, which receives a \$1.5 million cut in this bill below last year's level. While I am disappointed that we were unable to hold the House position that I strongly supported, I am pleased that this bill contains some major oversight reforms of this agency. We all know that private donations and corporate sponsors provide billions of dollars to encourage an appreciation of the arts, and I simply do not believe we need to fund the NEA when these funds could be put to better use. I urge my colleagues to support this rule so we may proceed with the general debate and consideration of the merits of this very important bill.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This conference report has taken a long time to complete, Mr. Speaker,

because the Interior appropriations bill encompasses a number of controversial issues, including the arts and the environment. However, I would like to praise the conferees for their hard work in reaching agreement on the report language.

In particular, I am pleased that they ultimately saw fit to include in the report \$98 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, a funding level which more accurately reflects America's support for the arts than did the original House bill from which all NEA funding was struck on a point of order. It is essential that we continue Federal support for the arts because the arts enhance so many facets of our lives. From the educational development of our children to the economic growth of our towns and cities, we learn more every day about the ways in which the arts contribute to our children's learning.

One recent study showed that students with 4 years of instruction in the arts scored 59 points higher on the verbal portion and 44 points higher on the math section of the SAT's than did students with no art classes. New research in the area of brain development shows a strong link between the arts and early childhood development. At the University of California in Irvine, researchers found that music training is far superior to computer instruction in dramatically enhancing a child's abstract reasoning skills, which are necessary for the learning of math and science. Another recent study showed that doctors with music instruction had greater diagnostic abilities in using stethoscopes than did doctors without music training, and we were all quite surprised to find that the skill of listening and diagnosing with a stethoscope was missing in far too many of our physicians.

Obviously, arts education pays great dividends in a wide range of fields. No other Federal program yields such great rewards on so small an investment. The arts are also an integral driving force behind the economic growth of our Nation. The small investment that we make this year, \$98 million, will contribute to a return of \$3.4 billion or more to the Federal treasury.

The arts support at least 1.3 million jobs, not only in New York City or Los Angeles or Chicago, but in smaller cities like Providence, RI; Rock Hill, SC; and Peekskill, NY. These are just a few of the many towns and cities across our Nation whose economies have flourished, largely as a direct result of investments that have been made in the arts.

This is not a parochial issue. Members of the House received a letter earlier this year from Americans United to Save the Arts and Humanities, an organization of business leaders, expressing their strong support for NEA. In that letter the CEO of Xerox Corp., the chairman and CEO of Sun America, Inc., the chairman and CEO of Sara Lee