

gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) to explain both the amendment that he is proposing and the resolution.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. The purpose of the amendment will address the issue of the previous continuing resolution. The CR that we passed earlier today would have authorized continuing appropriations from today until November 23. Because of the concern in the Senate that they may need a little extra time in dealing with this proposal and to give the President sufficient time to adequately review the appropriations agreement, this amendment would change the date from November 23 to December 2 to today until December 2.

Mr. OBEY. Further reserving the right to object, would the gentleman explain the amendment that strikes November 23 and inserts November 18?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. November 18 is today, and we are amending this resolution so that it begins today and runs until December 2.

Mr. OBEY. So it is purely technical?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Purely technical. However, it does give additional time to the Senate and provides additional time for the President to use his full 10 days, if he so desires, to review this legislation.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, let me simply take 10 seconds to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle for all of the work that they have done. Even when that work sometimes produces turkeys as a result, it is not the fault of the staff; it is at the direction of the politicians themselves.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the gentleman in that commendation of the appropriators and their staff, with our clerk Jim Dyer and your clerk Scott Lilly, with the front office staff, John Mikel and Chuck Parkinson and all of the members of the Committee on Appropriations staff. When we finished at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning, they worked until 5:00 or 6:00 in the morning and they have worked almost every weekend for the last 2 months. They have done a really dynamic job, and I appreciate the gentleman raising that issue.

There are many more staff on the Committee on Appropriations that I would like to now recognize for the excellent work that they do.

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Mr. OBEY. Merry Christmas.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment is agreed to.

□ 1745

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). All time for debate has expired.

The joint resolution, as amended, is considered as having been read for amendment.

Pursuant to House Resolution 385, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and as read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution, as amended.

The joint resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REPORT ON NATION'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN AERONAUTICS AND SPACE DURING FISCAL YEAR 1998—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit this report on the Nation's achievements in aeronautics and space during Fiscal Year (FY) 1998, as required under section 206 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2476). Aeronautics and space activities involved 14 contributing departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the results of their ongoing research and development affect the Nation in many ways.

A wide variety of aeronautics and space developments took place during FY 1998. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed five Space Shuttle flights. There were 29 successful Expandable Launch Vehicle (ELV) launches in FY 1998. Of those, 3 were NASA-managed missions, 2 were NASA-funded/Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-licensed missions, 8 were Department of Defense (DOD)-managed missions, and 16 were FAA-licensed commercial launches. Scientists also made some dramatic new discoveries in various space-related fields such as space science, Earth science, and remote sensing, and life and microgravity science. In aeronautics, activities included work on high-speed research, advanced subsonic technology, and technologies designed to improve the safety and efficiency of our commercial airlines and air traffic control system.

Close international cooperation with Russia occurred on the Shuttle-Mir docking missions and on the ISS program. The United States also entered into new forms of cooperation with its partners in Europe, South America, and Asia.

Thus, FY 1998 was a very successful one for U.S. aeronautics and space programs. Efforts in these areas have contributed significantly to the Nation's scientific and technical knowledge, international cooperation, a healthier environment, and a more competitive economy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 18, 1999.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2699

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2699.

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

There was no objection.

#### WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1180, TICKET TO WORK AND WORK INCENTIVES IM- PROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 387 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 387

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1180) to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, 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 Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished 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 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, H.Res. 387 would grant a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1180, the Ticket to Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, and against its consideration. The rule further provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report to accompany H.R. 1180 establishes a ticket to work program for recipients of Social Security disability benefits to seek vocational rehabilitation and employment services as well as enabling those individuals to work while keeping their health insurance. This legislation also creates new options for States to allow disabled individuals to purchase Medicaid insurance.

The conference agreement also provides approximately \$15.8 billion in tax relief over 5 years, \$18.4 billion over 10 years, by extending certain tax credits. This tax extenders package includes renewal of several expiring tax credit provisions, including the R&D tax credit, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, and the Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit as well as providing tax relief for individuals and families by protecting at least 1 million families from higher taxes over the next 3 years due to the AMT tax. Finally, the measure includes approximately \$2.6 billion in revenue offsets over the next 5 years and \$2.9 billion over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from Texas (Chairman ARCHER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), ranking member, for their leadership in resolving the many complex issues contained in this legislation and urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the conference report itself.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding me the time.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have heard it said that human beings exhibit their most creative potential when they are kindergarten age. Well, whoever said that probably needs to spend a little time around here at the end of a session. There is some very creative work being done.

Vexing problems which have been around for months and may be even years are suddenly solved when the sand starts running out of the Congressional hour glass, or they are suddenly turned into bargaining chips. Witness what is happening with reproductive rights and the payment of our UN debts.

Major issues which have languished unattended are addressed and then tossed abroad whenever the legislative vehicle is leaving the station. Meanwhile, many others, such as the bill of rights protecting people from their HMOs or efforts to fight gun violence never get their tickets punched.

But rest assured, Mr. Speaker, the American people want a Patients' Bill of Rights, they want us to do better on gun violence, and they will be watching when we return in the year 2000.

As for the rule which is currently before us, H. Res. 387, it provides for the consideration of several disparate issues which have been corralled under a single bill title.

Part A of the bill is the Work Incentives Improvement Act, a bill to modernize our woefully outdated national disability policies.

When policies on Medicaid and other programs for the disabled were first developed decades ago, having a disability often meant that an individual is confined to home or an institution. Today, however, with advances in technology, training, and rehabilitation, many individuals with disabilities are allowed to hold good jobs and live very full lives in the mainstream of society.

The Work Incentives Improvement Act will allow persons with disabilities to continue receiving certain benefits, particularly health coverage, while returning to work. The proposal also provides for more State flexibility and serving individuals with disabilities through health programs, associated services like transportation assistance, and training.