

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1906, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 185 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 185

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1906) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII or section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the 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.

House Resolution 185 is an open rule, providing for the consideration of H.R. 1906, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2000.

The rule waives clause 4(a) of rule 13, requiring a 3-day layover of the com-

mittee report, and Section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act, prohibiting consideration of legislation within the Committee on the Budget's jurisdiction, unless reported by the Committee on the Budget, against consideration of the bill. Further, the rule waives clause 2 of rule XXI, prohibiting unauthorized and legislative provisions in an appropriations bill, against provisions in the bill.

As has become standard practice since the 104th Congress, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides Members who have preprinted their amendments in the RECORD prior to their consideration priority in recognition to offer their amendments.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes during consideration of the bill and reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

I would like to urge my colleagues to support this open rule on our first appropriations measure to come to the floor in the 106th Congress, Agriculture Appropriations.

I commend the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), for their hard work in producing this year's bill, which provides significant assistance for agriculture. I know that spending levels are extremely tight, and I believe they did a good job of working within their limits.

The Agriculture Appropriations bill funds programs that help benefit each of us every single day. From improving nutrition to helping ensure safe and nutritious food to put on America's tables, the funds in this bill make it possible for less than 2 percent of the American population to provide food that is safe, nutritious, and affordable for all 272 million people in the United States of America, as well as others throughout the world.

I have consistently been an admirer and supporter of American agriculture, and I commend the hard work and efficiency of the American farmer. I am pleased to support both this open rule providing the means to bring forth this legislation today and the underlying bill. I urge my colleagues to support this rule.

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for yielding me the time.

This is an open rule on the Agriculture Appropriations bill. As my colleague has described, this rule provides for one hour to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule permits amendments under the 5-minute rule, which is the normal amending process in the House. Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer amendments which are germane and which follow the rules for appropriations bills.

The Agriculture Appropriations bill is one of the most important measures that we consider. It funds programs that feed hungry people in the United States and around the world. It supports the American farmers, who are so important to the U.S. economy.

This bill represents a compromise. I wish that some of the funding levels could be higher. However, I recognize that appropriators were working under restraints and they faced many difficult decisions. Overall, this is a worthwhile bill.

I appreciate the efforts of the Appropriations subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), and especially the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), ranking minority member, in crafting the bill. They did a good job. They had to work under difficult constraints, but they did a very, very good job and funded some very important programs.

The committee restored \$50 million cut by the administration for Title 2 of the P.L. 480 "Food for Peace" program. This program donates crops grown by American farmers to hungry people in impoverished and war-torn countries. This is the cornerstone of America's humanitarian assistance around the world.

The bill provides \$4 billion for the WIC program, which provides nutrition to women, infants, and children. This is \$81 million more than the current level of funding but \$100 million less than the administration's request. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, this level is not adequate to maintain the current participation level of 7.4 million recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I note that once again the Committee on Rules has been forced to waive the 3-day layover for committee reports. This rule guarantees that all Members have at least 3 days to examine a bill before the committee files a report with the House. By waiving this rule, the House risks that some Members will not have enough time to study a bill before it is considered on the House floor.

This is the 13th time this year the Committee on Rules had to waive this rule. But it is an important bill and we need to act quickly, so I will support the rule and the bill. I think it is vital, important, and we need it.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

□ 1230

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to talk about where we

are going in this country. This rule is symptomatic of the problem that we face. There are two Members of the House who honestly agreed that we would not be able to live within the 1997 budget agreement with the President. Those two Members voted for a budget that would actually spend Social Security money. Everybody else that is a Member of this House voted for one budget or another that would preserve 100 percent of the Social Security surplus this year. This bill is the first among many bills that will do exactly the opposite of that. The Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies states that this bill is a cut. That is an untruthful statement. This bill actually increases spending around \$250 million. That money will come from the Social Security surplus.

There will be those today in the debate on this bill that will deny that. They will say there is no way you can know that this money will be coming from Social Security because we have not considered the other bills. To me that is intellectually dishonest, because we realize that this is the first bill of 13 appropriations bills under which we will consider over the next several months. We have said with the budget that passed this House that we would preserve 100 percent of the Social Security surplus. My question to my colleagues is if we really do not intend to do that, it is time for us to be very, very honest with the American people. I put my colleagues on notice that I will vote for no appropriations bill and no rule that is intended to spend the first penny of Social Security surplus. The issue really is not Social Security. The issue really is are we going to regenerate faith of the American people in this body? We cannot in good conscience for our country, for our children and for our grandchildren do anything but be fully honest about what our intentions are.

On my side of the aisle, there is a great debate on how best to accomplish this. We are faced with an ag appropriations bill because of process time. We must get a bill to the floor. We must start passing appropriations bills. Consequently, we are going to put forth a bill today and a rule. There is no question in my mind it will pass. There is no question in my mind that this bill also will probably pass. But if it does in its present form, \$250 million above last year, then what we are saying to the American people is we do not really mean what we say when we passed both a Democrat budget, which did not pass but when we voted on it, or the Republican budget which did pass and we voted on, that we really do not mean what we say about protecting Social Security money. That lies at the heart of the problems of our body. For America to thrive, for America to turn around from the tragedies that are facing us today, the same principles have to be beheld in this body, and that is a principle of truth.

If in fact this body intends to protect Social Security, if it intends to do that, if we are true with our votes about what we meant on the various budgets, then there is no way this rule should pass and there is no way if this rule passes that this bill should pass.

I come from an agricultural district. My district is farmers. It is rural. Everything in my district has lots to do with the appropriations coming from the Agricultural Department. But we can do better. We must do better. Because it is not about spending Social Security money. It is not about being true to our word. It is about the foundational structure of our country and whether or not we are going to operate on the principles that we want our children to have, that we are going to reinforce the positive aspects of honor, of commitment to your word. Are we going to set an example for our children in high school that we are going to do what we said we were going to do? Are we going to be true to the founding principles of this country?

I am in my last term, and I must say that I am very much discouraged as a Member of this body whether or not we have a great future when in fact we say one thing and mean another. I hope that you will check your heart, not just your mind, especially not your political mind, but that you will check your heart. Do we really mean it when we say we are going to protect Social Security, or do we not? I believe we do not mean it.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I rise in strong support of this rule, and I congratulate the chairman and the ranking member for their work. I think there are a lot of very positive aspects to this bill.

I wanted to highlight, though, at this moment two amendments that I will be offering with support from different members from both political parties. Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that in the United States of America today, at a time when we are far and away the wealthiest country in the history of the world, hunger, h-u-n-g-e-r, remains a very serious problem for senior citizens and for children in this Nation. At a time when this Nation possesses so much wealth, there is absolutely no excuse, none at all, that one American citizen is hungry. And yet hospital administrators tell us that many of the senior citizens who come into their hospitals are suffering, if you can believe this, from malnutrition. Malnutrition. That is not what should be going on in the United States. I along with Democrats and Republicans will be offering an amendment to increase by \$10 million funding for the Commodities Supplemental Food Program which comes close, therefore, to the level that the President had requested. This amendment will be offset by cutting the Agricul-

tural Research Service which received a \$50 million increase this year, bringing it up to \$830 million. So they received a \$50 million increase up to \$830 million when we have large numbers of senior citizens in this country going hungry. And while agriculture research is important and there is much in that bill that is important, we should not be increasing funds to develop red snapper aquaculture when senior citizens and children in America are going hungry.

The second amendment that I will be introducing will be a very small amount of money which would go to help develop agritourism in the United States. It is no secret that all over this country, family farmers, whether it is dairy, whether it is in other commodities, are fighting for their lives, and there are States such as New Mexico and Massachusetts with an agritourism program, a program by which tourists could come visit family farms, perhaps to bed-and-breakfast or other types of activities and get cash into the pockets of family farms who are struggling. There are some very good programs all over this country that have been established in New Mexico, established in Massachusetts. I think it is important for a small sum of money to be appropriated at the Federal level to allow innovative programs to be developed throughout this country. I would hope that for those of us who are concerned about preserving the family farm, we support that amendment as well.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would simply request support for this rule. It is an open rule. Any concerns or opposition that Members may have with regard to the underlying legislation can be dealt with through amendments. If there are colleagues who believe there is too much spending, they can propose amendments to cut spending. All of that is permitted under a totally open rule. And so I would ask all of my colleagues to support this rule so that the process can go on and so precisely debate on the legislation, including any disagreements, may also go on and take place in this House today.

Mr. Speaker, 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 (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. COBURN. 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 Chair announces that proceedings will resume immediately following this first 15-minute vote on the three postponed suspension motions and that each of those will be 5-minute votes.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 10, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 147]

YEAS—402

Abercrombie	Davis (IL)	Horn	Mollohan	Rogan	Stump
Ackerman	Davis (VA)	Houghton	Moore	Rogers	Stupak
Aderholt	Deal	Hoyer	Moran (KS)	Rohrabacher	Sununu
Allen	DeFazio	Hulshof	Moran (VA)	Ros-Lehtinen	Sweeney
Andrews	DeGette	Hunter	Morella	Rothman	Talent
Archer	Delahunt	Hutchinson	Myrick	Roukema	Tancredo
Armey	DeLauro	Hyde	Nadler	Royal-Allard	Tanner
Bachus	DeLay	Inslee	Neal	Royce	Tauscher
Baird	DeMint	Isakson	Nethercutt	Rush	Tauzin
Baker	Deutsch	Istook	Ney	Ryan (WI)	Taylor (MS)
Baldacci	Diaz-Balart	Jackson (IL)	Northup	Ryun (KS)	Taylor (NC)
Baldwin	Dickey	Jefferson	Norwood	Sabo	Terry
Ballenger	Dicks	Jenkins	Nussle	Salmon	Thomas
Barcia	Dingell	Johnson (CT)	Oberstar	Sanchez	Thompson (CA)
Barr	Dixon	Johnson, E. B.	Obey	Sanders	Thompson (MS)
Barrett (NE)	Doggett	Johnson, Sam	Olver	Sawyer	Thune
Barrett (WI)	Dooley	Jones (NC)	Ose	Saxton	Thurman
Bartlett	Doolittle	Jones (OH)	Owens	Scarborough	Tiaht
Barton	Doyle	Kanjorski	Pallone	Schaffer	Tierney
Bass	Dreier	Kaptur	Pascrell	Schakowsky	Toomey
Bateman	Duncan	Kelly	Pastor	Sensenbrenner	Traficant
Becerra	Dunn	Kennedy	Pease	Serrano	Turner
Bentsen	Ehlers	Kildee	Pelosi	Sessions	Udall (CO)
Bereuter	Ehrlich	Kilpatrick	Petri	Sherman	Vento
Berkley	Emerson	Kind (WI)	Phelps	Sherwood	Visclosky
Berman	Engel	King (NY)	Pickering	Shimkus	Walden
Berry	English	Kingston	Pickett	Shows	Walsh
Biggert	Eshoo	Kleckza	Portman	Shuster	Wamp
Bilbray	Etheridge	Klink	Rahall	Simpson	Waters
Bilirakis	Evans	Knollenberg	Raderovich	Sisisky	Watkins
Blagojevich	Everett	Kolbe	Pomeroy	Porter	Watt (NC)
Bliley	Farr	Kucinich	Reynolds	Skeen	Wexler
Blumenauer	Fattah	Kuykendall	Riley	Stabenow	Weygand
Blunt	Filner	LaFalce	Rodriguez	Rivers	Wicker
Boehlert	Fletcher	LaHood	Roemer	Stearns	Wilson
Boehner	Foley	Lampson		Stenholm	Wise
Bonilla	Forbes	Lantos		Strickland	Wolff
Bonior	Ford	Largent			Woolsey
Bono	Fossella	Larson			Wynn
Borski	Fowler	Latham			Young (FL)
Boswell	Frank (MA)	LaTourette			
Boyd	Franks (NJ)	Lazio			
Brady (PA)	Frelinghuysen	Leach			
Brady (TX)	Frost	Lee			
Brown (FL)	Gallegly	Levin			
Brown (OH)	Ganske	Lewis (CA)			
Bryant	Gejdenson	Lewis (GA)			
Burr	Gekas	Lewis (KY)			
Burton	Gephardt	Linder			
Callahan	Gibbons	Lipinski			
Calvert	Gilchrest	LoBiondo			
Camp	Gillmor	LoFgren			
Campbell	Gilman	Lowey			
Canady	Gonzalez	Lucas (OK)			
Cannon	Goode	Luther			
Capps	Goodlatte	Maloney (CT)			
Capuano	Goodling	Maloney (NY)			
Cardin	Gordon	Manzullo			
Carson	Goss	Markey			
Castle	Granger	Martinez			
Chabot	Green (TX)	Mascara			
Chambliss	Green (WI)	Matsui			
Chenoweth	Greenwood	McCarthy (MO)			
Clay	Gutierrez	McCarthy (NY)			
Clayton	Gutknecht	McCollum			
Clement	Hall (OH)	McCrary			
Clyburn	Hall (TX)	McDermott			
Coble	Hansen	McGovern			
Collins	Hastings (FL)	McHugh			
Combest	Hastings (WA)	McInnis			
Condit	Hayes	McIntyre			
Conyers	Hayworth	McKeon			
Cook	Hefley	McNulty			
Cooksey	Herger	Meehan			
Costello	Hill (IN)	Meek (FL)			
Coyne	Hill (MT)	Meeks (NY)			
Cramer	Hill (MT)	Menendez			
Crane	Hilfary	Metcalf			
Crowley	Hinchey	Mica			
Cubin	Hobson	Miller (FL)			
Cummings	Hoefel	Miller, Gary			
Cunningham	Holden	Minge			
Danner	Holt	Mink			
Davis (FL)	Hooley	Moakley			

MISSING, EXPLOITED, AND RUN-AWAY CHILDREN PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the Senate bill, S. 249, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 241, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 1, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 148]

YEAS—414

Abercrombie	Combest	Goode
Ackerman	Condit	Goodlatte
Aderholt	Conyers	Goodling
Allen	Cook	Gordon
Andrews	Cooksey	Goss
Archer	Costello	Granger
Armey	Cox	Green (TX)
Baird	Coyne	Green (WI)
Baker	Cramer	Greenwood
Baldacci	Crane	Gutierrez
Baldwin	Baldwin	Gutknecht
Ballenger	Crowley	Hall (OH)
Barcia	Cubin	Hall (TX)
Barr	Cummings	Hansen
Bentsen	Cunningham	Hastings (FL)
Bereuter	Danner	Hastings (WA)
Berkley	DeMint	Hilliard
Berman	Deutsch	Hinchey
Berry	Diaz-Balart	Hobson
Biggert	Dickey	Hoeffel
Bilbray	Dicks	Hoekstra
Bilirakis	Dingell	Holden
Blagojevich	Dix	Holt
Bliley	Doggett	Hooley
Blumenauer	Dole	Horn
Bilirakis	Doolittle	Hostettler
Berry	Dowell	Hoyer
Biggert	Doyle	Houghton
Bilbray	Dreier	Hoyer
Bilirakis	Duncan	Hulshof
Bonilla	Dunn	Hunter
Bonior	Edwards	Hutchinson
Bonior	Ehlers	Hyde
Borski	Ehrlich	Inslee
Boswell	Emerson	Isakson
Boyd	Engel	Istook
Brady (PA)	English	Jackson (IL)
Brady (TX)	Eshoo	Jefferson
Brown (FL)	Etheridge	Jenkins
Brown (OH)	Brown (OH)	John
Bryant	Everett	Johnson (CT)
Burr	Farr	Johnson, E. B.
Burton	Fattah	Johnson, Sam
Callahan	Filner	Jones (NC)
Calvert	Fletcher	Jones (OH)
Camp	Foley	Kanjorski
Campbell	Forbes	Kaptur
Canady	Ford	Kelly
Cannon	Fossella	Kennedy
Capps	Fowler	Kildee
Capuano	Frank (MA)	Kilpatrick
Cardin	Franks (NJ)	Kind (WI)
Carson	Frelenghuisen	King (NY)
Castle	Frost	Kingston
Chabot	Gallegly	Kleckza
Chambliss	Ganske	Klink
Chenoweth	Gejdenson	Knollenberg
Clay	Gekas	Kolbe
Clayton	Gephart	Kucinich
Clement	Gibbons	Kuykendall
Clyburn	Gilchrest	LaFalce
Coble	Gillmor	LaHood
Collins	Gilman	Lampson
Combest	Gonzalez	Lantos

□ 1301

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, 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:

S. 249, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1833, by the yeas and nays; and

House Resolution 178, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for each vote in this series.