

BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 244.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2465, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 242 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 242

*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. 2465) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. 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 gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose 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. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Committee on Rules met and granted an

open rule for H.R. 2465, the Fiscal Year 2000 Military Construction Appropriations Act. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule waives clause 2 of House rule XXI, prohibiting unauthorized or legislative provisions in a general appropriations bill, against provisions in the bill.

The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority and recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce votes 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.

Mr. Speaker, the United States' military is clearly the best in the world. The young men and women in our Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines are thoroughly dedicated and patriotic professionals, the best our Nation has to offer.

So how do we reward them? We pay them with wages so low that many military families are forced to eat with food stamps, and we lodge them in substandard World War II era housing.

These, among other reasons, are why we are losing good men and women who stop serving their country because the hardships on their families are so great. This is inexcusable, and Congress has been working hard to do something about it. This year we have passed a 4.8 percent military pay raise, and with this bill we will improve military housing.

H.R. 2465 provides \$747 million for new housing construction and \$2.8 billion for the operation and improvement of existing housing. The bill also provides \$964 million for barracks and medical facilities for troops and their families.

Finally, because of an increase in two-income and single-parent families, the bill provides \$21 million for child development centers.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 242 is an open rule for a good, noncontroversial bill. In addition to taking care of our military personnel, this bill is good for the environment. It includes \$69 million for environmental compliance programs.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and to support the underlying legislation.

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 gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule. It will allow for consideration of H.R. 2465, which is a bill that makes appro-

priations for military construction worldwide.

As my colleague from North Carolina has explained, this rule will provide for debate to be controlled and directed and divided by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Appropriations. Under this rule, germane amendments will be allowed under the 5-minute rule, which is the normal amending process in the House.

All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer amendments. This bill funds a range of construction projects on military bases, including barracks, housing for military families, hospitals, training facilities, and other buildings that support the missions of our armed services. The bill also funds activities necessary to carry out the last two rounds of base closings and realignments.

Modern facilities are necessary to maintain our national defense. New buildings can increase efficiency and improve morale. The money spent in this bill is a long-term investment in our defense capabilities.

The bill contains \$39 billion for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which is partially in my district and partially in the 7th District that is held by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), my colleague, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction.

Two of the Wright-Patterson projects funded in the bill are much-needed laboratories that will develop new technology for the weapons systems of the 21st century. The work in these buildings will continue a long tradition of military aviation research in the Miami Valley, Ohio, going back to the days of the Wright brothers.

I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), the chairman of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), the ranking minority member, for their work in crafting the bill and bringing it to the floor.

The bill was approved by the Committee on Appropriations on a voice vote. It has support on both sides of the aisle. It is an open rule. It was adopted by a voice vote of the Committee on Rules.

I support the rule and the bill and urge its adoption.

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), the distinguished chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise in very strong support of this open rule, yet another open rule, from the Committee on Rules under the leadership of the

gentleman from California (Chairman DREIER).

While the Military Construction Appropriations Bill is obviously one of the least controversial bills this House takes up every year in appropriations, it is critically important for our men and women in uniform and their families.

Quality-of-life issues are always important for every American, but for these people in the military, these quality-of-life issues have become even more problematical in recent years because the Clinton administration has asked our troops to do much more with much less. In some cases, our troops and their families are simply not being properly provided for. This is no secret, but it is a shame, and it is time we did something about it.

I was, therefore, disappointed with the Clinton/Gore administration budget request for military construction. It is yet another example of the neglect of our Armed Forces under this administration at the same time the administration misuses those forces to bail out their misguided policies.

□ 1115

I am pleased that the bill before us corrects several shortcomings in the administration's request. For example, it provides \$1.6 billion more than the administration's request for military construction and a half billion more than the administration's request for family housing. That is, the spouses and children. I want to commend the Committee on Appropriations for its work and encourage my colleagues to support this rule, another fair, open rule and a good appropriations bill.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. 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 resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2466, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 243 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 243

*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. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior 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 section 306 or 401 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 except as follows: beginning with "Provided" on page 37, line 23, through the closing quotation mark on page 38, line 13; beginning with "Provided" on page 59, line 13, through 22; beginning with "and such new" on page 76, line 16, through 22; and page 80, line 11, through "funding agreements" on line 23. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against that amendment 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. During consideration of the bill, points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI are waived. 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 (Mr. PEASE). 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 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. 243 would grant H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Re-

lated Agencies for fiscal year 2000, an open rule waiving points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with sections 306 or 401 of the Congressional Budget Act.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives clause 2 of rule XXI, prohibiting unauthorized or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill, against provisions in the bill except as otherwise specified in the rule.

Mr. Speaker, the rule also makes in order the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report which may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report.

The rule further waives clause 2(e) of rule XXI, prohibiting nonemergency designated amendments to be offered to an appropriations bill containing an emergency designation, against amendments offered during consideration of the bill.

The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It also allows for the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce votes to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2466 would provide regular annual appropriations for the Department of the Interior and for other related agencies, including the Forest Service, the Department of Energy, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Endowment for the Arts and the Humanities.

The Subcommittee on Interior was originally allocated \$11.3 billion, a 19 percent decrease in funding from last year. Last week, the subcommittee received a \$2.7 billion increase in funding over this mark made possible by selling the electromagnetic spectrum sooner than was expected.

The bill provides \$14.1 billion in budgetary authority for fiscal year 2000, \$200 million below last year's level and \$1.1 billion below the President's request.

Mr. Speaker, every year millions of Americans enjoy the world renowned parks, forests, wildlife refuges and other facilities funded in this bill. In addition, H.R. 2466 would do much to enhance, develop and protect our Nation's abundant natural resources in an environmentally responsible way and do so while staying within the overall discretionary spending caps.