

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 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.

The Committee on Rules was pleased to grant the request of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) for an open rule which will make it possible for Members seeking to improve this bill the fullest opportunity to offer their amendments during House consideration of H.R. 2466. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support both H. Res. 243 and the underlying bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule providing for consideration of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This bill helps the people of this Nation and the world to enjoy some of the most spectacular natural beauty that Mother Nature has to offer. It also helps us to be wise stewards of those natural resources. The bill also provides important assistance for Native Americans in health care and education. And the bill funds two of the most valuable and unusual Federal agencies that produce revenue for the United States instead of just taking it and have been proven to enhance and improve education and the SAT scores for students. We know now that any child who studies art for 4 years in high school, that their SAT scores go up around 59 points. That is cheap at the price, Mr. Speaker. I am speaking of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. As the chairwoman of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I have spent a great deal of time and effort encouraging my colleagues to adequately fund these important agencies which give us back so much.

The arts and humanities tell us who we were and who we are and who we hope to be. They help us to understand an increasingly complex world and help our children and youth express their hopes and dreams through creative expression. Most importantly, they get our youth ready for what we want, the smartest and brightest students in the next century. Exposure to modern dance increases their math scores, and the way to best learn about computers is to learn to play piano. These are not wild notions but are well-proven facts. I expect to offer an amendment to help these important agencies continue their vital mission, bringing artistic expression and an understanding of the human condition to the villages and cities and nooks and crannies of this Nation from sea to shining sea, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Washington for his typical superb job in managing this rule. It is a very fair, balanced and open rule. It is nice to see that, because as my good friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) knows, in years past we have had slightly controversial rules as we have dealt with this very important Interior appropriations bill.

I want to say that every year, millions of Americans and foreign tourists as well come and enjoy our renowned park system. In my important talking points here, the Florida Everglades are mentioned out of respect to my friend from Sanibel, FL (Mr. GOSS) the vice chairman of the Committee on Rules. And also the Angeles National Forest which according to the gentleman from Ohio is in fact the most utilized of our National Forest Service system. That is why this bill itself is very, very important.

One of the other things that I think we need to touch on that is key is the focus on dealing with fires which has been a real issue for us in the Angeles National Forest. Obviously the funding that has been placed into this bill by the gentleman from Ohio is going to be helpful in dealing with that.

I want to raise one other issue that I discussed with the gentleman from Ohio when he testified yesterday afternoon before the Committee on Rules. That has to do with the issue of the adventure pass. There has been a lot of concern raised in the San Gabriel Valley in eastern Los Angeles County about the adventure pass. As the gentleman from Ohio appropriately pointed out yesterday, it is a pilot program that is under way right now. But the concern that has been raised by a number of my constituents has been the fact that they have not yet been able to see tangible evidence that the resources that have come in from the use of that adventure pass have in fact gone towards improvement or dealing with the Angeles National Forest itself. And so I want to take a very close look at this program. We know that it is well-intentioned and the idea of having a user fee rather than taxing people who do not in any way utilize some kind of service is again laudable but we want to make sure that that fee that is there in fact does go to address the needs of those who are in fact paying for that pass. And so I want to see us move ahead.

There are a number of, I think, very important questions that need to be raised, but I do want to congratulate again the gentleman from Ohio and all of our colleagues who have worked long and hard on this bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and to alert my colleagues to an amendment that I will be offering later today. Along with the gentleman

from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), I will be proposing to provide a very modest \$30 million to the stateside program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The stateside program has broad bipartisan support but unfortunately it receives no funding under the Interior appropriations bill before us today. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the National Governors Association, and regional governors associations from across the country support stateside funding.

In addition, groups as wide ranging as the National Association of Realtors and the Wilderness Society are strongly supporting our amendment. The League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club have expressed their strong support. The time to act is now. We have an opportunity to make a very clear statement in this House today that States and local communities deserve the land and water conservation funding that they are owed. They deserve the support of this Congress.

□ 1130

As my colleagues know, there has been a lot of talk on both sides of the aisle about livable communities and ways to protect open space for future generations. Today Members of Congress will have the opportunity to put those words into action. I look forward to the debate on this issue when we consider the bill, and again I want to thank the gentlewoman from New York for having yielded this time to me, and I urge my colleagues to support the rule and to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me.

I would just like to point out to my colleagues that even though we are \$200 million under the enacted number for fiscal year 1999, we are adding 99 million additional dollars over last year for the parks, \$200 million for Indian education and health programs, \$205 million for high priority land acquisition, \$33 million for national wildlife refuges, \$114 million for Everglade restoration, and we have tried hard to have a bill that is balanced, it is non-partisan, it is fair, and it recognizes the fact that the public lands, which are about 30 percent of the United States that we provide the funding in this bill, are being dealt with in a responsible way.

In light of the comments by the chairman of the Committee on Rules, I

thought it was interesting: Our subcommittee visited last week Olympic National Forest and park areas, and they have signs up for the various projects. It said, this project up on the Hurricane Ridge where they are redoing the center for the visitors, "This project being financed by your fees," and I think it is a very good way to tell the story of how the fees are being used, which was our intent to enhance the visitors' experience. And I thought it was also interesting that they had a little can there that people can put in some extra money, and it was getting filled up also. So it says the people, in addition to paying fees, are so happy with what is being done that they wanted to contribute some additional money.

The other subject that he mentioned, and appropriately so, was the fire issue. We have \$561 million in here for wildfire fighting. But I think a program we have innovated that I like, and that is we get the local fire departments, the adjacent cities and villages to participate by providing a training program, \$29 million to train these local firefighters how to deal with forest fires, and they can be on call to provide assistance, if necessary, to the firefighters that are part of the agency itself. It is working out very well. And, of course, it is important because fires in a forest or a park for that matter can spread beyond the borders. We have seen that a lot in California. And by getting the local fire fighting agencies as part of a cooperative agreement we really maximize the forces and the ability to deal with what is a serious threat, and it enables the agencies to not commit quite as much of their funds.

So, on balance, I hope my colleagues will look at the issues in this bill and judge it for what it is, which is a very good bill, very responsible and very fair.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), the distinguished vice chairman of the Committee on Rules.

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my able friend from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), my colleague on the Committee on Rules, who does such a good job with yet another fair and open rule. The interior appropriations bill is an important bill, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) just said. It provides funding for the agencies involved in protecting our national resources for future generations for our children, as it were.

I am pleased that even though this bill frugally spends several billion less than last year it still provides adequate funding for the national parks, national forest system and the national wildlife refuges, which is the purpose of it. The Interior bill is especially important for my home State of

Florida, which is why I take this time. It is the vehicle for the crucial Everglades restoration funds to meet the Federal commitment of our ongoing effort to restore and preserve for future generations the unique River of Grass we know and love.

The bill provides \$114 million for the Everglades, which includes land acquisition, improved water delivery and Everglades park management. Under the leadership of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, the House has consistently led the charge on restoring the Everglades, and I am proud of that, and this year is no different.

I want to commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) for his attention to this unique national treasure and his personal visits to the area to understand it, and I note the irony that almost as we are speaking today President Clinton is in Florida at a very exclusive high roller fund-raising event that is held by one of the special interest groups that has not been enthusiastic about our efforts to deal with the Everglades, as we propose to do in this legislation.

So this bill comes at a very good time.

Also, vital to Florida's economy and our national commitment to wise stewardship of natural resources is the annual outer continental shelf oil and gas exploration moratorium, which protects our fragile coastline. Again, Florida takes great pride in its coastline, and we are very concerned about oil slicks and pollution. Each year for the last 13 years Congress has passed this moratorium. I am very pleased that this year's bill continues that effort.

And I must note the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), started this process many years ago, and it has been ably picked up by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA). We believe this is a good temporary solution, but we think we can find a more precise and permanent solution to the question of oil drilling off Florida's coast.

I have introduced H.R. 33 which would create a Federal State task force to review the relevant scientific and environmental data and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of Interior for permanent policy. I believe this approach offers a number of benefits, including making Florida a key player in the decision that will have great impact on our State, relying on scientific data rather than rhetoric and affording us the opportunity to institute a more precise policy than our current moratorium year to year.

The House Committee on Resources is scheduled to have a hearing on this bill the first week in August, and I remain hopeful we can move forward on this critically important issue to our State. Of course, there are some issues in the Interior bill that remain controversial, and that will certainly be the subject of some debate later this afternoon.

I look forward to the opportunity to resolve some of those controversies and move forward on this important legislation. I applaud the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and Members of the Committee on Appropriations for their hard work at this point.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me and just wanted to reemphasize on the Everglades that we have put a condition in here to ensure that in the long haul that the water will be available to protect the Everglades because that is the primary responsibility of the American taxpayer, and the reason they are going to spend 7 to \$10 billion of taxpayers' money from all across the country is to ensure the protection of the Everglades, and we tried to do that with the language in the bill.

Mr. GOSS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, part of my applause for the chairman's efforts is his understanding of all the intricate issues and complexities that are involved. I think he has handled them well. I congratulate him on that, and I know that under his leadership we are going to keep this on course.

I urge support of the rule, and I urge support of the bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise support of this rule, and I wish to particularly commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), my good friend, the Subcommittee on Interior chairman, as well as the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the ranking member. These gentleman have had to wrestle hard with severe caps and meeting their responsibilities; and to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) in particular I say I am indebted to him on behalf of the coalfield residents throughout this country for the \$11 million increase in Abandoned Mine Land funding.

And I also want to say to the gentleman from Ohio that many of us appreciate his support for the Heritage Area program, citizens working together from the grassroots to celebrate and promote their heritage. I am indebted to the gentleman from Ohio for funding this worthy program as well.

In conclusion, I like to draw attention to three amendments that will be offered to the bill today. One seeks to strike the funding limitation it carries for the American Heritage Rivers program. One of these heritage rivers flows through my congressional district, the New River. I cannot tell my colleagues how much excitement this designation has generated from local

citizens, community leaders and chambers of commerce. I urge support of this amendment.

Another amendment to be offered by myself, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) seeks to maintain some semblance of sanity in the mining law program. It is my hope that perhaps the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) will be kind to us when this amendment is offered.

And the third amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and myself and a cast of thousands seeks to bolster funding for the low income weatherization program. This is so critically important to so many people who are struggling to improve their lot in our society. I urge adoption of the rule, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1434

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 2 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1691, RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. MYRICK, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-229) on the resolution (H. Res. 245) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1691) to protect religious liberty, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on 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 SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 242 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2465.

□ 1435

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the 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, with Mr. GILLMOR in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to present the House recommendation for the Military Construction Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000.

Let me begin by thanking the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), my ranking member, and all the members of our subcommittee for

their assistance and interest in putting together this year's bill.

The bill presented to the House today totals \$8.5 billion, the same as last year's enacted level, and it is \$141 million below this year's House passed authorization bill.

The bill is within the 302(b) allocation for both budget authority and outlays, and it is in contrast to the administration's split funding budget request, which proposed spreading \$8.6 billion over two fiscal years.

Considering the budget constraints we worked under, the recommendations before the House are solid and fully fund priority projects for the services and our troops.

Within the \$8.5 billion provided, we have been able to address the true needs of our troops by supporting projects that improve their quality of life as they serve to protect our country. These priorities include \$800 million for troop housing, \$21 million for child development centers, \$165 million for hospital and medical facilities, \$69 million for environmental compliance, \$747 million for new family housing units and for improvements to existing units, and \$2.8 billion for operation and maintenance of existing family housing units. We believe that these priorities reflect the need to provide our military with quality housing, health care, and work facilities.

Also, by targeting adequate resources for new child development centers, we are recognizing the changing makeup of our military force, with the rising number of single military parents and military personnel with working spouses.

If we want to keep top-notch people in our military, then we have a reasonable obligation to meet the needs of our troops.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) and all the members of our subcommittee for their hard work and effort on this bill.

In closing, I want to point out that we have put together an \$8.5 billion MILCON bill that is 3 percent of the total defense budget and equal to last year's enacted level. Most importantly, this \$8.5 billion directly supports the men and women in our armed services.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I include the following material for the RECORD: