

I would like to remind my conservative colleagues that Ronald Reagan had a very strong position on the draft and selective service. He agreed that it was a totalitarian notion to conscript young people and strongly spoke out against the draft whenever he had the opportunity.

I also would like to remind my conservative colleagues that if somebody came to the House floor and asked that we register all the guns of America, there would be a hue and cry about why this would be unconstitutional and unfair, and yet they are quite willing to register their 18- and 19-year-olds. I do not understand why there is less respect given for 18- and 19-year-olds than they give for their own guns.

I strongly urge that we not fund the selective service system today.

WACO, THE FBI LIED AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES LIED

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, in 1993, 86 civilians were killed in Waco, Texas. Twenty-four of them were innocent children. Most of them burned to death. Until this day, no one knows the truth about Waco, and the reason is quite clear. The FBI lied and the Attorney General of the United States lied. They lied and they covered it up. And after all of these lies, no one, nobody, has been held accountable for the massacre at Waco.

□ 1015

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker; an America that turns its back on Waco is an America that turns its back on freedom and justice. An independent investigation is absolutely warranted to solve this cover-up and get to the truth.

I yield back all the lies at the Justice Department.

REGARDING FY 2000 VA, HUD, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the community development block grant program. This program has put local development decision in the hands of those who know best, those who live and work in the community. This long-term commitment to responsible flexibility has paid off leveraging \$2.31 for every Federal dollar spent. Unfortunately, Republicans have chosen to commemorate 25 years of job creation and increased affordable housing by stripping the block grant program of \$250 million in the Fiscal Year 2000 VA HUD appropriations bill.

In Lorain, Ohio, a community struggling with loss of industry and experiencing rents as much as 50 percent of income these cuts instantly translate into a loss of jobs, jobs that would have been created next year through mutually beneficial community improvement and construction projects. It defies common sense to deny people in Lorain, Ohio and across the country the chance to support their families and improve their communities just so Republicans can afford to give more tax breaks to the rich.

I encourage my colleagues to vote against this legislation.

THE CRISIS IN EAST TIMOR

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, a tragedy has occurred and is occurring at the hands of Indonesia. The people of East Timor are people that have been subjected to the colonial yoke for over 325 years finally lifted their destiny up from the ashes of oppression and voted for the very first time in history to become an independent Nation. But all of this has been tarnished by the reprehensible inaction by the administering government of Indonesia. Jakarta has missed a golden opportunity to prove the world wrong, that the multi-cultural fabric of Indonesian society could peacefully withstand a sovereignty movement in one of her incorporated colonies. Sadly, the skeptics were right. Pro-Indonesia militias have been on a bloody rampage since the voting results were announced, and what has Jakarta done? Nothing. Thus it appears that the Indonesian authorities want to punish the East Timorese for exercising their inalienable right to self-determination despite promising to provide law and order regardless of the outcome.

The time has come, Madam Speaker, to defend liberty. Our government must condemn the violence in East Timor and the Indonesian government for allowing it to happen. The United States must insist that a multinational peacekeeping force be granted entry to East Timor to restore order, peace and hope. Liberty, the principle of self-determination must not be allowed to be casualties at the hands of Indonesian forces.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 22 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1230

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1175. An act to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, a United States citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

H.R. 1833. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the United States Customs Service for drug interdiction and other operations, for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, for the United States International Trade Commission, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 199. An act for the relief of Alexandre Malofienko, Olga Matsko, and their son, Vladimir Malofienko.

S. 275. An act for the relief of Suchada Kwong.

S. 452. An act for the relief of Belinda McGregor.

S. 620. An act to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated, and for other purposes.

S. 632. An act to provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

S. 800. An act to promote and enhance public safety through use of 9-1-1 as the universal emergency assistance number, further deployment of wireless 9-1-1 service, support of States in upgrading 9-1-1 capabilities and related functions, encouragement of construction and operation of seamless, ubiquitous, and reliable networks for personal wireless services, and for other purposes.

S. 1072. An act to make certain technical and other corrections relating to the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act (36 U.S.C. 143 note; 112 Stat. 3486 et seq.).

S. 1255. An act to protect consumers and promote electronic commerce by amending certain trademark infringement, dilution, and counterfeiting laws, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution relating to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 275 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. 2684.

□ 1245

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I make a point of order against the consideration of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I make a point of order that the bill provides new discretionary budget authority in an amount which would exceed the applicable allocation made pursuant to section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, and therefore violates section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act.

The most recent subcommittee allocations filed under section 302(b), as contained in House Report 106-288, allocate a total \$68.633 billion in new discretionary budget authority to the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies. According to the scoring table from the Congressional Budget Office, the bill appropriates \$71.632 billion in discretionary budget authority. Therefore, and as the CBO scoring table indicates, the bill exceeds its section 302(b) allocation by \$2.999 billion. A point of order, therefore, should lie against its consideration under section 302(f) of the Budget Act.

The reason that the bill is scored as exceeding its allocation is that the Committee on Appropriations is apparently counting as an offset a \$3 billion reduction in the borrowing authority of the TVA. This is authority for TVA to borrow from the public and has nothing to do with appropriations or amounts in this bill. Neither CBO nor OMB regard this so-called offset as producing any budget authority savings whatsoever. Therefore, the bill exceeds its allocation.

I should also note a second consequence. Because OMB does not recognize the \$3 billion supposed offset, if this bill were enacted in its present form, it would trigger an automatic across-the-board sequestration of appropriations under the Budget Enforcement Act, in the amount of \$3 billion. That would roughly be about a billion and a half dollars sequestration that would be required in the Defense budget and about a billion and a half dollars that would be required to be sequestered on the domestic side of the appropriations ledger.

Now, I recognize that the chairman of the Committee on Budget could produce a letter which, in essence, urges the Congress to ignore this financial fact, but the fact is that, if it

chooses to do that, there will, in fact, be a sequestration under this bill. Because if we take a look at the OMB Sequestration Update Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2000, we will see that, on page 11, it states: "Current OMB estimates of House action to date, unless offset, indicate that a sequester of \$3.7 billion in budget authority and \$2.9 billion in outlays would be triggered."

The major amounts in question are related to this bill. If we take a look at the table sent down by the CBO on their budget analysis, on page 18, we will see that they report the same results.

So, therefore, I would suggest that this bill, for reasons that I have cited, should not be before the House. I would certainly say that, even if the Committee on Budget chairman produces a letter which claims that this bill is not \$3 billion over its authorized allocation, the fact is that, according to the people who are charged by law with actually measuring the bill, it is; and, therefore, it will result in the automatic reduction in the other programs that are not in this bill that I have just cited.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there any other Member who wishes to be heard on the point of order?

Does the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) insist on his point of order?

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I have no desire to delay this bill, and so I guess what I would say is that I think I have demonstrated, by raising the point of order, that this bill, in fact, is not in compliance. If the House wishes to proceed and vote for a bill which is going to result in the kind of massive sequestration that I have just indicated, then so be it. That would be the House's choice.

So I guess I am in a position where, in order to contribute to the ability of the House's ability to do its business, I will withdraw the point of order, but I would caution every Member who intends to vote for this bill that, if they do so, they will in fact be imposing just such a sequestration on both the Defense budget and on the domestic programs.

With that, Madam Speaker, I withdraw my point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman withdraws his point of order.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURRETTE) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1250

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. 2684) making appropriations for the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, com-

missions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Under the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

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

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to bring before the full House today H.R. 2684, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000.

As most Members are aware, we originally expected to bring this bill to the floor before the August recess. However, the circumstance of the death of the Honorable Robert Mollohan made doing so impossible, and I wanted to begin today by expressing my deepest sympathy to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), my friend and colleague, and his family on the death of his father.

As my colleagues all know, the senior Mr. Mollohan served so ably in representing West Virginia in this House for 18 years, for the 2 terms during the early 1950s and then for 7 consecutive terms from 1969 to 1983. I hope and trust that the recess period has offered a time for reflection and healing for my good friend and his family.

Prior to proceeding, Mr. Chairman, in discussing the bill before us, I would also like to offer my sincere recognition and thanks to the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work and assistance. As I have stated on numerous occasions on this floor, we, the Members of the House, are very fortunate to have dedicated staff willing to spend countless hours preparing these bills. The public is well served by all of our employees.

My personal thanks to Frank Cushing, Valerie Baldwin, Tim Peterson, Dena Baron, and Angela Snell on the majority side, and to Del Davis and Lee Alman for the minority. I would also offer a special thanks to Ron Anderson and John Simmons and Art Jutton of my personal staff for all their assistance throughout this very difficult process.

Moving now to H.R. 2684, I firmly believe that this is a good and fair bill. It is funded with less money overall than was provided last year in 1999. Indeed, to meet our commitment to stay within the spending levels anticipated by the 1997 Budget Agreement, we have trimmed \$1.2 billion from the 1999 actual enacted level, \$2.3 billion below the fiscal year 1999 CBO freeze level, and \$3.4 billion from the President's budget request.

Perhaps more important, Mr. Chairman, we have made these reductions at