

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Chairman, I requested that the Rules Committee waive points of order against my amendment to increase appropriations for the Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account. While I had few illusions that the Rules Committee would do so, it is important that Members understand what we are doing to the UN and our own foreign policy in the bill. My amendment would increase the account by \$241 million, up to the President's request of \$739 million. That level would allow the United States to pay its anticipated Fiscal Year 2001 assessments for United Nations Peacekeeping. Full funding includes the four missions in Africa that the current funding level and language in the Committee report restrict—Sierra Leone, Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, and Western Sahara. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee failed to protect the amendment.

BILL IMPAIRS U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

The CIPA account enables the United States to meet its treaty obligation to pay its assessed share of UN peacekeeping missions. The severe underfunding of CIPA in the bill impairs the conduct of American foreign policy in four important areas: (1) it restricts our foreign policy options; (2) it threatens to create new United Nations arrears; (3) it undermines our efforts to reform the United Nations; and (4) it sends the unfortunate message that Africa doesn't matter to this body.

The bill freezes CIPA funding at last year's level of \$498 million. International peacekeeping cannot and should not be dictated by an arbitrary freeze level. History shows that the account fluctuates dramatically in response to world events. It was over \$1 billion in FY 1994, but only \$210 million in FY 1998. Rather than provide the flexibility to respond to unpredictable foreign affairs, the Committee asserts control of the United States' vote at the UN Security Council.

COMMITTEE ASSERTS CONTROL OF SECURITY COUNCIL
VOTE

Two mechanisms in the legislation hamstring our actions in the Security Council:

(1) The Committee report directs the State Department to "live within" the arbitrary \$498 million funding level and to "take no action to extend existing missions, or create new missions for which funding is not available." (2) The report spells out the missions for which funding is not available—the four UN peacekeeping missions in Africa: Sierra Leone, Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, and Western Sahara.

The funding level and report language could well have the effect of directing U.S. vetoes in

the Security Council. The State Department would have to veto the missions listed, as well as any other unforeseen missions that are considered by the UN Security Council.

BILL LIMITS FOREIGN POLICY OPTIONS

This bill handicaps our nation's ability to respond to international crisis by removing United Nations multilateral action as a policy option. In many cases such a multilateral response is the most attractive option. We only pay 25 percent of the cost of UN peacekeeping missions. And we have no troops involved in the four missions in Africa blocked by this bill. Without the multilateral option, our policy makers are left to choose between unilateral action and inaction.

IMPACTS ON UN ARREARS

The underfunding of CIPA in this bill compounds fiscal year 2000 shortfalls and threatens to create new UN peacekeeping arrears. The Committee currently has requests pending from the State Department—some from August of last year—to reprogram CIPA funds to pay our assessments. This is not new money; State is only asking to shift existing funds. The Committee's failure to approve the \$225 million in reprogrammings is preventing the payment of \$93 million in bills the United States has already received.

So while the Committee blocks the payment of \$93 million in current bills for UN missions in East Timor, Sierra Leone, and Congo, we now propose to underfund CIPA by \$240 million in FY 2001. The resulting shortfalls in peacekeeping funds will require a peacekeeping supplemental early next year. In light of the Committee's failure to fund this year's peacekeeping supplemental, this bill is one step in creating a new arrears problem.

BILL UNDERMINES UN REFORM

The timing for these shortfalls could not be worse. Our representatives to the UN are attempting to negotiate reductions in our United Nations assessment rate. Those reductions require other nations to increase their own assessments. The accrual of new arrears will severely undermine our negotiating position at a critical time.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, it is crucial to our foreign policy in general, and specifically toward Africa, that we fully fund our obligations to United Nations Peacekeeping missions. As this legislation advances in the process, I will continue to work to meet those obligations and to remove the restrictions on missions in Africa.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Vet-

erans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concern about the deep cuts in the Veterans Administration—Housing and Urban Development—Independent Agencies (VA-HUD) Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2001. This legislation not only slashes funds for programs that have enhanced economic development and improved housing in Connecticut and the 5th Congressional District, but also short changes our nation's veterans and NASA programs. My support for the VA/HUD Appropriations bill is conditioned on a conference agreement that increases funding for HUD, the Veterans Administration and NASA.

If allowed to stand, the cuts to HUD programs will have a significant impact on the State of Connecticut and on my own congressional district, affecting both economic development initiatives and a variety of housing services. The Republican budget cutters have dug deep into initiatives that have proven track records of success. There is simply no reason to reduce our efforts to provide economic development for our towns and cities in the form of Brownfields monies and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds. By doing so, we will set our communities and our economies backwards, rather than spur them forward.

My colleagues, the VA/HUD Appropriations legislation cuts funding for key NASA programs. Specifically, the bill that passed the House reduces aerospace technologies by \$322 million as well as cutting \$60 million for Human Space Flight. This shortsighted action jeopardizes our country's leadership in space and our national security. Unless NASA funding is restored in conference, this legislation should not pass this Congress.

I supported this bill because it contains an increase of \$2.6 billion from last year funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The House-passed budget for the Department will go a long way toward helping our nation care for its veterans. For example, I am encouraged that the House provided \$20.3 billion in funding for veterans medical care in Fiscal Year 2001. This is an increase of \$1.3 billion over last year's funding. Funding totaling \$351 million for veterans medical and prosthetic research also increased by \$30 million from last year. Our veterans' cemeteries at the national and state levels were funded fairly as well. However, we need to do more for our veterans. There are a number of underfunded areas that require our attention. These include resources for veterans' extended care facilities and for the benefits they deserve. It is also essential that the Congress find additional funding to improve VA facilities across the country.

I supported the VA/HUD Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2001 because it restores badly needed funds for the Veterans Administration. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in working to reverse the housing, CDBG, economic development and NASA cuts in this bill. If this important funding is not restored, I reserve judgment on a Conference agreement on the final version of the bill. I urge you to do the same.