

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4635, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 638 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 638

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4635) 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, 2001, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend and colleague the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) 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. Speaker, House Resolution 638 is a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration to accompany H.R. 4635, the fiscal year 2001 appropriations bill for the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report provides another example of a carefully crafted bill that strikes a balance between the fiscal discipline and social responsibility Americans expect of this Congress. I would like to once again commend the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), and all the members of the Committee on Appropriations for making the tough decisions required to produce a very thoughtful bill that meets our most important priorities.

I would also like to express a personal note of gratitude for the assistance to help increase affordable housing opportunities in my district of Columbus, Ohio. This conference report provides a small amount of needed funding which will, in turn, become the foundation to give more people in Columbus the opportunity to fulfill the dream of home ownership.

The VA-HUD appropriation bill funds a variety of important programs to take care of our veterans, address the Nation's critical housing needs, preserve and protect our environment, in-

vest in scientific research, and continue our exploration into space.

The conference report maintains our commitment to our Nation's veterans, who selflessly place themselves in harm's way so that we may enjoy the very freedoms which we so much cherish. This year, it provides an additional \$1.36 billion over last year's historic increase for veterans' medical health care. It increases veterans' medical and prosthetic research by \$30 million, and provides an extra \$73 million over last year's funding level for the Veterans Benefits Administration to expedite claims that need processed for our veterans.

□ 1215

Finally, this conference report provides \$100 million for Veterans State Extended Facilities, an increase of \$40 million above the President's request.

Mr. Speaker, along with providing for the needs of our veterans, this conference report makes available important resources to help the most vulnerable in our society and place roofs over their heads.

Low-income families will benefit through this bill's investment in the Housing Certificate Program, which provides funding for section 8 renewals and tenant protection.

A \$2.5 billion increase over last year's funding level will allow for the renewal of all expiring section 8 contracts and provide needed relocation assistance at the level requested by the President. A total of \$14 billion is provided for this important program in fiscal year 2001.

Other needed housing programs that help our elderly, people with AIDS, and Native Americans will also receive increases above last year's funding levels in this conference report.

H.R. 4635 also looks toward the future by preserving and protecting our environment for the next generation to enjoy.

It is my understanding that the conference report before us today resolves a number of outstanding environmental concerns which were previously expressed and are no longer considered controversial. The bill targets funding and places an emphasis on State grants to protect the water that we drink and the air that we breathe.

The State Revolving Fund for Safe Drinking Water is increased by more than \$5 million from last year's level, and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund is increased by \$550 million over the President's request. And finally, State Air grants are increased \$6 million.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this conference report provides important funding which maintains our commitment to the exploration of space and the improvement of science.

Total funding of \$4.4 billion for NSF is the largest budget in its history and will help this important agency continue its mission of developing a national policy on science and promoting basic research as well as increasing scientific education.

NASA also receives an increase that will bring total funding to more than \$14.3 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that this conference report includes two other important provisions.

First, like other appropriation conference reports considered and passed this year, the VA-HUD Conference Report maintains our commitment to debt reduction by providing yet another \$5 billion to pay down the public debt.

Second, it contains a new version of the previously passed fiscal year 2001 Energy and Water appropriations bill, which now has the support of the administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good conference report and deserves our support. It takes a responsible path toward responding to our Nation's most pressing needs and priorities.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the straightforward, noncontroversial rule as well as this must-do piece of legislation.

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank my colleague and dear friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), for yielding me the customary half hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule providing for the consideration of VA-HUD and Energy and Water appropriations bills.

I would like to congratulate my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the ranking member, for their excellent work on this very, very difficult subject matter and the excellent work on this conference report.

When this bill came to the floor the first time in June, it really needed a lot of help. But lucky for the American veterans and the American families, it did get that help.

This conference report, Mr. Speaker, is a welcomed and radical departure from the first VA-HUD appropriations bill. This bill provides more money for veterans medical research and State veterans homes. It also does a better job of funding housing programs, which people in my home State of Massachusetts will be very, very happy to hear.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that veterans and housing programs are very, very important. They give people hope. They save lives. And they should be adequately funded, especially given today's strong economy. And lucky for us and thanks to the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) this conference report does just that.

It also includes the Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report, which now has been attached to the VA-HUD Appropriations Conference Report. Thanks to the hard work of the gentleman from California

(Mr. PACKARD) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY), the Energy and Water Conference Report contains funding for some very, very good water resource infrastructure projects.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that they were able to come to an agreement with the White House on the language that caused the President to veto the bill the first time around.

It funds the Army Corps of Engineers' water projects and the Bureau of Reclamation, in addition to the Department of Energy's science programs. And thanks to the very excellent work on the part of the appropriations conferees, these two conference reports represent bipartisan agreements on a number of very important issues.

So I urge my colleagues to support the conference reports.

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

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from the State of Georgia (Mr. LINDER), a member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule providing for consideration of the conference report on H.R. 4635, VA-HUD appropriations for fiscal year 2001. This compromise bill is a result of many hours of hard work by Members of the House and the Senate, and it is a bipartisan agreement that deserves the support of this body.

I would like to express my appreciation for the conference committee's inclusion of an amendment offered by myself and my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), when the House first considered the bill. The language in our amendment ensures that Federal, State, and local governments do not waste precious taxpayer dollars on air quality standards that have been rendered unenforceable by the Federal Appeals Court.

Common sense dictates that until the Supreme Court has the opportunity to rule on these air quality standards, the Federal Government should not enforce them.

Our amendment passed the House in a strong bipartisan vote. I am pleased that Members of the conference committee recognized that hundreds of communities across the country could be tainted by designations made under these legally unenforceable standards without the inclusion of our amendment language. Our communities will be grateful for our actions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies; and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the ranking member on the subcommittee, for their hard work in crafting a fine bipartisan bill. I thank them.

I urge all Members to support the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, let me acknowledge the very hard work that has been done by this entire committee, the Committee on Appropriations. The work is still being done.

I wish that we could move forward on some of the many important issues, as the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the ranking member, have done today.

I rise to support the rule as well as the legislation, and I agree with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) that this is a much better bill. I am very gratified that we have in this bill \$575 million for distressed housing; 10 million of that can be used for technical assistance.

A few sessions ago, I passed legislation that would obligate or require or encourage the residents of various distressed public housing to be able to work in efforts of rehabilitation. I hope that, with this funding, more of that initiative will be in place.

In addition, however, I would like to say to the public housing authorities that, as we render to them Federal funds, I think it is important that they look to utilize minority-owned, women-owned, and small-owned businesses.

In my own Houston Harris County Housing Authority, that has not been the case. And I hope that they can be impressed by the large Federal dollars to help both the tenants and the community, as well as rebuild housing.

I am very pleased to see \$90 million in second-round empowerment zones, some of the most important tools to reinvest and rebuild our communities. Veterans have been funded, and we are appreciative for what this legislation has done to fund the necessary needs of our veterans.

NASA is funded at \$14.3 billion. But, as well, we have \$6 billion for aeronautics, science and technology.

I am very delighted, as well, that there are dollars in this bill that will help provide supportive assistance for those seeking housing, affordable housing. And, as well, I am very grateful for the EDI grants to several of the non-profits in my area, a multiculture center that encourages Hispanic culture and, as well, a million-dollar grant that I am very pleased to have support that is initiated by Senator HUTCHINSON for the Freedmans Town African American Museum.

This is a bill that responds to America's needs both in housing and as well

as in economic development. As it relates to homeless individuals, of which I worked on as a member of the Houston City Council and continue to work on, I am very delighted that the homeless dollars now include assistance that will be coordinated with mainstream health, social services, employment programs which the homeless populations may be eligible for, including Medicaid, State children's health insurance, temporary assistance for needy families.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is a bill that answers to the needs of the American people. It certainly is a bill that all of us have worked on with the chairman and the ranking member. I thank them again for their very hard work. I look forward to our community doing better because this legislation passes.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), the 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 good friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), for yielding me the time. She brings credit and strength to our leadership and to our Committee on Rules.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule, which provides for orderly consideration of the VA-HUD Appropriations Conference Report. It is a standard rule for an appropriations conference report, and it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

In the wake of the tragic attack on the U.S.S. *Cole*, which we sadly all know about, Americans are painfully and necessarily reminded again of the great sacrifices our servicemen and servicewomen make to protect our interests and the interests of all Americans at home and abroad.

Presently we are living in what I call "blue sky times," an era of peace and prosperity. But, tragically, it is only relative peace. The recent tragedy is a sharp reminder of the sacrifices and risks our soldiers and sailors and airmen are confronted with day in and day out as they go about their business.

We must remember and emphasize that veterans made a selfless promise to defend and protect our country too. Now it is time that we deliver to them on the promises made about the security and comfort of adequate health care and benefits.

H.R. 4635 is a vehicle to help us accomplish that goal. This bill provides \$20.3 billion to fully fund medical health care for veterans. That is a \$1.36 billion increase over last year, and I am proud of that.

My home State of Florida has the second largest population of veterans in the country. I can tell my colleagues from firsthand experience talking with many of them and visiting clinics that

these funds are greatly needed in our clinics and hospitals.

In addition, H.R. 4635 increases veterans medical and prosthetic research by \$30 million, more than the President's request.

For veterans wounded in the line of duty, new technology resulting from these funds may mean the difference between being wheelchair bound and being able to walk. What a wonderful thought.

Finally, the conference report provides an extra \$73 million to the Veterans Benefits Administration to expedite claims processing. This money would help alleviate some of the red tape associated with benefits claims. Moving vets out of the long lines and into programs for services will be provided timely.

Congress has made meaningful progress this year on providing for our veterans. Most notably, of course, is this year's defense authorization bill that keeps the promise of lifetime health care to military retirees. We build on those achievements by providing veterans expanded care and benefits as well today in this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to illustrate and underscore their dedication to our veterans by supporting passage of this bill and supporting this rule.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from the State of California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends, the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), for their efforts on this bill, and also the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), the subcommittee chairman. And what a good job that they have done.

Veterans health care, when we add \$1.7 billion last year and add \$1.36 billion this year over last year's, it is a slight commitment to show that the veterans are important. The medical research in this bill, one may say, why do we have medical research in a veterans bill? Well, all the way back from World War II, veterans that had nuclear reactions from the bombs where we put our people in harm's way, from the Desert Storm Syndrome to Agent Orange to anthrax shots, and for example, how does anthrax shots, with more and more women in our military, affect a woman who may have a child? That medical research is very, very important within the military.

□ 1230

I would specifically like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). There is an issue that I have been working on since 1991, and quite often when there has been a promise given by someone like General MacArthur and the President of the United States almost 60 years ago, it is

difficult to get that priority in a bill. We have been able to do that with our leadership's help.

The issue is this provides help for thousands of Filipino American veterans across the Nation. The language in the bill provides full dependency and indemnity compensation benefits so long denied for those who fought alongside our troops in World War II. Despite the fact that many of these valiant soldiers suffered the same casualties and wounds fighting with U.S. forces that our own troops did, they have until now received only 50 percent of the disability benefits. This bill changes that to 100 percent.

In addition, the bill insures full VA medical coverage for those Filipino-American World War II veterans who are already being treated in VA facilities for their service-connected disability. Currently Filipino-American veterans may not receive care for any condition except specific to their service-connected disability. This bill changes that as well.

While seemingly limited extensions of benefits, they are extremely significant to over 1,200 qualifying veterans who are living on fixed incomes. Many of these veterans are in their 70s and 80s, at a time in their lives where health care access is as critical as ever. With so few Filipino-American veterans surviving, numbers decreasing annually, the time to ensure those benefits is now. That is why I thank our leadership and the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) for adding this into this important bill.

As one who championed the cause for Filipino Americans working with President Ramos in the Philippines first and then working with President Estrada, and the hundreds of both Filipino Americans and Filipino nationals that came all the way from the Philippines to work this initiative, let it be known that their efforts have carried through and helped this.

This action has the full support of the larger veterans community and it has been endorsed by every single one.

There are a couple of things that I would like to see in the next veterans bill, though, that I would like to work with colleagues on that side. I have hundreds of veterans that come up every year and say they have lost their medical records. Either they were burned in a fire or they were lost because of the old filing system. We need to duplicate those records.

We also need to increase the amount again of veterans' benefits, and I want to thank the chairman. I specifically want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY), who championed this bill, worked with our leadership, caused it to be effective. Without his support, we would not have this Filipino veterans' initiative.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I reluctantly rise in opposition to this rule. There are many provisions of this bill that I support. I have been a strong advocate for veterans' health care and for energy and water projects. However, the original energy and water bill as passed by the House of Representatives included a very important provision for my State and other Upper Missouri River States. It would have allowed us to preserve the spring water runoff that occurs in our States.

Now, the Clinton-Gore administration wants to force these Upper Missouri River States to increase the spring discharges from our reservoirs. My State is a very arid State and it happens to be also the home of the headwaters of the Missouri River. We get 50 percent of our rainfall in a 2-month period of time, which happens to be the period of time when the administration wants us to increase our discharges. We also get all of our spring snow runoff during that very short period of time.

The administration's plan, incidentally, is opposed by both the Upper Missouri and the Lower Missouri States, because it would have an adverse impact on our wildlife and have an adverse impact on our economy.

Now, retaining the water in these reservoirs is very important for us to maintain our fisheries. It is very important for us to have that water for irrigation purposes. It is very important for us to have that water for recreation purposes and for power generation at our peak-need period of time.

The original energy and water bill had a provision to bar the administration from forcing us to discharge this water, and that is why the President vetoed the bill. Now, the House, by two-thirds, voted to override the President's veto. We believe that this provision should be part of this combined VA-HUD bill or these bills should be brought separately so that we can cast our vote in opposition to this provision.

For that reason, I intend to vote against the rule and would urge others to do the same.

It is very important to my State. It is very important to the other Upper Missouri States. It is very important to the Lower Missouri States. I am going to ask for a recorded vote on the rule so that we can make clear our position on this.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I sympathize with my colleague, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. HILL), but it is very important for the Members of this body to realize that we must get our work done. The President vetoed the bill with that important language in it,

and so we must proceed without it. In light of that, this is a good conference report, irrespective. It responds to the needs of our veterans, protects our environment and keeps the U.S. at the forefront of space exploration, addresses our Nation's critical housing needs and helps more Americans realize the dream of owning their own home. Adopting this rule will allow us to consider all of those important initiatives.

I urge a yes vote on the rule and the conference report.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. 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 vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 7, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 535]

YEAS—400

Abercrombie	Bryant	Dickey
Ackerman	Burr	Dicks
Aderholt	Burton	Dingell
Allen	Buyer	Dixon
Andrews	Callahan	Doggett
Archer	Calvert	Dooley
Army	Camp	Doolittle
Baca	Canady	Doyle
Bachus	Cannon	Dreier
Baird	Capps	Duncan
Baker	Capuano	Dunn
Baldacci	Cardin	Edwards
Baldwin	Carson	Ehlers
Ballenger	Castle	Ehrlich
Barcia	Chabot	Emerson
Barr	Chambliss	Engel
Barrett (NE)	Clayton	English
Barrett (WI)	Clement	Eshoo
Bartlett	Clyburn	Etheridge
Barton	Coble	Evans
Bass	Coburn	Everett
Becerra	Collins	Ewing
Bentsen	Combest	Farr
Bereuter	Condit	Fattah
Berkley	Conyers	Filner
Berman	Cook	Fletcher
Berry	Cooksey	Foley
Biggert	Costello	Forbes
Bilbray	Cox	Ford
Bilirakis	Coyne	Fossella
Bishop	Cramer	Fowler
Blagojevich	Crane	Frank (MA)
Bliley	Crowley	Frelinghuysen
Blumenauer	Cubin	Frost
Blunt	Cummings	Gallegly
Boehlert	Cunningham	Ganske
Boehner	Davis (FL)	Gejdenson
Bonilla	Davis (IL)	Gekas
Bonior	Davis (VA)	Gephardt
Bono	Deal	Gibbons
Borski	DeFazio	Gilchrest
Boswell	DeGette	Gillmor
Boucher	Delahunt	Gilman
Boyd	DeLauro	Gonzalez
Brady (PA)	DeLay	Goode
Brady (TX)	DeMint	Goodlatte
Brown (FL)	Deutsch	Goodling
Brown (OH)	Diaz-Balart	Gordon

Goss	Matsui	Salmon
Graham	McCarthy (MO)	Sanchez
Granger	McCarthy (NY)	Sanders
Green (TX)	McCrery	Sandlin
Green (WI)	McDermott	Sawyer
Greenwood	McGovern	Saxton
Gutierrez	McHugh	Scarborough
Gutknecht	McInnis	Schaffer
Hall (OH)	McIntyre	Schakowsky
Hall (TX)	McKeon	Scott
Hastings (FL)	McKinney	Sensenbrenner
Hastings (WA)	McNulty	Serrano
Hayes	Meehan	Sessions
Hayworth	Meek (FL)	Shadegg
Hefley	Meeks (NY)	Shaw
Herger	Menendez	Sherman
Hill (IN)	Metcalf	Sherwood
Hilleary	Mica	Shimkus
Hinchee	Millender-	Shows
Hinojosa	McDonald	Shuster
Hobson	Miller, Gary	Simpson
Hoefel	Miller, George	Sisisky
Hoekstra	Minge	Skeen
Holden	Mink	Skelton
Holt	Moakley	Slaughter
Hooley	Mollohan	Smith (MI)
Horn	Moore	Smith (NJ)
Hostettler	Moran (KS)	Smith (TX)
Hoyer	Morella	Smith (WA)
Hunter	Murtha	Snyder
Hutchinson	Myrick	Souder
Hyde	Nadler	Spence
Inslee	Napolitano	Spratt
Isakson	Neal	Stark
Istook	Nethercutt	Stearns
Jackson (IL)	Ney	Stenholm
Jackson-Lee	Northup	Strickland
(TX)	Norwood	Stump
Jefferson	Oberstar	Stupak
Jenkins	Obey	Sununu
John	Olver	Sweeney
Johnson (CT)	Ortiz	Tanner
Johnson, E. B.	Ose	Tauscher
Johnson, Sam	Owens	Tauzin
Jones (NC)	Packard	Taylor (MS)
Kanjorski	Pallone	Taylor (NC)
Kaptur	Pascrell	Terry
Kasich	Pastor	Thomas
Kelly	Paul	Thompson (CA)
Kennedy	Payne	Thornberry
Kildee	Pease	Thune
Kilpatrick	Peterson (MN)	Thurman
Kind (WI)	Peterson (PA)	Tiahrt
King (NY)	Petri	Tierney
Kingston	Phelps	Toomey
Klecza	Pickering	Towns
Klink	Pickett	Trafigant
Knollenberg	Pitts	Udall (CO)
Kolbe	Pombo	Udall (NM)
Kucinich	Pomeroy	Upton
Kuykendall	Porter	Velazquez
LaFalce	Portman	Visclosky
LaHood	Price (NC)	Vitter
Lampson	Pryce (OH)	Walden
Lantos	Quinn	Walsh
Largent	Radanovich	Wamp
Larson	Rahall	Waters
LaTourette	Ramstad	Watkins
Leach	Rangel	Watt (NC)
Lee	Regula	Watts (OK)
Levin	Reyes	Waxman
Lewis (GA)	Reynolds	Weiner
Lewis (KY)	Riley	Weldon (FL)
Linder	Rivers	Weldon (PA)
LoBiondo	Rogan	Weller
Lofgren	Rogers	Wexler
Lowey	Rohrabacher	Weygand
Lucas (KY)	Ros-Lehtinen	Whitfield
Lucas (OK)	Rothman	Wicker
Luther	Roukema	Wilson
Maloney (CT)	Roybal-Allard	Wolf
Maloney (NY)	Royce	Woolsey
Manzullo	Rush	Wu
Markey	Ryan (WI)	Wynn
Martinez	Ryun (KS)	Young (AK)
Mascara	Sabo	Young (FL)

NAYS—7

NOT VOTING—25

Danner	Latham	Tancredo
Hill (MT)	Nussle	
Hulshof	Roemer	
Campbell	Houghton	McIntosh
Chenoweth-Hage	Jones (OH)	Miller (FL)
Clay	Lazio	Moran (VA)
Franks (NJ)	Lewis (CA)	Oxley
Hansen	Lipinski	Pelosi
Hilliard	McCollum	Rodriguez

Sanford	Talent	Wise
Shays	Thompson (MS)	
Stabenow	Turner	

□ 1259

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.

□ 1300

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4635, 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.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4635, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the rule just adopted, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4635) 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, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to House Resolution 638, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 18, 2000, at page H10083.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to bring before the full House of Representatives the conference report on H.R. 4635, making fiscal year 2001 appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies. So that we can move as quickly as possible, I will keep my comments brief.

This conference report was developed after difficult and somewhat prolonged discussions with our counterparts in the Senate as well as representatives of the administration.

While there are some parts of this bill that I frankly would like to have done differently, it is in the aggregate, a very good bipartisan bill that will serve the American people well.