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No. 38

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts."

Speak to us, O Lord. Soothe our spirits. May Your voice quicken in us Your saving grace. When we are confused or disheartened, be attentive to us and give us purity of heart. When we are called upon to speak Your word of justice or defend the weak and the poor, strengthen us for Your purpose.

May the words of Your Holy Scriptures guide us in our search and enlighten our minds. May the beauty of the trees and their blossoms, the spring air, touch our creative souls and help us to bring forth a new Earth and a new vision to resolve difficulties and produce peace among Your people.

May the cry for bread or for water, the struggle for the prisoner's freedom and the needs of the very least in our midst be heard as Your own voice arresting our attention. For Your word is truth, and the truth will set us free.

Speak, Lord. This whole day Your servants are listening. Speak, Lord, and we will obey.

"If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. METCALF led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 761) "An Act to regulate interstate commerce by electronic means by permitting and encouraging the continued expansion of electronic commerce through the operation of free market forces, and other purposes", agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints from the—

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GORTON, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. WYDEN;

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs for items within their jurisdiction: Mr. GRAMM, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. SARBANES; and

Committee on the Judiciary for items within their jurisdiction: Mr. HATCH, Mr. THURMOND, and Mr. LEAHY; to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 1 minutes at the conclusion of the day's work.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. 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. 3908, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, would the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) briefly tell us what the schedule will be today?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, it is my intent to expedite the completion of this supplemental. We have, as the gentleman understands, from last evening's unanimous consent request, we have a number of amendments that were agreed to that would be considered.

We will proceed in the regular order and consider those amendments, and I would expect we would roll the votes on some of them and hopefully complete our business on this bill as we approach the noon hour, or shortly thereafter. That would be my hope and my intent.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I thank the gentleman for his comments on that. As he knows, we were hopeful that perhaps we could get a matter that was of some controversy last night out of the way. If the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) gets here in the next few seconds, and I am hoping to see him come through the door because, happily, we have resolved that issue, I think, on both sides with all the relevant parties.

I know the gentleman is on his way. He will be here in a second I am told by his advance person.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would continue to yield, I would like to advise Members that it is my intent to expedite consideration, so I would be objecting to any extra time above and beyond the rule.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, the gentleman from Florida has informed me of that and, as always, I know the gentleman will be eminently fair. The Speaker is in the chair, and I would like to say as one member of the Committee on Appropriations, but I think

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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that I speak for every member on our side of the aisle, that we perceive the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) to be a man of great fairness who runs the committee so that everybody has the opportunity to participate fully. I want the gentleman to know that we appreciate that consideration and that involvement on his behalf. It is very impressive.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) is here, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) is here, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is here. Now if we had the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), we would be in good shape. And, of course, the distinguished gentleman from Alabama is here.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to House Resolution 450, and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3908.

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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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. THORNBERRY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, March 29, 2000, amendment No. 8 printed in Part B of House report 106-549 by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 80, line 11.

Pursuant to the order of the House of that day, no further amendments shall be in order except pro forma amendments offered by the chairman and ranking minority member; the amendment printed in Part B of the report and numbered 12; and the following further amendments which may be offered only by the Member designated in the order of the House or a designee, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question:

(1) An amendment by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) regarding certain reductions and limitations;

(2) An amendment by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) regarding an across-the-board cut;

(3) An amendment by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) regarding U.S. military in Colombia;

(4) An amendment by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) regarding buy America;

(5) An amendment by the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACC) regarding building technology assistance conservation activities;

(6) An amendment by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCRED) regarding the Food and Drug Administration;

(7) An amendment by the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) regarding the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. WELDON OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to modify my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to Part B Amendment No. 11 offered by Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania:

In the matter proposed to be inserted, strike section 512, page 4, line 4, through page 5, line 8.

The text of the amendment, as modified, is as follows:

Page 80, after line 11, insert the following new sections:

SEC. 5109. For an additional amount for the Secretary of Agriculture for carrying out section 10(b)(1) through (3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2106(b)(1) through (3)), \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 5110. (a) For an additional amount for carrying out this section, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(b) The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall establish an office in the Agency to establish specific criteria of grant recipients and to administer grants under this section.

(c) The Director may make grants, on a competitive basis, to safety organizations that have experience in conducting burn safety programs for the purpose of assisting those organizations in conducting burn prevention programs or augmenting existing burn prevention programs.

(d) The Director may make grants, on a competitive basis, to hospitals that serve as regional burn centers to conduct acute burn care research.

(e) The Director may make grants, on a competitive basis, to governmental and non-governmental entities to provide after-burn treatment and counseling to individuals that are burn victims.

SEC. 5111. (a) For an additional amount for carrying out this section, \$80,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(b) The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall establish a program to award grants to volunteer, paid, and combined departments that provide fire and emergency medical services.

(c) Grants awarded under this section may be used—

(1) to acquire personal protective equipment required for firefighting personnel by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and other personal protective equipment for firefighting personnel;

(2) to acquire additional firefighting equipment, including equipment for communication and monitoring;

(3) to establish wellness and fitness programs for firefighting personnel to reduce the number of injuries and deaths related to health and conditioning problems;

(4) to promote professional development of fire code enforcement personnel;

(5) to integrate computer technology to improve records management and training capabilities;

(6) to train firefighting personnel in firefighting, emergency response, and arson prevention and detection;

(7) to enforce fire codes;

(8) to fund fire prevention programs and public education programs about arson prevention and detection, and juvenile fire setter intervention; and

(9) to modify fire stations, fire training facilities, and other facilities to protect the health and safety of firefighting personnel.

(d) Applications for grants under this section shall include—

(1) a demonstration of financial need;

(2) evidence of a commitment for at least an equal amount as the amount of the grant sought, to be provided by non-Federal sources;

(3) a cost benefit analysis linking the funds to improvements in public safety; and

(4) a commitment to provide information to the National Fire Incident Reporting System for the period for which the grant is received.

(e) Grant recipients under this section shall be subject to audits to ensure that the funds are spent for their intended purposes.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object, I will not object and I will yield to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) for an explanation of his modification.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland for yielding. This amendment is offered in the spirit in a bipartisan way of clarifying the intent and the substance of our legislation and our amendment, which we hope everyone will support, to provide for the first-time major funding of an emergency nature for our Nation's domestic defenders.

Mr. Chairman, it was never the intent of the author nor the coauthors of this legislation to negatively impact the use of Community Development Block Grant funds. Mr. Chairman, I will include my statement in the RECORD to explain in some detail the justification for what we originally intended to do and our agreement to work with the appropriate subcommittee to enact reforms to the Community Development Block Grant program.

I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH). I want to thank the leadership for their cooperation; and I encourage our colleagues to vote for this amendment.

After consultation with many of my colleagues, I am requesting unanimous consent to delete the portions of the Weldon-Hoyer amendment dealing with the reform of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).