

Mr. Speaker, there are too many reasons why we should not grant PNTR to China. I encourage my colleagues to stand up for democracy and freedom and against PNTR to China.

I yield back this ill-conceived and dangerous trade policy that calls for the American people to trust its enemy.

#### WELCOMING THE INLAND EMPIRE MARIACHI YOUTH GROUP TO WASHINGTON

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. It is a time to celebrate the tremendous courage and the bravery of Mexican Americans throughout our history.

I wish to take this opportunity to invite many of the individuals today as we begin to celebrate Cinco de Mayo to a festivity that will be going on in this area. I currently have invited 28 students from the Inland Empire Mariachi Youth Education Foundation to perform Wednesday at the upper Senate park here in the Capitol. This is an opportunity to learn about cultural traditions and music and heritage. It is an opportunity for many of the individuals to see kids between the ages of 6 to 17 that will be performing here in Washington. For these kids, this is the first time that they have come to Washington, D.C., the first time that they have flown. It is an opportunity to share in part of that heritage, part of the culture, part of the tradition, part of the enrichment, part of that motivation.

I encourage my colleagues that are out there, Members who have an opportunity to attend, please come and watch these kids perform as we begin to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6:00 p.m. today.

#### RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING FEDERAL WORKFORCE FOR SUCCESSFULLY ADDRESSING YEAR 2000 COMPUTER CHALLENGE

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 300) recognizing and commending our Na-

tion's Federal workforce for successfully preparing our Nation to withstand any catastrophic year 2000 computer problem disruptions.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 300

Whereas the Year 2000 computer problem (Y2K) created the potential of a catastrophic international problem, causing some computer systems and other electronic devices to erroneously misinterpret the "00" in the year as 1900, rather than 2000;

Whereas the American people expected and deserved reliable service from their Federal Government to ensure that critical Federal functions dependent on electronic systems would be performed accurately and in a timely manner;

Whereas, after the initial series of congressional Y2K hearings in the spring of 1996, it became clear that unless appropriate action was taken, the Y2K problem could cause severe consequences on the successful operation of Federal systems;

Whereas Federal agencies and their employees subsequently made significant progress in meeting the challenges posed by the Y2K computer problem;

Whereas minimizing the Y2K problem required a major technological and managerial effort and it was critical that the Federal workforce rise to address this challenge;

Whereas the continued uninterrupted operation of our Nation's Federal systems was due to the comprehensive efforts made by those dedicated, talented, and committed Federal workers who served ably in the front lines of this epic battle in vanquishing the millennium bug;

Whereas the Federal workforce identified and worked to resolve the Y2K problem, giving countless hours and their holidays to assure the American people that major Y2K breakdowns in key infrastructures were unlikely;

Whereas the level of Y2K effort was justified and the threat was very real, and the risks and consequences of inaction were too dire to justify a lesser Federal effort;

Whereas preparation for Y2K led to an unprecedented level of effort that not only improved system inventories and network reliability, but has also accelerated electronic business and international cooperation;

Whereas the efforts of the Federal workforce to solve the Y2K problem provided an important example of the Government's ability to respond to future difficult technological and management challenges; and

Whereas the level of Y2K success in the United States, which has over one-fourth of the world's computer assets and is the most technologically dependent nation in the world, was quite remarkable, and was led by our Federal efforts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes and commends the meritorious service of our Nation's Federal workforce, and all those who assisted in the efforts to successfully address the Year 2000 computer challenge.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 300, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 300 recognizes and commends the meritorious service of our Nation's Federal workforce and all those who assisted in the effort to successfully address the Year 2000 computer challenge. Often called Y2K or the Millennium Bug, this was the greatest technological and management challenge confronting this Nation since the Second World War period.

The problem, which involved a programming decision made decades ago, was obviously predictable. Yet management at only one of the 24 largest Federal agencies had the foresight to begin an agency-wide program to prepare its computers to handle the date change in the late 1980s.

That agency, the Social Security Administration, was also the first to complete the work.

As is now well known, when designing computer programs in the 1960s and 1970s, the programmers began using two digits rather than four to indicate the year. In other words, instead of 1967, it was 67. This shortcut enabled programmers to conserve the valuable computer memory of those huge mainframe operations. With the approaching millennium, however, the concern was that these computer systems would misread the year 2000 as simply zero/zero and the computer would think 1900.

This confusion did, in fact, surface in anecdotal examples. In one State, new car buyers found themselves the proud owners of horseless carriages when State computers registered their vehicles as vintage 1900 rather than 2000. In another case, a 104-year-old woman was requested to register for kindergarten when a school district computer miscalculated the date of her birth by 100 years.

None of the problems were irreparable, thanks to an unprecedented nationwide effort to meet the challenge.

1415

However, getting that effort started to take a great deal of work.

Four years ago, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, which I chair, surveyed the Cabinet Secretaries in a questionnaire by the ranking Democratic Member, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), and myself, and the heads of the 24 largest Federal departments and agencies. Some of these leaders had not even heard of the problem.

The subcommittee began a concerted effort to urge government agencies to begin fixing their computer systems through its ongoing hearings, 44 in all, and 10 report cards, which graded each department on its Year 2000 progress.

Recognizing the potentially devastating effect of this computer problem, Congress accelerated its oversight

responsibilities in a bipartisan and bicameral effort. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich created the House Year 2000 Task Force, which the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and I co-chaired. Its purpose was to provide Congressional oversight of the Year 2000 compliance efforts of the departments and agencies in the executive branch of the government. Speaker Hastert supported this continuation when he assumed office. Equal attention was provided in the Senate. In fact, since 1996, more than 30 Congressional committees and subcommittees have held Y2K-related hearings.

After several years, letters cosigned by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Chairman MORELLA) of the Subcommittee on Technology of the Committee on Science and myself, the President issued an executive order in February 1998 requiring all Federal departments and agencies in the executive branch of the government to update their computer systems. The order also established the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, which, under the leadership of John Koskinen, became a vital instrument in the Government's effort to meet the year 2000 challenge.

Later, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and I wrote a letter to the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, urging the United Nations to address this problem. They held one conference. It was very successful. They held a second that was even more successful.

Here at home, however, change did not come quickly in some areas of Federal Government, and this was caused by a systematic management problem in the government, which is why I am a proponent of establishing the separate Office of Management in the Executive Office of the President. Nevertheless, Federal workers were focused on the problem, devoting countless hours and holidays to ensure that government services for millions of America's would not be jeopardized by computer failure.

The unquestionable success of this effort clearly and definitively demonstrated that teamwork, dedication, and strong leadership can stave off the most monumental challenge, including Y2K.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I thank him for all the work he has done to allow us to eliminate the possible Y2K computer glitch.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is the culmination, as you have heard, of 4 years of intensive oversight by the House Y2K Task Force that was originally created by Speaker Gingrich. My fellow Task Force cochair, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) has very nicely recounted the history of our efforts, so I want to talk about the resolution itself.

H. Con. Res. 300 recognizes our hard-working Federal workers for their successful efforts in preparing our Nation from any catastrophic Year 2000 disruptions.

The fact that our Nation's Federal systems were able to operate unimpeded by Y2K was a direct result of the comprehensive efforts made by those dedicated, talented and committed Federal workers who served ably in the front lines of this epic battle to vanquish the millennium bug. The Federal workforce identified and worked to resolve the Y2K problem, giving countless hours, including their holidays, to assure the American people that major Y2K breakdowns in key infrastructures were unlikely. The risks and consequences of inaction were simply too dire to justify a lesser Federal effort.

So, it is more than appropriate for Congress to commend the distinguished and meritorious service of our Nation's Federal workforce and all those that assisted in the efforts to successfully address the year 2000 computer challenge.

Yes, the Y2K computer problem was one of the greatest information technology challenges facing our Federal Government, and indeed the world. We had the potential of ushering in the 21st Century with the mother of all computer glitches, one with devastating effects on government computers, rendering useless much of the Nation's date sensitive computer data.

All kinds of systems would have been affected, air traffic control, veterans' benefits, Social Security, our nation's electric power grid, postal delivery, Medicaid, national defense, student loans, just to name a few. Yet in the spring of 1996, when we first began our Y2K hearings, the Federal Government was clearly unprepared for the millennium bug, and we in Congress stepped up to the plate and raised awareness about the problem by pushing Federal agencies, private industry, toward immediate corrective measures.

There were many Congressional hearings that were held, and we did indeed vigilantly exercise our oversight authority, and even enacted legislation requiring the creation of a national Federal strategy, prohibiting the Federal purchase of information technology that was not Y2K compliant, providing legal protection for good faith Y2K information sharing and disclosure, and curbing the possibility of flooding our judicial system with frivolous Y2K lawsuits.

But we did have some great concern about Federal agencies, and the initial reports that we received were very disturbing. I commented on the need for having the executive step in in a radio address back in January of 1998, and, following, the President did begin to use the bully pulpit to raise the profile and take decisive action. He created the Y2K Conversion Council and appointed John Koskinen as its chairman, and suddenly Y2K was catapulted

to become a top administration management priority, and that helped make a major difference.

We in the House Y2K Task Force worked very closely with the council to determine the scope and the impact of the problem. For example, we focused with particular concern on the Federal Aviation Administration. In just the past year and a half, we have held five specific hearings on just the FAA alone and the potential for Y2K aviation disruption.

I just want to point out that in discussing it many, many times with administrator Jane Garvey, who was appointed after our first set of FAA Y2K hearings, she assured us that she would pilot FAA through the Y2K turbulence and everyone at FAA would fasten their seat belts to get the job done, and, quite frankly, they did. They did. They worked overtime, they worked sometimes the entire 24 hours in every day, and they did accomplish tremendous success with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Finally, in its aftermath, people have asked, was it real or was it overhyped, this problem? Whether the \$100 billion spent in the United States was overkill? Were our Y2K efforts truly necessary to stave off an impending disaster, or was it a non-event waiting to happen?

Well, quite frankly, there is no doubt the problem was genuine, the money was well spent. It was not an exaggerated problem. From our first hearing right up to the final one in December of 1999, we witnessed systems that completely failed Y2K tests and crashed completely; and I must say that Y2K was the single most thoroughly investigated issue ever in the history of Congressional oversight. Ultimately, I think two factors tip the balance from the grave uncertainty many of us harbored in the beginning. The first is that we all knew that the Y2K problem would strike on a date certain, January 1, 2000, therefore, allowing us to collectively plan and coordinate efforts toward that deadline.

The other factor was that we were able to forge effective and unprecedented partnerships with the public sector and the private sector, as well as international, many collaborations that allowed us to share information and monitor the world's progress. So the result was a testament to the fact that we prepared well and invested properly.

I believe the investments were not just about Y2K, but also about improving and gaining knowledge about the information technology systems. From our last hearing we learned a number of these lessons.

First, the international Y2K cooperation between organizations on all levels opened up channels for future partnerships. We saw this certainly with FAA, just as an example of the number of new collaborative partnerships that were developed.

Also, the Y2K experience made us rethink the importance of information

technology to businesses. It has helped us to develop a better appreciation on the reliance on information technology. Top management now needs to be more dedicated to information technology on a regular ongoing basis.

Well, now that we have survived the January 1 date rollover, as well as the recently passed February 29th leap year, we can look back and take pride in our role in vanquishing that pesky millennium bug that was supposed to cause such a catastrophe.

To all Federal employees, I salute you for your Y2K efforts. It is an accomplishment about which you should all be very proud. I am proud to be there with our members of the Task Force, indeed my cochair the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), to be there with you every step of the way. It was an unforgiving deadline. It was clear that we could not have met it without the Federal workforce and the private sector working together, and the President working with Congress. We know the American people were counting on us, and I am proud to say we did not let them down.

I want to finally reiterate my thanks to the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), who held so many hearings throughout the country, as well as the hearings that we had here on Capitol Hill; the Task Force cochair, the ranking member of my Subcommittee on Technology, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARCIA); as well as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Government Management, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) for their leadership. Indeed, for other Members, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), who is here, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), it was good teamwork. Well done. Thank you Federal employees and all of us who were involved.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 300. Most experts are in agreement that the Y2K problem presented the Federal Government with its greatest management challenge of the last 50 years. Our Nation has over one-fourth of the computer assets and is technologically dependent, as we all understand, and millions of Americans rely every day on uninterrupted computer service for essential services. Certainly the repercussions of failing to conquer the Y2K problem would have had devastating effects on our economy and our national welfare.

Yet, despite the severity of the Y2K challenge, most observers believe we got off to a slow start in focusing on the problem. As we all know, unfortunately, it usually takes a crisis for the government to concentrate its considerable resources and to solve a problem.

For more than 3½ years the Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, along with the Committee on Science

Subcommittee on Technology, held hearings to focus exclusively upon every facet of the Y2K computer problem. Our subcommittee had over 24 hearings on the topic in the last year alone; and I want to commend our subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN); the gentlewoman from Maryland (Chairwoman MORELLA); and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARCIA) for the outstanding work they have done in leading our Nation through this time of computer crisis.

I also want to thank the General Accounting Office that did outstanding work, particularly Mr. Joel Williamson, who worked very diligently to bring to our attention the progress being made, or not being made, by the various Federal agencies. I also think we owe special thanks to Mr. John Koskinen, who, as chairman of the President's Council on the Y2K Conversion, did yeoman's work to be sure that our Federal agencies, as well as the Nation as a whole, was ready for the clock to strike midnight on December 31, 1999.

Our Federal workers, however, are the ones that are really due the real credit for the ability of our Federal Government to meet the Y2K crisis. The brunt of the work fell on their shoulders, and it is the Federal workers who deserve the real credit. They were the troops in the trenches, they were the ones who were on the front line, they were the ones who gave up their holidays and worked overtime to be sure that the Federal Government computers were working at midnight.

1430

As we approached January 1, 2000, we began to have a higher degree of confidence that we were going to be able to be Y2K compliant and have no significant disruptions. But the truth was, none of us really knew for sure what would happen. Fortunately, we made it through with virtually no problems. The Federal Government's computer systems were ready to successfully operate in the new millennium due to the efforts of these hundreds and even thousands of Federal workers who worked diligently to cure the problems that they found.

We had a smooth transition; the Federal workers did their jobs, and if it is true that the Y2K challenge represented one of the greatest management tasks to face the Federal Government in the last 50 years and that we were slow to focus our attention upon it, then we can take even greater comfort in knowing that it was our Federal workers who handled such a mammoth undertaking with such professionalism and skill.

Mr. Speaker, many of the success stories will never be told to the public and many of our Federal workers will have to take comfort in the fact that it was their efforts in those long weekends and on those holidays that prevented us from having disruptions in

computer services. I am glad that this resolution recognizes our Federal workers in one of their finest hours. As a result of their skill, January 1 of 2000 proceeded like any normal day. Once again, we have shown that when faced with a challenge, whether in time of war or peace, the American people are up to the challenge and our Federal workers certainly proved their abilities and their dedication during this time. We owe them a great debt of gratitude.

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) who is the ranking minority member; he has been an outstanding member of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS). No one has worked harder on this issue than the gentleman from what is known as Silicon Valley East, or Fairfax County.

(Mr. DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I commend the authors of the resolution on both sides, as well as our Federal workforce and, of course, the contractors who worked together on this thing.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 300. I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives MORELLA and HORN for introducing this resolution, and commend them for their outstanding leadership on the Y2K issue. Their vigilant oversight made the Administration and agencies recognize the potential disasters associated with the Y2K rollover. As a member of the Government Management Information Technology Subcommittee, I was proud to work with my colleagues on this oversight. This commitment from Congress helped to ensure that our nation did not see an interruption in the delivery of critical goods and services on January 1, 2000.

In 1996, Representatives HORN and MORELLA began the initial hearings on Y2K and discovered that many of our federal operations were significantly behind in addressing the Y2K bug. It was readily apparent that there could be severe consequences if federal agencies and their employees were not able to address the pending Y2K crisis. There were many outside of government that believed the federal workforce would fail. Our federal workforce once again proved those naysayers wrong. Our federal employees rose to meet this challenge and devoted countless hours to tackling the technological complexities of the Y2K problem.

American taxpayers saw their return on investment on January 1, 2000. There were no delayed Social Security checks and no federal services were interrupted. This is due in large part to the federal employees who worked weekends and holidays to ensure that the millennium bug came without so much as a whimper.

As H. Con. Res. 300 states, the United States has over one-quarter of the world's computer assets and is the most technologically dependent nation in the world. The leadership of our federal workforce continues

to ensure that this dependence does not provide a threat to our nation's well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 300 and its swift passage today.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I certainly want to be associated with his fine remarks in congratulating Mr. John Koskinen for leading the executive branch in the Y2K effort, and particularly the Federal workforce. But I also wanted to be associated with the remarks of the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the remarks of the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and all of those folks on both sides of the aisle who made this such a successful bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the real success stories in terms of legislation, because we had nothing to read about on January 1. The old axiom with the media is if it bleeds, it leads, and there was no bleeding on January 1, because the Congress, the House and Senate leadership, and the executive branch recognized the importance, devoted their attention to it, came up with the legislation that was necessary, and certainly the executive branch came up with the resources and the leadership that was absolutely essential to make it a nonevent.

I do want to recognize the efforts of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) as well in a related matter. In the private sector it was the gentleman from Virginia who introduced the Y2K liability legislation which ensured that the prediction that the American Bar Association made, which was that there could be as much as \$1 trillion of liability suits brought by trial lawyers on January 1, never came to pass because the Congress again enacted preventive legislation to see to it that that did not happen; that lawyers were required to warn companies 30 days in advance; that information was required to be shared; that, in fact, there was a cap on punitive damages; and that grants and loans were made available for small businesses.

So both in the private sector and in the public sector, the Congress did its job. That is the point I want to make. It was a nonevent, but both the legislative and the executive branch deserve a great deal of credit for the fact that it was a nonevent both here in the United States and worldwide. It would not have happened had it not been for the leadership on both sides of the aisle, and they deserve congratulations, as does the Federal workforce and Mr. Koskinen.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today I support H. Con. Res. 300, a resolution recognizing and commending our Nation's workforce for successfully preparing for the Year 2000 date change.

Contrary to what some felt might happen when the clock struck midnight on January 1,

2000, planes didn't fall from the sky. Telephones retained their dial tone; water still ran from the faucets; and America's New Year celebrations were not left in the dark.

The smooth turnover from 1999 into 2000 is directly related to the hundreds, even thousands, of man-hours directed by our federal agencies toward preventing and correcting potential Y2K problems. Given the disruptions that did not occur, I would say these efforts paid off handsomely.

Y2K preparations paid off in other ways as well. As a result of Y2K concerns, there are now thousands more American families that own equipment needed to be adequately prepared for other types of emergencies, namely snow storms, floods and hurricanes.

Government leaders on every level now have a better understanding of technology management issues, and are more aware of the importance of cooperation between local, state and federal officials. What's more, the millennium bug provided a reason to upgrade government technology systems and to inventory resources.

Just being able to say some five months after Year 2000 rollover that it turned out to be a positive experience is a testament to the hard work of the federal workforce.

It is also a reflection of the extensive efforts of the House Y2K Task Force and to the leadership of the sponsors of this legislation, Representatives MORELLA and HORN. It is a tribute to the efforts of the President's Council on the Year 2000 Conversion, and to U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution recognizing the good work of our Nation's Federal Workforce and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 300, Recognizing and Commending our Nation's Federal Workforce for Successfully Preparing our Nation to Withstand any Catastrophic Year 2000 Computer Disruptions.

I want to congratulate Federal Government employees for their efforts in successfully addressing the Y2K problem. I want stress that this Resolution recognizes the hard work of all Federal employees and Federal contractors in evaluating and testing government computer systems.

As was frequently stressed during the past three years, fixing the Y2K computer glitch was not a technical issue; it was a management issue. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to commend the President and the Vice President for the management structure they developed to attack the Y2K problem. I specifically mention the Vice President because some of my colleagues were ready to blame Vice President GORE if there were any Y2K related problems. As we now know, computer systems were ready for January 1, 2000, and just as some were ready to lay blame so should we be ready to compliment for a job well done. One of their outstanding management decisions was selecting Mr. John Koskinen to be the Chair of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion. Mr. Koskinen galvanized and coordinated Federal activities. It is a tribute to Mr. Koskinen's management and diplomatic skills that the American public experienced no disruption of Federal services at the Y2K rollover.

So, to the President, the Vice President, Mr. Koskinen and to all Federal employees, all I

have to say is congratulations on a job well done.

In closing, I want to say that it has been a pleasure working with Chairman HORN and Ranking Member TURNER on the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology on this issue during the past three years. And as always, it has been a pleasure working with Chairwoman MORELLA.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, having no further requests for time, I urge the adoption of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 300.

The question was taken.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### FEDERAL CONTRACTOR FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3582) to restrict the use of mandatory minimum personnel experience and educational requirements in the procurement of information technology goods or services unless sufficiently justified.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3582

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Contractor Flexibility Act of 2000".

#### SEC. 2. APPROPRIATE USE OF PERSONNEL EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE PROCUREMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOODS AND SERVICES.

(a) AMENDMENT OF THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation issued in accordance with sections 6 and 25 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 405 and 421) shall be amended to address the use of personnel experience and educational requirements in the procurement of information technology goods and services.

(b) CONTENT OF AMENDMENT.—The amendment issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, provide that solicitations for the procurement of information technology goods or services shall not set forth any minimum experience or educational requirement for proposed contractor personnel in order for a bidder to be eligible for award of a contract unless the contracting officer first—

(1) determines that the needs of the agency cannot be met without any such requirement; and