

service do not have the resources to administer the program, they too will exit the business. Many of them already have, and more of them will if this cut in funding goes through.

For all these reasons, we should meet the President's modest request for Medicare contractor management, and undo these self-defeating cuts. If their purpose is to impair Medicare fee-for-service, and make beneficiaries cynical about Medicare and seek another program, they may achieve that effect. But if our purpose is to give the elderly and disabled a Medicare program with the care, service, and attention they need, these cuts should be reversed, and the President's request should be filled.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chairman, I will get to the point, who could not support Head Start, a program that provides comprehensive developmental services for America's low-income children—ages birth to five years?

Research has told us time and again that this is the most critical stage of a child's mental and emotional development. Adding \$600 million would provide additional services to 53,000 additional low-income children.

I represent the third-fastest growing metropolitan statistical area in the U.S. and yet, we have one of the highest rates of poverty, and a very young population.

For almost 30 years, I have been involved with education issues. This experience has taught me that children, regardless of income level or race, have the same potential for high achievement and healthy development. We must give them that chance.

Head Start has successfully served 17 million children and their families since 1965 * * * Let's not jeopardize that.

To my colleagues who say no to Head Start: I say is that your final answer? I hope not.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Chairman, the Republican leadership has once again succeeded in bringing to the floor a labor, health and education appropriations bill designed to please only themselves and their right-wing friends. H.R. 4577 fails to make needed investments in public education and the domestic workforce, and, as the result, would undermine American competitiveness in the 21st century. This bill has already received what has now become its customary and well-deserved veto threat from the Clinton administration. It is clearly going nowhere, and should be soundly defeated.

This bill was doomed from its inception, because the economic premise upon which it is based is flawed. Earlier this year, before the appropriations process began, the Republican leadership decided to resume its efforts to push for big tax cuts for the rich. They attached hundreds of billions of dollars of these tax cuts to the minimum wage bill and the budget resolution. This decision to squander the surplus, rather than invest it, severely reduced the funds available to meet many of our nation's critical needs.

Overall, the bill provides \$2.9 billion less than the President requested for the Department of Education, and \$1.7 billion less for the Department of Labor. As the result, education, job training, workplace safety, and other programs are either frozen or cut, significantly reducing the level of services that can be provided.

For example, the bill would slash Title I funding, forcing school districts to cut back on

assistance to disadvantaged students. The Clinton/Clay class size reduction initiative is gutted, leaving school districts without the resources to hire and train 20,000 more top-quality teachers. Adequate funding is denied for after-school and summer programs intended to improve student achievement and reduce juvenile crime. And no funds are provided to renovate crumbling and unsafe schools.

At the same time efforts are ongoing in the Congress to erase limits on the immigration of foreign workers to fill high-tech jobs, this bill would make steep cuts in the funding of training programs aimed at helping domestic workers fill them and other positions. Dislocated workers and at-risk youth are particularly hard hit by these cuts, even though they are the one most in need of skills training. By failing to adequately invest in our own workforce, the Republican leadership is jeopardizing American competitiveness and prosperity.

This bill also jeopardizes worker health and safety by shortchanging OSHA and blocking issuance of the ergonomics rule intended to prevent about 300,000 workplace injuries a year. The Wilson amendment would add insult to injury by cutting \$25 million more from OSHA.

Mr. Chairman, this appropriations bill is a disaster. It fails to adequately invest in education, and in the development and security of the nation's workforce. I urge a no vote on H.R. 4577.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) having assumed the chair, Mr. BEREUTER, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LIMITING CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION ACT, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 4577 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 418 and the order of the House of June 8, 2000, no further amendment to the bill shall be in order except:

One, pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate;

Two, the amendment printed in part B of House Report 106-657;

Three, the remaining amendments listed in the order of the House of June 8, 2000, as previously modified;

And four, the following additional amendments by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), regarding across-the-board reduction; the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), regarding reductions in Education for the Disadvantaged, Impact Aid, School Improvement Programs, and Bilingual and Immigrant Education and increase in special education; further, by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFER), regarding reduction in education research, statistics, and improvement and increase in special education; by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFER), regarding reduction in Job Corps Training and increase in special education for grants to States; by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFER), regarding reduction in the United States Institute of Peace and increase in special education for grants to States; by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), regarding fetal tissue research; by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), regarding a report of the impact of PNTR on United States jobs; by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), regarding NIH; by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), regarding additional funding for Meals on Wheels; and the amendments printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XXVIII and numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 189, 190, 191, 192, 196, 198, and 201.

Each additional amendment may be offered only by the Member designated in this request or a designee or the Member who caused it to be printed or a designee; shall be considered as read; shall be debatable for 10 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 in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-674) 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, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. 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. 4577, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4425, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4425) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES OFFERED BY MR. OLVER

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct the conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. OLVER moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 4425, be instructed to disagree with the Senate amendment and provide funding for National Missile Defense Initial Deployment Facilities at a level equal to the lower level as provided in the House passed bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a simple motion. It should not be controversial. These United States are on the verge of embarking on what could be a \$60 billion National Missile Defense program. This House included more than adequate funding to start the early lead construction items of the National Missile Defense as it is now conceived. The other Chamber has funded this item at a substantially and unnecessarily higher level.

This motion instructs the conferees to insist on the more prudent level of spending in the House bill; 367 Members of the House supported this level of spending when we passed the bill several weeks ago, and it is important that we maintain our position.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to the amendment of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) and would urge its adoption.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

For consideration of the House bill, and Division A of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. HOBSON, PORTER, TIAHRT, WALSH, MILLER of Florida, ADERHOLT, Ms. GRANGER, and Messrs. GOODE, YOUNG of Florida, OLVER, EDWARDS, FARR of California, BOYD, DICKS, and OBEY;

For consideration of the Division B of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. YOUNG of Florida, REGULA, LEWIS of California, ROGERS, SKEEN, CALLAHAN, OBEY, MURTHA, and Ms. PELOSI and Ms. KAPTUR.

There was no objection.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INDIA IN NEED OF THIS COUNTRY'S ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I take the well at this very late hour because I want to talk about an issue that is, I think, vitally important not only to

this country but to the stability of peace in the world community.

I had the occasion to take a trip with my wife and several others to Pakistan in India, and to Kashmir about a month, or month and a half ago, and it indeed was one of the more interesting things I have done in my 28 years of political life. I came away more convinced than ever that the United States has a proactive role to play in helping with the challenges that are faced in South Asia.

I think everyone now is aware that South Asia is a nuclear flash point; that the Indian Government and the Pakistanis have fought now three times since partition in 1947 from the British, and as a result of those wars, the recent skirmish in addition to that in the Kargil region, which claimed a thousand lives this past summer, it is a very dangerous place, with both countries now having the nuclear capability to destroy each other and inflict incredible destruction on not only that region of the world but the planet in general. So it seems to me that we need as a Nation and as a world community to focus our attention more and more on bringing peace and stability to the people of Kashmir. It is clearly in their interest.

The people of Kashmir have suffered through 50 years of broken promises. If we recall our history, the United Nations called for a plebiscite on self-determination in Kashmir in 1948, but of course that has never been carried out, and this legacy of neglect has fostered distrust, it has fostered hopelessness among many in Kashmir, especially the Muslim majority, which has spawned a cycle of protest and of violence and of repression.

As many as up to 70,000 Kashmiris in the last decade have died as a result of this war that is going on in their country. It is an incredibly beautiful place. Lush green valleys, enormously pristine sparkling lakes surrounded by the Himalayas' snow-capped mountains. Its beauty is only contrasted by the pain and the suffering of indeed this brutal repression and war that is raging now that, as I have said, has claimed as many, some say up to 70,000 lives. A staggering total.

Indian security forces number in the neighborhood of somewhere between 500,000 and 700,000 troops in the States of Kashmir and Jammu, and they wage, along with the militants who are crossing the border and fighting in this region, a day-to-day campaign of terror and repression. And the Kashmiri people are caught in the middle. The human rights abuses are every bit as outrageous and repugnant as they have been in the Balkans as we have seen recently. The number of rapes and torture and all the things that go along with this type of international catastrophe is present in Kashmir.

Independent human rights' groups report on these rapes and these tortures. Often they are not allowed into Kashmir. Amnesty International is not, and