

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, it was my intention to vote "yea" on rollcall vote No. 332 (H. Res. 494), but was recorded as voting "nay." H. Res. 494 acknowledges the importance of God in our institutions and our lives.

JAMES H. QUILLEN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4608.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4608, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 2, answered "present" 1, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 332]
YEAS—421

Abercrombie	Capuano	Evans
Ackerman	Cardin	Everett
Aderholt	Carson	Ewing
Allen	Castle	Farr
Andrews	Chabot	Fattah
Archer	Chambliss	Filner
Armey	Chenoweth-Hage	Fletcher
Baca	Clay	Foley
Bachus	Clayton	Forbes
Baird	Clement	Ford
Baker	Clyburn	Fossella
Baldacci	Coble	Fowler
Baldwin	Coburn	Frank (MA)
Ballenger	Collins	Franks (NJ)
Barcia	Combust	Frelinghuysen
Barr	Condit	Frost
Barrett (NE)	Conyers	Gallegly
Barrett (WI)	Cooksey	Ganske
Bartlett	Costello	Gejdenson
Barton	Cox	Gekas
Bass	Coyne	Gephardt
Bateman	Cramer	Gibbons
Becerra	Crane	Gilchrest
Bentsen	Crowley	Gillmor
Bereuter	Cubin	Gilman
Berkley	Cummings	Gonzalez
Berman	Cunningham	Goode
Berry	Danner	Goodlatte
Biggert	Davis (FL)	Goodling
Billray	Davis (IL)	Gordon
Billirakis	Davis (VA)	Goss
Bishop	Deal	Graham
Blagojevich	DeFazio	Granger
Bliley	DeGette	Green (TX)
Blumenauer	Delahunt	Green (WI)
Blunt	DeLauro	Greenwood
Boehlert	DeLay	Gutierrez
Boehner	DeMint	Gutknecht
Bonilla	Deutsch	Hall (OH)
Bonior	Diaz-Balart	Hall (TX)
Bono	Dickey	Hansen
Borski	Dicks	Hastings (FL)
Boswell	Dingell	Hastings (WA)
Boucher	Dixon	Hayes
Boyd	Doggett	Hayworth
Brady (PA)	Dooley	Herger
Brady (TX)	Doolittle	Hill (IN)
Brown (FL)	Doyle	Hill (MT)
Brown (OH)	Dreier	Hilleary
Bryant	Duncan	Hilliard
Burr	Dunn	Hinchey
Burton	Edwards	Hinojosa
Buyer	Ehlers	Hobson
Callahan	Ehrlich	Hoefel
Calvert	Emerson	Hoekstra
Campbell	Engel	Holden
Canady	English	Holt
Cannon	Eshoo	Hooley
Capps	Etheridge	Horn

Hostettler	Miller (FL)
Houghton	Miller, Gary
Hoyer	Miller, George
Hulshof	Minge
Hunter	Mink
Hutchinson	Moakley
Hyde	Mollohan
Inslie	Moore
Isakson	Moran (KS)
Istook	Moran (VA)
Jackson (IL)	Morella
Jackson-Lee	Murtha
(TX)	Myrick
Jefferson	Nadler
Jenkins	Napolitano
John	Neal
Johnson (CT)	Nethercutt
Johnson, E. B.	Ney
Johnson, Sam	Northup
Jones (NC)	Norwood
Jones (OH)	Nussle
Kanjorski	Oberstar
Kaptur	Obey
Kasich	Olver
Kelly	Ortiz
Kennedy	Ose
Kildee	Owens
Kind (WI)	Oxley
King (NY)	Packard
Kingston	Pallone
Kleczka	Pascrell
Klink	Pastor
Knollenberg	Paul
Kolbe	Payne
Kucinich	Pease
Kuykendall	Pelosi
LaFalce	Peterson (MN)
LaHood	Peterson (PA)
Lampson	Petri
Lantos	Phelps
Largent	Pickering
Larson	Pickett
Latham	Pitts
LaTourette	Pombo
Leach	Pomeroy
Lee	Porter
Levin	Portman
Lewis (CA)	Price (NC)
Lewis (GA)	Pryce (OH)
Lewis (KY)	Quinn
Linder	Radanovich
Lipinski	Rahall
LoBiondo	Ramstad
Lofgren	Rangel
Lowey	Regula
Lucas (KY)	Reyes
Lucas (OK)	Reynolds
Luther	Riley
Maloney (CT)	Rivers
Maloney (NY)	Rodriguez
Manzullo	Roemer
Martinez	Rogan
Mascara	Rogers
Matsui	Rohrabacher
McCarthy (MO)	Ros-Lehtinen
McCarthy (NY)	Rothman
McCollum	Roukema
McCreery	Roybal-Allard
McDermott	Royce
McGovern	Rush
McHugh	Ryan (WI)
McInnis	Ryun (KS)
McIntyre	Sabo
McKeon	Salmon
McKinney	Sanders
McNulty	Sandlin
Meehan	Sawyer
Meek (FL)	Saxton
Meeks (NY)	Scarborough
Menendez	Schaffer
Mica	Schakowsky
Millender-	Scott
McDonald	Sensenbrenner

NAYS—2

Hefley

Sanford

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Metcalf

NOT VOTING—10

Camp	Markey	Vento
Cook	McIntosh	Young (AK)
Kilpatrick	Sanchez	
Lazio	Tiahrt	

□ 1441

So (two-thirds having voted in the favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 331–333. Rollcall vote No. 331 was on passage of H. Con. Res. 312, Expressing the Sense of Congress that States Should More Closely Regulate Pawn and Title Loan Transactions; rollcall vote. No. 332 was on passage of H. Res. 494, Expressing the Sense of the House that the Ohio State Motto is Constitutional and Courts Should Uphold It; rollcall vote No. 333 was on passage of H.R. 4608, Designating the "James H. Quillen United States Courthouse". Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of the three suspension bills.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4733, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 532 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 532

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4733) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4 of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of orders against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or clause 5(a) of rule XXI are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution may be offered only by a Member designated in the report and only at the appropriate point in the reading of the bill, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report 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 division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendment printed in the report are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule

XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1445

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), 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. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 532 provides an open rule for consideration of H.R. 4733, the Energy and Water appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. The resolution waives clause 4 of rule XIII, requiring a 3-day layover of the committee report and requiring a 3-day availability of printed hearings on a general appropriation bill against consideration of the bill.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives clause 2 of Rule XXI, prohibiting unauthorized or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill, and clause 5(1) of rule XXI, prohibiting a tax or tariff provision in a bill not reported by a committee with jurisdiction over revenue measures, against provisions in the bill.

The bill further provides that the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules may be offered only by a Member designated in the report and only at the appropriate time in the reading of the bill, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by a 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 rule also waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report, and authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to

Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides on a motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY), the ranking member of the subcommittee, are to be commended for their efforts on this legislation. H.R. 4733 appropriates funds for civil projects of the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, most of the Department of Energy, and several independent agencies such as the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Bonneville Power Administration, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The bill appropriates \$21.7 billion in new budget authority, which is \$546 million more than fiscal year 2000, but \$952 million less than the President's request. The vast majority of the bill's funding, \$17.3 billion, goes to various programs run by the Department of Energy, such as cleanup of nuclear waste on a number of Federal facilities, including the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in my district.

The bill also allocates \$4.1 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers and \$770 million to the Department of the Interior. The funding in this bill is necessary to protect important investments in our Nation's water and energy infrastructure and to maintain and operate the wide range of facilities and programs within the subcommittee's jurisdiction.

As a Member of Congress from the West, I am particularly aware of the importance of these projects. Therefore, I commend the members of the Energy and Water subcommittee for their effort on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 4733.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), my colleague, for yielding me the customary ½ hour, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the open rule, but have several concerns regarding the underlying bill. Despite the best efforts of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development chairman and members to put together a bipartisan bill, the fiscal year 2001 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill is yet another spending bill that misses the boat.

On the one hand, the bill funds numerous projects of critical importance to many of our districts. At the same time, however, it leaves serious spending gaps that fail to address real-world concerns that will have to be dealt with before the bill is signed into law.

For instance, gas prices have topped \$2 per gallon in many places. While the Federal Government has launched an investigation through the Federal Trade Commission in hopes of uncovering the answer to what is behind the soaring prices, the bill fails to adequately address the roots of the gasoline price problem.

When oil prices plunged to \$8 to \$10 a barrel in March of 1999, the current leadership took little action to protect domestic oil producers, and when gas prices across the Nation stood at \$1 per gallon, the majority party leadership pushed to eliminate the Energy Department entirely. They ignored efforts by Members to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve with oil from struggling domestic producers. Had they acted, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve could have 115 million barrels more of oil, and we might have a healthier domestic oil industry.

Fortunately, the rule will protect efforts in committee by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) to amend the bill to reauthorize the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Were it not for the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) offering this amendment adopted in the committee, the floor amendment proposed today would not be germane to the bill. The full House will also have an opportunity in the amendment process to establish a new regional home heating oil reserve in the Northeast, a program of critical importance to my district in Rochester and one I have long supported.

Nevertheless, the underlying bill is \$100 million short of the President's request for solar and renewable energy research, stifling hope for developing marketable solutions to what promises to be a perennial problem. This makes little sense. The majority continues to criticize the administration for failing to have an energy policy, yet has systematically shut down administration initiatives to fund energy research efforts that could help in finding a solution to this problem.

During consideration of this bill at full committee, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) offered an amendment to restore the line for Solar and Renewable Energy Research to the level requested in the President's budget. The amendment was rejected by the committee on a party line vote.

This has been a continuing pattern throughout the appropriations process. The House has just passed the VA-HUD appropriations bill, which slashes the President's budget request for the National Science Foundation by half a billion dollars. Floor action on the Interior bill made a bad situation worse by leaving the bill \$100 million below last year's level on energy efficiency.

The Congress does not have the ability or the desire to set fuel prices, but we should have the good sense to support research into ways to avoid the kinds of shocks high fuel prices can deliver to our economy and encourage the development of alternative energy sources and domestic energy production.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would advise the gentlewoman from New York that I have no requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight as far as the rule that is before us. The Energy and Water bill, as reported out of subcommittee, includes only the language offered in committee by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) that would deal with the critical issue of rising gasoline prices, and I want to make that very clear today.

Why is this the case? Perhaps it is because the appropriations bill that should have been dealt with on this issue was the Interior bill. That bill passed the House on June 15 after the House rejected a proposal by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) to include funding for the Northeast home heating oil reserve, as requested by the President of the United States.

The majority's interior appropriation bill did nothing to address the rising gasoline prices in this country. After their refusal to do anything in the full Committee on Appropriations, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) did seek a vehicle, that is this bill, the Energy and Water bill, to address the issue. I would also parenthetically add that she follows on other initiatives taken by many Members on our side of the aisle from New England, the State of Pennsylvania, and other areas, pursuant to negotiations and meetings with the President in January, in February, and other legislative initiatives.

The gentlewoman from Michigan did take the lead in full committee to add a simple reauthorization for the short-term extension of the strategic petroleum reserve. If it was not for her efforts in full committee and the efforts of her Democratic cosponsors, the amendment in order by this rule would not have been germane, and it would not have been allowed to be offered today in this Chamber. In fact, the Chairman of the authorizing committee, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), wrote to the Committee on Rules asking that the Kilpatrick language not be protected from a point of order since it was authorizing in an appropriations bill. If the chairman of the Committee on Commerce objected

so strongly to the Kilpatrick language, a simple 1-year reauthorization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve just to get the process moving, then surely he must have even more vehemently objected to the language made in order by this rule, which goes much further.

Mr. Speaker, this rule makes in order an amendment by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that basically duplicates language that was in the bill passed by the House a few weeks ago, the same language of the majority of the other body. So I do want to make one thing clear. We are today considering a bill with language put into it at full committee by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, not only has there been a failure of leadership on the part of the Republican majority when it comes to energy independence, there has been a concerted effort to undercut the efforts of the administration to address energy issues. In fact, members of the Republican leadership have jeopardized our abilities to address our energy needs by attempting to abolish the Department of Energy, slashing energy efficiency programs, and selling off the strategic petroleum reserve.

In the past few weeks, as the price of gasoline has soared, the Republican majority has offered not one solution to America's consumers.

□ 1500

Instead, where American families see an energy crisis that jeopardizes their summer vacations, Republican leaders see an opportunity to score political points and cover up their 6-year record of negligence on energy independence.

The Republicans have cut crucial energy supply programs by 23 percent below the President's request, including \$106 million less than requested for solar and renewable energy programs. They have even cut these programs by \$61 million below the current appropriation.

The Republican bill also cuts research by \$320 million, or 10 percent below the President's request.

Mr. Speaker, today the Congress is rightly taking action to reauthorize the President's ability to use the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, establish a Northeast Home Heating Reserve, and authorize the Department of Energy to purchase oil from stripper wells when the price drops below \$15 a barrel, all measures Democrats have long been advocating, as indicated by the previous speaker, the ranking member on the subcommittee.

But the Republican budget continues to ignore many of the crucial long-term investments that are vital to America's future energy independence. I call on the Republican leadership to call a halt to the photo ops and press releases and stop attempting to abolish the Department of Energy, and finally

work with Democrats to make investments in research and renewable energy sources that are vital to America's energy independence.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and in general support of the bill. The rule appropriately provides an opportunity for the House to consider germane amendments to this important appropriations measure.

On the bill, I am sure each of us might want it to be different one way or another. For example, I do not think it does enough for solar and renewable energy programs. That is why I will be joining many others in trying to improve that part of the bill. Overall, I think the committee has done a good job, especially considering the limits imposed by the budget resolution.

In particular, I want to express my appreciation for the fact the committee has included all the money that was requested for the nuclear facilities closure projects, an increase of more than \$21.8 million over this year's amount for that purpose. This is crucial for my district because the Rocky Flats facility, located in my congressional district, is just a few miles from the center of our State's major population areas. Safe, effective, and timely clean-up and closure of the flats is a matter of highest priority for all Coloradans. I greatly appreciate the committee's inclusion of the requested funding for this purpose.

I also want to join the committee in urging the DOE to ensure that the complex-wide funding issues are addressed as they relate to closure for Rocky Flats. As the committee has correctly noted, if DOE is to keep on its timetable for closing Rocky Flats, important tasks must be completed at other sites, as well.

I urge support for the rule so the House can begin to consider this very important measure.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), a member of the subcommittee.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the rule, to make brief comments in support of the energy and water bill, and to make a few comments on security issues and the current oil crisis.

Mr. Speaker, our committee, under the leadership of the gentleman from California (Chairman PACKARD), rightly has addressed the critical issues of security at our Nation's nuclear labs by providing an additional \$331 million

for the National Nuclear Security Administration, for a total of over \$6 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the problem of security at our national labs is one of leadership, not of resources. The security at our national labs, or at least some of our labs, has not just been compromised, it has been violated. It is time for Secretary Richardson to accept the responsibility for the ongoing security violations and to take whatever actions are necessary to restore the faith of the American people in their ability to secure our Nation's nuclear secrets.

Furthermore, even with the strong congressional support from our committee, the leadership of the Department of Energy has been lacking, particularly in regard to developing a comprehensive energy strategy. Getting as much oil as we can for as little as we can is not energy policy. Recent oil prices clearly show that the Secretary has once again been negligent.

One of the core missions of the Department of Energy, and I quote, is "to develop and implement a national energy policy." Congress has provided the necessary resources, and the increased funding for the Department contained in this bill needs to be spent wisely and with strict accountability so that a workable energy strategy can be developed to address exorbitant energy costs.

On the issue of national security, on the issue of an energy policy, the Secretary needs to do better.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule today, and to thank our ranking member for the tenacity that he has shown and the leadership he has shown in protecting a very important amendment as we address the high gas prices in America today.

To the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD), I thank him for his work and for the product he has brought before us today. This, unlike some of the other bills, is a close call. We can support this bill. It is not perfect, it could be better, but we certainly are going to support the rule and the bill that will be before us.

I want to urge the Federal Trade Commission, who has been now assigned the task, to look at the high gasoline prices that Americans are facing today. In our State of Michigan, people who are on fixed incomes, who do work, who have to drive to work, find buying gas at over \$2 a gallon is too much. It restricts their family resources, it restricts what they need for their housing, what they need for their children. We ought to take a look at that.

Additionally, truckers have advised me that the high gas prices really

make it impossible for them to bring in revenues, bring in profits that they use to take care of their families. Many independent truckers find that the high gasoline prices, in Michigan anywhere from \$2.19 to \$2.39 a gallon, are not adequate. We have to look at it. I want to urge the Federal Trade Commission to take a good look.

In the State of Michigan, tourism is our third revenue producer for our State. With the high gas prices, many people are rethinking their travel plans. Many people are not going to be going as far or coming to our State because of the high gasoline prices.

I believe we have to do something, that we have to have the Trade Commission act on it soon and not take a long time, and at the same time, that we do not posture as Congressmen and Congresswomen to get credit. This is not a credit issue, this is an American issue.

I want to thank the Committee on Rules as well as the subcommittee for doing their work. It seems possible that in this great, prosperous time of ours, we can succeed as a nation.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACCI).

(Mr. BALDACCI asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), for doing outstanding work as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations.

I am supporting the rule and I support the bill. It is completely unfortunate that the circumstances in relationship to the heating oil and petroleum and gasoline supplies in our country have taken this long to address.

There has been a delegation from the Northeast and New England that have worked together since early January meeting with the President, meeting with the Energy Secretary, trying to get this Congress to confront the issues. All we have been able to get from this Congress, the leadership of this Congress, is to cut and gut the weatherization conservation efforts, not to address fuel efficiency standards, not to do anything to lay the groundwork to having a comprehensive energy policy so we can become energy-independent and not energy-dependent.

It is easy to try to blame people, but it is a lot harder to work together and establish these policies. We have been working very hard in the Northeast and the Southeast and throughout the country to establish a comprehensive, bipartisan energy policy.

Many months ago, legislation was authored by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), and

the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARTON) and many of us in the Northeast and across the aisle to try to get the heating oil reserve established, to try to lay the groundwork for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve reauthorization, to give the President the power to be able to do that.

Congress and the leadership in Congress, where have they been? It has been weeks since the last action was taken. We have the legislation in an amendment form before us that has been submitted, and it takes away the issue from the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) and others who have worked on this legislation. Nowhere do we see any credit being able to be given for all of the hard work they have done in regard to this legislation.

We must seek to have a bipartisan, comprehensive energy policy. It is way beyond time that any reasonable person would have taken action. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering an amendment that is identical to the legislation that this Congress should have sent to the President a long time ago.

Mr. Speaker, we must act on this legislation. We must get it to the President, or history is going to repeat itself again in the Northeast. That is not going to be pleasant for the people that we seek to represent.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and in support of H.R. 4733, the fiscal year 2001 energy and water appropriations bill.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman PACKARD) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), for their hard work on this important legislation, as well as my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) for all the help they have provided our constituents in the greater Houston area.

In particular, I want to highlight that the bill fully funds the request for important U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in the greater Houston area. In particular, the bill provides the second consecutive year full funding for the Brays Bayou project in southwest Houston at \$6 million for fiscal year 2001.

This project is necessary to improve flood protection for an extensively developed residential area along the Brays Bayou in southwest Harris County. This project was originally authorized in the WRDA 1990 act as part of a \$400 million local flood control project.

Subsequently, the Brays project was reauthorized as one of the original sites for a demonstration project for new Federal reimbursement program as part of the WRDA 1996 bill based upon legislation drafted by my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr.

DELAY) and myself, which has strengthened the core and local sponsor role in giving the local sponsor a greater responsibility.

Recently, the local sponsor, the Harris County, Texas, Commissioners Court, approved the Brays redesign per the WRDA 1996 Act, and now this project can move forward with strong public support.

I am also gratified the subcommittee decided to fully fund the Sims Bayou project at \$11.8 million. This is a project that also affects an area of southeastern Harris County that is heavily residential. This project is 2 years ahead of schedule. It is about midstream right now, scheduled to be completed in 2004. It is critically important to a number of my constituents who live in areas that are otherwise ravaged by continual flooding.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am gratified that the committee chose to fully fund the request for the Houston Ship Channel deepening and widening project. This is the largest deepening and widening project that the Corps of Engineers has been involved in since the Panama Canal. It is important to the local economy that I and my colleagues in the Houston area represent. It is also being done in a very environmentally sound manner in reestablishing natural habitat throughout the Galveston Bay.

I appreciate the fact that the committee has kept this project on track and fully funded the administration's request.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

(Mr. LARSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) for his outstanding work, and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), as well.

I would note to my colleagues that victory has many fathers, and defeat, of course, is an orphan. But defeat is not an option, especially for those who are dependent upon home heating oil and have to make the awful choice between heating their homes, providing themselves with prescription drugs that they need, or in fact the food that they place on their table.

Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACCI) who spoke eloquently about the coalition of those of us in the Northeast who have sought bipartisan support, especially in the area of the release of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the establishment of a strategic home heating oil fuel base for those who need this kind of relief.

I further concur with the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KIL-

PATRICK) about the need for the Federal Trade Commission to further pursue these companies with respect to what seems to be gouging at the gas lines.

Further, I would also note that there is an important need for an investment that is not addressed in this legislation. We currently import somewhere in the area of \$5 billion worth of oil a month. That is \$60 billion a year. We are making cuts in the very area of research and development, specifically in the area of fuel cells, that could benefit us and allow us to compete in a global economy, and get us to a point where we are not dependent upon foreign sources of oil, so we can provide ourselves with efficient home heating oil and the means to provide us with transportation to and from our jobs.

□ 1515

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the specific rule to permit an amendment on the floor offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) authorizing the establishment of a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. Not only do we need to pass this rule, but what we really need to do is to appropriate funding for the creation of a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing an energy crisis in this country. The price of gasoline is skyrocketing. In the Midwest and other parts of the country, the price of a gallon of gas is now over \$2 a gallon. Throughout the rest of the country, including my State of Vermont, it is well over \$1.50 a gallon, and that is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the price of crude oil has more than tripled since last year and is the highest it has been since the Gulf War. The reason the prices are high is because the supply for gasoline is low. This can only mean one thing. If we do not adequately prepare for next winter, we will have a home heating oil disaster on our hands.

But my colleagues do not have to take my word for it. I quote from an article that appeared in USA Today just yesterday: "Those who heat with oil will shiver this winter and pay a premium. Just 15.3 million barrels of heating oil are stockpiled for the East Coast, which uses 75 percent of the Nation's heating oil in the winter. That's well down from 41.3 million barrels on hand last June."

Mr. Speaker, we all know what happened last year. Home heating oil prices were the highest they have ever been in history. And now we are faced with a home heating oil stockpile that is 37 percent lower than last year. It does not take a genius to figure out that we are setting ourselves up for a

huge heating oil crisis next year unless Congress acts now.

According to Bill O'Grady, oil analyst at A.G. Edwards & Sons, "If we have a cold winter early, we could end up seeing in heating oil what we're seeing in gas prices in spades."

Mr. Speaker, we must not let this happen. We must make certain that the huge increase in home heating oil prices that we experienced last winter never happens again. Too many people were hurt by that huge increase in home heating oil prices. The astronomical prices that our constituents were forced to pay for home heating oil in order to stay warm last winter was unconscionable. Let us unite behind the creation of a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve, and let us make sure that we have adequate funding to guarantee that it is up and running as soon as possible.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4733, and that I may be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING LIMITATION OF AMENDMENTS DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4733, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise all Members that we are working on a unanimous consent request to bring about a time agreement on all amendments to the bill. Any Members who have not yet contacted us regarding possible amendments should do so as soon as possible so that we can protect their right to offer amendments. Otherwise, we will be asking for unanimous consent that the amendments that have now been submitted will be the only amendments that will be considered.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 532 and rule