

travel dollars for that thug fascist dictatorship.

I urge my colleagues to pass this rule and to pass the underlying legislation.

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Prescription Drug Import plan contained in the Agriculture Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001 and the rule providing for its consideration. While I applaud any effort to reduce the cost of prescription drugs for seniors. I can say with confidence and sincerity that the plan in this bill is not a solution to the problem. Due to the immense loopholes contained in the legislation and its watered-down content, it will not in any way affect the cost of prescription drugs for seniors in the United States. If the prescription drug import provisions in this legislation were an honest attempt to address this issue, it is possible that they would be effective in reducing the cost of prescription drugs for our citizens. However, they have been written in such a way as to allow the drug companies a way out of having to offer American seniors what they need: quality medications at reduced costs.

Since the provisions are contained in the larger agriculture appropriation bill, I must vote in favor of the overall bill. However, I wish to register my opposition on the content of the reimportation provisions. These provisions are a sham piece of legislation designed to allow drug companies to continue to make outrageous profits off of senior citizens in America. This is why money must be removed from the political process, because as long as drug company money floats freely into it—this is the kind of trickery that will continue to rule the day. The greatest generation of Americans; the same generation that persevered through the Second World War; the same generation that lived through the Great Depression, is now being sold down the river in exchange for advancing the interests of the pharmaceutical companies. This is a campaign year, smoke and mirrors tactic that nearly every credible source has dismissed as useless and not credible. This is a sad day for this Congress, but an even sadder day for the elderly people who thought they might get some relief this year.

I am sorry to say that this plan has been fashioned to appear as if it is part of the answer to the high cost of prescription medicines, but appearances to not solve problems, only legislation that is comprehensive and complete can effectively deal with the financial burden that rests on our seniors. In order to truly keep our promises to the American people, and reduce these costs, we must establish a prescription drug benefit under the Medicare program.

I urge my colleges to vote against the rule so that we can be allowed to offer a real solution to the problem of the high cost of prescription drugs instead of allowing the leadership to attempt to fool our seniors into thinking we are doing something for them.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE). The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 201, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 524]

YEAS—214

Aderholt	Goodlatte	Pickering
Archer	Goodling	Pitts
Armey	Goss	Pombo
Bachus	Graham	Porter
Baker	Granger	Portman
Ballenger	Green (WI)	Pryce (OH)
Barr	Greenwood	Quinn
Barrett (NE)	Gutknecht	Radanovich
Bartlett	Hall (TX)	Ramstad
Barton	Hansen	Regula
Bass	Hastings (WA)	Reynolds
Bereuter	Hayes	Riley
Biggert	Hayworth	Rogan
Bilbray	Hefley	Rogers
Bilirakis	Herger	Rohrabacher
Bishop	Hill (MT)	Ros-Lehtinen
Bliley	Hilleary	Roukema
Blunt	Hobson	Royce
Boehlert	Hoekstra	Ryan (WI)
Boehner	Hostettler	Ryun (KS)
Bonilla	Houghton	Salmon
Bono	Hulshof	Sanford
Brady (TX)	Hunter	Saxton
Bryant	Hutchinson	Scarborough
Burton	Hyde	Schaffer
Buyer	Isakson	Sensenbrenner
Callahan	Istook	Sessions
Calvert	Jenkins	Shadegg
Camp	Johnson (CT)	Shaw
Canady	Johnson, Sam	Shays
Cannon	Jones (NC)	Sherwood
Castle	Kasich	Shimkus
Chabot	Kelly	Simpson
Chambliss	King (NY)	Skeen
Chenoweth-Hage	Kingston	Smith (MI)
Coburn	Knollenberg	Smith (NJ)
Collins	Kolbe	Smith (TX)
Combest	Kuykendall	Souder
Cook	LaHood	Spence
Cooksey	Largent	Stearns
Cox	Latham	Stump
Crane	LaTourette	Sununu
Cubin	Lazio	Sweeney
Cunningham	Leach	Talent
Davis (VA)	Lewis (CA)	Tancredo
Deal	Lewis (KY)	Tauzin
DeLay	Linder	Taylor (NC)
DeMint	LoBiondo	Terry
Diaz-Balart	Lucas (OK)	Thomas
Dickey	Manzullo	Thornberry
Doolittle	Martinez	Thune
Dreier	McCrery	Tiahrt
Duncan	McHugh	Toomey
Dunn	McInnis	Traficant
Ehlers	McKeon	Upton
Ehrlich	Metcalfe	Vitter
Emerson	Mica	Walden
English	Miller, Gary	Walsh
Everett	Moran (KS)	Wamp
Ewing	Morella	Watkins
Fletcher	Nethercutt	Watts (OK)
Foley	Ney	Weldon (FL)
Fossella	Northup	Weldon (PA)
Fowler	Norwood	Weller
Frelinghuysen	Nussle	Whitfield
Gallegly	Ose	Wicker
Gekas	Oxley	Wilson
Gibbons	Packard	Wolf
Gilchrest	Paul	Young (AK)
Gillmor	Pease	Young (FL)
Gilman	Peterson (PA)	
Goode	Petri	

NAYS—201

Abercrombie	Barrett (WI)	Borski
Ackerman	Becerra	Boswell
Allen	Bentsen	Boucher
Andrews	Berkley	Boyd
Baca	Berman	Brady (PA)
Baird	Berry	Brown (FL)
Baldacci	Blagojevich	Brown (OH)
Baldwin	Blumenauer	Capps
Barcia	Bonior	Capuano

Cardin	Jefferson	Payne
Carson	John	Pelosi
Clay	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson (MN)
Clayton	Jones (OH)	Phelps
Clement	Kanjorski	Pickett
Clyburn	Kaptur	Pomeroy
Condit	Kennedy	Price (NC)
Conyers	Kildee	Rahall
Costello	Kilpatrick	Rangel
Coyne	Kind (WI)	Reyes
Cramer	Klecza	Rivers
Crowley	Kucinich	Rodriguez
Cummings	LaFalce	Roemer
Davis (FL)	Lampson	Rothman
Davis (IL)	Lantos	Roybal-Allard
DeFazio	Larson	Rush
DeGette	Lee	Sabo
Delahunt	Levin	Sanchez
DeLauro	Lewis (GA)	Sanders
Deutsch	Lipinski	Sandlin
Dicks	Lofgren	Sawyer
Dingell	Lowey	Schakowsky
Dixon	Lucas (KY)	Scott
Doggett	Luther	Serrano
Dooley	Maloney (CT)	Sherman
Doyle	Maloney (NY)	Shows
Edwards	Markey	Sisisky
Engel	Mascara	Skelton
Etheridge	Matsui	Slaughter
Evans	McCarthy (MO)	Smith (WA)
Farr	McCarthy (NY)	Snyder
Fattah	McDermott	Stabenow
Filner	McGovern	Stark
Forbes	McIntyre	Stenholm
Ford	McKinney	Strickland
Frost	McNulty	Stupak
Ganske	Meek (FL)	Tanner
Gejdenson	Meeks (NY)	Tauscher
Gephardt	Menendez	Taylor (MS)
Gonzalez	Millender	Thompson (CA)
Gordon	McDonald	Thompson (MS)
Green (TX)	Miller, George	Thurman
Gutierrez	Minge	Tierney
Hall (OH)	Mink	Towns
Hastings (FL)	Moakley	Turner
Hill (IN)	Mollohan	Udall (CO)
Hilliard	Moore	Udall (NM)
Hinchey	Moran (VA)	Velazquez
Hinojosa	Murtha	Visclosky
Hoeffel	Nadler	Waters
Holden	Napolitano	Watt (NC)
Holt	Oberstar	Waxman
Hooley	Obey	Weiner
Horn	Olver	Wexler
Hoyer	Ortiz	Weygand
Inslee	Owens	Woolsey
Jackson (IL)	Pallone	Wu
Jackson-Lee	Pascarell	Wynn
(TX)	Pastor	

NOT VOTING—17

Burr	Franks (NJ)	Myrick
Campbell	Klink	Neal
Coble	McColum	Shuster
Danner	McIntosh	Spratt
Eshoo	Meehan	Wise
Frank (MA)	Miller (FL)	

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Messrs. FORD, INSLEE, and OWENS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. KASICH and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1824

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 1824.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4461, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4461, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 617, I call up the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 617, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Friday, October 6, 2000 at page H9461.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring before the House the conference report on the fiscal year 2001 appropriations bill for Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has two main parts. The first titles, Title I through VII, comprises the regular fiscal year 2001 appropriations bill, which has a total budget authority of slightly less than \$15.3 billion.

The second part, which is Title VIII, is the emergency title, and that totals just over \$3.6 billion. The administration advised us that it would not submit a formal request for disaster as-

sistance, so as we have done in the past, we worked informally with program managers at USDA and with House and Senate colleagues to address as many concerns as possible.

I believe that we have a good conference report that deserves the support of this body. We were able to make significant increases over the fiscal year 2000 level in research, food safety, domestic feeding, and conservation programs.

This bill also contains compromise language in two critical issues: prescription drug importation, and sanctions of agricultural exports. I believe the language that we are offering will make it easier for our senior citizens to have access to safer, less costly drugs, and make it easier for our farmers and ranchers to export their products to certain countries.

I would like to point out a few highlights of the conference report which I think are important to us all. In the two main research accounts, we have about \$120 million over the current fiscal year level, in direct response to Members' concerns for critical research priorities.

APHIS regular programs have been increased by \$38 million over fiscal year 2000, in response to many Members' concerns about invasive plants, pests, and diseases. There is additional money in the APHIS account to assist in the boll weevil program. The Agricultural Marketing Service has increased by \$15 million, and GIPSA by \$4.5 million.

Meat and poultry inspection has been increased by \$47.5 million, which is actually higher than the official budget request. This represents our efforts to respond to problems that occurred after both bodies had passed their respective bills.

Our FSA loan programs are increased slightly over the current year, and we have met the administration's requests for salaries and expenses.

Conservation programs on the discretionary side are increased by about \$70 million, which is just under the administration's request. On the mandatory side, there is an additional \$35 million for technical assistance for the Wetlands Reserve and the Conservation Reserve programs. There is also \$117 million to enroll an additional 100,000 acres in the Wetlands Reserve Program, since so many Members have requested us to lift the authorized enrollment cap.

In rural development, we have met the administration's request for the Rural Community Advancement Program, and in spite of sharply higher

subsidy rates, we have increased housing and rural utility loan levels by half a billion dollars each.

In domestic food programs, WIC has been increased by \$20 million, commodity assistance by \$7 million, and elderly feeding by \$10 million over fiscal year 2000.

In P.L. 480, I know there was a lot of concern about the low House number. I am happy to report that Title II is now \$837 million, so all of the food aid programs are at the administration's request.

The Food and Drug Administration's salaries and expenses are increased by almost \$31 million, and we will be able to go ahead with the badly needed new building in Los Angeles.

Finally, I think all of us hear on a near weekly basis from the land grant schools about the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems. In past years, we have had to put a limitation on this program to pay for other important accounts, but this conference report allows the Initiative as well as the Fund for Rural America to go forward in fiscal year 2001, using money saved from the 2000 budget.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that will generate benefits in every congressional district in the country. We are providing strong protection for the health and safety of our citizens, nutrition and feeding programs for the most vulnerable, and agricultural research which makes us the greatest producer of food and fiber the world has ever known, and funding for a strong and productive rural America.

Mr. Speaker, we have tried our best to put together a good, solid bipartisan bill which works for all America. Much of it is compromise, to be sure, but I believe it is good compromise and good policy.

In closing, I would like to thank all of my colleagues on the subcommittee for their help and hard work since we began this process earlier this year. In particular, I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work: Hank Moore, the subcommittee clerk; Martin Delgado; Joanne Orndorff; John Z.; Ann Dubey; Maureen Holohan; David Reich, of the staff of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY); and Jim Richards, from my personal office. Without them, we would not have a bill here today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this conference agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following material related to H.R. 4461: