

There are pros and cons with that. We all know that. There are good employees and bad employees that are with the unions. It is a little more difficult to work with. But the issue is not creating a new government bureaucracy, the issue is protecting my children, my family, my loved ones, and your business associates and loved ones, when they travel.

I believe we need to do what is best for airport security and not what is best for a particular political party. I support the President's plan. The President's plan calls for strict Federal Government oversight on hiring and background checks, but it does not just stop at the gate; it says who is going to work on the plane. What about the maintenance people who clean the plane? What about the people who have access to the parts of the airplane in the airport itself? It is a much broader approach to airport security.

Mr. Speaker, this debate is about security, not about new government bureaucracies. I support the President's position. I hope that the Democrats will come on board and do so as well.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report accompanying H.R. 2590, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2590, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2590) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, October 30, 2001, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 26, 2001, at page H7337.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK).

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2002 conference agree-

ment for the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government. This conference agreement provides \$17.1 billion in funding for programs under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations.

That represents, Mr. Speaker, an increase of 6 percent above the fiscal year 2001 enacted levels and 2 percent above the President's request. It is especially important to have this funding in place because of the increased demands of national security and homeland security from the events of September 11.

One of the little known facts about this particular bill is that it supports over 40 percent of all Federal law enforcement through the Customs Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Secret Service, the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

I want to highlight that, Mr. Speaker, because of the current role these agencies are playing in ensuring homeland security, and also because, whether we are at war or peace, it is important to understand the tools that our Nation possesses to defeat our enemies, to ensure an environment that encourages trade and commercial growth, and the normal, everyday activity in conducting the business of America, and to provide for the safety and stability in the daily routines of all Americans.

I am also pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the new Office of Homeland Security, headed by former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, is within the Executive Office of the President, another portion under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee and its funding.

Historically, law enforcement officials in the U.S. Department of Treasury have fulfilled their role quietly, without fanfare, without drawing the attention of the American people. Yet, the oldest law enforcement agency in the United States Government is the Customs Service of Treasury. It was established in 1789, one of the very first acts enacted by the First Congress of the United States after adoption of the Constitution.

The evolving threats to our country are making special demands upon this, America's first law enforcement agency, the one that defends our borders, as well as the other law enforcement functions that come under the Treasury Department and within this bill.

We need to focus the support and attention of Congress and the Administration and of the American people to determine appropriate, coordinated strategies and provide the funding levels for Treasury law enforcement bureaus to enable them to fully carry out their missions.

Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement before us recognizes that there are additional resources that are going to be necessary because of the September 11 terrorist attacks. This bill begins to address those requirements.

We will have within a few day's time a supplemental appropriations that will deal with further law enforcement needs and other Federal law enforcement agencies, as well as other aspects of our military and the national government.

There is within this bill some \$5.7 billion for law enforcement efforts under our jurisdiction. It is an increase of almost 12 percent, \$593 million above the current year. That is even before we factor in the necessary increases that will be part of the upcoming supplemental.

Specifically, in terms of supporting Federal law enforcement, this conference report provides an increase of \$402 million for the Customs Service, of which some \$33 million is devoted to border inspection technology; \$28 million for additional inspectors and agents along the northern border, which has not received the increase in recent years that the southern border has; and \$170 million is added for customs automation modernization, which includes an amount not less than \$300 million, for the automated commercial environment. This system will tie together some 50-odd Federal agencies that have jurisdiction over products that are coming into the United States, part of the cargo which must be inspected by the Customs Service. Because of the manpower shortages, Mr. Speaker, customs is able to inspect only 1 or 2 percent of the entering cargo, a ratio which we intend to increase.

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We also expand the funding for Customs for its efforts to halt trade and goods that are produced by forced child labor; also providing funding for the protection of intellectual property. Some of the smuggling that happens across our borders is not just illegal drugs. It is not just contraband shipments of alcohol or tobacco. It is not only knock-offs of American products which people are trying to pass off cheaply-produced goods overseas that have the appearance but not the quality and certainly not the original manufacture of American goods. We are also protecting intellectual property because smuggling, whether it be DVD software, compact disk recordings, whatever it may be, there is a severe organized criminal assault against the intellectual property that is produced by American artists, scientists, engineers, computer programmers and others, which is part of the great commerce and the great advantage that this Nation enjoys technologically. That intellectual property is protected by Customs just as it protects us from other illicit cargo.

We also have an increase of \$45 million for Secret Service recruitment and retention. These are men and women who protect not only the President but protect our currency against counterfeiting who are in charge of the special security arrangements at the upcoming

Winter Olympics to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. These men and women have been working drastic amounts of overtime, and we want to make sure that we do not work into the ground the people that are in charge of protecting our country and key parts of America.

We also have increases for the Federal Law Enforcement Training facilities that support the basic training of border inspection agents and a great multitude of the people that are involved in Federal law enforcement, working through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia.

We also provide \$1 million for a canine detection program sponsored by Customs to use dogs to detect chemical and biological agents.

We have some \$20 million to increase the efforts of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, bringing that account up to a total of \$226 million to coordinate between the State and local government entities and the Federal Government in efforts to combat illegal drugs and the immense problems that they bring upon our society.

I should mention that we also have within this budget the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Key portions of the drug enforcement efforts are handled through the funding of this bill, not just through Customs but also through ONDCP, the so-called drug czar, and these high-intensity drug trafficking efforts and the promotional efforts such as the Drug Free Communities Act.

I am pleased to note that the conference report includes some \$18 million for constructing seven border stations, including four along the northern border, again part of beefing up the borders for our border security and our homeland security.

It also includes a number of courthouse constructions to make sure the criminal justice system continues to be able to handle the load that is being placed upon it.

We also have an increase for the Internal Revenue Service, including \$320 million for critical information technology investments so that when my colleagues or I or anybody else, Mr. Speaker, calls the IRS having a problem with how our taxes are being handled, that they have the information readily accessible, that they can be responsive to the public, and we are continuing the efforts through funding and mechanisms in this bill to make the IRS more responsive, more user-friendly, more customer and taxpayer oriented in what it does.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also includes several legislative provisions. It provides parity for Federal employee health benefits. It retains the current law prohibiting the use of Federal funds to pay for an abortion, and it also has the requirement that prescription contraceptives would be covered under certain circumstances and exceptions as conscience clause protections for those that have an objection of conscience, Mr. Speaker.

This bill includes a pay increase for Federal civil employees of 4.6 percent, as authorized by the Congress. It extends the authorization of the breast cancer semi-postal stamp until December 31, 2003, which provides additional funding for efforts to research and combat breast cancer. It authorizes the September 11 hero stamp to continue until December 31, 2004, honoring the men and women who were the responders or the victims of the tragic events of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, people who we wish to honor. It also authorizes the semi-postal stamp on stamping out domestic violence, which would be a program that would continue until December 31, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I would finally note that this conference report takes out language that had been in the House version of the bill regarding travel to Cuba. We feel that this is not the time to be addressing that particular sensitive issue in this environment, including the war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee. We have had an excellent bipartisan spirit and cooperation as this bill worked through the legislative process. His personal staff member, Scott Nance, and the full committee's minority member, Rob Nabors, toiled long and hard in working things through, and without their assistance we would not be able to bring this bill up in the collegial fashion that I believe it is being brought up today.

I especially want to thank the chief clerk of our subcommittee, Michelle Mrdeza, for her persistent and tireless efforts on this, as well as the great expertise, insight and counsel of the other staff members of our subcommittee, Jeff Ashford, Kurt Dodd and Tammy Hughes plus Chris Stanley, who is a detailee on a fellowship from the Secret Service, which is his normal workplace. I would also thank a member of our committee staff that worked through my office, John Albaugh, who functions also as my Chief of Staff, and

frankly, Mr. Speaker, keeps things going in a very important way, for which I am grateful.

I do want to single out our congressional fellow Chris Stanley, an agent of the United States Secret Service, who will be heading to his next assignment as special agent. He has served not only on the subcommittee staff but also worked a year in my personal office, and his experience, working last year on the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, this year on the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, has brought tremendous insight regarding law enforcement, has added a lot of benefit, a lot of professionalism, with a very strong background in the technical issues which we sometimes must address.

Combining his professionalism with his law enforcement skills, his paramedic skills and frankly his cool head and enjoyable good nature have been a great asset to us. We are going to be sorry to see Chris leave to go back to his regular assignments, but we know that the Secret Service has a great need for his direct expertise, and we hope that what he has learned here in Congress will be of benefit to the Secret Service and the jobs that they perform.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to mention as part of noting the key involvement of the Customs Service and law enforcement that we were notified that yesterday a U.S. customs inspector died in the line of duty at the port of Gramercy in Louisiana. Customs Inspector Thomas Murray lost his life during an examination of the hold of a vessel in which evidently there were toxic fumes present. That is an illustration of the dangers that many Customs agents accept as part of their job.

I have personally visited some of the vessels that they have to inspect and have seen what they have to do to find the hidden compartments that are used to smuggle drugs or other contraband, all in the name of protecting our Nation. So I want to commend Customs Inspector Thomas Murray and express our gratitude for the efforts that he put in for some 31 years with the Customs Service.

We want to express our sympathy to his family, to his co-workers in the Customs Service, and thank the late Thomas Murray for his efforts in being part of the front line of defense for the United States of America and our homeland security.

H.R. 2590 - Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002

(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. enacted
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY						
Departmental Offices	222,337	181,768	174,219	187,322	177,142	-45,195
Department-wide systems and capital investments programs	62,150	70,828	68,828	69,028	68,828	+ 8,678
Office of Inspector General	32,827	35,150	35,508	35,150	35,424	+2,597
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration	118,166	122,342	123,474	123,799	123,746	+5,580
Treasury Building and Annex Repair and Restoration	30,932	32,932	30,932	32,932	28,932	-2,000
Expanded Access to Financial Services	9,978		10,000		2,000	-7,978
Rescission				-8,000		
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network	37,493	45,155	45,837	45,702	45,837	+ 8,344
Counterterrorism Fund	54,879	44,879	36,879	44,879	40,000	-14,879
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center:						
Salaries and Expenses	99,264	100,707	102,132	106,317	105,680	+ 6,416
Acquisition, Construction, Improvements, & Related Expenses	54,086	21,895	27,534	33,434	33,434	-20,652
Total	153,350	122,602	129,666	139,751	139,114	-14,236
Interagency Law Enforcement:						
Interagency crime and drug enforcement	103,248	106,487	107,576	106,965	107,576	+ 4,328
Financial Management Service	255,972	211,594	213,211	212,316	212,850	-43,122
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms	771,143	803,521	806,816	805,421	810,316	+39,173
GREAT grants			10,000	16,000	13,000	+13,000
Total	771,143	803,521	816,816	821,421	823,316	+52,173
United States Customs Service:						
Salaries and Expenses	1,878,557	1,961,764	2,056,604	2,022,453	2,079,357	+200,800
Harbor Maintenance Fee Collection	2,993	2,993	2,993	3,000	3,000	+ 7
Operation, Maintenance and Procurement, Air and Marine						
Interdiction Programs	132,934	162,637	181,860	172,637	177,860	+44,926
Miscellaneous appropriations (P.L. 106-554)	6,985					-6,985
Automation modernization:						
Automated Commercial System	122,443	122,432	122,432	122,432	122,432	-11
International Trade Data System	5,389	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	+11
Automated Commercial Environment	130,000	130,000	300,000	230,000	300,000	+170,000
Subtotal	257,832	257,832	427,832	357,832	427,832	+170,000
Customs Services at Small Airports (to be derived from fees collected)	1,993	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	+1,007
Offsetting receipts	-2,000	-3,000	-3,000	-3,000	-3,000	-1,000
Total	2,279,294	2,385,226	2,669,289	2,555,922	2,688,049	+408,755
Bureau of the Public Debt	182,699	185,370	187,927	187,318	186,953	+ 4,254
Payment of government losses in shipment	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Internal Revenue Service:						
Processing, Assistance, and Management	3,661,166	3,783,347	3,808,434	3,786,347	3,797,890	+136,724
Tax Law Enforcement	3,366,380	3,533,198	3,538,347	3,535,198	3,538,347	+171,967
Earned Income Tax Credit Compliance Initiative	144,681	146,000	146,000	146,000	146,000	+1,319
Information Systems	1,522,416	1,563,249	1,573,065	1,563,249	1,563,249	+40,833
Business systems modernization	71,593	396,593	391,593	419,593	391,593	+320,000
Staffing tax administration for balance and equity	140,690					-140,690
Rescissions (H.R. 2216)	-18,000					+18,000
Total (net)	8,888,926	9,422,387	9,457,439	9,450,387	9,437,079	+548,153
United States Secret Service:						
Salaries and Expenses	824,885	857,117	920,112	899,615	920,615	+95,730
Acquisition, Construction, Improvements, & Related Expenses	8,921	3,352	3,457	3,352	3,457	-5,464
Total	833,806	860,469	923,569	902,967	924,072	+90,266
Total, title I, Department of the Treasury	14,038,200	14,631,710	15,032,170	14,908,859	15,041,918	+1,003,718
Appropriations	(14,056,200)	(14,631,710)	(15,032,170)	(14,916,859)	(15,041,918)	(+985,718)
Rescissions	(-18,000)			(-8,000)		(+18,000)
TITLE II - POSTAL SERVICE						
Payment to the Postal Service Fund	28,936	76,619	29,000	76,619	29,000	+64
Advance appropriation, FY 2002	66,952	67,093	67,093	67,093	67,093	+141
Advance appropriation, FY 2003			47,619		47,619	+47,619
Total	95,888	143,712	143,712	143,712	143,712	+47,824

H.R. 2590 - Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002

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(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. enacted
TITLE III - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT						
Executive Office of the President.....		237,775	139,255			
Compensation of the President and the White House Office						
Compensation of the President.....	390			450	450	+60
Salaries and Expenses.....	53,171			54,165	54,651	+1,480
Executive Residence at the White House:						
Operating Expenses.....	10,878			11,914	11,695	+819
White House Repair and Restoration.....	966			8,625	8,625	+7,659
Special Assistance to the President and the Official Residence of the Vice President:						
Salaries and Expenses.....	3,665			3,896	3,925	+260
Operating expenses.....	353			314	318	-35
Council of Economic Advisers.....	4,101		4,211	4,192	4,211	+110
Office of Policy Development.....	4,023			4,119	4,142	+119
National Security Council.....	7,149			7,447	7,494	+345
Office of Administration.....	43,641			46,032	46,955	+3,314
Office of Management and Budget.....	68,635		70,752	70,519	70,752	+2,117
Office of National Drug Control Policy:						
Salaries and expenses.....	24,705		25,267	25,096	25,263	+558
Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center.....	35,974	40,000	40,000	42,000	42,300	+6,326
Total.....	60,679	40,000	65,267	67,096	67,563	+6,884
Federal Drug Control Programs:						
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program.....	206,046	206,350	233,882	226,350	226,350	+20,304
Special Forfeiture Fund.....	233,086	247,600	238,600	249,400	239,400	+6,314
Unanticipated Needs.....	998			1,000	1,000	+2
Elections Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.....	2,494					-2,494
Total, title III, Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President.....	700,273	731,725	751,967	755,519	747,531	+47,258
TITLE IV - INDEPENDENT AGENCIES						
Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.....	4,149	4,498	4,629	4,498	4,629	+480
Federal Election Commission.....	40,411	41,411	43,689	43,993	43,689	+3,278
Federal Labor Relations Authority.....	25,003	26,378	26,524	26,378	26,524	+1,521
General Services Administration:						
Federal Buildings Fund:						
Appropriations.....	476,523	276,400	276,400	276,400	284,400	-192,123
Advance appropriation, FY 2002-2004.....	(276,400)					(-276,400)
Limitations on availability of revenue:						
Construction and acquisition of facilities.....	(477,676)	(386,289)	(348,816)	(477,544)	(386,280)	(-91,396)
Repairs and alterations.....	(681,613)	(826,676)	(826,676)	(844,880)	(826,676)	(+145,063)
Installment acquisition payments.....	(185,369)	(186,427)	(186,427)	(186,427)	(186,427)	(+1,058)
Rental of space.....	(2,943,854)	(2,959,550)	(2,959,550)	(2,959,550)	(2,952,050)	(+8,196)
Building Operations.....	(1,624,771)	(1,748,949)	(1,750,669)	(1,748,949)	(1,748,949)	(+124,178)
Subtotal.....	(5,913,283)	(6,107,891)	(6,072,138)	(6,217,350)	(6,100,382)	(+187,099)
Repayment of Debt.....	(70,595)	(72,000)	(72,000)	(72,000)	(72,000)	(+1,405)
Total, Federal Buildings Fund.....	476,523	276,400	276,400	276,400	284,400	-192,123
(Limitations).....	(5,983,878)	(6,179,891)	(6,144,138)	(6,289,350)	(6,172,382)	(+188,504)
Policy and Operations.....	137,406	138,499	137,947	145,749	143,139	+5,733
Office of Inspector General.....	34,444	36,025	36,478	36,025	36,346	+1,902
Electronic Government (E-Gov) Fund.....		20,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	+5,000
Allowances and Office Staff for Former Presidents.....	2,511	3,552	3,196	3,376	3,196	+685
Expenses, Presidential transition.....	7,084					-7,084
Total, General Services Administration.....	657,968	474,476	459,021	466,550	472,081	-185,887
Merit Systems Protection Board:						
Salaries and Expenses.....	29,372	30,375	30,555	30,375	30,555	+1,183
Limitation on administrative expenses.....	2,424	2,520	2,520	2,520	2,520	+96
Morris K. Udall Foundation:						
Morris K. Udall scholarship.....	1,996	1,746				-1,996
Native Nations Institute.....		250				
Morris K. Udall Trust Fund.....			2,500	1,996	1,996	+1,996
Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund.....	1,248	1,309	1,309	1,309	1,309	+61

H.R. 2590 - Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002

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(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. enacted
National Archives and Records Administration:						
Operating expenses	208,946	244,247	244,247	244,247	244,247	+35,301
Reduction of debt	-6,084	-6,612	-6,612	-6,612	-6,612	-528
Repairs and Restoration	101,536	10,643	24,643	41,143	39,143	-62,393
National Historical Publications and Records Commission:						
Grants program	6,436	4,436	10,000	6,436	6,436	.....
Total	310,834	252,714	272,278	285,214	283,214	-27,620
Office of Government Ethics	9,663	10,060	10,117	10,060	10,117	+454
Office of Personnel Management:						
Salaries and Expenses	93,888	99,036	99,636	99,036	99,636	+5,748
Limitation on administrative expenses	101,762	115,928	115,928	115,928	115,928	+14,166
Office of Inspector General	1,357	1,398	1,498	1,398	1,498	+141
Limitation on administrative expenses	9,724	10,016	10,016	10,016	10,016	+292
Government Payment for Annuitants, Employees Health Benefits	5,427,166	6,145,000	6,145,000	6,145,000	6,145,000	+717,834
Government Payment for Annuitants, Employee Life Insurance	35,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	-2,000
Payment to Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund	8,940,051	9,229,000	9,229,000	9,229,000	9,229,000	+288,949
Total, Office of Personnel Management	14,608,948	15,633,378	15,634,078	15,633,378	15,634,078	+1,025,130
Office of Special Counsel	11,122	11,784	11,891	11,784	11,891	+769
United States Tax Court	37,223	37,305	37,809	37,305	37,305	+82
Total, title IV, Independent Agencies	15,740,361	16,528,204	16,536,920	16,555,360	16,559,908	+819,547
Grand total (net)	30,574,722	32,035,351	32,464,769	32,363,450	32,493,069	+1,918,347
Current year, FY 2002	30,507,770	31,968,258	32,350,057	32,296,357	32,378,357	+1,870,587
Appropriations	(30,525,770)	(31,968,258)	(32,350,057)	(32,304,357)	(32,378,357)	(+1,852,587)
Rescissions	(-18,000)	.....	.....	(-8,000)	.....	(+18,000)
Advance appropriations, FY 2002 / FY 2003	66,952	67,093	114,712	67,093	114,712	+47,760
(Limitations)	(5,983,878)	(6,179,891)	(6,144,138)	(6,289,350)	(6,172,382)	(+188,504)
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RECAP						
Scorekeeping adjustments:						
Bureau of The Public Debt (Permanent)	145,000	148,000	148,000	148,000	148,000	+3,000
Federal Reserve Bank reimbursement fund	131,000	134,000	134,000	134,000	134,000	+3,000
US Mint revolving fund	13,960	22,000	17,000	22,000	17,000	+3,040
Sallie Mae	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	.....
Federal buildings fund	-74,000	31,000	-5,000	140,000	14,000	+88,000
Advance appropriations:						
Postal service, FY 2001/2002	64,436	.....	.....	.....	.....	-64,436
Postal service, FY 2002/2003	-66,952	.....	-47,619	.....	-47,619	+19,333
Across the board cut (0.22%)	-47,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	+47,000
OMB/CBO adjustment	35,491	.....	.....	.....	.....	-35,491
Compensation of the President:						
Mandatory .....	.....	450	450	.....	.....	.....
Discretionary .....	.....	-450	-450	.....	.....	.....
U.S. - China Security Review Commission (HR 2216)	1,700	.....	.....	.....	.....	-1,700
Total, scorekeeping adjustments	204,635	336,000	247,381	445,000	266,381	+61,746
Total mandatory and discretionary	30,779,357	32,371,351	32,712,150	32,808,450	32,759,450	+1,980,093
Mandatory	14,679,607	15,690,450	15,690,450	15,690,450	15,690,450	+1,010,843
Discretionary	16,099,750	16,680,901	17,021,700	17,118,000	17,069,000	+969,250

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I first want to rise and join the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), the chairman of this subcommittee, in expressing our deep sorrow at the death of Thomas Murray, a long-time employee of the Customs Service, killed in the line of duty, killed while trying to defend this country from the importation and introduction into our borders of materials which are either illegal or dangerous.

Every day Customs agents, INS agents, DEA agents, FBI, Secret Service, ATF, IRS and Federal employees who are not perceived to be in law enforcement or tax enforcement are themselves, because of the very fact that they work for the Federal Government, at risk, and it is important that we remember them and that we appreciate them. We thank them for the contribution they make to making America free and great.

This bill does that in part by assuring that they will receive a comparability adjustment, which does not get them to comparability but an adjustment which will move them further towards their private sector counterparts. I thank the chairman for his support of that effort.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report provides a total discretionary funding level of nearly \$17.1 billion in discretionary dollars; that is, dollars over which we make a decision. That includes 969 million above last year's level and 388 million above the President's suggestion.

I want to mention a few important items. To some degree this will be repetitive, but I think it is important for both sides to mention these issues.

For Treasury law enforcement, which as the chairman pointed out makes up nearly 40 percent of all Federal law enforcement, we have provided 4.8 billion, 400 million above the President's request. Very frankly, that number will go up in supplementals to provide for better security and a better ability to meet the threat that now confronts this great Nation.

Important additions in this bill to the President's law enforcement request include the following: 170 million to modernize the Customs Service import processing system, for a total of 300 million in fiscal year 2002; 33 million for the Customs Service to purchase nonintrusive inspection technology.

We had the opportunity of talking to Secretary O'Neill last night about that issue, critically important to our Nation and to our commerce. Safety and commerce come together on that particular issue.

Twenty-five million for additional Customs inspectors on the northern border. Forty-five million above the President's request for the Secret Service to complete its work for its balancing initiative. Critically important

if we are going to have Secret Service agents work for hours that do not tax their effectiveness and efficiency.

We include 10.6 million for new facilities at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glencoe, Georgia, and Artesia, New Mexico, critically important as we confront the beefing up of our law enforcement capability in this country and on our borders.

The funding level also includes 226.4 million for the HIDTAs, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Program. 20.3 million above last year's level. Mr. Speaker, I have been a long time enthusiastic and strong supporter of the HIDTA program. The HIDTA program has significant dollars in it, now almost a quarter of a billion dollars, but it is a most important contribution, and a contribution which will become even more important in these days and the days ahead is the coordination it provides between Federal, State and local law enforcement and public safety agencies.

□ 1100

Tom Ridge, the new director of our homeland security effort, spoke to the Democratic Caucus this morning and talked about the necessity for coordination. HIDTA is a perfect example of that kind of coordination.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to be concerned with the level of support the Treasury law enforcement agencies receive from this administration, and I might say, from previous administrations. The emergency supplemental request sent to Congress underfunds the Customs Service. The Customs Service is on the front line protecting our borders. As we have just seen, Mr. Murray was on the front lines. He lost his life. If we are to enhance homeland defense capabilities, the Customs Service will require more support from the administration and from Congress.

This funding agreement includes \$2 million in addition to our law enforcement accounts for a program called First Accounts. This is on top of the \$10 million enacted last year and will give to Treasury \$12 million to provide a very important service for Americans who are unbanked: They have no checking account, they have no credit cards, they have no ATM card obviously, because they have no checking account.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) has championed this program, which is intended to establish affordable, electronic banking accounts for low-income families, and increase the availability of ATM machines in low-income neighborhoods as well. It will also serve to educate low-income Americans about the benefits of having a bank account and managing their finances. It will protect them hopefully against being ripped off every payday by those who want to charge them exorbitant rates for cashing checks or making short-term carry-over loans.

For the IRS, Mr. Speaker, \$9.4 billion is provided. \$548.2 million above fiscal

2001. This includes an additional \$320 million to continue modernizing its business systems. It is appropriate that we mention the work of Charles Rossotti, the Commissioner of the IRS, who has done an extraordinary job as a manager, bringing the IRS into a position of carrying out the Internal Revenue Service Reform Act and making sure that we get the most efficient operation of our tax collection enterprise as is possible.

The conference agreement, Mr. Speaker, also provides \$280.6 million for court house construction. That is essential in my opinion and, in fact, could be more. We are obviously still within fiscal constraints, but it does move further than was originally proposed. The amount provided surpasses the amount requested by the President by almost \$64 million.

Also included in the budget of the General Services Administration is \$19 million for the Food and Drug Administration consolidation. This will save large sums of money and provide for much more efficient administration of the Food and Drug Administration. That could not be more timely in light of the threat that we have to our food supply in the context of terrorism.

This is an ongoing, multiyear project that will replace abysmal facilities that are scattered across the metropolitan area, and provide FDA employees with state-of-the-art technology to do their jobs even better; and they do an excellent job now of protecting Americans and protecting our food supply and our drug integrity.

For Federal employees, the bill, as I said, includes several important provisions. I want to highlight just a few. First, as the chairman has pointed out, it includes the 4.6 percent pay raise, which will not get them to where they need to be, but will move them further along the road of becoming comparable with their private-sector counterparts. In addition, it makes permanent a provision that allows Federal agencies to improve the affordability of child care for lower-income Federal workers, which is a critical need. And it continues a provision that allows Federal employees to receive contraceptive coverage, as the chairman has pointed out.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the issue of election reform. I believe most Members of Congress are committed to addressing the issues facing our election system. Although dramatic examples of those shortcomings in our election system were found in Florida, we soon found that the same problems which existed in Florida existed in many other States throughout this Nation, very frankly including my own in Maryland.

As the ranking member on the Committee on House Administration, I am continuing to work with the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), on broad-based legislation to address these issues. That legislation, which hopefully we will pass out of the Committee on House Administration in the

next few weeks, will require significant resources; and I plan to address this need with the committee at the appropriate time. The reforms that will be effected ultimately will be under the jurisdiction of this committee, and I have discussed this with the chairman. He and I have both discussed it with Chairman Young; and this matter, although not addressed in this bill, will have to be addressed in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, as I wrap up my remarks, I want to join the chairman in congratulating the staff of this committee. First of all, I want to mention an extraordinary staffer, Michelle Mrdeza. Miss Mrdeza is the Chief Clerk of our committee. "Clerk" is a word that implies to some a job of ministerial importance as opposed to policy importance. Now, Miss Mrdeza would be the first to say that she does not enter into policy, it is we Members who do so, but frankly, the advice and counsel she gives to both sides of the aisle is invaluable as we consider this bill. She has institutional knowledge that is helpful to each and every member of the committee, and we thank her for her leadership of the staff and for her critical assistance as we mark up this bill.

I also want to mention Jeff Ashford, who does an outstanding job; Kurt Dodd, Tammy Hughes, both of whom are of great assistance to Members on both sides of the aisle. I also want to mention John Albaugh, who works for the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), as does Scott Nance, who works for us personally, but who is very much involved in the committee's consideration of this legislation.

Also, of course, I want to mention Rob Nabors. Rob Nabors is our committee staffer on the minority side and he does an extraordinary job. He is new, but not new to the budget process. He comes from OMB and is extraordinarily knowledgeable and has been a valuable asset to not only our side of the aisle but, I think, to the committee as a whole.

Lastly, I want to join the chairman in thanking Chris Stanley for his contributions to the committee.

We get some outstanding talent from the various Federal agencies. We get the talent and their personnel get the experience of how this process works. We think both sides are advantaged by that exchange program. So I want to thank all the members of the staff.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. We ought to pass it and we ought to pass it overwhelmingly.

I thank the chairman for working with us in a bipartisan fashion. We have not always agreed, but we have worked in a bipartisan, open fashion, so that all sides knew what the issues were and they could be addressed in an open, democratic way, and I thank him for that.

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

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michi-

gan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), a fellow member of our committee.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time. I will be somewhat brief, but I do want to rise, Mr. Speaker, in strong support of the Treasury, Postal Appropriations conference report.

I want to commend Chairman Istook for his work, and also the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), for their teamwork on this whole issue and on this whole bill.

In particular, let me salute the chairman for his work in securing some \$28 million-plus for a northern border hiring initiative for Customs officers. This is a significant increase over what the House or the Senate passed in their versions of the bill. The new Customs officers will help alleviate the long delays that have occurred at the U.S.-Canada border in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

This is no small matter for my congressional district, nor for the State of Michigan, or for that matter, for the Middle West. More than \$1 billion worth of goods and services cross the northern border every day. This constitutes the largest bilateral flow of goods, services and capital between any two countries anywhere in the world, and four of the seven busiest ports of entry between the U.S. and Canada are between the Michigan-Canada border.

Immediately after the attacks, the wait time for cars and trucks to cross the border reached a staggering 14 hours. The ripple effects of this were severe. Manufacturers in Michigan, for example, and across the country, cut costs "with just-in-time deliveries," but when those deliveries cannot be made "just in time," it causes economic hardship for manufacturers throughout my home State and the Midwest. We actually saw plants close down temporarily in September because of supply disruptions. And if the wait time continues to be longer than usual, we risk extended economic difficulty. Funding this northern border hiring initiative is a step in the right direction towards preventing further disruptions.

There is more to do, particularly with technology and infrastructure needs, and I look forward to working with Chairman ISTOOK to ensure that the country is secure and that our economy remains strong.

Once again I thank the chairman for yielding me this time, and I thank him for his help and urge all my colleagues to support this conference report.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), another member of our committee.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank him and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for all the good work they have done on this bill. I know it is very difficult to balance all the requests of Members.

I have a particular interest in this bill, in that it provides the funding for

the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, which is partially headquartered in the District that I represent. As my colleagues know, FLETC, as we call it, has grown under the gentleman's leadership; and I wanted to ask a question about the issue of Federal sky marshals. We are interested in getting them involved in some of the training down in Brunswick, Georgia.

As the gentleman knows, right now there are 250 different classes for law enforcement training, and some 71 different law enforcement groups or agencies are training there right now. We believe the facilities are up and running that would help tremendously in this need to get some trained air marshals.

I was wondering if the chairman could comment on that.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. ISTOOK. The gentleman is correct that we are trying to make sure the resources are there at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Georgia.

As much as possible, we try to consolidate Federal law enforcement training that is generalized through this facility. Then, when they have specific needs, for example the Secret Service has protective detail needs, the air marshals have some specific needs for specialized training that is done in New Jersey and at Fort Dix and so forth, but for the generalized law enforcement training needs, especially for example someone coming into the air marshal program that does not have a law enforcement training, they might be coming out of the military and such, their initial weeks of training are to be at FLETC.

The number of people in that program is being kept classified, so I am not going to detail the numbers, but we are certainly making sure that, as part of the expansion of homeland security, we are utilizing the facility that we have at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. And I want to make sure that we continue to use that as the best way to apply the taxpayers' dollars towards how we handle these national homeland security issues.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman, because as he knows, there is a complete law enforcement facility there.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his support and his visits down there, and extend to the chairman that the door is open. When his very busy schedule allows him the chance to come to Georgia, we would love to host him.

Mr. ISTOOK. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and I salute him and I salute

the ranking member for bringing together this conference report of Treasury, Postal, which I hope every Member of this body will strongly support.

This bill came about through true bipartisanship, and the makeup of the bill demonstrates that. I also want to pick up on thanking the staff that helped to craft the legislation that came up before us today. It is consistent with the bipartisan budget agreement reached with the President, and it recognizes that there may be additional resource requirements associated with the September 11 terrorist attacks.

□ 1115

One of the provisions of the bill that I am especially pleased to acknowledge is the requirement that the FEHBP providers include coverage for prescription contraceptive services. This provision has widespread support, adds no significant cost to the FEHBP, and deserves to be a permanent part of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program.

I am also delighted to see that pay parity between military personnel and Federal civilian employees has once again been achieved. H.R. 2590 establishes a pay increase for Federal civilian employees at 4.6 percent, which is the least we can do for our civil servants.

The events of September 11 have demonstrated what many of us who have a predominant number of Federal employees already knew, our Civil Service is absolutely essential to the well-being of this country. Increasing their salaries shows that we in Congress recognize the sacrifices that they make by choosing to be public servants.

Finally, I am most proud we have chosen to make permanent the existing authority to provide day-care in Federal facilities. For the last several years, we had authorized agencies, only on a yearly basis, to use funds from their salary and expense accounts to help lower income employees pay for child care. But because we had never made that authority permanent, many agencies were reluctant to spend money to set up child care centers if their authority might be taken away the following year.

I am the sponsor of the bill that made the authority permanent, and I am delighted to see that we have now recognized the need for quality child care to be available for our low income Federal employees. In some Federal child care facilities, families are charged up to \$10,000 or more per child per year. Many Federal employees simply cannot afford quality child care; so by allowing agencies that flexibility to help their workers meet their child care needs, we encourage family friendly workplaces and higher productivity.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has many other excellent provisions. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, especially to someone who rises in opposition to the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, in July by a vote of 240 to 186, the House approved the Flake amendment to lift the travel ban on Americans traveling to Cuba. This marked the second consecutive year this travel ban was lifted by the House. Regardless of that fact, it is the second consecutive year that it has been stripped from the bill. It is time that we change our approach.

Mr. Speaker, the travel restrictions to Cuba have outlived their usefulness. For 40 years we have tried to isolate Cuba and to change that Communist country by not allowing Americans to travel there. It has not worked. Fidel Castro is still entrenched in power.

I was able to travel to Cuba just a month or so ago and was able to see firsthand the mess that Fidel Castro has made of that country. Why we would deny Americans who cannot get a travel waiver to go there, why we should deny them the ability to go and see for themselves is beyond me.

We want to change China. We want to change North Korea. But in doing so, we do not deny Americans the ability to travel there. That is simply un-American. I hope that we will move beyond this policy. We have better things to do with our time and our money and our resources at the Department of Treasury than to deny the travel ability or to enforce restrictions and impose fines on school teachers, for example, who want to take a trip to Cuba and do a bike tour there with their Canadian friends. We should not be doing this any more. We had a chance in this bill to lift that restriction, and we failed to do so.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLAKE. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his statement. The chairman of the conference committee from the Senate was very strongly in favor of the gentleman's provision. Very frankly, I was in favor of the gentleman's provision. I agree with the premise the gentleman has stated, but the President indicated he would veto the bill if the gentleman's provision was kept in. It proved to be an insurmountable obstacle to us in doing that, but I think the gentleman's comments are well taken.

I will tell the gentleman that I believe next year, assuming that provision is in this bill, I do not know whether the Senate can get the same provision in, it is a little difficult for the Senate to accede to the House's provision, but they want to do that if the House does not hold to its position. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. We will be back next year, and I believe we will have the same margin, or even greater margins next year.

There are other reasons to oppose the bill as well. The bill is \$1.129 billion over last year. That is a 7.1 percent increase. It is \$388 million above the President's request. It is \$48 million above the House passed bill. I think that we need to spend our time and resources differently. For that reason, I oppose the bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my friend from Arizona, I agree with his first proposition and strongly disagree with his second proposition. The gentleman points out that this bill is almost exactly at the dollar level, \$48 million is a lot of money, but we are talking about a bill that is close to \$30 billion for both mandatory and discretionary spending. Essentially they are very close, the Senate and the House bills.

I think this is a bill worthy of support as it passed the House. It continues to be worthy as a conference report from the conference committee. I hope that Members would support the legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned, this bill tries to meet the needs of Federal law enforcement and border security, although not totally so because there are greater needs that we hope to meet in further legislation coming forward. I think it is important to mention that of the numbers mentioned by my colleague from Arizona, there has been coupled in that mandatory spending from previous Congresses for things such as the insurance and retirement benefits for Federal employees that are not under the control of this subcommittee.

We have control over certain accounts and we have sought to be very responsible making sure that it is the Federal law enforcement, such as through Customs, that has the 12 percent increase that makes some other numbers look higher in this bill than they actually are.

We know that, at our borders, only 1 to 2 percent of the cargo that comes through is currently inspected. Why? Because we have neither enough manpower nor technology to examine these things for the safety of the American people, to be looking for things that may be chemical, they could be biological, they could be nuclear. We know the threats are out there. We are trying to improve the security of our homeland. We cannot do it without providing the resources.

We are trying to prosecute the war on terrorism with the troops that we see on land, at sea and in the air in the Middle East, in Afghanistan right now. We have to pay for those things.

We have an economy that is suffering from the impact of the attacks that were made. Part of the response to

that, for example, dealing with the airlines, comes under the U.S. Department of Treasury, which is the chief agency that we address in this bill.

The Office of Homeland Security, an extension of the White House and the Executive Office of the President, comes under our jurisdiction through this bill.

We have sought to put the focus on homeland security. Yes, I know some people say that does not count, "I want people to travel to Cuba." We have seen some significant changes between who were allies and who were antagonistic and enemies in past years. It is well beyond the lessons from World War II in the differences in our relationships with Japan and Germany today.

We find that with Pakistan, sanctions are being lifted and a new spirit of cooperation has come in. We find that of all nations, Iran holds promise of cooperating with the United States. Afghanistan, which was an afterthought in so many people's consideration of foreign policy before, assumes extra importance. There are critical and fragile negotiations going on around the globe on what do we do to link together changes in our policy toward a nation with their cooperation in the fight against global terror.

Cuba has a history as a bad actor when it comes to sponsoring terrorism. If we are going to have a change in our policy towards Cuba, it should be part of what is coordinated with the administration, with the Secretary of State, with bringing them on board into compliance with many things that meet the security needs of the United States of America and the global security in our war against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, it should not be just because some people say it is time to end it. It ought to be done as part of a coordinated change that involves other significant changes with Cuba if we are going to change that travel policy. It is for reasons such as this that the Administration said they would veto this bill if it contained the language that was sponsored by Members of this House and put in this bill on the House floor.

Let us not bury our heads in the sand. Let us recognize that paying for security does cost. We acknowledge that cost, and are trying to do it in the most responsible manner possible. I urge every Member to support this bill.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Conference Report for the FY 2002 Treasury Postal Appropriations Bill. This is a good bill, one that is a tremendous improvement over the President's original request. It uses the available resources wisely.

I want to commend Chairman ISTOOK and our outstanding Ranking Member STENY HOYER, and all of the majority and minority staff, especially Michelle Mrdeza, Rob Nabors and Scott Nance, for the hard work, care and attention that went into this bill and report. It certainly shows. I also want to thank Chairman BILL YOUNG and Ranking Member DAVID OBEY

for providing the Subcommittee with a realistic and responsible 302(b) allocation that recognized the importance of the functions addressed through this bill and made it possible to meet many of the agencies' needs.

At the same time, I think it is essential for all of us to heed Chairman YOUNG's reminder that he gave us at the meeting of the Conference Committee and recognize that this bill is a pre-September 11th bill. There are huge unmet needs with respect to seaport security and border security not addressed in this bill that we must address as part of the Homeland Security effort to win the war against terrorism.

This bill does not address the needs for additional seaport security. While the bill provides some funding for additional Customs inspectors on the Northern border with Canada, the Customs Service will need significantly more resources to meet its mission on all of our borders. I urge the Administration to move immediately to address these omissions and give Customs the resources it needs.

Now let me mention a few of the items in the Bill and Report that I particularly like.

I am very pleased that the bill provides \$15 million for the Miami Federal Courthouse, the remaining funds required to build the new Federal Courthouse in Miami, a project that is desperately needed by our Federal courts, the busiest in the country.

I am pleased with the significant steps that we take in this bill to improve our support for Treasury law enforcement, particularly with respect to Customs and the Secret Service.

The \$300 million investment that the bill funds for ACE, the customs modernization project, \$170 million more than the Administration proposed, is urgently needed. This money will help the trade community and law enforcement tremendously. It certainly will be enormously helpful in Miami. If we continue to fund this program appropriately, we will make the transition to ACE on a realistic timetable that will enable us to meet the expanding needs of the trade community and law enforcement, not have a 13 or 14 year project.

At the same time, however, we need to be doing more for Customs. As I have repeatedly discussed before the Appropriations Committee, South Florida urgently needs more Customs employees at Miami International Airport (MIA) and the Miami Seaport. The House bill provided \$15 million expressly to hire additional Customs inspectors where the need was greatest. Unfortunately, this provision did not survive the Conference. I urge the Administration to revisit this issue as when it considers what additional resources Customs may need to fight the war against terrorism and provide for Homeland Security.

I am very pleased that the bill funds pay parity between civilian and military personnel by providing a 4.6 percent pay increase to civilian employees; and that it continues contraceptive coverage for Federal employees in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program (FEHBP).

The bill provides \$2 million in FY 2002 funding for the First Accounts initiative, a program that I have championed to increase the access of low and moderate income persons to financial services, such funds to become available upon authorization of the First Accounts program. The First Accounts Initiative is a demonstration program. It is designed to help end check cashing ripoffs by improving the access of low and moderate income Americans to

basic financial services that most of us take for granted—such as bank accounts and ATMs. It is one of the few programs in the Treasury Postal bill that is specifically geared to helping low-income Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that 8.4 million low income American families—22 percent of all such families—do not have bank accounts. Families without bank accounts frequently resort to check-cashing services to pay bills and cash checks. Some estimate that low-income families could pay over \$15,000 in fees over a lifetime to pay bills and cash checks in this way. Many such families also resort to payday lenders and are subject to the enormous, often predatory fees that such services charge.

We know that providing "unbanked" families with low-cost access to financial services will increase the likelihood that they will begin a savings program and accumulate some assets. It also will significantly decrease their reliance upon high-cost check cashing services and payday lenders. Such a program has tremendous potential to improve the net worth of low-income Americans.

All of us should want to provide the "unbanked" with an alternative to the check-cashing services and payday lenders. By continuing to fund First Accounts, we can have a fair test of whether the program is able to achieve its intended objective of increasing the access of low and moderate income persons to basic financial services.

I urge the authorizing committees to authorize the "First Accounts" program at the earliest opportunity. I will be working with the Administration and the Treasury Department to ensure that they promptly develop and implement a plan to optimize the use of available "First Accounts" funding.

It is also very satisfying to note that this bill funds the workforce initiative at the Secret Service to reduce agent overtime to more manageable proportions. The \$45 million that we give the Secret Service for recruitment and retention is very important. Secret Service Director Stafford told us that an average of 55 Secret Service agents were now leaving the force each year, 6 times the rate only 7 years ago. He indicated that the amount of overtime required of agents contributed significantly to the exodus.

Director Stafford also noted the irreplaceable loss to the Secret Service skills base when experienced agents leave and are replaced by newcomers. We spend about \$240,000 to train each Secret Service agent. Keeping them longer through more humane personnel policies is fiscally prudent. More importantly, giving these agents a manageable life is the right thing to do.

While I wish that we could have preserved the increase provided in the House bill, I am pleased that we have maintained funding at the FY 2001 level for the National Historical Preservation Records Commission at the National Archives. The \$2 million cut that the Administration proposed for FY 2002, a 31 percent reduction in grant funding from the FY 2001 level of \$6.436 million was extremely ill-considered.

The NHPRC grant programs provide outstanding support to state and local archivists, and other organizations and institutions that deal with the identification, preservation and use of historically significant records and documents. Many of these grants support projects

relating to historically underdocumented groups, such as African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans and American Women.

Finally, while this bill does not fund election reform initiatives, the conference report confirms the intention of the Committee to address and appropriately fund election reform as soon as the authorizing committees have acted. Mr. Speaker, election reform is an issue that affects all America, not just Florida, and a problem that we must address as soon as possible.

Now is not the time or place to discuss the particulars of all that we need to achieve election reform, and no doubt there will be differences among Members as to whether we should have uniform federal standards for election reform, but one thing is clear: All of our efforts to pursue election reform must be guided by the simple principle that all legally qualified voters have the same opportunity to vote and to have their vote counted. That didn't happen in the election last November and we must ensure that it never happens again.

I know that my good friend, Mr. HOYER, and Chairman NEY of the House Administration Committee are working diligently on legislation to authorize substantial funding on an ongoing basis to assist state and local election officials in making changes to their technology and their voting processes. I urge the Appropriations Committee to fund election reform as soon as authorizing legislation is passed.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Mr. ISTOOK and Mr. HOYER for all of their efforts. I urge all of my Colleagues to support this Conference Report.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COCKEY). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2299, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2299) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, 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 Kentucky?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. SABO

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. SABO 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. 2299, be instructed to insist on inclusion of the highest possible level of transportation security funding.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XX, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO).

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

Mr. Speaker, this motion to instruct is very straightforward. It is a motion to instruct the House conferees to insist on the highest possible level of funding for transportation security.

□ 1130

As the conference on the differences between the House and Senate versions of the fiscal year 2002 Transportation Appropriations bill begins, we now have an opportunity, in light of the tragic events of September 11, to provide additional transportation security resources.

Funding in the Senate bill for aviation security is over \$14 million higher than funding in the House bill. The Senate bill funds civil aviation security at \$150.2 million and the House bill funds it at \$135.9 million. Likewise, funding in the Senate bill for Coast Guard operating expenses is \$45 million above the House bill. While not all of this funding is directly related to increased transportation security, much of it is because Coast Guard operations are multimissioned.

Currently Coast Guard homeland security missions have increased substantially while other missions, such as drug interdiction, have decreased. In context, I must say that the Senate also had a higher 302(b) allocation for total resources available than the House did.

Accordingly, this motion to instruct directs the House conferees to agree to the Senate funding levels for transportation security programs.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have no problem with this motion to instruct. As the gentleman from Minnesota knows, the House-passed bill included reductions in the FAA's operating expenses for their civil aviation security program. We made those reductions out of total frustration at that time with the FAA's delays and mismanagement of airport-airline security.

We are beginning to get back on track, but at the time we passed the bill, that was the situation. We wanted to get their attention, using the power of the purse, to compel them to make these long-needed improvements. We read in this morning's edition of the

Washington Post the Secretary of Transportation is saying the problems continue even to this day in airport-airline security beyond what we had been promised and told.

The House is scheduled tomorrow to debate an airport-airline security bill which would remove those functions of security from the FAA and transfer them to a new agency which has transportation security as a whole as its function, not just airline security but pipelines and trucks, barges, trains, whatever, security for transportation in general. There would be a new agency within the Department of Transportation to which the FAA's heretofore obligations on airport security would be transferred, and the FAA would no longer have those responsibilities nor the need for the funds for that purpose. So in all probability then, after tomorrow when the House acts, the Senate acts, those activities would be handled not by the FAA but by a new agency within the Department of Transportation, hopefully.

Given this, I do not believe we will have the problems being described this morning in the future. We should give this new agency within the Department of Transportation a fresh start, not hamstringing them with the problems that the FAA has had with airline security; and I wanted to assure my colleague, my helpmate, my soul mate on the floor here, that I will do all I can as chairman of the conference to ensure the highest possible level of funding for transportation security, not necessarily within the FAA.

One other note. We all obviously are concerned that the Coast Guard is not getting all the money that they would like to have. They would like to put into a supplemental bill moneys that we could not fund in the regular bill. If we see in this conference items within the Coast Guard's request that relate to security and the need for improved security, we can address that, but I would hope that we would limit our conversation in that regard to the matters that pertain to security and the need for the Coast Guard to improve their security capability.

As I say, Mr. Speaker, I have no problem with the motion to instruct.

I want to thank the staff and the gentleman from Minnesota and his staff for the cooperation and the hard work that all have shown.

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

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I come in support of the Senate bill that will come to the floor on airline security.

I formerly represented Los Angeles Airport, LAX. As I go in there to come back to Washington, D.C., there is not a time that the staff at whatever airline does not approach me to secure the planes that they have to fly and serve on. It is an essential move that we have to make now.