

be a model piece of legislation for future discussions in regards to wilderness.

I also want to point out that this bill was introduced in the 105th session and in the 106th session. It never received a hearing. It never got a vote. The reason that it is here on the floor today is because the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the communities and myself were able to come together. I would hope that as a result of what we saw, the compromise that came here tonight that brought this bill to the floor, we will also see the same kind of, I guess, courtesies, or reciprocation from the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) in regards to the Deep Creek wilderness.

As he knows, these bills were close to being companion bills. The Deep Creek bill still has some work in regards to description and so on before we can get it to hearing, but I would hope that my colleague will also put forth his efforts and energies as I did with his bill; I hope he puts the same kind of energy and efforts to making my bill on the Deep Creek wilderness become a reality.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCINNIS. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I wanted to make the statement that I look forward to working with him on the Deep Creek wilderness proposal. Also if I could, I might just point out, I think the process was a model, first and foremost. We brought people together on an ongoing basis. Nobody walked away from the table. We had differences of opinion and differences of approaches over, as he points out, almost a 3-year or arguably a longer period of time given that Congressman Skaggs introduced the bill back in the 105th Congress. But nobody walked away from the process. People were trusting of other people's motives even though there was perhaps a difference in approach and opinion.

I hope that we can bring that model not only to our State, Colorado, but around the West as we continue to have to deal with some of these thorny issues that surround the use of public lands. People operated in good faith. I thank the chairman again for his support and work, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

Mr. MCINNIS. I would point out to the gentleman from Colorado that, yes, people were at the table, but it required leadership to get something done at the table. They were willing to sit at the table, they were willing to sit politely and have a discussion; but it took your leadership, it took my leadership, it took the leadership of these county commissioners to come in with this kind of compromise. It also took some resistance on our part for people who at the last minute want to pull off the table or try and squash the deal by always moving the goal posts. I am

afraid we are going to see that in Deep Creek. I would hope, as I said, that you would reciprocate with the same kind of leadership that I showed, I think, with your bill, that you would show with my bill. But I think you have done a tremendous job. I also want to commend Mr. Sloss and his efforts. We both live close there.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. If the gentleman will yield further, if I might, I was remiss in not acknowledging the tremendous staff work on the part of Stan Sloss who anybody who works with the Committee on Resources knows is an institution and is a great resource not just to Democrats but to Republicans as well and is a tremendous resource to all of us. I thank the gentleman for acknowledging Stan Sloss and the great work that he does.

Mr. MCINNIS. On a lighter moment, as the gentleman knows, Mr. Sloss' mother was my school teacher many years ago, so I walked the straight line as a result of the lessons I learned from that fine lady.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for favorable consideration of the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1576, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2742) to authorize the construction of a Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2742

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

SECTION 1. OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In order to promote better understanding between Indian and non-Indian citizens of the United States, and in light of the Federal Government's continuing trust responsibilities to Indian tribes, it is appropriate, desirable, and a proper function of the Federal Government to provide grants for the development of a museum designated to display the heritage and culture of Indian tribes.

(2) In recognition of the unique status and history of Indian tribes in the State of Oklahoma and the role of the Federal Government in such history, it is appropriate and proper for the museum referred to in paragraph (1) to be located in the State of Oklahoma.

(b) GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to award financial equaling not more than \$33,000,000 and technical assistance to the Authority to be used for the development and construction of a Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

(2) AGREEMENT.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), the appropriate official of the Authority shall—

(A) enter into a grant agreement with the Secretary which shall specify the duties of the Authority under this section, including provisions for continual maintenance of the Center by the Authority without the use of Federal funds; and

(B) demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the Authority has raised, or has commitments from private persons or State or local government agencies for, an amount that is equal to not less than 66 percent of the cost to the Authority of the activities to be carried out under the grant.

(3) LIMITATION.—The amount of any grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 33 percent of the cost of the activities to be funded under the grant.

(4) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION.—When calculating the cost share of the Authority under this Act, the Secretary shall reduce such cost share obligation by the fair market value of the approximately 300 acres of land donated by Oklahoma City for the Center, if such land is used for the Center.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act:

(1) AUTHORITY.—The term "Authority" means the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority of Oklahoma, and agency of the State of Oklahoma.

(2) CENTER.—The term "Center" means the Native American Cultural Center and Museum authorized pursuant to this section.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to grant assistance under subsection (b)(1), \$8,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS).

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

H.R. 2742 is legislation introduced by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON) which directs the Secretary of the Interior to grant \$33 million in financial assistance grants and technical assistance to the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority for the development of the Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The bill authorizes appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior for \$8.25 million for the fiscal years 2003 through 2006.

The committee held a hearing on October 17, 2001, and favorably reported it out of full committee by unanimous consent on November 28, 2001. The Oklahoma delegation, the 39 tribes recognized by the State of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State legislature all support H.R. 2742.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request an affirmative vote on the passage of

this important bill for the State of Oklahoma.

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

Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to Chairman HANSEN of the Committee on Resources, Ranking Member RAHALL and the entire Committee on Resources staff for their leadership and hard work in bringing H.R. 2742 to the floor of the House of Representatives. I would like to especially single out the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) for his leadership on this issue as well as my indispensable aide, Jessica Werner, whose passion for this issue and whose expertise is greater than my own. I rise in support of H.R. 2742, a bill to authorize, as the gentleman from Colorado said, the construction of a Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. As an enrolled member of the Cherokee tribe and representing the most Native American district in the entire country, H.R. 2742 and the Native American Cultural Center and Museum planned for Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, carry great significance for me.

The area encompassed by the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma, often referred to as "Native America," has had a special relationship with Indian nations since long before it became a State in 1907. Beginning in the 1820s, the five civilized tribes from the southeastern United States were relocated to Indian Territory over numerous routes, the most famous being the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Forced off their ancestral lands by State and Federal governments, the tribes suffered great hardships during the rigorous trips west. This forced march of eastern tribes to the West under the Indian Removal Act of 1830 is the best known movement of American Indians to what is now Oklahoma. Thirty-nine tribes are recognized by the State, including both tribes forced to Oklahoma and tribes native to the plains.

These tribes collectively and individually have played an invaluable role in the evolution of the State of Oklahoma. Indeed, the culture and history of Oklahoma are inseparable from that of the 39 tribes. Nevertheless, before the creation of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority of Oklahoma, there has been little statewide effort to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the tribes, and no Federal effort in my State.

In 1994, the Oklahoma legislature created the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority to promote the history of Native Americans for the mutual benefit of the State of Oklahoma and its Indian and non-Indian citizens. By that legislation, the authority was authorized and empowered to construct and operate a cultural center and museum on a chosen site in Oklahoma. Since 1994, various entities,

including the authority, the State legislature, the Office of the Governor, Native American groups, and a stellar design team have worked together and developed an impressive and extensive plan for the creation of the Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, which three cities in Oklahoma initially bid for.

□ 2130

The approximately 300-acre site donated by Oklahoma City where the center will be located will have a Great Promontory, a Court of Nations, a Court of the Wind, a Hall of the People, Permanent and Temporary Galleries, a "Who We Are" Theater, a Multi-Purpose Theater, a Demonstration Gallery, Family Center, Study Center, Discovery Center, a Lodge, Hotel and Conference Center, a Visitor Center and Dancing Grounds.

As an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute, the museum will be able to rotate exhibits with the Native American Smithsonian Institute being built not far from where I stand here in Washington, enriching both of the museum's collections.

Some of the main goals tied to the creation of the Native American Cultural Center and Museum are, first, to link the past, present and future of Indian Nations and present them to the visitor in a way that he or she can experience and understand fully; second, to preserve and promote the living cultures of Native Americans, in language and history, dance, arts, cultural values and spirituality; and, third, to strive for economic self-sufficiency and to engender the principles of environmental sustainability.

This massive endeavor, representing and promoting all 39 tribes in Oklahoma, is truly awe-inspiring and worthy of Federal financial and technical support. The design team includes Ralph Appelbaum, whose achievements include the United States Holocaust Museum, and Bill Fain, who helped design the TransAmerica Building in San Francisco. The world class team has enjoyed the strong support of Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma, as well as Senator NICKLES and Senator INHOFE, and Senator CAMPBELL of Colorado, as well as the Oklahoma State Legislature, and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), to name just a few.

H.R. 2742, as the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) noted, would authorize the appropriation of \$33 million over a period of four fiscal years beginning in 2003. However, appropriation of Federal dollars is contingent upon private, city and State sources, accounting for 66 percent of the total cost. Thus, the center is neither wholly dependent upon Federal funds nor given access to Federal funds until a local commitment has been adequately demonstrated.

Nevertheless, Federal funds are necessary and reasonable. Given the Federal Government's significant role, indeed determining role, in relocating many of the 39 tribes now a part of Oklahoma, it seems more than appropriate for the Federal Government to award grants to the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority for the development of this museum, committed to preserving the history and culture of these tribes.

Furthermore, a precedent has been set for the Federal funding of State museums. To name a few examples, from 1986 to 1994, the Steamtown Railroad Museum in Pennsylvania was appropriated more than \$80 million in Federal funds. From 1996 to 1997, the Hispanic Cultural Center in New Mexico was appropriated \$16 million. Under the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act of the 106th Congress, appropriations amounting to over \$18 million were authorized for the Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place in Fort Pierre, South Dakota.

The construction of this museum and, hence, this legislation, is not only necessary for the preservation of Indian cultures, but carries deep significance in the State of Oklahoma and, I believe, to the Nation too. Felix Cohen, in his landmark treatise on Indian law, remarked that, "like the miner's canary, the Indian marks the shift from fresh air to poison gas in our political atmosphere; and our treatment of Indians, even more than our treatment of other minorities, reflects the rise and fall in our democratic faith."

With this bill, in a State formed by the cruelties of our Nation's Indian policy, we build finally a monument to all which has endured. We now celebrate what was once despised, and we now preserve what our Nation for too long tried to eradicate.

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK).

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I want to especially express my appreciation to my colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON) for offering H.R. 2742. I certainly rise in support of it.

As the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON) mentioned, he is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Tribe. In fact, there are some 67 tribes that originally inhabited what became known as Indian Territory, and now is known as the State of Oklahoma.

Through a chapter in our Nation's history, of which we cannot be proud, we had the Trail of Tears with the movement of Indian Tribes across the country, from eastern parts of the Nation, from Florida and Alabama and other states in the Southeast in particular, moved by the U.S. Government to Oklahoma.

Now we need to recognize what they built there, what they established

under adverse conditions, in a good land but not the land that was originally theirs, but the land that became theirs. It is fitting and proper that the Federal Government participate in establishing this center about the education, the culture and the history of the Tribes that were moved across the country to become the homeland of now the State of Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, which is supported by the Tribes to preserve their heritage in the lands which became theirs, is a partnership piece of legislation. It states that the money to be provided by the Federal Government will be matched two-to-one by funds being provided by State and local and private sources.

Indeed, the State legislature has already appropriated \$6.5 million. There has been a grant of land from the City of Oklahoma City of some 300 acres, in the prime location where Interstates 40 and 35 come together next to downtown Oklahoma City on the banks of the North Canadian River. In that prime location will be erected the proud monument and preservation of the history and culture of the Indian Tribes that inhabited so much of the country and came to rest in the State of Oklahoma.

Private donations are being solicited. We are not asking for the Federal Government to assume the cost of operating this. We are not asking the Federal Government to even bear the lion's share of the funding for this. We are saying that State, local and private sources will provide two-thirds of the funding, and the Federal Government is only being asked to provide one-third. That is more than fair, Mr. Speaker, and it is just that we provide this funding, that we authorize it today, and appropriate it over this 4-year period, as the bill calls to be done.

I want to express my appreciation for the partnership of the many people and several Indian Tribes involved in this, the civic leaders in the city of Oklahoma City, the State legislators. I want to single out one member of the State legislature in particular, State Senator Enoch Kelly Haney, a Native American who was responsible for much of the vision regarding this center. In fact, he is also an artist. He is a sculpture. He is donating his work of the statue of a Native American to be the new statue atop the new dome being put on the Oklahoma State Capitol.

I also want to express appreciation to Governor Bill Anaotubby of the Chickasaw Nation, Principle Chief Perry Beaver of the Muscogee Creek Nation, Former Chief Joe Byrd of the Cherokee Nation, Former Chief Elmer Manatowa of the Sac & Fox Nation, and Dr. Bud Sahmaunt of the Kiowa Tribe. They have all served on the Board of Directors of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority and have been involved in the planning for this museum.

I again want to express my special appreciation to my colleague, the gen-

tleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON), for sponsoring this legislation, knowing that it is not just a matter of things that are important to the people in his district, but also that are important to the people throughout the State of Oklahoma and to the preservation of Native American history and culture for people throughout the United States of America as well.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCINNIS

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent on page 2, line 21 of the bill, that the word "assistance" be inserted after the word "financial."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my good friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS).

(Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, first I would like to express my thanks to the gentleman from the Second Congressional District of Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON), for his tremendous work in this area of Native Americans and also on this particular bill. He has done a great job putting this bill together, bringing it to light and moving it forward to where we are tonight.

I am delighted to be a cosponsor with the gentleman and with other Oklahomans. It is so fitting that this museum honoring the Native Americans be in Oklahoma City. To a lot of people, they may not realize that the word "Oklahoma" means "red man," and that in Oklahoma we have more Native Americans per capita than any other State in the Nation. We have one of the largest populations, of course.

I am delighted to say that, even in my own family, that I have a child that is part Cherokee. I also have grandchildren that are part Cherokee and part Creek, two of them are part Creek, so in our family we have a lot of discussions from time to time about the various cultural activities and other things that we feel like need to be done for the socioeconomic conditions of Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I myself have grown up with and among the Choctaw Indians. I am always delighted to say I was the only non-Native American on the baseball team when I was growing up, and also the only non-Native American on the basketball team in my little hometown of Bennington, Oklahoma, which was one of the early-time headquarters of Native Americans and one of the largest populations of Native Americans of Choctaw background.

In my immediate family, I spent probably more time with the Native American families, spending nights there and spending many days working

in their culture and understanding the culture of the Native Americans in my district.

But we have longed for the time, I think, where we should hold up and honor the Native Americans for their tremendous sacrifice, for their tremendous contributions, not only to our State of Oklahoma, but to this Nation and to really our freedoms that we enjoy today. Probably there is no one any more American that feels the patriotism of being American than our Native American brothers and sisters.

So, for this particular legislation to come forth concerning this Native American museum, to hold this up, I want to commend my good friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON) for his efforts. I am sincere about that, what the gentleman is doing along these lines.

So without anything else, I would like to say I appreciate the time of the chairman. I know, Mr. Chairman, in Colorado you have a lot of Native Americans in your fine State also.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2742. This legislation will authorize a grant for the development and construction of a Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma, Brad Carson, for his work on behalf of Native Americans and also for offering this legislation that I am proud to co-sponsor.

Oklahoma has one of the largest American Indian populations of any state. Currently, Oklahoma is home to 39 recognized Indian Tribes. We are very proud in Oklahoma of our Native American heritage. In fact, Oklahoma means "red man." I know from my personal experience Native Americans in my area of Oklahoma make a major contribution to the state.

In 1994, the Oklahoma Legislature created the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority (NACEA) "to promote the history and culture of Native Americans for the mutual benefit of the state of Oklahoma and its American Indian and non-Indian citizens." That legislation authorized the NACEA to construct and operate a Cultural Center and Museum on a chosen site in Oklahoma City. I know the Center will promote the proud history and culture of Oklahoma Native Americans.

I want to again thank my colleague for his tremendous work and role in bringing this legislation to the floor and urge passage of this important bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I might add, Native Americans are well protected by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS) in Oklahoma as well. He watches out for all of them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for favorable consideration of the bill.

Mr. LARENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today encouraged by the congressional support for the Native American Cultural Center and Museum to be built in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, which boasts the highest Native American population in this country, has long needed a starting point from which to guide interested persons through our rich history. I believe that travelers passing through Oklahoma's crossroads will now encounter a facility so reflective of our

State heritage, that their curiosity will be piqued. It is my hope that education and healing will occur as the pains and triumphs of our people are experienced on the grounds of this meeting place.

The Center's central location will not only benefit the heart of our people, but will also spur on the Oklahoma economy by providing new opportunities for Native American entrepreneurs and other local businesses. Furthermore, travelers will have a great place to begin their study of the intriguing native people who have ancestral roots throughout our nation. I believe in this way, visitors will experience the true Native America.

It is always wise to build upon existing strengths. It is obvious that Oklahoma's strength lies in the incredible people who have shaped its history. I look forward to the new strengths to be revealed through the creation of this native American center.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2742, a bill that authorizes the Secretary of Interior to award financial assistance grants and technical assistance grants to the Native American cultural and educational authority for the construction of a Native American cultural center and museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The bill authorizes a Federal appropriation of \$33 million over a period of four fiscal years beginning in 2003. The Federal appropriation, however, is contingent upon private, city and State sources accounting for 66 percent of the total cost of the project.

Mr. Speaker, support for a Native American Cultural Center and Museum in a state that has one of the largest Native American population of any state is long overdue. This bill has the bipartisan support of the Congressional Native American Caucus, the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and the State's elected officials too.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate our colleague, BRAD CARSON of Oklahoma, for all his hard work and sponsorship of H.R. 2741.

Promised as the original Indian Territory, the State of Oklahoma has clearly been enriched through its Indian heritage from the Trail of Tears which moved eastern Indian tribes into the state, through the settlements of the Oklahoma Sooners, to the 39 tribes living within its border today.

It is truly a story worth telling and I look forward to one day visiting the Native American Cultural Center and Museum we are authorizing today.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2742, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the 3 bills just considered, H.R. 38, H.R. 1576 and H.R. 2742.

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

There was no objection.

BASIC PILOT EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3030) to extend the "Basic Pilot" employment verification system, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3030

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.

Section 401(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended by striking "4-year period" and inserting "6-year period".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3030.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 made it unlawful for employers to knowingly hire or employ aliens not eligible to work and required employers to check the identity and work eligibility documents of all new employees. Under this Act, if the documents provided by an employee reasonably appear on their face to be genuine, the employer has met its document review obligations.

The easy availability of counterfeit documents has made a mockery of the Immigration Reform and Control Act.

□ 2145

Fake documents are produced by the millions and can be obtained cheaply.

Congress responded to this dilemma in the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 by instituting employment eligibility confirmation pilot programs for volunteer employers that were to last for 4 years.

Under the basic pilot, the Social Security numbers and alien identification numbers of new hires are checked against Social Security Administration and Immigration and Naturalization Service records in order to weed out documents containing counterfeit numbers and real numbers used by multiple individuals. Operation of the pilot program commenced in November of 1997 and expires this month.

The 1996 Act required that the INS provide a report to Congress on the operation of the pilot programs within 3 months after the end of the third and fourth year in which the programs are in effect. The reports were to, one, assess the benefits of the pilot programs to employers and the degree to which they assist in the enforcement of the rules regarding the employment of aliens; and, two, to include recommendations on whether or not the pilot program should be continued or modified.

The INS has not complied. That is no surprise. The agency provided Congress with no report after the third year of operation of the basic pilot program, despite being mandated to do so by law, and there is no assurance that one will be provided within the time limits specified by law after the fourth year of operation. The INS' failure to obey the law and to provide the reports as required by law is unfortunately a frequent failing of this agency. It can only be hoped that once the immigration functions of the Justice Department are restructured and the INS is abolished will such negligence and/or malfeasance be a thing of the past.

In any event, Congress must now decide upon the reauthorization of the basic pilot program in the absence of the agency reports, required by law, on the program. We have received word from industry implementing the basic pilot program that it has been a great success and that industry representatives favor a 2-year extension of the program.

The committee has received no adverse comment regarding the basic pilot program. In light of the continuing relevance of the original goals of the basic pilot program, and the evidence of its successful operation, we all should support a 2-year extension. H.R. 3030, introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM), provides that extension.

I can only hope that when we are again called upon to consider the merits of this pilot program we will have in hand an evaluation of the program's operation from the Justice Department. The INS is supposed to enforce