

think it is very important that, as we leave this body, that we realize that those of us who had a differing opinion on the question of going to war realize the sacred responsibility that we had and realize that, as the President is the Commander-in-Chief, that we who might have opposition stand with the people of the United States to ensure our security, but, at the same time, reflect upon the importance of the Constitution that says only Congress can declare war.

We stand ready to fight terrorism, but I think it is very important for the American people to be wise and aware that we can find a way to resolve these matters with our frontline troops being strong and ready by continuing diplomacy first and working with the United Nations Security Council and not giving the authority of first strike to the Commander-in-Chief without the authorization under the Constitution that we have to declare war.

This is an important admonition. It is not stepping away from our responsibilities. It is not fear, for I look fear in the eye, and I will stand against it. It is not a fear of fighting terrorism, for I look terrorism in the eye and will fight against it. But it is a recognition of my sacred duty and responsibility to declare my standing with saving the lives of young men and women who offer themselves to fight for our freedom and justice in the United States military.

We will go off to our respective districts and each of us will have cast a vote of conscience. I believe that each of us should be respected as patriots and Americans, realizing that we have made a decision on the facts at hand. But it cannot be denied that the Constitution was written by our Founding Fathers for us not to be silent. It was written to be the underpinnings of democracy. So that as we look to give guidance to this Nation, we can be thankful for those who serve us in the United States military, but, as well, Mr. Speaker, as I close, we can say thank you, but, as well, we can stand for saving the lives of the young men and women in the military because it is a question of life and death—that's why it is our duty as Members of Congress to make decisions of war on fact and constitutional grounds.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to its gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. Thanks to my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), I have had an opportunity in the time that I have been in the U.S. Congress to visit a number of military bases; and I have been totally impressed with the people that I have had an opportunity to meet. It is so very, very important, having met them, that they have sufficient housing to live at least the kind of life that many of us are able to have in our own homes across this country.

I was surprised when I went to a couple of bases when I saw the schools. I saw schools that looked like many other schools that existed in the 1960s when I was in school. The kids were still going to school in the trailer houses that, unfortunately, have become permanent schoolhouses for many of these young people. I think it is important that, as we move forward, we assure the young people across this country that we are going to be supportive of them in all that they do.

I have a number of friends who have children who are now of age and are serving in military operations across this world, and I want to be able to assure my friends and their grandparents, who are the friends of my mother and father, that the young people we send out on our behalf are well taken care of. So I rise in support of this legislation, having seen some of the things we have been able to do.

If I get too far along, I may be talking out of school, but we are moving from one-plus-one or two-plus-two or whatever the living arrangements for the military are right now.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), who I also had a chance to visit some of these facilities with, and my good friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), on the great work they have done.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just close by again congratulating the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman HOBSON) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), for their great work on this bill.

I would again urge the leadership of this House to move out of the way and let the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), do what so many of us want them to do and what the people of this

country want them to do, and that is finish the appropriations bills.

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. 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 to accompany H.R. 5011, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 5011, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATION ACT, 2003

Mr. HOBSON. Pursuant to the rule just adopted, I call up the conference reported to accompany the bill, (H.R. 5011) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 578, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 9, 2002, at page H7345.)

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, FY 2003 (H.R. 5011)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Military construction, Army.....	1,778,256	1,450,438	1,414,557	1,456,747	1,472,022	-306,234
Defense emergency response fund (DERF).....	---	222,465	100,000	222,465	211,688	+211,688
Subtotal.....	1,778,256	1,672,903	1,514,557	1,679,212	1,683,710	-94,546
Rescission.....	-36,400	---	-18,676	-13,676	-49,376	-12,976
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 107-117).....	20,700	---	---	---	---	-20,700
Total.....	1,762,556	1,672,903	1,495,881	1,665,536	1,634,334	-128,222
Military construction, Navy.....	1,144,221	884,661	1,036,335	995,913	1,095,698	-48,523
Defense emergency response fund (DERF).....	---	220,730	209,430	220,730	209,430	+209,430
Subtotal.....	1,144,221	1,105,391	1,245,765	1,216,643	1,305,128	+160,907
Rescission.....	-19,588	---	-1,340	-1,340	-1,340	+18,248
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 107-117).....	2,000	---	---	---	---	-2,000
Total.....	1,126,633	1,105,391	1,244,425	1,215,303	1,303,788	+177,155
Military construction, Air Force.....	1,194,880	644,090	783,705	987,320	891,650	-303,230
Defense emergency response fund (DERF).....	---	190,597	180,597	188,297	188,597	+188,597
Subtotal.....	1,194,880	834,687	964,302	1,175,617	1,080,247	-114,633
Rescission.....	-4,000	---	-10,281	-10,281	-13,281	-9,281
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 107-117).....	46,700	---	---	---	---	-46,700
Total.....	1,237,580	834,687	954,021	1,165,336	1,066,966	-170,614
Military construction, Defense-wide.....	840,558	740,535	876,366	895,942	841,345	+787
Defense emergency response fund (DERF).....	---	31,300	24,700	31,300	33,300	+33,300
Subtotal.....	840,558	771,835	901,066	927,242	874,645	+34,087
Rescissions.....	-69,280	---	-2,976	-2,976	-2,976	+66,304
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 107-117).....	35,000	---	---	---	---	-35,000
Total.....	806,278	771,835	898,090	924,266	871,669	+65,391
Total, Active components.....	4,933,047	4,384,816	4,592,417	4,970,441	4,876,757	-56,290
Military construction, Army National Guard.....	405,565	101,595	159,672	208,482	241,377	-164,188
Military construction, Air National Guard.....	253,386	53,473	110,680	209,055	194,880	-58,506
Defense emergency response fund (DERF).....	---	8,933	8,933	8,933	8,933	+8,933
Total.....	253,386	62,406	119,613	217,988	203,813	-49,573
Military construction, Army Reserve.....	167,019	58,779	99,059	66,487	100,554	-66,465

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, FY 2003 (H.R. 5011)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Military construction, Naval Reserve.....	53,201	51,554	68,704	51,554	67,804	+14,603
Defense emergency response fund (DERF).....	---	7,117	7,117	7,117	7,117	+7,117
Rescission.....	-925	---	---	---	---	+925
Total.....	52,276	58,671	75,821	58,671	74,921	+22,645
Military construction, Air Force Reserve.....	74,857	31,900	69,200	54,633	63,650	-11,207
Defense emergency response fund (DERF).....	---	6,076	6,076	3,576	3,576	+3,576
Total.....	74,857	37,976	75,276	58,209	67,226	-7,631
Total, Reserve components.....	953,103	319,427	529,441	609,837	687,891	-265,212
Total, Military construction.....	5,886,150	4,704,243	5,121,858	5,580,278	5,564,648	-321,502
Appropriations.....	(5,911,943)	(4,017,025)	(4,618,278)	(4,926,133)	(4,968,980)	(-942,963)
Defense emergency response fund.....	---	(687,218)	(536,853)	(682,418)	(662,641)	(+662,641)
Emergency appropriations.....	(104,400)	---	---	---	---	(-104,400)
Rescissions.....	(-130,193)	---	(-33,273)	(-28,273)	(-66,973)	(+63,220)
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.....	162,600	168,200	168,200	168,200	167,200	+4,600
Family housing, Army:						
Construction.....	312,742	283,346	283,346	282,856	280,356	-32,386
Rescission.....	---	---	-4,920	-4,920	-4,920	-4,920
Operation and maintenance.....	1,089,573	1,119,007	1,119,007	1,119,007	1,106,007	+16,434
Total, Family housing, Army.....	1,402,315	1,402,353	1,397,433	1,396,943	1,381,443	-20,872
Family housing, Navy and Marine Corps:						
Construction.....	331,780	375,700	380,268	374,468	376,468	+44,688
Rescission.....	---	---	-2,652	-2,652	-2,652	-2,652
Operation and maintenance.....	910,095	867,788	867,788	867,788	861,788	-48,307
Total, Family housing, Navy and Marine Corps.....	1,241,875	1,243,488	1,245,404	1,239,604	1,235,604	-6,271
Family housing, Air Force:						
Construction.....	550,703	676,694	689,824	676,694	684,824	+134,121
Rescission.....	---	---	-8,782	-8,782	-8,782	-8,782
Operation and maintenance.....	844,715	844,419	844,419	844,419	833,419	-11,296
Defense emergency response fund (DERF).....	---	29,631	29,631	29,631	29,631	+29,631
Total, Family housing, Air Force.....	1,395,418	1,550,744	1,555,092	1,541,962	1,539,092	+143,674

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, FY 2003 (H.R. 5011)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Family housing, Defense-wide:						
Construction.....	250	5,480	5,480	5,480	5,480	+5,230
Operation and maintenance.....	43,762	42,395	42,395	42,395	42,395	-1,367
Total, Family housing, Defense-wide.....	44,012	47,875	47,875	47,875	47,875	+3,863
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	---
Homeowners assistance fund, Defense.....	10,119	---	---	---	---	-10,119
(By transfer).....	(7,730)	---	---	---	---	(-7,730)
Total, Family housing.....	4,095,739	4,246,460	4,247,804	4,228,384	4,206,014	+110,275
Base realignment and closure account.....	632,713	545,138	545,138	645,138	561,138	-71,575
(Transfer out).....	(-7,730)	---	---	---	---	(+7,730)
Total.....	632,713	545,138	545,138	645,138	561,138	-71,575
GENERAL PROVISIONS						
General provision (sec. 130).....	-60,000	---	---	---	---	+60,000
General provision (sec. 132).....	-112,802	---	---	---	---	+112,802
Total, General provisions.....	-172,802	---	---	---	---	+172,802
Grand total:						
New budget (obligational) authority.....	10,604,400	9,664,041	10,083,000	10,622,000	10,499,000	-105,400
Appropriations.....	(10,630,193)	(8,947,192)	(9,566,143)	(9,954,578)	(9,890,055)	(-740,138)
Defense emergency response fund.....	---	(716,849)	(566,484)	(712,049)	(692,272)	(+692,272)
Emergency appropriations.....	(104,400)	---	---	---	---	(-104,400)
Rescissions.....	(-130,193)	---	(-49,627)	(-44,627)	(-83,327)	(+46,866)
(Transfer out).....	(-7,730)	---	---	---	---	(+7,730)
(By transfer).....	(7,730)	---	---	---	---	(-7,730)

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

Mr. Speaker, before yielding back my time, I want to thank all the conferees for their efforts in reaching this agreement, but especially our chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON). The two bills had very significant differences, and he has led us to a fair resolution that I think all of us can support.

Mr. Speaker, I want also to thank the committee staff from both sides of the aisle who have worked so hard to put this bill together: Valerie Baldwin, Brian Potts, Mary Arnold, Luis James, and, of course, Tom Forhan, on our side. Working together, they crafted an agreement that we can all support.

I urge Members to vote "yes" on this conference report.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank, in addition to the other people, Luis James, our detailee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I vote in support of the Military Construction Conference Report, H.R. 5011. I am encouraged that the conference report provides \$835 million more than the Administration requested for barracks construction, family housing, medical facilities, and environmental clean up.

I am especially pleased that this conference report includes \$561 million for the Defense Department's Base Realignment and Closure program, which is \$16 million more than what we passed in the House earlier this summer. I am disappointed that the Conference Committee could not support the Senate's request for \$645 million, but what we have is a good step. This increase will help the Department meet its environmental restoration and reuse commitments.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Chairman HOBSON, Ranking Member OLVER and Mr. FARR on the House Committee for focusing on one aspect of the military construction budget that deals with the problem of unexploded ordnance, the bombs and shells and military toxins, that have been left over and littered across the landscape of this country. I thank them for their foresight and leadership in bringing this issue front and center.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the rule that will allow for consideration of H.R. 5011, the Military Construction Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2003. This bill provides \$10.08 billion for military construction projects. Providing adequate housing and facilities for our men and women in uniform enables them to do their job. This bill provides \$5.41 billion for safe and secure housing, allowing servicemen and women to know that their families are out of harm's way while they are deployed or serving our country overseas. This assurance is a key component of our nation's military readiness and today we take steps to further improve and make adequate the housing and facilities of our military families.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight a significant component of the Milcon Appropriations Bill that will help all soldiers at Ft. Bragg, in my district in NC. Since I came to Congress, I have been working to secure funds for

the Soldier Support Center at Ft. Bragg. This center, to be named in honor of General Hugh Shelton, currently recovering from a spinal cord injury, will provide a one-stop in and out-processing facility for soldiers at Ft. Bragg. Today we take the first step in providing the first half of the funding for this important resource for the epicenter of the universe, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 have thrust our nation's military into the spotlight, and called to duty the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. Once again U.S. citizens are rallying behind them, in strong support of the harrowing mission they have been called upon to do, and today the U.S. Congress has the duty to pass the Military Construction Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2003, and the Rule that provides for its consideration, that will help provide the necessary resources and security for these brave men and women to do their job.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the rule and in favor of H.R. 5011, the Military Construction Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2003.

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 419, nays 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 458]

YEAS—419

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boozman
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Bryant

Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Delahunt

DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte

Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoefel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inslie
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klecza
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)

Lucas (OK)
Luther
Lynch
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-Skeen
McDonald
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Miller, Jeff
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce

Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrock
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Turner
Petri
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins (OK)
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—12

Berman
Bonior

Cooksey
Coyle

Diaz-Balart
Ortiz

Paul
Reyes

Roukema
Slaughter

Stump
Towns

□ 1710

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. Res. 122, FURTHER CON- TINUING APPROPRIATIONS, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 580 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 580

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 122) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The question is, Will the House now consider House Resolution 580.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the House agreed to consider House Resolution 580.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 580 is a closed rule providing for the consideration of House Joint Resolution 122, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution, and provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 122 makes further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003 and provides for funding at current levels.

We had agreed in the Committee on Rules that this would be through November 22.

At the conclusion of the debate on this, by consent on both sides there will be an amendment offered to change that date of November 22 to October 18, 2000, a week from tomorrow. This measure is necessary in order that all necessary and vital functions of government may continue uninterrupted until Congress completes the work on the spending measures for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass the rule, as we will amend it, and of course the underlying resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, if the Members here in the Chamber and Members watching this on television in their offices are a little confused, there is very good reason that they should be confused. Let me kind of review the bidding here, what has gone on today.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is in a total and utter state of disarray and denial.

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First today we were told, well, there would be a continuing resolution until next week, until October 18. And then, no, they changed their minds; and it was going to be a continuing resolution until November 22. Now, apparently they have changed their minds again and now the resolution is going to be until October 18, which is next week.

The question really is, Why are they doing this? Why can they not decide to let the House work its will on the appropriations bills? Why do they say one thing to Members at one moment, another thing 5 minutes later, another thing another 10 minutes later?

This is a disgrace, a disgrace, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on September 30 the fiscal year ended, and the deadline passed for House Republicans to do their most basic job, passing the appropriations bills to fund priorities like education and health care. In the 10 days since then, the stock market has dropped to a 5-year low, and we have learned that another 417,000 Americans filed unemployment claims at the end of last month.

By stubbornly refusing to do their jobs they are getting paid to do, the Republican leaders are hurting the millions of Americans who are busy looking for work. This House has failed to fund important initiatives in education, health care, and other key priorities.

Well, here we go again, Mr. Speaker. Republicans are still fiddling while America's economy burns. So in a few minutes we will vote on a continuing resolution that was November 22. Now it is October 18. Who knows what it will be an hour from now.

Republican leaders want this CR so they can hide evidence of their fiscal

mismanagement. It is the same cynical strategy they are using to hide their secret plan to privatize Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, why will Republicans not be honest with the American people? Not too long ago they insisted that Congress had to vote on an Iraq resolution before the election. As the President himself said, and I quote, "I cannot imagine an elected United States, elected Members of the United States Senate or House of Representatives saying, 'I think I am going to wait for the United Nations to make a decision.'"

To paraphrase the President, I cannot imagine being a House Republican who has presiding over this failed economy and saying, I am not going to do anything about it. Because that is exactly what House Republicans are going to do, postpone action on important domestic and economic issues. They are desperate to hide their failed economic policies and dangerous Social Security plan from the voters. But they cannot hide the truth.

The Republicans' refusal to govern is hurting American priorities from the economy to education. In a recent memo to the Speaker, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations outlined just how harmful this refusal to govern is. According to the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG), "A long-term continuing resolution would have disastrous impacts on the war on terror, homeland security and other important government responsibilities."

The gentleman's memo pointed out that a long-term CR, and we do not know how they define long term, is it a week, is it a month, that a long-term CR would undermine the war on terror by denying nearly \$40 billion in additional homeland security funds requested by the President. It would short change our veterans by funding VA medical care at 2.5 billion less than what is needed to meet their needs, and would hurt our children's education by underfunding Pell grants by nearly \$1 billion.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans' failed economic policies have driven America into a huge deficit ditch that poses a grave threat to Social Security and other priorities like education, prescription drugs, and homeland security. So Republican leaders hope that by refusing to fund the government no one will notice the fiscal straitjacket they have put the country in.

The shell game is most obvious on education. Many Republican Members want to go home to tout their bipartisan No Child Left Behind Act we passed with so much fanfare last year; but they refuse to actually provide schools with the resources they need to carry out the reforms Congress mandated. Indeed, the bill funding the Departments of Labor, Education and Health and Human Services backed by most Republican Members would gut education and other priorities, and