

In section 2212, the conference report includes a provision similar to the Senate amendment that allows transfers among international assistance programs in this chapter in an amount not to exceed \$100,000,000. The House did not address this matter.

Section 2213 of the conference report reflects the Senate language on extending the waiver on Pakistan sanctions. The House did not address this matter.

Section 2214 amends the authorization levels in the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act to be consistent with the levels of funding provided in this Act and H.R. 2800. The reporting requirements in section 2312 of the Senate bill are addressed in section 2215 of the conference report. The House bill did not address this matter.

Section 2215 is a new section that consolidates many of the reporting requirements of the House and Senate bills under one provision entitled "Reports on Iraq and Afghanistan". This includes issues relating to debts owed by the government of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, efforts of the United States to increase resources contributed by foreign countries and international organizations to the reconstruction of Iraq, the manner in which the needs of people with disabilities are being met in the development and implementation of reconstruction activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, progress made in indicting leaders of the former Iraqi regime for war crimes, and efforts by the Coalition Provisional Authority and relevant Iraqi officials to preserve religious freedoms. In addition, this provision includes a monthly reporting requirement on Iraqi oil production and oil revenues, and the use of such revenues, and progress made in accomplishing United States assistance and development goals in Afghanistan. This section reflects the requirements of House section 2207 and Senate sections 2309 and 2314.

In section 2216, the conference report prohibits funds appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 2 of title II of this Act from being obligated for any activity in contravention of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts. This is similar to Senate section 2318, and the House did not address this matter.

Section 2217 is a new general provision that relates to women's participation in reconstruction in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The conference agreement does not include language from the Senate bill expressing the sense of Congress on certain matters. The managers endorse the intent of this language, specifically that: each country that is owed a debt by Iraq that was incurred during the regime of Saddam Hussein should forgive such debt; arbitrary deadlines should not be set for the dissolution of the Coalition Provisional Authority, and that transfer of authority should occur only after the ratification of an Iraqi constitution and the establishment of an elected government in Iraq takes place; the United States should make every effort to increase the level of financial commitment from other nations to reconstruction in Iraq, and that the United States contributions to these efforts should be done in a manner that promotes economic growth in Iraq and limits the long-term cost to American taxpayers; and, the removal of the Government of Iraq under Saddam Hussein enhanced the security of Israel and other United States allies.

The managers do not include House sections 2212 and 2213 and Senate sections 2308, 2310, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2319, and 2320.

**TITLE III—INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY**

The conference agreement includes a new title that establishes an Inspector General of

the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). This title is in lieu of provisions in the Senate version of the bill to establish an Inspector General of the CPA. The House bill did not contain a comparable provision.

The Inspector General will perform oversight and promote transparency on tracking of funds; provide continuing review and accumulation of data concerning both reconstruction activities and contracting; monitor the constant flow of information, particularly the accounting of the use of funds and transfers of funds between agencies and other third parties; and establish controls and a record-keeping system that can accumulate and maintain records for future reviews, investigations, and/or audits.

Funding is provided for the Inspector General within the Operating Expenses of the Coalition Provisional Authority account in Title II of this Act.

**TITLE IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT**

The conference agreement includes a provision, as proposed by the House, which limits the availability of funds provided in this Act.

The conference agreement includes a provision, as proposed by the Senate, designating the amounts provided in the Act as emergency requirements. The House did not include a similar provision, but did include individual emergency designations with each appropriation account.

The conference agreement contains modified language proposed by the House which ensures that schools serving the children of military personnel continue to receive Impact Aid funds when their parents are deployed or killed while on active duty and the child continues to attend the same local educational agency. The Senate bill did not include this provision.

The conference agreement does not include additional funds for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Senate proposal included \$1,300,000,000 for medical care. The House proposal did not include supplemental funds.

The conference agreement does not include a provision proposed by the Senate (Sec. 5001) requiring the President to submit to each Member of Congress a report on the projected total costs of United States operations in Iraq, including military operations and reconstruction efforts, through fiscal year 2008. The House did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include a provision proposed by the Senate (Sec. 5006) to permit personal injury claims by United States citizens and their spouses and children against a foreign state relating to such citizens being held hostage between 1979 and 1981. House did not include a similar provision.

The conference report does not include House section 3004, prohibiting funds from being provided to any unit of security forces of a foreign country if these forces credibly have been alleged to have been involved in abuses of human rights. As this is also a general provision in the annual foreign operations appropriations Acts, the managers expect these criteria to apply to all funds provided in fiscal year 2004.

The managers do not include House sections 3002, 3004, 3005, 3006, and 3007 and Senate sections 5003, 5004, 5005, and 5007.

**CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISONS**

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 2004 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the 2004 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 2004 follow:

[In thousands of dollars]

Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2004 .....	\$87,039,804
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House bill, fiscal year 2004 .....	86,856,029
Senate bill, fiscal year 2004 .....	86,449,004
Conference agreement, fiscal year 2004 .....	87,442,198
Conference agreement compared with:	
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2004 .....	+402,394
House bill, fiscal year 2004 .....	+586,169
Senate bill, fiscal year 2004 .....	+993,194

BILL YOUNG,  
JERRY LEWIS,  
HAL ROGERS,  
FRANK WOLF,  
JIM KOLBE,  
JAMES T. WALSH,  
JOE KNOLLENBERG,  
JOHN P. MURTHA,  
NITA M. LOWEY,  
CHET EDWARDS,

*Managers on the Part of the House.*

TED STEVENS,  
THAD COCHRAN,  
ARLEN SPECTER,  
PETE DOMENICI,  
CHRISTOPHER BOND,  
MITCH MCCONNELL,  
CONRAD BURNS,  
RICHARD C. SHELBY,  
JUDD GREGG,  
ROBERT F. BENNETT,  
BEN NIGHTHORSE  
CAMPBELL,  
LARRY CRAIG,  
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON,  
MIKE DEWINE,  
SAM BROWNBACK,  
DANIEL K. INOUE,  
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS  
(except title II),  
PATRICK J. LEAHY  
(except title II),  
TOM HARKIN  
(except title II),  
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI  
(except title II),  
HARRY REID  
(except title II),  
PATTY MURRAY  
(except title II),  
BYRON L. DORGAN  
(except title II),  
DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
(except title II),  
TIM JOHNSON  
(except title II),  
MARY L. LANDRIEU  
(except title II),

*Managers on the Part of the Senate.*

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 75, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

**FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2004**

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 417, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and

for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of H.J. Res. 75 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 75

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Public Law 108-84 is amended by striking the date specified in section 107(c) and inserting "November 7, 2003".

SEC. 2. Public Law 108-84 is further amended as follows:

(1) In section 103, by inserting "(a)" after the section designation and by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) For purposes of section 101, the term 'rate for operations not exceeding the current rate' has the meaning given such term (including supplemental appropriations and rescissions) in the attachments to Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 03-05 entitled 'Apportionment of the Continuing Resolution(s) for Fiscal Year 2004'."

(2) In section 125, by inserting before the period at the end the following:

"*Provided,* That such amounts as may be necessary for administrative expenses of the Grants-in-aid for Airports program shall be available to the Secretary of Transportation out of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate and for which authority was made available under the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003".

(3) By striking sections 126 through 130 and by redesignating sections 131 through 135 as sections 126 through 130, respectively.

(4) In section 127, as so redesignated, by striking "through 130, and section 134," and inserting "and 129".

SEC. 3. Section 8144(b) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003 (Public Law 107-248), as amended by Public Law 108-84, is further amended by striking "October 31, 2003" and inserting "November 7, 2003".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 417, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain the bill before us. It is a continuing resolution to extend the original CR until the 7th of November, 2003. This CR is basically noncontroversial. We need this CR because we have not completed all the appropriations bills in conference, although the House passed all of our appropriations bills in the summer. But we are making progress.

After we do the CR today, we will be dealing with the conference report on the interior appropriations bill. Also, I have just filed the conference report on the Iraqi supplemental, which we expect to get a rule on and we expect to have on the floor some time this evening, and which we hope to conclude by tonight.

The CR does include a few technical corrections to the first CR and adds a provision that codifies the term "rate for operations" under the CR, pursuant to OMB bulletin No. 03-05.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I believe this CR is noncontroversial, and I urge the House to move this legislation to the Senate so that the government can continue to function smoothly and efficiently and so that we can continue to finish our work on the appropriations bills.

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

□ 1115

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

Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows, we are supposed to have our appropriation bills done by the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1. Right now, even if we pass the Interior bill today, the bill to which the distinguished gentleman from Florida has just referred, we will still have 9 of 13 appropriation bills that are pending, and only God knows when we are going to finish them.

This continuing resolution keeps the government open until November 7. It is a very short CR, highly unrealistic in my view, if people have any expectation that this is going to be the last CR that we need. That means that the good news is we are going to get to do this all over again next week and the following week and probably the following week. I distinctly hope that we can be finished here by Thanksgiving. I desperately hope that we can, but my experience and my instincts are beginning to tell me that that is not at all likely.

I notice that the reports this morning in the National Journal's Congress Daily, I notice the report there, and in one of the newspapers this morning, I have forgotten if it was Roll Call or The Hill, which indicated that the Speaker himself is contemplating the possibility of our adjourning until January 15 because of the inability of the House and the Senate to get together on a variety of bills, not just appropriation bills, but also bills like the energy bill and the Medicare bill.

If we wind up doing that, it will be in essence a repeat of last year. And it means that we will be still dealing with last year's business midwinter of next year, and that will put the entire system again months behind where it ought to be, and God help us, there is an election year coming up, Presidential election year which is going to chew up a good piece of July and August.

So I see here confusion and chaos. And I would point out that when this happened in the last Congress, the majority party had a convenient target. They tried to blame it all on good old TOM, TOM DASCHLE, the then-majority leader in the Senate. Well, to paraphrase what President Nixon said once, the majority party does not have the Democratic majority to kick around anymore because the party, the Republican Party is in control of both Houses. And the White House. And so any delays that we have in passing appropriation bills or other bills for that

matter, any delays we are experiencing come because the Republican majority is having an argument with itself, between its House Members and its Senate Members.

I think one of the reasons that this is dragging everything behind again is because, as we all know, there has been a conscious decision, certainly on the part of the leadership of this House, there has been a conscious decision on the part of the Republican leadership to run this House on the narrowest of partisan majorities, rather than putting together bipartisan compromises on each of the 13 appropriation bills. The most spectacular example of that is the Labor Health appropriation bill. The choice has been made to try to govern with only Republican votes.

Now, if you have 300 people who are in support of a bill, it makes it a whole lot easier to get your work done because you have a much wider margin of error. But if you are only trying to run the House with a narrow margin of 220 or 230 votes, then every time you lose five or six votes, it is a big problem because that slows the train down.

So I think there is a lesson in here somewhere if the Republican Party leadership wants to hear it, and the lesson is, that if you reach out and try to reach bipartisan conclusions, the House runs more smoothly and you have a much better chance of not having every little disagreement within your own party lead to delay, delay and more delay. That is just a pragmatic observation, and I would urge that the House leadership take it to heart. I have no expectation that they will, Mr. Speaker, but I wish they would.

I think the problem that we have is that even within the Republican Party, there are a substantial number of Members, if not in this House then in the other body, who have substantial concerns about some of the appropriation bills. Example: Veterans health care has been a huge issue since the President presented his budget, and veterans groups all over the country are objecting to the inadequate level provided for veterans health care, but the VA HUD bill that left the House did not contain sufficient funding for veterans health care even to satisfy Republican Senators. So we had the Senate adopt, because they could not get the VA HUD bill to the floor, we had the Senate Republicans offer a motion which added \$1.3 billion for veterans health care to, of all bills, the Iraqi supplemental.

Last night, the conference jettisoned that \$1.3 billion and promised that they would put it on the VA HUD bill, but we have no idea whatsoever of how that will be done, whether it will be done by busting the caps, whether it will be done by providing emergency funding, whether it will be done by an across-the-board cut in other items in that bill. We just do not know.

And in that same bill, we have the problem of inadequate funding for local

law enforcement because the White House budget tries to pretend that it is funding homeland security items by reducing funding for the normal aid to local governments, local police departments, in the form of the Byrne Grants and other regular law enforcement programs.

We also have the problem of the Labor Health and Education bill where the education funding falls billions of dollars behind the No Child Left Behind Act which the President trumpeted so loudly just 2 years ago. We have a dispute between Republicans in both Houses over adequate funding levels for NIH, and I think there is considerable discomfort within the Republican Party, and certainly within ours, about the inadequate level of funding for special education for handicapped children.

My point is simply that we are here, late in the year certainly it is not unprecedented. It has happened before under both parties, but I do not recall in quite some time it being this chaotic. And I also believe that it would have been very easy to avoid had we had at least modest efforts at reaching a bipartisan approach to the budget resolution, for instance, which has caused the squeeze on appropriation bills.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we have no choice but to pass this continuing resolution, but I think it is simply another small bridge to next week when we will have to pass yet another one, and I think the best way to break through this problem is not by exhorting people to reach agreement where there is no agreement. I think the best way to break through this problem is by changing the parameters so that we consider a broader-based compromise on some of these bills than has been considered to date.

That is the only way that I see that we can get out of here before Thanksgiving turkey time with any degree of satisfaction and self-respect. Certainly the gentleman from Florida was able to put his bills through the House in a timely fashion, but when such limitations have been imposed, as is the case in this session, it becomes almost impossible for the House and the Senate to reach agreement on time, even when one party is in control of all the levers of government as the majority party now is.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I only have a brief closing statement. I wonder if the gentleman from Wisconsin has any additional speakers.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I think we have two additional speakers at this time. I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) a distinguished member of the committee.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I think that we have indeed on the Committee on Appropriations had good leadership.

I compliment the gentleman from Florida on the great job he has done leading that committee. I compliment my own ranking member the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for the wonderful work that he does, but I think, Mr. Speaker, rather than just pass another CR and let us see how long we can stall dealing with the problems of the American people, facing up to the reality that we have got some massive problems in this country, it is time to realize that we have some serious problems, and the way to fix those problems is for us to work together like we have under the leadership of the gentleman from Florida and the gentleman from Wisconsin. Let us face our problems, come to some realistic solutions that do not involve enriching our friends, do not involve enriching large corporations, do not involve further enriching the pharmaceutical industry in this country.

One of the things that is holding up the completion of this year's work is the Medicare reform bill. One of the things that is holding it up is the massive debt that we are creating for our children and grandchildren with absolutely no plan, no plan whatsoever to deal with it. Our seniors do not have the medicine that they need, and we know how to fix this problem. We can actually fix this problem without spending a large amount of government money.

We should not leave this Chamber again until we solve these problems or at least come to some mutual agreement as to how we are going to work to try to get this done. We should stay in this Chamber day and night for as long as it takes to get the job done for the American people.

This is not about Republicans. It is not about Democrats. The senior citizens in the 1st District of Arkansas do not give a hoot whether it is Republicans or Democrats, but they do care about the fact that they get robbed by the prescription drug manufacturers of this country to the point where they cannot buy their own food and they are not going to be able to heat their homes this winter. They care about that, and I care about it for them.

It is time that we face the reality of the problems and quit trying to take care of those that have patronized us and work in a cooperative way between the parties, with the leadership of good men like the gentleman from Florida and the gentleman from Wisconsin, to lead us through these efforts and get the job done for the American people.

Let us work together to do this, but let us not leave this Chamber again until it is done.

□ 1130

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I do not believe that either the chairman of the committee, and I certainly

know that the ranking Democrat on the committee is not comfortable with this process, not comfortable with the allocations that have been put forward for crucial legislation for the American people.

At issue and still hanging out there are everything that goes to Health and Human Services and Education that the government does, things crucial to the health of our people, crucial to the education of many; also the issue of veterans health care, as the gentleman from Wisconsin said. We still have not adequately funded and taken care of identified problems with veterans health care, and yet money to do that in the bill coming up later today was stripped from the legislation late in the night.

We have the issue of homeland security. I serve on the Select Committee on Homeland Security, and we know that we are not meeting the needs adequately of aviation security; of port security; of the other aspects of homeland security; of first responders, those who we are going to call on, our fire, our police, and others in our home States who do not have the tools they need to respond day to day, let alone to potentially catastrophic emergencies and terrorist attacks. Yet here we find ourselves again on the floor of the House, yet again continuing through a temporary measure the operations of the government.

I guess things would not be this way if the Republicans held the White House and controlled both the House and the Senate. Oh, well, actually, they do. That is right, I forgot. So it must be the Democrats that are holding things up. Maybe it is Bill Clinton who is responsible for this. I think maybe it is his fault, actually, because he left us with a surplus and now we have a \$500 billion deficit and we do not have the money to adequately fund these programs, so we are hung up and cannot get the votes together to pass anemic bills that will not meet the needs of homeland security, will not meet the needs of America's young people, will not meet the needs of our veterans or our seniors. We just do not have the money to do it. We do not have any money at all. We are just stuck here.

Except, wait a minute, later today we are going to take up a bill to borrow \$87 billion to continue the conflict in Iraq and to build Iraq; to build an economy for Iraq, to build an infrastructure that is gold plated, a wonderful gold-plated infrastructure; but we do not have money here in the United States to perform some of the same functions. We are going to put another \$50 million into the Port of Umm Qasr. I cannot get \$8 million to dredge the ports in my district. The President says we are simply out of money. But we can borrow \$50 million for the Port of Umm Qasr, and we will be voting on that later today.

Mr. Bremer, the proconsul in charge of Iraq, is appalled that many people

get their water through lines from open canals. He thinks they need a modern water system. The city of Albany in my State is doing a bond measure to meet Federal mandates for water supply because they get their water supply through an open unlined ditch, but they cannot get a penny from the Federal Government to help with that project; but we can borrow the money to do it in Iraq.

How is it we can borrow money for all these projects in Iraq and we cannot find enough money here, under arbitrary limits, to fund education programs for Americans, to fund veterans health care programs, to fund homeland security? What is wrong with this picture? Well, it turns out that the Republicans themselves cannot agree, between the White House and the House and the Senate. So we find week after week we do these temporary bills, temporary bill after temporary bill; and yet they do not deliberate toward any real result.

I am certainly not on this esteemed committee, but I am on another committee that will be the subject of debate later today; and I was just involved in a conference committee, except the conference committee never met. The result was dictated by the White House, something that I believe will jeopardize public health and safety, and it was accepted by the majority party. But then they found they could not get the votes to do what the House was dictating they should do. Same thing is happening here with our education programs, with our veterans health care, with our first responders, with our homeland security. The dictates have come down from above the level of this committee that say this is all the money there is.

We can borrow money for Iraq, but we cannot borrow money to fund these vital programs here in the United States of America; and we put a higher priority on cutting taxes. Therefore, we cannot get the bills passed. The votes are not here. This is a very sad state of affairs.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the chairman a question. Why are we only doing this for a week? We are going to have to do this whole thing in another week? We get up here with all this debate, but could the gentleman tell me why? He knows we are not going to get done in a week; he knows it will take until Thanksgiving. Why are we only doing this for a week? Can the gentleman tell me?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MURTHA. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the answer is that I agree with the gentleman, that we will not conclude our

work prior to the 7th and we will need another CR. But that will not be due to any problems in the House. That will be because we are having some very difficult negotiations in the conference on the remaining bills, and also the fact that the other body has not even passed four of the bills in their own House.

So I would suspect that the gentleman is correct, that we will need another CR; and maybe I can have a better explanation at that point.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I just do not understand. We know it is going to take longer. I do not understand why we would be forced to go through this same administrative procedure every week. We know we are going to pass the CR. I just do not understand. Are we controlling this from the appropriation side, or is this above our pay grade?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I would say that the resolution before us today is the resolution that the chairman of the committee has presented, and that was a decision that was made at my level and at other levels.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MURTHA. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the gentleman from Pennsylvania yielding to me.

I might mention, because the chairman certainly would not say this, that we are going through this routine, I know in large part, or maybe in small part, because for 40 years the Democrats ran the place and that gave us time to learn a lot by watching what they did. And from time to time they were even smart enough to understand that there was a need to put pressure on the other body, because that other body operates in a way that is hard for me to imagine.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, if the gentleman would not mind, let me just respond that I always went for the longest possible CR. I did not want ever to bring up a CR where we had to go through this every week, every 7 days, every 10 days. It is always easier to get it done in a reasonable time. But I understand what the gentleman is saying.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, if my friend from Pennsylvania would continue to yield, I know that he is one of the smartest guys in this place, and the leadership has difficulty getting everybody to be as smart as he is. And I would note, Mr. Speaker, that the gentleman from Pennsylvania is speaking today longer than I have seen him speak in the entire time I have been in the Congress. That is how smart he is. And it is a pleasure doing business with him.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time once again, I know the chairman wanted to extend this, but I just wanted to needle him a bit about doing this every week.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Let me simply say, Mr. Speaker, in response to the gentleman from California, that the last year the Democrats were in control, I was chairman. We finished every appropriation bill before the end of the fiscal year, not because there was anything special about me, but because my party leadership allowed me to walk across the aisle to work out a bipartisan allocation between the 13 subcommittees. Even then, we had two-thirds of the Republicans voting against the final product much of the time. But at least I was allowed to put together a bipartisan allocation of dollars, and that is why we were able to finish it on time.

That is in contrast to the instruction that the gentleman from Florida has unfortunately been given by his leadership, which has led to the fact that the Republicans at this point in the House and the Republicans in the Senate are losing an argument with themselves. That is the problem.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The gentleman from Wisconsin has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding me this time and acknowledge the fact that the work done by the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and the ranking minority member in moving the appropriation bills through this body has been on time. We understand that. And we understand that there is a political process that must go forward in order to reconcile the differences.

I agree completely with the ranking member that the parameters in which we are operating under make it very difficult for us to work this out, and we should acknowledge that sooner rather than later so that we can finish the appropriation bills.

I also understand it is unlikely we will finish all our work by November 7. But, Mr. Speaker, I would think that we would use this time to get our work done, rather than a very short week and not dealing with the business that needs to be done. The committee I serve on, the Committee on Ways and Means, has two very important issues we have to resolve before Congress adjourns, and yet we are not doing any work as a collective body on those two issues.

One of the two issues I refer to is unemployment insurance, which is scheduled to expire at the end of December; and yet our committee has not even held a hearing or done any work at all on extending the unemployment insurance bill. One would think that we would use this time in order to make sure that we do not do what we did last Christmas and adjourn leaving those people who cannot find employment

without the help they need and deserve through monies that are held in the Federal unemployment trust account. There is \$20 billion there. We should be using this time to extend the unemployment insurance system for people who are going to need that help. Instead, another week goes by with no action at all.

Mr. Speaker, let me mention the second issue which my friend from Arkansas mentioned earlier, and that is the prescription drug issue. Since last week, I have had three or four town hall meetings in my district in which the seniors have asked me what is going on on the prescription drug issue, and I have to tell them I do not know because the conference has not met in the open. The House Democrats have been excluded from the conference. I do not know why that is true. After all, one would think that this is an issue that we would want to get completed this year, where we have a real benefit within the Medicare system for our seniors to cover their prescription drug needs.

In my district, there are literally thousands of seniors who cannot afford their prescription drugs. They are cutting their pills in half. They are taking a pill every other day when they should be taking it every day. We need to get that done before Congress adjourns. But the only way, as my friend from Arkansas pointed out, that that is going to be done is if we have a true, open conference in which Democrats and Republicans can work together to bring out a bill that really provides a real benefit within the Medicare system to get our work done.

So I understand we are going to extend the CR for another 7 days so that Congress can try to work its will on the appropriation bills. I also understand we are nearing the end of the session, whether it is Thanksgiving or Christmas; and one of the, I would hope, must-do bills is the prescription drug bill. But not just any bill; not a bill that will hurt seniors, not a bill that is going to affect those who already have prescription drugs and they are going to find out their employer is going to terminate their prescription drug coverage because of what we are doing here; not a prescription drug bill that has no true benefit our seniors can rely on; not a prescription drug bill that has gaps in coverage where seniors are wondering why they are paying high premiums and not getting any benefits; not a prescription drug bill that does not do something to bring down the cost of prescription drugs in our country. That is not what they want.

The only way we are going to make sure that we carry out our commitment on prescription drugs is we openly meet, with the public looking at what we are doing, and resolve these differences in a way that makes sure that we get our job done well and right.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we use these next 7 days not only to reconcile

the differences on the nine remaining appropriation bills that should have been passed by October 1, which we should have done well before this date, but we reconcile our differences on the other mandatory bills before Congress adjourns to provide prescription drug benefits for seniors who desperately need it within the Medicare system, a real benefit, a benefit that they know will help them deal with the ever-increasing costs of prescription medicines, and a bill that will extend the unemployment benefits not just to those 80,000 Americans every week who are exhausting their State benefits, but also the million and a half who already have exhausted their Federal benefits that need extra weeks that are included in the legislation that has been filed by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and me.

□ 1145

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for yielding me this time so we can put this particular legislation in context. It is not just about extending government, it is also giving us an opportunity to get our work done before we adjourn this session of Congress.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, since I first came to this body in 1969, we have had divided control of government for all but 6 years. The only time we have had Democratic control of all of the power levels of government was the 4 year period under President Carter and the first 2 years under President Clinton. For the rest of that time, we have had divided government until the Republicans took the whole shebang in the last election.

It is clear that regardless of what we want to talk about in yesterday's chapters, the chapter being written today makes clear that the majority party is in control of all of the power levers of government, and they are in a very big debate with themselves. As a consequence, we again, as was the case last year, do not have the work done. That is not the fault of the gentleman from Florida. I do believe it is the fault of those who have decided that every issue will be decided within the Republican caucus rather than trying to work out more broad-based bipartisan bills.

Nonetheless, that having been said, we have no choice but to pass this resolution. I would hope that we would have a sense of realism about how to get the job done between now and Thanksgiving. I doubt that we are going to, so I am afraid the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and I will be back on the floor next week and the following week pursuing these week-to-week extensions. Sooner or later, we simply have to change the mind-set which has allowed this drift to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for an "aye" vote on the resolution.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First, I want to needle the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and then I am going to compliment the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), and then I am going to have a few comments about the issues on the CR.

When the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) said in a friendly way that he was going to needle me, I want the gentleman to know that I have been needled so many times there is not much room left to put needles in, but I am prepared, willing, and able.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for several reasons. The truth of the matter is that the House's part of this appropriations process has worked very well. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has been a major player in making this process work. Now, I would say we do not always agree with each other. In fact, we disagree a lot. But occasionally we agree with the gentleman from Wisconsin and we support what he wants to do. But when we do not agree, we do not agree; and we are the majority so we can outvote him.

The year when the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) was chairman, we did not have any CRs. All 13 appropriations bills were passed by October 1, which is the beginning of the fiscal year, and I compliment the gentleman for that because that does not happen very often. In fact, in the last 16-18 years, it has only happened twice. Once was under the watch of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), and he deserves a lot of credit for that. But I would also remind the gentleman that he had 82 more Democrats than Republicans, and that made his life a lot easier.

Mr. Speaker, the House has been very successful this year. Let me just relate quickly what we have done in the House. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) said he did not want a repeat of last year, and I say Amen to that. We do not want a repeat of last year when we could not even get our bills brought to the floor, although we had marked them up in committee.

So at the beginning of this year, we completed 11 of last year's 13 appropriations bills. We completed, conferenced, and passed them, and they were signed into law. We have also completed, in the House and conference, one major supplemental. We have passed all 13 of our regular fiscal year 2004 bills. We have also passed a mini-supplemental that has been conferenced and sent to the President which has now been signed. We have filed the major Iraqi supplemental, which we will take up in the House this afternoon. So we have had a very, very busy year on the Committee on Appropriations front, here in the House of Representatives.

Our work is not done yet. When we pass the Department of Interior bill today, that will be only four of the 13

bills completed. There are four more in conference: military construction, energy and water, Labor-HHS and transportation. We expect to send to conference the foreign operations bill next week. There are still four bills in the Senate waiting action by the full Senate, Commerce-State-Justice, the Veterans and HUD appropriation bill, the District of Columbia appropriation bill, and the agriculture appropriation bill. We cannot go to conference until they pass those bills.

But to suggest, as one Member did, that there is hardly any action at all, this Committee on Appropriations has been pretty busy and pretty effectively busy.

Another Member suggested that Democrats are excluded from our conferences. I only go to conferences on appropriations bills, but since I have had the privilege of chairing this committee, no Member of either party has been excluded from the work we are doing or from our conferences.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, what the previous Member said was not in any way directed at the Committee on Appropriations. The Member was pointing out in a number of the authorizing committee conferences, that Members of the minority were excluded; and I might point out in the process, probably the public interest was excluded as well.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments, and he is exactly right. On the Committee on Appropriations bills, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and I communicate on a regular basis. I try to make sure that the gentleman and the minority are aware of anything that we are planning. We often consult and ask them how they would deal with issues. On the appropriations process, we have a good arrangement and I think we provide a good product. We do not exclude Members.

I know there are some strong feelings about a 7-day CR or a 15-day CR, and probably it would have been more realistic to go a little later into the month when I think we could conclude our bills. I know Members are anxious to adjourn, but for Members on either side who want to complain about getting done so we can get out of here, I have to remind them, that we get paid 12 months a year, and the people should expect us to work 12 months a year. And if it takes 12 months, we are going to do it. Members sign up to get their paychecks every month, and should be prepared to work. We are still not at the end of the year. We will conclude our business before then, but if someone is really anxious to get out of here, maybe they should look for different employment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and ask for a yes vote on the CR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). All time for debate has expired.

The joint resolution is considered read for amendment, and pursuant to House Resolution 417, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 13, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 583]

YEAS—406

Abercrombie	Cardin	Feeney
Ackerman	Cardoza	Ferguson
Aderholt	Carson (IN)	Flake
Alexander	Carter	Foley
Allen	Castle	Forbes
Andrews	Chabot	Fossella
Baca	Chocola	Frank (MA)
Bachus	Clay	Franks (AZ)
Baird	Clyburn	Frelinghuysen
Baker	Coble	Frost
Baldwin	Cole	Gallegly
Ballance	Collins	Garrett (NJ)
Ballenger	Cooper	Gerlach
Barrett (SC)	Costello	Gibbons
Bartlett (MD)	Cox	Gilchrest
Barton (TX)	Cramer	Gillmor
Bass	Crane	Gingrey
Beauprez	Crenshaw	Gonzalez
Becerra	Crowley	Goode
Bell	Cubin	Goodlatte
Bereuter	Culberson	Gordon
Berkley	Cummings	Goss
Berman	Cunningham	Granger
Berry	Davis (AL)	Graves
Biggett	Davis (CA)	Green (TX)
Bilirakis	Davis (FL)	Green (WI)
Bishop (GA)	Davis (IL)	Greenwood
Bishop (NY)	Davis (TN)	Grijalva
Bishop (UT)	Davis, Jo Ann	Gutknecht
Blackburn	Davis, Tom	Hall
Blumenauer	Deal (GA)	Harman
Blunt	DeGette	Harris
Boehert	Delahunt	Hart
Boehner	DeLauro	Hastings (FL)
Bonilla	DeMint	Hastings (WA)
Bonner	Deutsch	Hayes
Bono	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hayworth
Boozman	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hefley
Boswell	Dicks	Hensarling
Boucher	Dingell	Hergert
Boyd	Doggett	Hill
Brady (PA)	Dooley (CA)	Hinchev
Brady (TX)	Doolittle	Hinojosa
Brown (OH)	Doyle	Hobson
Brown (SC)	Dreier	Hoefel
Brown, Corrine	Duncan	Hoekstra
Brown-Waite,	Dunn	Holden
Ginny	Edwards	Holt
Burgess	Ehlers	Honda
Burns	Emanuel	Hooley (OR)
Burr	Emerson	Hostettler
Burton (IN)	Engel	Houghton
Buyer	English	Hoyer
Calvert	Eshoo	Hulshof
Camp	Etheridge	Hunter
Cannon	Evans	Hyde
Cantor	Everett	Inslee
Capito	Farr	Israel
Capps	Fattah	Issa

Istook	Mollohan	Schiff
Jackson (IL)	Moore	Schrock
Janklow	Moran (KS)	Scott (GA)
Jefferson	Moran (VA)	Scott (VA)
Jenkins	Murphy	Sensenbrenner
John	Murtha	Serrano
Johnson (CT)	Musgrave	Sessions
Johnson (IL)	Myrick	Shadegg
Johnson, E. B.	Nadler	Shaw
Johnson, Sam	Napolitano	Shays
Jones (NC)	Neal (MA)	Sherman
Jones (OH)	Nethercutt	Sherwood
Kanjorski	Neugebauer	Shimkus
Kaptur	Ney	Shuster
Keller	Northup	Simmons
Kelly	Norwood	Simpson
Kennedy (MN)	Nunes	Skelton
Kennedy (RI)	Nussle	Slaughter
Kildee	Oberstar	Smith (MI)
Kilpatrick	Obey	Smith (NJ)
Kind	Olver	Smith (TX)
King (IA)	Ortiz	Smith (WA)
King (NY)	Osborne	Snyder
Kingston	Ose	Solis
Kirk	Otter	Souder
Klecza	Owens	Spratt
Kline	Oxley	Stearns
Knollenberg	Pallone	Stenholm
Kolbe	Pascarell	Strickland
LaHood	Pastor	Sullivan
Lampson	Payne	Sweeney
Langevin	Pelosi	Tancredo
Lantos	Pence	Tanner
Larsen (WA)	Peterson (MN)	Tauscher
Larson (CT)	Peterson (PA)	Tauzin
Latham	Petri	Taylor (MS)
LaTourette	Pickering	Taylor (NC)
Leach	Pitts	Terry
Levin	Platts	Thomas
Lewis (CA)	Pombo	Thompson (CA)
Lewis (GA)	Pomeroy	Thompson (MS)
Lewis (KY)	Porter	Thornberry
Linder	Portman	Tiahrt
Lipinski	Price (NC)	Tiberi
LoBiondo	Pryce (OH)	Tierney
Lofgren	Putnam	Toomey
Lowe	Quinn	Towns
Lucas (KY)	Radanovich	Turner (OH)
Lucas (OK)	Rahall	Turner (TX)
Lynch	Ramstad	Udall (CO)
Majette	Rangel	Udall (NM)
Maloney	Regula	Upton
Manzullo	Rehberg	Van Hollen
Markey	Renzi	Velazquez
Marshall	Reyes	Vizlosky
Matheson	Reynolds	Vitter
Matsui	Rodriguez	Walden (OR)
McCarthy (MO)	Rogers (AL)	Walsh
McCarthy (NY)	Rogers (KY)	Wamp
McCrery	Rogers (MI)	Watson
McGovern	Rohrabacher	Watt
McHugh	Ros-Lehtinen	Waxman
McInnis	Ross	Weiner
McIntyre	Rothman	Weldon (PA)
McKeon	Roybal-Allard	Weldon (FL)
McNulty	Royce	Weller
Meehan	Ruppersberger	Wexler
Meek (FL)	Rush	Whitfield
Meeks (NY)	Ryan (OH)	Wicker
Menendez	Ryan (WI)	Wilson (NM)
Mica	Ryun (KS)	Wilson (SC)
Michaud	Sabo	Wolf
Millender-	Sanchez, Loretta	Woolsey
Hart	Sanders	Wu
McDonald	Sandlin	Wynn
Miller (FL)	Saxton	Young (AK)
Miller (MI)	Schakowsky	Young (FL)
Miller, Gary		

NAYS—13

Capuano	Jackson-Lee	Miller, George
Conyers	(TX)	Paul
DeFazio	Kucinich	Stark
Filner	Lee	Waters
Ford	McDermott	

NOT VOTING—15

Akin	Gephardt	Pearce
Bradley (NH)	Gutierrez	Sanchez, Linda
Carson (OK)	Isakson	T.
Case	McCollum	Stupak
DeLay	McCotter	
Fletcher	Miller (NC)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1216

Ms. WATERS and Ms. LEE changed their vote from "yea" to "nay." So the joint resolution was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2510

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2510. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? There was no objection.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY). The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote. A recorded vote was ordered. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 76, noes 328, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 584] AYES—76

- Ackerman Hinojosa Millender-Alexander Holt McDonald Allen Honda Miller, George Baldwin Hoyer Nadler Bell Jackson (IL) Neal (MA) Berkley Jefferson Oberstar Berry Johnson, E. B. Pallone Brown, Corrine Kaptur Pascrell Capuano Kennedy (RI) Payne Carson (IN) Kilpatrick Pelosi Carson (OK) Kleczka Pomeroy Clay Lampson Rodriguez Conyers Langevin Ruppberger Cummings Lantos Ruppberger Davis (IL) Larsen (WA) Sanders DeFazio Larson (CT) Sandlin DeLauro Lewis (GA) Slaughter Dingell Lipinski Snyder Doggett Lowey Solis Evans Maloney Thompson (MS) Filner Markey Towns Frank (MA) McGovern Udall (CO) Grijalva McIntyre Velazquez Hastings (FL) Meek (FL) Waters Hill Meeks (NY) Waters Hinchey Menendez Woolsey

NOES—328

- Abercrombie Bilirakis Brady (PA) Aderholt Bishop (GA) Brady (TX) Andrews Bishop (NY) Brown (OH) Baca Bishop (UT) Brown (SC) Bachus Blackburn Brown-Waite, Baird Blumenauer Ginny Baker Blunt Burgess Ballance Boehlert Burns Barrett (SC) Boehner Burr Barton (TX) Bonilla Burton (IN) Bass Bonner Buyer Beauprez Bono Calvert Becerra Boozman Camp Bereuter Boswell Cannon Berman Boucher Cantor Biggart Boyd Capito

- Capps Hulshof Price (NC) Cardin Hyde Putnam Cardoza Insee Quinn Carter Israel Radanovich Castle Issa Rahall Chabot Istook Ramstad Chocola Jackson-Lee Rangel Clyburn (TX) Regula Coble Janklow Rehberg Cole Jenkins Renzi Collins John Reyes Cooper Johnson (CT) Reynolds Costello Johnson (IL) Rogers (AL) Cox Johnson, Sam Rogers (KY) Cramer Jones (NC) Rogers (MI) Crenshaw Jones (OH) Rohrabacher Crowley Kanjorski Ros-Lehtinen Cubin Keller Ross Culberson Kelly Rothman Cunningham Kennedy (MN) Roybal-Allard Davis (AL) Kildee Royce Davis (CA) Kind Rush Davis (FL) King (IA) Ryan (OH) Davis (TN) King (NY) Ryan (WI) Davis, Jo Ann Kingston Ryun (KS) Davis, Tom Kirk Saxton Deal (GA) Kline Schiff DeGette Knollenberg Schrock Delahunt Kolbe Scott (GA) DeMint Kucinich Scott (VA) Deutsch LaHood Sensenbrenner Diaz-Balart, L. Latham Serrano Diaz-Balart, M. LaTourrette Sessions Dicks Leach Shadeegg Dooley (CA) Lee Shaw Doolittle Levin Shays Doyle Lewis (CA) Sherman Dreier Lewis (KY) Sherwood Duncan Linder Shimkus Dunn LoBiondo Shuster Edwards Lofgren Simmons Ehlers Lucas (KY) Simpson Emanuel Lucas (OK) Skelton Emerson Lynch Smith (MI) Engel Majette Smith (NJ) English Matheson Smith (TX) Eshoo Matsui Smith (WA) Etheridge McCarthy (MO) Souder Everett McCarthy (NY) Spratt Farr McCollum Stark Fattah McCrery Stearns Feeeny McHugh Stenholm Ferguson McInnis Strickland Flake McKeon Sullivan Forbes McNulty Sweeney Ford Meehan Tancredo Fossella Mica Tanner Franks (AZ) Michaud Tauscher Frelinghuysen Miller (FL) Tauzin Frost Miller (MI) Taylor (MS) Gallegly Miller, Gary Taylor (NC) Garrett (NJ) Mollohan Terry Gerlach Moore Thomas Gibbons Moran (KS) Thompson (CA) Gilchrist Murphy Thornberry Gilmour Murtha Tiahrt Gingrey Musgrave Tiberi Gonzalez Myrick Toomey Goode Napolitano Turner Goodlatte Neugebauer Turner Gordon Goss Neugebauer Turner Goss Neugebauer Udall (NM) Granger Northup Upton Graves Norwood Van Hollen Green (TX) Nunes Vitter Green (WI) Nussle Walden (OR) Greenwood Obey Walsh Gutknecht Olver Wamp Hall Ortiz Watson Harman Osborne Watt Hart Osborn Waxman Hastings (WA) Otter Weiner Hayes Oxley Weldon (FL) Hayworth Pastor Weldon (PA) Hefley Paul Weller Hensarling Pence Wexler Herger Peterson (MN) Wicker Hobson Peterson (PA) Wilson (NM) Hoefel Petri Wilson (SC) Hoekstra Pitts Wolf Holden Platts Wu Hooley (OR) Pombo Wynn Hostettler Porter Young (AK) Houghton Portman Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—30

- Akin Bradley (NH) DeLay Ballenger Case Fletcher Bartlett (MD) Crane Foley

- Gephardt McDermott Sanchez, Linda Gutierrez Miller (NC) T. Harris Moran (VA) Schakowsky Hunter Owens Stupak Isakson Pearce Tierney Manzullo Pickering Whitfield Marshall Pryce (OH) McCotter Sabo

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1234

So the motion to adjourn was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2115, VISION 100—CENTURY OF AVIATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 422 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 422

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2115) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 422 is a rule providing for consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2115, the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, I would briefly remind this Congress of the essential authorizations provided through this bill. First and foremost, the legislation reauthorizes the FAA for 4 years and \$3.4 billion in fiscal 2004, increasing by \$100 million each year thereafter. The FAA is, of course, primarily responsible for the safety of the Nation's skies through activities ranging from the continued monitoring by air traffic controllers to the development of new airspace technologies.

The district that I am honored to represent contains Miami International Airport, consistently one of