

and wildlife, and it is time to stop pretending that we can blame it on somebody else.

I have watched people play politics in the basin. I have watched the sad spectacle when law enforcement officials said they could not enforce the law. And people play to inflame the attitudes and emotions. I think that is wrong. I think that is sad.

The problem in the basin is that the Federal Government has committed more than nature can produce, and for us to stop the nonsense of assuming that we can just be business as usual is the first step.

I commend my friend, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) who has been working on this for years. I commend many of the issues that he wants to move forward in terms of dam removal and fish screens. I will support him. I will support major Federal investment to buy out willing sellers to reduce the water demand. Because unless and until we come face to face with the fact that we have promised more than we can deliver, we will be in this mess year after year after year.

This amendment will not throw any farmers off the land. In fact, the farmers in the district of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) in the wildlife refuge do not irrigate. It will not affect the farmers in his district in the wildlife refuge. I wanted to make the point that it is not going to affect the farmers in the wildlife refuge in his district. The farmers that are in the Tule Lake area can go ahead. They can lease land if they want. But for the land that the Federal Government provides, it is time for us to face reality, limit the use away from water-intensive agriculture.

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This is not trying to play the blame game. It is for the Federal Government to lead by example and stop leasing lands for water-intensive agriculture, allow the water to be used at a time when it is most plentiful. They can continue like they have in the other part of the refuge.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote on a path towards a more sustainable future in the basin, cooperate where we can, but do not make it any worse by continuing to lease land in the refuge for water-intensive agriculture.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, this amendment proposes that the House of Representatives arbitrarily declare what crops a farmer can and cannot grow.

I am concerned that this amendment is being sponsored by those who do not represent the areas affected—members who are from urban areas.

This amendment is opposed by those who represent the communities that will be affected, those people who are closest to the land, and those who care the most for the land because it is where they live and where they raise their children.

This amendment is targeted at the Klamath Basin—an area that has seen its farmers and entire economy devastated by actions taken

by the federal government. I have traveled to the Klamath Basin and seen the effects firsthand.

I also represent two very large reclamation projects—including one of the largest in the country—and the success of these farmers comes from their hard work, the care they give the land and diversity of their crops.

Passage of this amendment would set a very bad precedent of the government stating what crops can be grown and which can't. The impacts of the amendment would directly harm farmers and communities. The precedent it sets would be far-reaching and very detrimental.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) will be postponed.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HERGER) having assumed the chair, Mr. LATOURETTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LIMITATION ON AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2691, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 2691 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 319, no further amendment to the bill may be offered except: pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate and, the amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 6, 15 and 16, each of which shall be debatable for 10 minutes;

The amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 4 and 12, each of which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

The amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes

to be allocated as follows: 10 minutes to the proponent, 15 minutes to the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and 5 minutes to the ranking minority member;

A substitute amendment by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) to the amendment numbered 1, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

An amendment by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) to the amendment numbered 1, which shall be debatable for 10 minutes;

The amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 2 and 9, each of which shall be debatable for 50 minutes to be allocated as follows: 15 minutes to the proponent, 25 minutes to the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and 10 minutes to the ranking minority member;

An amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLEY) regarding bear feeding, which shall be debatable for 10 minutes;

An amendment by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) regarding Forest Service regulations on roadless areas, which shall be debatable for 50 minutes; and

An amendment by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) regarding Forest Service land acquisition, which shall be debatable for 10 minutes.

Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member designated in this request, or a designee, or the Member who caused it to be printed, or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment, except as specified, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Each amendment shall be debatable for the time specified, and time on each amendment shall be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, except as specified.

All points of order against each amendment shall be considered as reserved pending completion of debate thereon, and each amendment may be withdrawn by its proponent after debate thereon.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I would simply like to note a few facts.

This is a bill that I happen to oppose, and yet we are trying to work with the majority to speed up consideration of the bill because we think it would suit everyone's interests if the bill is completed around eight o'clock tonight rather than eight o'clock tomorrow morning.

I would also like to point out that at the request of the majority, we in the minority withheld amendments during the consideration of every appropriations bill so far at the subcommittee level except for one. We have also agreed to consideration of two bills, even though the GPO did not provide copies of the legislation as late as last Friday.

The military construction bill was completed in 1 hour, with procedural cooperation from both sides. The Department of Defense bill was completed in a similar length of time; and in the process, the minority also cooperated in bypassing the need to have a rule.

Three of the six bills that have been brought up so far have been brought up by unanimous consent, thereby saving everyone time in terms of the need to go to the Committee on Rules. Those unanimous consent agreements limited amendments and limited time for consideration of those amendments. So I think it is fair to say that we have helped the majority greatly run the trains on time, even if we have on occasion disagreed with the contents in the boxcars.

I simply wanted to take the time to point those facts out because of some of the comments that I have heard the last 3 days from some Members of the majority about the "lack of cooperation" from the minority. I think there has been extraordinary cooperation, even though we have differed with the number of bills; and even though, for instance, on the labor-health bill last week we voted unanimously in opposition to it, we still cooperated in accommodating the majority in terms of schedule.

So I simply want to take note of that. I am glad we have finally gotten to this UC. I do not have any objection to it; but Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make clear and put in the record what the facts have been with respect to cooperation between the two parties on these procedural matters.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member for his cooperation and also the ranking member of the subcommittee for the cooperation he has shown in drafting this bill and on the floor of debate.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 319 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2691.

□ 1239

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the De-

partment of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with Mr. LATOURETTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 14 by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) had been postponed.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, no further amendment to the bill may be offered except pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate and the amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 6, 15 and 16, each of which will be debatable for 10 minutes.

The amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD numbered 4 and 12, each of which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

The amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes to be allocated as follows: 10 minutes to the proponent, 15 minutes to the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and 5 minutes to the ranking minority member;

A substitute amendment by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) to the amendment numbered 1, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

An amendment by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) to the amendment numbered 1, which shall be debatable for 10 minutes;

The amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD numbered 2 and 9, each of which will be debatable for 50 minutes to be allocated as follows: 15 minutes to the proponent, 25 minutes to the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and 10 minutes to the ranking minority member;

An amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) regarding bear feeding, which shall be debatable for 10 minutes;

An amendment by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) regarding Forest Service regulations on roadless areas, which shall be debatable for 50 minutes; and

An amendment by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) regarding Forest Service land acquisition, which shall be debatable for 10 minutes.

Each amendment may be offered only by the Member designated in the request, or a designee, or the Member who caused it to be printed, or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment, except as specified, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

Each amendment shall be debatable for the time specified, and time on each amendment shall be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, except as specified.

All points of order against each amendment shall be considered as re-

served pending completion of debate, and each amendment may be withdrawn by its proponent after debate.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SHADEGG

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. SHADEGG:

Add at the end (before the short title) the following new section:

SEC. _____. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available in title II for "DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-LAND ACQUISITION", and increasing the amount made available for "DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT", which increase shall be available for hazardous fuels reduction activities, by \$19,000,000.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of earlier today, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his amendment, and an opponent will be recognized for 5 minutes as well.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG).

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by commending the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR), the chairman of the Interior Committee on Appropriations, for his superb work in increasing funding for Forest Service wildland fire management by \$82 million more than the budget request and for his advocacy for the use of those funds for hazardous fuels reduction. I also want to commend him for reducing at this point in time funding for Forest Service land acquisition. He has done an excellent job, and I commend him for the product he has produced.

I want to carry that one step further, and I want to carry it one step further because we face a crisis in this Nation. America's forests are burning to the ground, and they are burning to the ground because they are occupied by excessive vegetation. They are, according to every knowledgeable expert in the country, grossly overgrown, too dense; and that is leading to a condition not only of wildfires but of disease that is destroying those forests.

In my State of Arizona, we are losing 800,000 acres of land to disease because of this overgrown condition.

My amendment is simple and straightforward. It takes \$19 million from the Department of Agriculture Lands Acquisition Fund, and it transfers that \$19 million to the Department of Agriculture Wildland Fire Management Fund, and it makes that money available for hazardous fuels reduction activities, that \$19 million dollar.

Mr. Chairman, we are in dire straits. A report by the GAO in 1999 predicted that we have 39 million acres at high risk. Last year alone, 6.9 million acres of those forests burned to the ground at a firefighting cost of \$1.6 billion. The experts tell us that the 10-year average