

WHERE IS THE ACCOUNTABILITY?

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I too ask my colleagues to sign onto a very important discharge petition that will help 4.6 million of our dislocated workers. I rise to say that, but I also rise to ask the question that Robert Kennedy asked, some people will ask why, and I ask, as he did, why not?

President Bush yesterday in essence said that we should stay the course, and I would argue that even as we make a commitment to ensure that we rebuild Iraq, it is imperative that there is accountability, accountability for the lost lives of our young brave men and women, accountability for the tragedies of 40 deaths in the last 48 hours, accountability for a nonexit plan, and no strategy to rebuild Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for the resignation of CIA Director George Tenet, accountability by Secretary Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, and I would ask that they be held accountable. There are too many lives being lost, there is too much to be done for us to stand idly by. Some ask, why; I ask, why not?

TWO MORE SOLDIERS KILLED

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we listened to the President have a press conference. We discovered it is 1984, war is peace, that chaos is democracy, and that everything is fine. Yesterday two more soldiers were killed in Iraq. Nothing has changed in the Department of War. We have the same Secretary, we have the same Assistant Secretary, we have the same people in the White House saying that we are doing just fine. They have not changed anything. They just want more money out of us.

I suggest that we have a moment of silence for those who died yesterday.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the motion to go to conference on H.R. 2989, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2989, TRANSPORTATION,
TREASURY AND INDEPENDENT
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2004

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2989) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. OLVER

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. OLVER moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2989, be instructed to insist on the Senate position with respect to Transit New Starts and Job Access and Reverse Commute funding, and be further instructed to insist on the House position with respect to National Archives and Records Administration's Electronic Records Archives and National Historical Publications and Records Commission grants.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) will be recognized for 30 minutes and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

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

Mr. Speaker, the House and Senate versions of the Transportation-Treasury bill have substantial differences on a wide range of issues that we will have to reconcile in our conference negotiations, and some of those reconciliations will not be easy. Many of these, such as the differences in funding level for Amtrak and election reform are widely publicized and well known.

The two versions of the Transportation-Treasury bill contain a number of issues that have not been as widely noted, but will have nevertheless a significant impact on people's lives.

The motion to instruct that is at the desk and has been read this morning highlights just a few of those issues that I believe and we believe on this side deserve the attention of the conferees.

First, the motion insists upon the Senate's funding level for Transit New Starts projects. The House bill provided \$1.21 billion, more than \$100 million below the Senate level of \$1.32 billion, and even the Senate bill is in turn more than \$200 million below the President's request.

Under the House funding level, the Members on both sides of the aisle were not able to secure funding for many of

the light rail projects in their districts. Several of the projects that did receive funding are well below the actual needs of the project in fiscal year 2004.

The New Starts program which covers heavy and light rail, commuter rail, and rapid bus systems has helped create or extend hundreds of transit fixed guideway systems across the country. These investments in turn provided greater mobility for many millions of urban and suburban Americans. They have helped to reduce congestion and improve air quality in areas that they serve, and they have fostered the development of safer and more livable communities.

Mr. Speaker, I remind Members that the President's budget request sought \$1.51 billion, which is \$300 million more than is provided in the House bill, and that this motion supports \$100 million of that difference. President Bush's request and the Senate's funding level acknowledge the need for additional major investment in transit light rail projects. We need to pass this motion to ensure that the conferees share this priority.

Second, Mr. Speaker, today's motion to instruct insists upon the Senate level of funding of \$125 million for the Job Access and Reverse Commute funding.

□ 1030

This program is designed to assist welfare reform efforts by providing better transportation services for low-income individuals, persons who often cannot afford automobiles in this society, including former welfare recipients who are traveling to jobs or training centers. The House-passed bill is \$40 million below the Senate funding level and \$64 million below the fiscal year 2003 enacted level, which was \$149 million for that program.

The Senate funding is already 15 percent below last year's enacted level, but the House bill provides something more than a 40 percent cut in last year's enacted funding level for that program. Reducing funding for those trying to get to work or for those trying to get training to reenter the workforce seems to be the wrong priority under the current circumstances.

Since 2001, the economy has lost over 3 million private sector jobs and 2.6 million jobs overall. The unemployment rate is hovering near 6 percent with little sign of improvement. For those who see improvement in the economy, there is a general acknowledgment that this has been thus far a "jobless recovery." Given this economy, I would suggest that we should not want to reduce the funding aimed squarely at getting people back to work.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, the motion insists upon the House funding levels for the National Archives electronic records archives initiative and for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission grants. These two programs, administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, are both critical for properly

maintaining our Nation's history. The House bill fully funds the budget request of \$35.9 million for the electronic records initiative and this funding will help build the infrastructure necessary for properly maintaining the Federal Government's electronic records. It also serves as a standard for States and municipalities as they deal with issues involving electronic records archiving.

Unfortunately, the other body neglected to provide the necessary resources for these vital programs. Without funding at the House level, hundreds of thousands of electronic records and historic records will not be maintained as they should be.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the motion to instruct conferees.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the motion to instruct conferees, of course, is not binding upon the conferees. It is intended, I know, by the gentleman from Massachusetts as an expression of intent. Although I would not pretend to agree with all the priorities that he seeks to express in it or to bind us, but in the spirit of advancing this issue through the House, the bill, in the spirit of comity, I am willing to accept the amendment. Then we will do the best we can on that and other priorities in conference.

I should point out, of course, that if we do as the gentleman from Massachusetts suggests and guarantee that there be over \$100 million additional for new starts, that money might come out of highways. I do not know how we are going to work through these things, but I do believe that it is best, rather than fight over things on the floor, to accept the amendment and let the conferees do the best they can in working on this and on the other priorities.

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his willingness to accept the motion. I have just one or two speakers that I would like to allow time for. Then we will go on to other things.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding me this time, and I thank the chairman of the subcommittee as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise enthusiastically to support the Olver motion to instruct the conferees, the transportation appropriations conferees for, I think, a very well-thought-out instruction that emphasizes the direction that is crucial for this country. To maintain or support the Senate level for the new starts, I believe, is absolutely crucial.

As I look at the Nation's needs as a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, one of the issues that we have spoken about is to ensure

the safety of the Nation's byways, highways, freeways and certainly to reassess the needs for improved and increased regional mobility, clean, secure, efficient regional mobility opportunities. These new-start moneys will assist in light rail, it will assist in guideways, it will assist in helping urban and suburban areas, and it will assist in rapid buses and commuter systems.

It is interesting that, as we debate this question, we in Houston are in the throes of moving forward on our light rail projects; and certainly a city that is the fourth largest city in the Nation clearly would have a very ready opportunity, if you will, on its plan to be able to secure Federal funds. We do know that in the appropriations process now, there are about 30 cities with others standing in line. I believe in the 21st century this is no time to turn around on our commitment to transit issues. It helps us improve the quality of life, and it helps us in particular to improve the opportunity for air quality and for the ability of our citizenry to move about. Clearly, the Senate level for the job access and reverse commute grants is imperative. Right now we know we have totally about 4.6 million in dislocated workers around the Nation. In Texas we have over 131,000 unemployed individuals and growing. Therefore, this question of being able to access your job without necessarily having a car and also to access training is crucial, particularly in States that have been hard hit by unemployment.

I would hope that my colleagues would see the reason of this motion to instruct and know that this is no time to shortchange the opportunities of growth in mobility that we have before this Congress. Local communities look to the Congress to be bipartisan, to be embracing, to be smart, and to move forward on transportation issues where they cannot. All over our country they are looking to improve many of their systems. Let it be known that regional mobility is not singular. It is rapid buses. It is guideways. It is light rail. In some instances it may be expansion of our roadways. But whatever it is, those Federal funds are imperative for us to have. I would ask my colleagues to enthusiastically support the decision that this Congress needs to make.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

The motion to instruct was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the fol-

lowing conferees: Messrs. ISTOOK, WOLF, LEWIS of California, ROGERS of Kentucky, TIAHRT, Mrs. NORTUP, Messrs. ADERHOLT, SWEENEY, CULBERSON, YOUNG of Florida, HOYER, OLVER, PASTOR, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Messrs. CLYBURN, ROTHMAN and OBEY.

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 75, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 417 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 417

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. 75) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, 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. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), 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. Speaker, H. Res. 417 is a closed rule that provides for the consideration of H.J. Res. 75, a continuing resolution that will ensure further appropriations for the fiscal year 2004. The rule provides for 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 for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we passed the first continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 69, during the final days of September and it became Public Law 108-84. The provisions of H.J. Res. 69 are scheduled to expire this Friday, October 31. Therefore, under the joint resolution that this rule makes in order, the provisions of that first continuing resolution will be extended until November 7, 2003. In brief, for the fiscal year 2004 appropriations bills that have been enacted into law, the continuing resolution provides an additional week of funding for government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, we did pass a continuing resolution last week that conjoined the six fiscal year 2004 appropriations bills that have been passed by