

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1315

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA) at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4568, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 674 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 674

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4568) making appropriations for the Department of Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: in title I, the sixth proviso under the heading "Wildland Fire Management," the final proviso under the heading "United States Geological Survey, Administrative Provisions," and section 113; in title II, the fourteenth proviso under the heading "Wildland Fire Management" and the final sentence of the sixth paragraph under the heading "Administrative Provisions, Forest Service"; in title III, section 317, the proviso in section 319, and sections 324, 328, 331, and 333. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph or section, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph or section may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph or section. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee on the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of

whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), 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. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 674 is an open rule waiving all points of order against consideration of H.R. 4568, the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2005.

The rule provides for one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The resolution provides, per the rules of the House, that the bill shall be read for amendments by paragraph. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI, which prohibits unauthorized appropriations or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill, are waived except as specified in the resolution.

The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority recognition to Members who have preprinted amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The rule also provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4568, the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2005, sets clear priorities in a year of tight budgets.

The chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies faced a difficult challenge and has written a solid bill that focuses on meeting the Federal Government's core responsibilities in the agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction.

Priority was given to essential functions and duties of these agencies, rather than on launching new initiatives and expanding government's reach.

One of the highest priorities must be preventing wildfires on our national lands. This bill provides \$2.6 billion for wildland firefighting in the National Fire Plan. This is a significant increase over fiscal year 2004, and it is a much-needed increase.

Wildfires have a dramatic impact on our public lands, on private property and, even tragically, on human life. We must maintain the commitment to working to prevent such blazes and combating them aggressively when they do strike.

Another priority must be providing for our existing parks and public lands. This bill increases funding for our national parks, a total of \$1.7 billion. For example, the bill includes \$471 million to address the backlog in maintenance at our national parks and places restrictions on travel expenses for Park Service officials, a common-sense policy during a time when our parks have serious maintenance needs. Addressing these maintenance needs is something that I have long supported.

The bill also includes increased funding over the fiscal year 2004 level for the Indian Health Service, the National Forest System, BIA Education and Operations of Indian Programs and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Funding is limited for Federal land acquisition, a decision on priorities that I strongly support. In a year of fiscal constraints, it certainly is appropriate to focus first on maintaining the Federal Government's existing lands.

Land acquisition is not a necessity. Indeed, it costs local governments through decreased tax revenue and has real impact on local governments' abilities to provide essential services.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Chairman TAYLOR) for his leadership in writing H.R. 4568, especially in this challenging year. The gentleman from North Carolina (Chairman TAYLOR) has guided this bill in a reasonable and responsible manner, which is especially appreciated in all areas of the West like the district I represent that are heavily impacted by the work of Federal agencies under his jurisdiction.

I also want to recognize the role that I know the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, my colleague from Washington State (Mr. DICKS), played in the preparation of this bill. I value highly our ability to work together on matters of importance to Washington State, and this is a good example of that. I know my colleague's dedication to solving challenges and bettering our Nation are traits he brings to all of his responsibilities here in the House.

So, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this open rule, H. Res. 674, and the underlying Interior Appropriations bill.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the appropriations process for the coming

fiscal year has just begun, and much is being said about how tight the budget numbers are this year. And while this is a statement of fact, it is no excuse for our current fiscal situation.

At the turn of the 21st century, the Federal Government had an historic budget surplus of \$3 trillion. In just 3 years, the government is facing historic deficits, upwards of \$7 trillion. Bad fiscal policy has greatly diminished the Federal Government's ability to invest in the Nation's resources and the Nation's people. The tight budget numbers are the result of tax giveaways to people who least need it, the people that the Oracle of Omaha, Warren Buffett, has said owe the most to the country and pay for far too little.

Much is lacking in this appropriations bill. Overall spending levels are down. Federal land acquisition funds have been significantly cut, even the projects requested by President Bush. Once again the bill fails to meet the obligations of the so-called CARA light agreement. Operating funds for the National Park Service are only modestly increased. The modest spending boost is barely enough to keep pace with expenses and fails to tackle the \$5 billion maintenance backlog at the Nation's parks. The National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities are again underfunded. The bill shortchanges investments in the American people and our country's natural resources. Former President Theodore Roosevelt, one of the fathers of the American conservation movement, warned that in utilizing and conserving the natural resources of this Nation, the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight. We are lacking that, Mr. Speaker.

Back in 1992, funding for the NEH and the NEA reached their funding zenith, \$176 million for each agency. Over the years their budgets have been slashed again and again. Recently this body has voted to increase the funding for the arts and the humanities and I urge my colleagues to continue this trend to support an amendment to increase funding for both of these agencies. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and I will offer an amendment later to do so. As Pulitzer prize-winning former Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin said, "Planning for the future without a sense of history is like planting cut flowers."

Investing in the arts is smart business. The \$232 million the Federal Government invested in the NEH and NEA in 2002 had an economic impact of \$132 billion and generated billions in Federal, State and local tax revenues. Every dollar they invest in local theater groups, orchestras or exhibitions generates \$7 for the arts organization by attracting other grants, private donations and ticket sales. In my district alone, 1,215 arts-related businesses employ almost 20,000 people. Buffalo, New York, I am pleased to say, was just recently designated as the number four

destination in the United States for top art events and venues. We are very proud of that. Nationwide, creative industry businesses employ almost 3 million people, 2.2 percent of all who are employed.

Investing in the arts is also smart for our children. Over and over arts education has proven to increase academic performance, regardless of socioeconomic background. The NEA provides grants for local arts activities in every State and every congressional district. Small grants make a big difference.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is at the forefront in preserving our American culture and history. Democracy will not flourish without an understanding of its past. The NEA and NEH preserve and promote the understanding of where we have been and where we are today that our democracy needs to endure. Democracy dies in a cultural vacuum. This bill even guts funding for the President's We the People initiative, which supports exploration of the significant events and themes in American history.

Bruce Cole, the Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, warns, "We face a serious challenge to our country that lies within our borders and even within our schools, the threat of American amnesia. We are in danger of having our view of the future obscured by our ignorance of the past. We cannot see clearly ahead if we are blind to history. And a Nation that does not know why it exists, or what it stands for, cannot be expected to long endure." Very wise words from Mr. Cole. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding me this time and thank her for managing this rule every year so very effectively. I look forward to our joint efforts today to try to help the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities.

Like her State, the State of Washington, Seattle, Bremerton, Tacoma, the tri-cities, have all benefited by this funding. I just think it is one of the most important things that we do. I remember those great days when we were at \$176 million before the Reagan Revolution came to town. I would also like to compliment the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) from the Fourth Congressional District. We work together. I just want him to know we were over in the Energy and Water appropriations full committee markup today. I think the tri-cities did as well as they have ever done and even our joint project we worked on, Hammer, \$8 million is very, very generous. Our delegation has always worked very effectively together.

There are some things, though, that concern me about this bill. First of all, I wish we could have done more for the operation of the national parks. The

administration asked for a \$22 million increase. Our committee increased that by \$33 million for a total of \$55 million. But that simply is not enough. We need more money for the operation of our parks. I think part of the problem, as the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR), chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, has said, we have got a problem with the management of the Park Service and we have got to get priorities straightened out at the Park Service.

I love Fran Manella. She is a wonderful person. But she has got to realize that it is the operation, the day-to-day operation and availability of those parks that the American people count on. Let me give my colleagues the numbers. The Olympic National Park is either third or fourth in the Nation in visitation. Two years ago we had 130 summer workers at that park.

□ 1330

That is now down to 25. And we have 202 authorized FTEs for the Olympic National Park. It is down to 120. It was 146 a couple of years ago. Why is that? Because the administration in their budget request is not covering the cost of the COLA, the increase that we give in pay every year, and also there are other fixed costs that have to be paid that are not being covered in the budget request, the increase in the budget request.

So what do they have? The only choice they have is to reduce the number of personnel, not to fill slots. So when people go to the park this summer, they are not going to have the same quality of a visit. There is not going to be a ranger out on the trail to tell them about the important cultural and historic areas within the Olympic National Park. They do not have people to take care of cultural assets, to take care of the buildings and infrastructure. And this is not just Olympic; this is across the country.

This year even with this increase of \$55 million from last year's level, we have 388 parks; 241 of them will be funded at below the 2003 level. That is a prescription for disaster; and it is coming down, down, down. And we have got to step up. We, the Congress, cannot allow this to happen on our watch. And, yes, a big part of the problem is the inadequacy of the Presidential budget request. This is not just this administration. This goes back to 1994. This has been going on for a 10-year period of time, and that is why it is even more devastating, the consequences of this. And we have to continue to work together to come up with the resources.

I think this is a top priority within this bill that has not been properly met. We have made a modest increase here, but not adequate to the task. In fact, if my amendment that I brought up in committee had been accepted, we could have increased it by \$45 million, and that would have meant that every

park in the country would have gotten an 8 percent increase. We are talking about \$45 million in the operating account would have done that. Each park would have gotten an 8 percent increase.

So this is the one major thing that upsets me in this bill. Yes, we do not have money in here for land and water conservation, which I regret. I regret the lack of funding on the conservation amendment. But the thing we tried to do is protect our core agencies, the Park Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service. And yet they have these same problems.

One very good thing that we did in this bill was to deal with firefighting in a much better way. There is money in here, \$500 million in 2004. When this bill is signed, it would be immediately available for the firefighting season. Another \$500 million for 2005, \$500 million for 2004, and I think a \$167 million increase in the bill for firefighting itself. So we are trying to face up to that reality. We have got a drought out in the West. This is going to be a very serious problem.

We are also working, of course, on other important issues. In my own area, Hood Canal, we are working with the USGS on dealing with this oxygenation problem. We have a problem with too much nitrogen in the saltwater, which is having a devastating effect on all the fish and creatures there, and we have got to deal with this problem; and the USGS, which is part of this bill, is helping in that respect, and it is a very important priority of mine.

We are also working on the restoration of salmon runs, and we are doing a new process of mass marking with these fish so we can tell the wild fish from the hatchery fish. It is another important priority in our State. So overall, I think this bill, even though it is very deficient, below last year's level in terms of overall funding, below the President's budget request, we have tried to fund the things that are most crucially important; and I intend to vote for this bill on final passage. I hope we can improve it with several of the amendments that will be offered today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on the rule, and I appreciate her leadership dealing with the critical issues of arts funding and for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

I look forward later today to being part of debate, and I hope amendment approval that will move us back in the direction that we need to go. But I too am a little frustrated in the context of billions of dollars that we are hemorrhaging with red ink where we seem to be able to find all sorts of resources for things that are suboptimal in some

cases, to say the least, but certainly not the highest of priorities, that we are scrambling here for less than \$14 million that has such a vital connection to our communities.

I would hope that as our Members come to the floor to deal with the debate on this amendment and the final vote that they have a chance to look back at the records in their own offices of the dedicated men and women who are part of the arts councils, who are part of the local councils for the humanities. To consider the incredible mileage that is extracted from a few small dollars that benefit primarily the rural and outlying areas of our State, not necessarily the large cities like Seattle, New York City or even Portland, Oregon. Larger cities have a higher level of programming. It is the smaller communities that benefit. It is a tragedy that we are not meeting even what the President had requested.

I also am pleased to follow my good friend from Washington who has worked so hard for so many years to keep our eye on the ball on the investment we need for critical parks infrastructure. Our national parks are part of the infrastructure every bit as much as our highways and our airports. I appreciated what he did with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) fighting in tough difficult budget times. I am hopeful that we will be able to honor the hard work here to see if there is something in the course of the amendment process and as the budget is working its way through the process here this year that we not turn our back on America's treasures.

Last, but by no means least, I must acknowledge the hard work that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) did with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), to deal with the land and water conservation fund. This has been an area that had been ignored for decades. It had been, frankly, a bipartisan shame that we did not fully fund the land and water conservation fund. These were resources that have such an important impact on States and localities. We reached a deal, as the "little CARA" was set aside. We have an opportunity to keep faith with the spirit of that agreement, and I am hopeful in the course of the budget process that we are able to do so.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments on the conservation amendment, but I also want to underline one other thing he said that I forgot to say, and that is that the President's budget requested an \$18 million increase for the National Endowment for the Arts and for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and neither one of those has been accomplished. I think we have increased

Humanities by \$3 million, but this is below the President's budget request; and Mrs. Bush, who I think is a very thoughtful first lady, has been a proponent of these two increases. So I was somewhat surprised that it was decided to take out the money for these important programs, especially since they were requested by the first lady.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's underlining that.

And I would just conclude by saying that I hope in the spirit of bipartisan accommodation that has accompanied much of the work with the arts, with the parks infrastructure, and with CARA that we are able to give our affirmative vote to preserving the integrity of them in the course of this budget process.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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 SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). The question is on the resolution.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4567, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 675 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 675

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4567) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: the proviso under the heading "United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator