

partisan conflict in the Texas House of Representatives using the resources of a Federal agency;

Whereas, on October 6, 2004, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, in a letter to Mr. DeLay, noted that it had found it necessary to comment on his conduct in a number of instances and reminded Mr. DeLay the "House Code of Official Conduct provides the Committee with authority to deal with any given act or accumulation of acts which, in the judgment of the Committee, are severe enough to reflect discredit on the House";

Whereas, on October 6, 2004, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct noted that a complaint before it alleged that Mr. DeLay used TRMPAC, the Texans for a Republican Majority PAC, to funnel corporate funds to Texas state campaigns in 2002 in violation of the Texas election code, and, based on the information then in its possession, deferred action on the matter pending action by the Texas Grand Jury and the Texas District Attorney of TRMPAC's activities;

Whereas, on October 7, 2004, a Texas newspaper reported that a newly obtained memo indicates that Mr. DeLay had personal involvement in directing some of the fund-raising activities of TRMPAC for which three of Mr. DeLay's associates have been indicted by a Texas Grand Jury;

Whereas, in responding to the admonishments issued by the Committee on Standards of Conduct, Mr. DeLay displayed contempt for that Committee, for appropriate ethical standards, and for the House of Representatives by the public statements he made and which were made on his behalf: Now be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is authorized and directed to establish an Investigative Subcommittee to determine if there is substantial reason to believe that by his past and continuing conduct Mr. DeLay has violated the Code of Official conduct or other relevant laws, rules or regulation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct retain a Special Counsel to assist in its investigation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). In the opinion of the Chair, the resolution constitutes a question of the privileges of the House.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. BLUNT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the minority leader did not extend the normal courtesy of notifying the majority of her resolution, and I move to table the resolution so we can go back to the business of debating the defense conference report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion that the resolution be laid on the table is not debatable.

The question is on the motion to table offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 182, answered "present" 5, not voting 36, as follows:

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burr
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Emerson
English
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Bell
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps

[Roll No. 526]

AYES—210

Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCotter
McCrery
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nethercutt
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter

NOES—182

Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Case
Chandler
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutsch

Oxley
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Turner (OH)
Upton
Vitter
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
John
Kanjorski
Kildee
Kennedy (RI)
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Maloney
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre

McNulty
Meehan
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Owens
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta

Sanders
Sandlin
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Turner (TX)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—5

Delahunt
Doyle
Jones (OH)
Mollohan
Roybal-Allard

NOT VOTING—36

Ballenger
Bass
Boehlert
Burton (IN)
Clay
Dooley (CA)
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gallegly
Gephardt
Greenwood
Hinojosa
Issa
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Kaptur
King (NY)
Kleczka
LaHood
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
Majette
Markey
Matsui
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Norwood
Ortiz
Paul
Quinn
Radanovich
Slaughter
Tauzin
Towns

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1858

Messrs. PORTMAN, KNOLLENBERG and WHITFIELD changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 8, 2004, I regrettably missed recorded vote numbered 526. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 526, I was in my congressional district on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I had to return to my district. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcalls 512, 513, 514, 515, 517, 518, 520, 521, 522, 523, and 525. I would have voted no on rollcalls 516, 519, 524 and 526.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4200,
RONALD W. REAGAN NATIONAL
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 843, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4200) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 843, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see prior proceedings of the House of today.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

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

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to come with my partner, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), and offer for the consideration of the Members the Ronald Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, in simple terms, a defense bill for the troops of the United States who are serving in dangerous theaters around the world and troops and Guard together numbering over 2.5 million personnel.

This is a bill, Mr. Speaker, that is a joint effort, Democrats and Republicans have come together to put together this legislation, which I think is really a soldiers' bill, a people's bill, in large measure.

We have a 3.5 percent pay raise across the board. We have extension of new TRICARE benefits to Guard and Reserve. We have the new survivor's benefits, something we have never had before in our history, that allows a phasing out now of the offset that used to take place between a survivor of a military retiree, where they had to weigh that against their Social Security check. We have an increase in the receipt that disabled veterans will receive on the so-called concurrent receipt of their disability and their retired pay.

We have over \$700 million worth of armor for Humvees and over \$100 million worth of armor for trucks. We have a bill that has freed up the 24,000 housing units that were hanging in limbo for construction starts this year.

This bill, very simply, Mr. Speaker, is a great bill, and I hope that we can move the conference report through quickly for the consideration and approval of the Members and move it quickly to the President's desk.

I want to compliment my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr.

SKELTON), for working in a bipartisan manner in putting this bill together, as well as all the Members and all our great subcommittee chairmen who did such a wonderful job, and our ranking members and membership of the full committee.

□ 1900

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I join the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) in strong support of this Defense Authorization Act. More than anything, it is a bill for the troops at a time when we are at war, the war in Iraq and the war against the terrorists in Afghanistan.

Let me commend my chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), for his leadership in bringing the bill to completion. It was a lot of difficult, hard work, late nights; but it got done, and we are here. And I also want to applaud all the Members, Democrats and Republicans on the Committee on Armed Services, for their tireless effort on this bill.

I want to mention a couple of items of concern, however. The disappointments of course are in the process. I spoke strongly last May of our desire to delay the upcoming round of base closings; yet we were unable to obtain everything, and I am also disappointed with the conference outcome in the Colombia troop cap when our troops are so very thinly stretched across the globe.

But this very bill has at stake during wartime \$446 in defense. It is very, very important that we pass this this evening. This is probably the best piece of legislation that we have had for the troops, their families, and for military retirees in a long, long time. And at the end of the day, those who wear uniforms and their families who support them so well will be the ones who benefit from our efforts.

It eliminates the cap on privatized housing for military families, something so many of us have been calling for. This program allows private contractors to build housing on or near military bases, who then recoup their investment through rental payments. That has been a long, involved effort. It also involves additional health benefits for our troops who serve us proudly and with so much distinction. We extend TRICARE benefits to the non-active duty Reservists and Guard members who have been called and ordered to active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

We also provide for additional benefits for the survivors of those who have served. The bill eliminates the Social Security offset to survivor benefit payment plans, phasing it in over 4 years as opposed to what the Senate wanted to do. I have to give our friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), special credit for his effort to have a discharge petition on this particular issue.

Finally, the conference report includes a series of provisions relating to Iraq that will require the administration to explain its policies and allow Congress to conduct better oversight of what is going on there. A strategic plan is required on the stabilization of Iraq. Policies and reports are required on the subjects of preventing the abuse of detainees in American custody and a new guidance mandated on the use of contractors for security functions. These are very, very important.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, this is not a perfect bill, but it is a very, very good bill. When we say we support the troops, when we put the bumper sticker on the back of our truck or car, this is saying it loudly and clearly: we support the troops to the tune of \$446 billion. All that they need, all that we can do is in here.

I applaud members of the Committee on Armed Services; and I thank the chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER). I think this is an excellent piece of legislation to move forward at this very, very dire and difficult juncture in American history.

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the vice chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, congratulate the chairman and the ranking member for an outstanding job in getting a bill before us. The gentleman from California (Chairman HUNTER) is tireless in his work on behalf of the troops, as is the gentleman from Missouri (Ranking Member SKELTON). I want to thank my ranking member, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), for his outstanding cooperation on air-land issues.

I am not going to talk about the specifics of the bill, because my colleagues will, and I urge everyone to vote for it; but I am going to talk about an add-on provision in this bill that absolutely is outrageous to me.

I want my colleagues to listen, because it affects every one of their districts. Those Members in the other body added on a provision to our bill to reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program. This has become the most popular program for Members of Congress and their districts. Through this program, over 3 years, we have distributed \$2.1 billion directly to fire departments; large, paid departments and small, volunteer departments, and that was done with bipartisan support. It was done without party politics.

For the reauthorization this year, when the other body put a provision in, we met, Democrats and Republicans, the distinguished minority whip, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished gentleman from New