The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of the rule I, the Chair postpones further proceedings on this resolution until after the vote on House Resolution 232.

The point of no quorum is considered as having been withdrawn.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2126, DEPARMENT, OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 232 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 232

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2126) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yield is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to include extraneous material in the RECORD.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple, very fair rule for the consideration of the conference report for H.R. 2126, the Department of Defense appropriation bill. We provide for an hour of debate, and all points of order against the report are waived. It is that simple. As we rapidly approach the end of the 1995 fiscal year, and it becomes clear that we will not be able to have all 13 appropriations bills signed into law by October 1, I am pleased that we are making defense a priority. The Constitution explicitly requires Congress to provide for the national defense, and it is entirely appropriate that we are moving this bill today. Many people, myself included, feel that this administration has allowed our military readiness to decline at an alarming rate. I am concerned that scaling our Armed Forces back too far in the name of peace may actually invite new aggression. Certainly the Soviet threat is gone, but in the wake of its passing, we are left with multiple problems. Mr. Speaker, the lessons of history serve us well here—allowing our defensive capabilities to be reduced too much could easily be an invitation to aggression against American interests abroad, or even here at home. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact, United States troops have been far from idle—they have been actively involved in a major shooting war in the Gulf, and many hotspots such as Haiti, Somalia, and Bosnia. New threats have emerged, too. Many relatively small countries are gaining access to advanced equipment such as submarines and nuclear weapons. And international terrorism has reared its ugly head here at home. Mr. Speaker, being prepared means meeting our defense needs—from top to bottom. And the little things are important—it does an army no good to have thousands of soldiers, equipped with the latest weapons, if those soldiers do not have boots for their feet. My friend and colleague, BILL YOUNG, chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, vividly demonstrated for the Rules Committee all the small needs like boots, laces, and so forth, that were not currently being met by stretching a list of these items from one end of the Rules Committee hearing room to the other. I am pleased that we have made some real headway in correcting these problems in this bill, and I urge adoption of the rule and the conference report.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule which provides for the consideration of the conference report to accompany the fiscal year 1996 Department of Defense appropriation. The subcommittee chairman, Mr. YOUNG, and his able ranking member, Mr. MURTHA, are to be congratulated for negotiating an agreement which should receive strong support both in the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally pleased that the conference agreement contains $493 million for the continued production of the B–2 stealth bomber. I am a firm believer that in a troubled and dangerous world, a significant bomber capability is required to ensure our military preparedness and to protect our national interest. The B–2 stealth bomber is an important component in our overall national defense capability and the construction of additional aircraft in addition to the 20 already authorized will ensure the continued capability of our armed services to protect and defend our national interests.

I am also gratified that the conference report provides $159 million for the procurement of six F–16's as well $2.2 billion for research and development funds for the F–22, the next-generation fighter intended to replace the F–16. The conferees are to be congratulated for providing for both the near-term and long-term tactical needs of the Air Force. And, while the conferees reduced the funds for research and development for the V–22 Osprey, I am pleased that the conference report does contain $758 million for this important addition to the Marine Corps arsenal.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report represents a great deal of hard work and hard bargaining and I believe the rule merits the support of the House. I recognize that a number of my colleagues have reservations about the total amount of defense spending contained in the conference report. They will have an opportunity to express that concern by voting against the conference report itself and I urge that they support the rule. I urge my colleagues to support the conference agreement and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I have no speaker scheduled at this time and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I would again urge defeat of this rule so that this bill could be sent back to conference and we can get serious about deficit reduction. As every Member of this House knows, we are being asked in virtually every domestic arena to make incredibly tough cuts that will squeeze people out of opportunity for a decent education; we are being asked to squeeze people who are on family farms; we are being asked to make savage reductions in environmental protection laws of the country; we are being asked to make huge reductions in Medicare; we are being asked to eliminate the protections that seniors now have so that when one partner goes in a nursing home the other does not have to go bankrupt before they can qualify for Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, we are being asked to swallow all of that, and yet we are being asked to swallow a defense appropriations bill which does the following: We have a half billion dollars in here as a downpayment for more B–2 bombers than the Pentagon wants to buy. Just the cost of one of those B–2 bombers would pay the tuition for every single undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin for the next 12 years.

We are having a big controversy in our State about whether or not the State should buy a new stadium for the Milwaukee Brewers. Just the cost of one B–2 bomber would pay for four of those stadiums with a dome, and yet we will go ahead and build and buy those new B–2 bombers.

We have a half billion dollars extra in here for star wars that the Secretary of Defense says is unneeded. We have another $350 million for C–130 aircraft built in Georgia for which the military cannot even identify a military requirement. We have a number of other

items. We have $2.4 billion for a new fighter to be built in Georgia, the F–22, which the GAO has repeatedly recommended should be put on hold for at least 7 years because we already have hundreds and hundreds of F–15's, the best fighter plane in the world.

And speaking of F–15's, Mr. Speaker, this bill also buys six new ones that the Pentagon did not ask for at a cost of $300 million. And yet the supporters of this bill pretend that they are going to abide by the budget limits in the Kasich budget resolution.

There is a very well kept secret in the defense portion of this budget. The secret is that the Kasich budget resolution in the 7th year winds up taking the military budget below that of President Clinton. The problem is, if we buy every new weapon system in this bill, we will never be able to live within that budget ceiling imposed by the Kasich budget resolution. And so what this bill represents is the first shot fired in the effort to blow the lid off the budget ceilings in the Kasich budget resolution with respect to military spending in this country over the next 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest there are an awful lot of reasons to vote against this bill. The best reason is simply that we cannot seriously uphold the budget limitations in the Kasich budget resolution for the defense portion of the budget if we vote to pass this bill and turn it into law. The White House is absolutely correct to say that this bill is going to be vetoed in its present form. I think the President has no choice if he wants to impose fiscal prudence on all parts of the Federal budget.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Florida [Mr. YOUNG], the chairman of the appropriations subcommittee.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I take this time just to maybe clear up a misperception that the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] might have created in his statement.

We are within the budget limits. As a matter of fact, if the gentleman will recall when the bill was on the floor, we were $2.2 billion below the armed services authorized level. When we went to conference, actually during the conference, we were presented with an additional cut in our 602(b) allocation, so we have been coming down, since the first of the year, from the numbers that we thought we should have. We have been coming down in a very dramatic way.

The gentleman talked about several areas where we could do this or that if we did not build a particular airplane or ship or whatever. Let me make this case. If we were to freeze the level, as he suggested, what that would do is keep us basically at last year's level and provide for the pay raise that we have promised our men and women who serve in the military. If he wants further cuts, the Defense Department would like to cut the program for breast cancer. They do not want to spend the breast cancer money for the purpose we appropriated. We are going to insist that they spend it.

Mr. Speaker, just in the interest of time, and the Members have other things to do today, I would like to say this. We can stand here with a long list of things that we could do if we did not have a Defense Department or if we did not built a ship or if we did not buy an airplane or if we did not pay the troops an increase in their salaries. But most of those things can actually be done by the State governments through block grant programs with their own funds or by the local governments. But, Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing that State governments cannot do, or one thing that local governments cannot do, that is to provide for the national defense, the national security and the intelligence requirements of the United States of America. The Congress and the President, as Commander in Chief, that is our obligation. And the bill that this rule provides for meets that obligation in a very straightforward way.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a political bill. There are no big pork projects in here. There was a rule that I applied at the subcommittee level that any item in this bill had to have military application, number one, or there had to be a requirement for it. Military application by itself would not do it, there also had to be a requirement.

Mr. Speaker, this is actually a good bill. This is a good defense bill, and there is no reason why it cannot pass the House and the Senate and be signed by the President, who, incidentally, his press aide today, in a press conference, indicated they had not decided to veto this bill. We have reason to believe that we can persuade the President, who claims to be a strong national defense President, to sign this bill because that is what this bill is.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] has requested 1 additional minute in response to some remarks that the previous gentleman just made, and I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. YOUNG], compulsively mentions the question of military pay every time someone dares to question the total dollar amount in any of these appropriation bills. Let me stipulate I know of not a single person in this House who does not want to see the full military pay increase go through. It will. We have $243 billion in this bill.

□ 1645

We are suggesting this bill is $7 billion over where it ought to be. That still leaves $236 billion in this bill. The first dollars that will go out under that bill, whenever it is signed, will go for pay. There is no action that any Member is going to be taking to eliminate in any way any of the contemplated pay increase for our military personnel, and the gentleman ought to know better than to suggest otherwise.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any further speakers at this time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and I urge a vote for the rule.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I will only say that this vote is about the rule. It is a good rule. It is a fair rule. They do not get any simpler or better, when we come to rules.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. YATES. 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 284, nays 139, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 694]

YEAS—284

Abercrombie	Clayton	Fox
Ackerman	Clement	Franks (CT)
Allard	Clinger	Franks (NJ)
Andrews	Clyburn	Frelinghuysen
Archer	Coble	Frisa
Armey	Coleman	Frost
Bachus	Collins (GA)	Gallegly
Baesler	Combest	Ganske
Baker (LA)	Condit	Gejdenson
Ballenger	Cooley	Gekas
Barr	Costello	Geren
Barrett (NE)	Cox	Gibbons
Bartlett	Cramer	Gilchrest
Barton	Crane	Gillmor
Bass	Cremeans	Gilman
Bateman	Cunningham	Gonzalez
Bentsen	Davis	Goodlatte
Bevill	de la Garza	Goodling
Bilbray	Deal	Gordon
Bilirakis	DeLauro	Goss
Bishop	DeLay	Gunderson
Bliley	Diaz-Balart	Gutknecht
Blute	Dickey	Hall (OH)
Boehlert	Dicks	Hall (TX)
Boehner	Dixon	Hamilton
Bonilla	Dooley	Hancock
Bono	Doolittle	Hansen
Borski	Dornan	Harman
Boucher	Doyle	Hastert
Brewster	Dreier	Hastings (FL)
Browder	Duncan	Hastings (WA)
Brown (CA)	Dunn	Hayes
Brown (FL)	Durbin	Hefley
Bunn	Edwards	Hefner
Bunning	Ehlers	Heineman
Burr	Ehrlich	Herger
Burton	English	Hobson
Buyer	Ensign	Hoekstra
Callahan	Eshoo	Hoke
Calvert	Everett	Holden
Camp	Farr	Horn
Canady	Fawell	Hostettler
Cardin	Fields (TX)	Houghton
Castle	Flanagan	Hunter
Chambliss	Foley	Hyde
Christensen	Ford	Johnson (CT)
Chrysler	Fowler	Johnson (SD)

Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kim
King
Kingston
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Lantos
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Laughlin
Lazio
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lightfoot
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Longley
Lucas
Martini
Mascara
Matsui
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
McNulty
Meek
Menendez
Meyers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moakley
Molinari
Mollohan
Montgomery
Moorhead
Moran
Morella
Murtha
Myers
Neal
Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Nussle
Oberstar
Ortiz
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Parker
Paxon
Payne (VA)
Peterson (FL)
Petri
Pickett
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Pryce
Quillen
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Reed
Regula
Richardson
Riggs
Roberts
Roemer
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rose
Roth
Roukema
Royce
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer
Schiff
Scott
Seastrand
Sensenbrenner
Shaw
Shays
Shuster
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (TX)
Solomon
Spence
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Stockman
Stump
Talent
Tanner
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Thornton
Thurman
Traficant
Upton
Visclosky
Vucanovich
Waldholtz
Walker
Walsh
Wamp
Ward
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Zeliff
Zimmer

NAYS—139

Baker (CA)
Baldacci
Barcia
Barrett (WI)
Becerra
Beilenson
Bereuter
Berman
Bonior
Brown (OH)
Brownback
Bryant (TN)
Bryant (TX)
Chabot
Chenoweth
Clay
Coburn
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Conyers
Coyne
Crapo
Cubin
Danner
DeFazio
Dellums
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett
Emerson
Engel
Evans
Ewing
Fattah
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Filner
Flake
Foglietta
Forbes
Frank (MA)
Funderburk
Furse
Gephardt
Graham
Green
Gutierrez
Hayworth
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hoyer
Hutchinson
Inglis
Istook
Jackson-Lee
Jacobs
Jefferson
Johnston
Jones
Kanjorski
Kennedy (MA)
Kildee
Kleczka
LaFalce
LaHood
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lincoln
Lofgren
Lowey
Luther
Maloney
Manton
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
McCarthy
McDermott
McKinney
Meehan
Metcalf
Mfume
Miller (CA)
Mineta
Minge
Mink
Myrick
Nadler
Norwood
Obey
Olver
Orton
Owens
Pastor
Payne (NJ)
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Poshard
Rahall
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Salmon
Sanders
Sanford
Schroeder
Schumer
Serrano
Shadegg
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Souder
Stark
Stokes
Studds
Stupak
Tate
Thompson
Tiahrt
Torres
Torricelli
Towns
Velazquez
Vento
Waters
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
White
Williams
Woolsey
Wyden
Wynn
Yates

NOT VOTING—11

Chapman
Greenwood
Linder
Reynolds
Rivers
Sisisky
Tejeda
Torkildsen
Tucker
Volkmer
Wise

□ 1708

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mrs. SMITH of Washington, and Messrs. BRYANT of Tennessee, HILLEARY, LUTHER, OWENS, EWING, ISTOOK, FAZIO of California, and ORTON, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SALMON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mr. BARCIA, and Mr. EMERSON changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. CLAYTON, and Messrs. WAMP, ENSIGN, and CHRISTENSEN changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1977, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The pending business is the question de novo on agreeing to House Resolution 231.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BEILENSON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were ayes 251, noes 171, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 695]

AYES—251

Allard
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baker (CA)
Baker (LA)
Ballenger
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Bevill
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bliley
Blute
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Brewster
Browder
Brownback
Bryant (TN)
Bunn
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Canady
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Chrysler
Clement
Clinger
Coble
Coburn
Collins (GA)
Combest
Condit
Cooley
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crapo
Cremeans
Cubin
Cunningham
Davis
Deal
DeLay
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Doolittle
Dornan
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Ensign
Everett
Ewing
Fawell
Fields (TX)
Flanagan
Foley
Ford
Fowler
Fox
Franks (CT)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frisa
Funderburk
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Geren
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Greenwood
Gunderson
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hancock
Hansen
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hefner
Heineman
Herger
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hoke
Horn
Hostettler
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inglis
Istook
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kasich
Kelly
Kim
King
Kingston
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Laughlin
Lazio
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lightfoot
Lincoln
Livingston
LoBiondo
Longley
Lucas
Manton
Manzullo
Martini
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
Metcalf
Meyers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Molinari
Mollohan
Montgomery
Moorhead
Morella
Murtha
Myers
Myrick
Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Norwood
Nussle
Oxley
Packard
Parker
Paxon
Petri
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Pryce
Quillen
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Riggs
Roberts
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roth
Roukema
Royce
Salmon
Sanford
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer
Schiff
Seastrand
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Shuster
Skeen
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Stearns
Stenholm
Stockman
Stump
Talent
Tate
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Traficant
Upton
Vucanovich
Waldholtz
Walker
Walsh
Wamp
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Zeliff

NOES—171

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Andrews
Baesler
Baldacci
Barcia
Barrett (WI)
Becerra
Beilenson
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Boehlert
Bonior
Borski
Boucher
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant (TX)
Cardin
Clay
Clayton
Clyburn
Coleman
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Conyers
Coyne
Danner
de la Garza
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dellums
Deutsch
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Durbin
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Filner
Flake
Foglietta
Forbes
Frank (MA)
Frost
Furse
Gejdenson
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gonzalez
Green
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hilliard
Hinchey
Holden
Hoyer
Jackson-Lee
Jacobs
Jefferson
Johnson (SD)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnston
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kleczka
Klink
LaFalce
Lantos
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Luther
Maloney
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy
McDermott
McHale
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Menendez
Miller (CA)
Mineta
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Moran
Nadler
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Orton
Owens
Pallone
Pastor
Payne (NJ)
Payne (VA)
Pelosi
Peterson (FL)
Peterson (MN)
Pickett
Pomeroy
Poshard
Rahall
Rangel