In the past, these grants have been provided recreation for the disabled, repaired swimming pools, resurfaced tennis and basketball courts, purchased picnic tables, created arts and craft areas, fitness trails and bocci courts for senior citizens.

The public knows that this is money that is well spent. They expect money well spent to be appropriated by their government. So I urge support for the Miller amendment.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today also in support of the Miller amendment to fully fund the administration's request of $2 million for the Urban Parks Recreation and Recovery, or UPARR. This invaluable program provides competitive matching grants for the revitalization of local recreation areas and the improvement of recreation programs and services in low income inner-city neighborhoods. These opportunities are targeted at urban youth and the expansion of pre and after school activities.

Mr. Chairman, in my own district in the City of New Brunswick, which is located in the central part of New Jersey, UPARR grants have been used to renovate jogging paths and playing fields and to construct new playing fields at Buccleuch Park. The park is used as a recreational facility by local high school sports teams, as well as sports teams from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

In addition, a UPARR grant made additional renovations possible so that senior citizens and disabled persons from the senior citizen resource center next door could make use of the park's facilities. Other UPARR grants have facilitated similar activities at Feaster Park, Joyce Kilmer Park and Recreation Park, also located in New Brunswick.

The National Park Service anticipates applications from 100 to 150 urban localities across the country for UPARR grants in fiscal year 1999, requests which will total approximately $20 million. The $2 million that we are trying to add to the bill today with this amendment will enable the Park Service to award 10 to 15 grants, only 10 percent of those requested. This, as has been mentioned by my colleagues, is a modestly funded program, but one that has a large impact on those communities that are fortunate enough to receive these grants, as I know from my own City of New Brunswick.

I urge my colleagues to support urban neighborhoods and urban youth by voting for the Miller UPARR amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary in carrying out the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), and the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–333), $40,812,000, to be derived from the Historic Preservation Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2000, of which $7,700,000 pursuant to section 507 of Public Law 104–333 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the National Park Service may hereafter recover all costs of providing necessary services associated with historic preservation tax certification, and such funds shall remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities, including the modifications authorized by section 104 of the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989, $149,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Denver Service Center may not levy any assessments against specific construction projects.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

(RESCISSION)

The contract authority provided for fiscal year 1999 by 16 U.S.C. 460l–10a is rescinded.

LAND ACQUISITION AND STATE ASSISTANCE

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460l–4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of lands or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the National Park Service, $69,000,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to remain available until expended, of which $500,000 is to administer the State assistance program: *Provided*, That any funds made available for the purpose of acquisition of the Elwha and Glines dams shall be used solely for acquisition, and shall not be expended until the full purchase amount has been appropriated by the Congress: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available for land acquisition at Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve, the Secretary may provide for Federal assistance to the State of Florida for the acquisition of lands or waters, or interests therein, within the Everglades watershed (consisting of lands and waters within the boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District, Florida Bay and the Florida Keys) under terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Secretary, to improve and restore the hydrological function of the Everglades watershed: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading to the State of Florida shall be subject to an agreement that such lands will be managed in perpetuity for the restoration of the Everglades.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCgovern

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. MCGOVERN:

Page 19, line 7, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(increased by $30,000,000)''.

Page 70, line 17, insert after the dollar amount ''(reduced by $30,000,000)''.

The CHAIRMAN. Before recognizing the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the Committee will rise informally to receive a message.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PAPPAS) assumed the chair.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Committee resumed its sitting.

□ 1745

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his amendment.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today along with my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PAPPAS), in support of an initiative that is vital to our children, our families and our Nation: Reestablishing the Stateside program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) for his graciousness as we take up debate on this important issue. He and his staff have always extended every courtesy to me and my office, and I also want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES), the ranking member, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and their staff for all of the help that they have provided me.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has a proven track record and strong bipartisan support. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a simple idea. It uses money from nonrenewable public resources like offshore oil and gas drilling and reinvests the money into a renewable resource: Public open space.

A trust fund was established over 30 years ago to meet the need for more open space and in that time, over 37,000, over 37,000 park and recreation projects, from neighborhood parks and ballfields to scenic trails, nature reserves and historical sites, have all been developed. This is a real American success story.

Unfortunately, the spirit of this program has been misdirected in recent years. Though Congress has funded the Federal program which has protected Federal lands, the Stateside program has been zeroed out. For those who believe that the Stateside program is better provided by the States, I would respectfully disagree and say that the States cannot do it alone. The Stateside program is already a partnership, as States and towns match every Federal dollar. We can leverage good money on good projects.

The Stateside program acknowledges State leadership on parks and open space projects and works in lock step with what I would say is a Republican philosophy to devolve power back to the States. It is a nonregulatory program that lets States take the lead, a successful program with a successful track record administered at the State level. That is why governors from all over the country support the Stateside fund.