

the administration. This particular change would not affect the expansion of those limits, is that correct, that the subject of difference will be within the conference?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would say to the gentleman that, no, this does not have anything to do with that. On that issue, if I could take both HUD and several other parties to the issue and put them in a room and forget about them for 2 years, I would be happy to do that.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I would join the gentleman in locking that door until agreement is achieved regarding FHA limit increases.

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I have no additional requests for time, but I would like to close by making a couple of limited comments.

I must say that there is little doubt that within some of these accounts that are housing accounts, like vouchers, like subsidized rental housing, like programs that involve the efforts we have to open the doorway of opportunity to the poorest of the poor in our society, we have not had all the money that we would like to have in those accounts. Indeed, this administrative decision by OMB originally did put great pressure upon those elements of the housing accounts.

To now have them change their mind and not have us have the flexibility to apply them, for example, to a great priority of the Secretary of Housing, vouchers, or some other very, very vital housing program, where we are dealing with the poorest of the poor, and shift it to accounts where we are over the President's request in the bill, before the fact, at least causes me to scratch my head, when the ranking member knows how important it is when we go to conference with the Senate to have as much flexibility as possible. By this action we may very well have harmed many of the very poor people in our country that the ranking member at least tells me constantly he is so concerned about.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). 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 Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

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

Mr. OBEY. 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. Without objection, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. 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 instruct and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

#### SPEED TRAFFICKING LIFE IN PRISON ACT OF 1998

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3898) to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to conform penalties for violations involving certain amounts of methamphetamine to penalties for violations involving similar amounts cocaine base, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3898

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Speed Trafficking Life In Prison Act of 1998".*

#### SEC. 2. METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING PENALTY ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—*The Controlled Substances Act is amended—*

(1) *in section 401(b)(1)(A)(viii) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)(A)(viii)) by—*

(A) *striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams"; and*

(B) *striking "1 kilogram" and inserting "500 grams"; and*

(2) *in section 401(b)(1)(B)(viii) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)(B)(viii)) by—*

(A) *striking "10 grams" and inserting "5 grams"; and*

(B) *striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams".*

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT.—*The Controlled Substances Import and Export Act is amended—*

(1) *in section 1010(b)(1)(H) (21 U.S.C. 960(b)(1)(H)) by—*

(A) *striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams";*

(B) *striking "1 kilogram" and inserting "500 grams"; and*

(C) *striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and*

(2) *in section 1010(b)(2)(H) (21 U.S.C. 960(b)(2)(H)) by—*

(A) *striking "10 grams" and inserting "5 grams";*

(B) *striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams"; and*

(C) *striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon.*

#### SEC. 3. PREPARATION OF AN IMPACT STATEMENT.

*The United States Sentencing Commission shall prepare a statement analyzing the impact of the sentences imposed as a result of the amendments made by this Act and present that analysis to Congress not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3898, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3898, the Speed Trafficking Life In Prison Act of 1998, increases the penalties for manufacturing, trafficking or importing methamphetamine. It was introduced on May 19, 1998 by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) and reported favorably by the Committee on the Judiciary on July 21. It represents an important step by this Congress to respond to the methamphetamine epidemic.

As members of the subcommittee well know, methamphetamine is no longer merely a California problem or a southwest problem, it is a national problem. It has spread east, devastating some communities much like crack cocaine did in the 1980s. The testimony received by the House Subcommittee on Crime of the Committee on the Judiciary in recent years paints a grim picture of an emerging epidemic: Emergency room methamphetamine episodes in major metropolitan areas have increased dramatically. Methamphetamine deaths around the country have skyrocketed, and clandestine methamphetamine labs have now been reported in all 50 States.

There are numerous unique problems associated with methamphetamine. The profits involved in the methamphetamine trade are enormous. Methamphetamine causes longer highs than cocaine. Methamphetamine is processed in clandestine labs, often located in remote areas, making them difficult to detect. And the numerous highly toxic chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine are extremely flammable and destructive to the environment.

Over the last 8 years, sophisticated drug organizations from Mexico have replaced motorcycle gangs as the major methamphetamine producers and traffickers. These organizations have established large clandestine labs throughout the Southwest and have saturated the western U.S. market with high purity methamphetamine, leading to lower prices. The 1994 methamphetamine related murder of DEA agent Richard Fass is a sober reminder of the violence associated with methamphetamine trafficking. In short, methamphetamine represents a dangerous, time-consuming, and expensive investigative challenge to law enforcement.

H.R. 3898 increases the penalties for manufacturing, trafficking or importing methamphetamine so as to make those penalties the same as for crack cocaine. It does so by reducing by one-half the quantity of methamphetamine required to trigger the mandatory minimum sentences established in current law. Under current law, 100 grams of methamphetamine triggers the 10-year mandatory minimum, and 10 grams triggers the 5-year mandatory minimum. In both cases, under current law, an offender with prior felony drug offenses can receive life in prison. So can an offender when the use of the methamphetamine leads to the death or serious bodily injury of another. Under this bill, 50 grams triggers a 10-year mandatory minimum prison sentence, and 5 grams of methamphetamine triggers a 5-year mandatory minimum prison sentence. These sentences are identical to those called for in the administration's 1996 methamphetamine strategy. Furthermore, the House of Representatives passed an identical provision last Congress as a part of H.R. 3852, the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996. Unfortunately, the Senate version of this same bill did not include this penalty enhancement provision and it did not become law.

I want to close with an observation. Reports released in recent months show that cocaine use nationally continues to decline slightly, while methamphetamine use continues to increase. A little more than a decade ago, Congress responded to the emerging cocaine epidemic by moving bipartisan legislation which provided tough mandatory minimum penalties for those who manufacture and traffic cocaine. I have no doubt that those tough penalties saved lives, in part because they sent a message to younger generations that trafficking cocaine deserves society's strongest condemnation. And while cocaine trafficking and use remain unacceptably high, they are declining.

Today, Congress once again has the opportunity to take action, bipartisan action, regarding an emerging epidemic: The methamphetamine crisis. Let us send a clear message today, as we did then: Methamphetamine trafficking deserves our strongest condemnation.

I join the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the author of this bill, the administration, and the 386 Members of this body who voted for it in the last Congress in supporting this important bill and urge its passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation. But before I proceed with a statement, I do want to acknowledge and commend the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), for his sincere and genuine effort in terms of dealing with this issue. Although he and I disagree, I do want to acknowledge that he has worked cooperatively and hard on this issue, and I know his heart is in the right place. Unfortunately, this is not the right answer. Once again, Congress is taking upon itself the role that it wisely assigned to the sentencing commission to establish appropriate sentences within the sentencing guidelines for a broad range of Federal offenses.

We do have a drug problem in this country, and it is a serious problem. We all recognize that. But serious problems require serious solutions, and this is not the answer. We have absolutely no evidence, no data, and none has been presented, to suggest that cutting by half the amount of methamphetamine it will take to trigger the current 5- and 10-year mandatory minimums will have any measurable effect on the problem. None.

The only thing we can predict with certainty is that lowering the threshold will waste precious resources incarcerating people for relatively minor nonviolent offenses, resources that are needed to lock up offenders. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we will be putting the wrong people in jail.

While it might make sense to impose lengthy sentences on high-level dealers, these mandatory minimums allow for no such distinctions to be made. Whether the offender has 5 grams or 10 grams in his possession does not tell us very much about the situation with which we are dealing, yet these laws allow the judge to consider no other factors in pronouncing sentences and often give no leeway or discretion to the prosecutor in terms of the charging decision. Again, let me suggest that we will be putting the wrong people in jail.

Last year a RAND study of cocaine sentencing policy found that the mandatory minimum sentences are not effective in reducing either drug consumption or drug-related crime. The study concluded that it would be more cost effective, it would make sense, to spend the same money on drug enforcement and drug treatment programs.

Nearly half of the drug offenders sentenced to long mandatory sentences in Massachusetts' state prisons have no record of violent crime. It simply makes no sense to spend \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year to keep these people in jail, often for terms that are far great-

er than the times served for criminals convicted of manslaughter, armed robbery, rape and the whole array of violent crimes.

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Violent predators are being released in favor of drug addicts. Yet these anomalous results will continue to occur if Congress insists on intruding into the sentencing process wherever the spirit or the polls inspire us to do so. This simply makes no sense, Mr. Speaker. I urge this House to think about that, to think about our present course.

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

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

I simply want to address the concerns some people have said that the bill does not address the simple possession of methamphetamine. Paragraph (a) in the bill addresses the manufacture, distribution or trafficking of meth and the possession of meth with the intent to manufacture, distribute or traffic. Paragraph (b) addresses the importing and exporting of meth or the possession of meth with the intent to import or export. Therefore, under current law, title 18, section 841 and title XXI, section 990 and under this bill, no one could be prosecuted for a simple possession.

Let us be perfectly clear. This bill increases penalties on those who knowingly import, manufacture and traffic a drug that is as insidious as crack cocaine and more dangerous in certain respects. We do not add any new penalties in this bill. We simply put the penalties of methamphetamine up to a level, the same as crack cocaine. We are not adding anything in the broad sense of the law. To a great extent, methamphetamine is a homegrown operation. That is to say, it is made in kitchens and backyard makeshift labs all around the country. It is a fly-by-the-seat-of-the-pants operation posing numerous dangers. The chemicals used to manufacture meth are enormously destructive to the environment, extremely toxic and pose huge dangers to human life. Furthermore, the labs are increasingly booby-trapped, putting the lives of our law enforcement agents on the line. Methamphetamine-related defendants are overwhelmingly white. The administration supports this bill. These increased penalties were called for in the administration's methamphetamine strategy and sent to Congress by Attorney General Reno and Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the author of this bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 3898, the Speed Trafficking Life in Prison Act of 1998. Mr. Speaker, clearly we are in the middle of a crisis in our country. Methamphetamine trafficking in this country is at an all-time high and it seems like that we have got to do something

about it. That is why I drafted H.R. 3898 which will cut in half the amounts of methamphetamine in the Controlled Substances Act necessary to invoke the most severe penalties.

Many of our colleagues know from their work in the war against drugs, also are aware of this, and sometimes they call methamphetamines other things. It is often known as "speed," "ice," or "crank," and it causes severe side effects and can result in death. After prolonged use, methamphetamine leads to bingeing, often causing users to consume the drug continuously for up to 3 days without sleeping. Following the binge is severe depression, followed by worsening paranoia, belligerence, and aggression which is known as "tweaking." Then the user collapses from exhaustion, waking up days later simply to begin the cycle again.

The new ephedrine-based methamphetamine is worse, however. It leads to sleepless binges that can last up to 15 days and end in crashes that are far worse than those with regular methamphetamine. These crashes not only cause the loss of life and the spirit in our children, but they bring about violence and disruptive behaviors that endanger families and everyone in America's communities.

I am unwilling to accept this behavior and have begun my fight so that we will not accept this that is happening to our country. I hope that my colleagues are listening and that Americans are with us as we join in this continued fight against drugs in our country.

On July 21, 1997, I held a congressional hearing in my district, the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, at Mesquite High School, to discuss the problem of illegal drug trafficking and what our national, State and local leaders were doing about it. Testimony from the Drug Enforcement Administration, known as the DEA, clearly demonstrated that the new wave of methamphetamine use was attacking our country and also was coming across our borders. According to the 1996 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, an estimated 4.9 million people, which is 2.3 percent of the population, have tried methamphetamines at some time in their lives. Data from the 1996 Drug Warning Abuse Network, which collects information on drug-related episodes from hospital emergency departments in 21 metropolitan areas, reported that methamphetamine-related episodes increased 71 percent between the first half of 1996 and the second half of 1996, or, put in numbers, from 4,000 to 6,800.

Too often, I believe we point to foreign countries as the sources of dangerous drugs to our children and Americans. But with methamphetamine, the drug can be manufactured easily within our own borders. It is what I call a "made in America" product. It has catastrophic consequences to our environment and puts first responders, our

men and women in law enforcement and firefighters, in grave danger from fires and explosion.

That is why I drafted H.R. 3898, the Speed Trafficking Life in Prison Act of 1998, to put those who manufacture or distribute methamphetamine in prison for as long as possible. Those who abuse drugs should take responsibility for their actions, but there are also victims. They are victims of drug thugs, the killers who put this stuff on our streets and in our communities. It is those people that we are aiming our legislation at.

I hope and urge all of my colleagues to support this reasonable approach to dealing with drugs that are killing our children.

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

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute. I want to again commend the gentleman from Texas for bringing this resolution to the floor. Methamphetamine is an increasingly dangerous drug. We are going to have a lot of discussions on the floor of the House in the next couple of days about very dangerous drugs, cocaine, heroin and the like. But we must not forget that those are all grown and we have to worry about controlling those and getting those imported into our country from abroad. We have an enormous task ahead on that score. But methamphetamine, sadly, those drugs can be produced in laboratories, in households around the country. This bill is exceedingly important to get our kids and other folks to stop making this stuff, stop using it. It is dangerous. We need to send a message. We need to send the penalty message that is in this bill on methamphetamine. I strongly urge the adoption of this bill today.

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3898, the Speed Trafficking Life in Prison Act. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation and I would like to thank its author, Representative PETE SESSIONS, and the Subcommittee Chairman, Representative BILL MCCOLLUM, for their hard work on this very serious issue.

Like most Americans, and as a parent, I am deeply troubled by the high rates of violent and drug related crime that has such a devastating effect on our neighborhoods. The drug problem strikes at the very core of a community, putting our young people at risk and undermining our safety, our schools, our peace of mind, our way of life.

The dramatic rise in the manufacture and trafficking of methamphetamine is one of the most disturbing trends. Highly addictive and cheap to manufacture, methamphetamine has become one of the most widely trafficked illicit drugs. The problem is particularly severe in my home state of Missouri, which now ranks number one in the country for clandestine methamphetamine lab busts—more than 700 in 1997—and second only to California in methamphetamine production. Furthermore, of the 290 meth labs that were raided and seized last year in a 5-state radius, over 230 of those were in Missouri. This year alone, there have

been more than 88 labs seized in my District in Southern Missouri.

There is much to do to fight the war on drugs, and this legislation is a very important part of that fight. It is a powerful tool to give to prosecutors and also a powerful message to send to drug criminals. It is a clear statement that meth dealers will be met by a swift and severe response, the full force of the law. The new minimum sentencing standards established in the bill will ensure that the thugs putting meth out on our streets will receive a fitting punishment for their crime.

I urge a strong "YES" vote on this important legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3898, the Speed Trafficking Life in Prison Act, and I commend the gentleman from Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, for bringing this important piece of legislation to our attention today.

As Chairman of the International Relations Committee, I have long worked to try and keep drugs from entering the United States and I fully support Mr. SESSIONS's efforts to increase the minimum jail sentence for those individuals who think that they can get away with manufacturing, trafficking or transporting methamphetamines in this country.

This legislation finally equals the field between methamphetamines, or speed, and cocaine. For many years, young people have tried to justify the use of methamphetamines because they do not believe that they are as dangerous as cocaine or crack. This bill sends a clear message to all Americans that methamphetamines are just as dangerous and deadly as crack cocaine and that those people who manufacture, traffic or transport these drugs should be held to the fullest extent of the law.

H.R. 3898 establishes that 50 grams of methamphetamines triggers a 10-year mandatory minimum prison sentence and five grams triggers a five-year mandatory minimum, equal to the penalties for crack cocaine. Voting for this bill will help to dissuade the trafficking of speed in our country and hopefully will cut down on the number of speed related abuse, trafficking, and deaths. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to fully support this measure to help keep these dangerous drugs off of our streets.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member is pleased to rise today to express strong support for H.R. 3898, the Speed Trafficking Life in Prison Act. This important legislation increases the penalties for manufacturing, trafficking, or importing methamphetamines to the same level as corresponding penalties for crack cocaine.

Methamphetamine is a powerful drug that is relatively easy to manufacture. The use of this dangerous drug is escalating rapidly due to its low cost and highly addictive qualities. The methamphetamine problem in Nebraska is clearly growing at a substantive rate. For example, in 1996, multi-jurisdictional drug task forces made 248 methamphetamine arrests in Nebraska. In 1997, there were 714 arrests. Additionally, according to the U.S. Attorney's office in Omaha, last year, Nebraska led the nation in methamphetamine cases prosecuted in Federal courts with 61 cases involving 98 defendants.

This legislation would reduce by half the amount of methamphetamine necessary to trigger the mandatory minimum sentences established by current law. Under H.R. 3898, an

offender possessing 50 grams of methamphetamine would trigger a 10-year mandatory minimum prison sentence. If the offender was convicted of possessing 5 grams of methamphetamine, he or she would receive a 5-year mandatory minimum sentence.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we must pass this bill in the short time left in this session of Congress. It must also be passed by the Senate with these tough but appropriate sentencing provisions so that it can be sent to the President for signature. The Nation must become serious and effective in combating this very dangerous problem. This bill must become law this year in order to do all we can do to fight the use of this dangerous drug. This Member urges his colleagues to support H.R. 3898.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the passage of this bill, because I believe we should be moving away from the imposition of mandatory minimum sentences, and also because I want to avoid creating further racial inequalities in our Federal drug policy.

This bill lowers the amount of methamphetamine that a person must possess in order to trigger mandatory minimum sentences required under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. In effect, it cuts that triggering amount in half, giving methamphetamine a status roughly equal to that of crack cocaine.

I am against restricting the role of the judges in the courtroom. Mandatory minimum sentences, like the sentencing guidelines, take discretion away from impartial Federal judges, and put it in the hands of the prosecutors.

The more we allow mandatory minimums to become a part of everyday courtroom life, the more power we place in the hands of prosecutors who have a vested interest in the outcome of the case.

In committee, I expressed concern that this bill would cause us to walk into essentially the same controversy that we had just a few years ago, when it involved African-Americans and the sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine. I am especially concerned because there has been some debate whether this bill would disproportionately impact the Mexican-American community in the United States.

The bill was amended in the Judiciary Committee to provide for a report by the Sentencing Commission one year after enactment of this bill, but by then, a significant amount of damage will already have been inflicted.

I do not want to be a part of a bill, which specifically targets a minority group, and then gives an extreme amount of discretion to the federal authorities charged with pursuing them.

I also oppose this bill because it is unnecessary. There have been reports that in the last few years, that we have seen an actual decrease in the use of methamphetamine. For instance, the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reported that emergency room admissions for methamphetamine-related events has decreased one-third.

I oppose this bill because I think we can do better than this. I believe we can win the war on drugs, by stressing treatment and prevention, and without alienating an important group of citizens from our society.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 3898, the Speed Trafficking Life In Prison Act. Recently, we have witnessed a

drastic increase in the use of illegal drugs like cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamines in this country. The crisis continues and, unfortunately, our children are the victims.

Methamphetamine is currently a popular "designer drug" of choice which causes severe side effects and can result in death. A 1996 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse shows that 4.9 million people have tried methamphetamine at some time in their lives. In a report of combined data from 21-metropolitan areas across our nation, the statistics show that methamphetamine related episodes in hospital emergency rooms increased by 71% between the first and second halves of 1996. That is an increase from 4,000 to almost 7,000 reported incidents over a six month period. The situation is alarming and spinning out of control. We must penalize those that are putting this poison on our streets.

H.R. 3898 strengthens the penalties for manufacturing, trafficking or importing methamphetamine—making penalties equal to those for crack cocaine—and imposes life imprisonment sentences for those that manufacture or distribute methamphetamine. This legislation also reduces the quantity of methamphetamine required to trigger the mandatory minimum sentences by one-half and establishes that 50 grams triggers a 10-year mandatory minimum.

It is time to send a clear message to those drug dealers that threaten our communities. Tough penalties must be imposed on those who deal in destruction of lives and death. I ask my colleagues to join with me in support of this measure as we continue to wage a war on drugs to save our children and every American from the plague of methamphetamines now sweeping across our land.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3898, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MARIJUANA

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 117) expressing the sense of Congress that marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug and should not be legalized for medicinal use, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 117

Whereas certain drugs are listed on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act if they have a high potential for abuse, lack any currently accepted medical use in treatment, and are unsafe, even under medical supervision;

Whereas the consequences of illegal use of Schedule I drugs are well documented, par-

ticularly with regard to physical health, highway safety, and criminal activity;

Whereas pursuant to section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act, it is illegal to manufacture, distribute, or dispense marijuana, heroin, LSD, and more than 100 other Schedule I drugs;

Whereas pursuant to section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, before any drug can be approved as a medication in the United States, it must meet extensive scientific and medical standards established by the Food and Drug Administration to ensure it is safe and effective;

Whereas marijuana and other Schedule I drugs have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat any disease or condition;

Whereas the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act already prohibits the sale of any unapproved drug, including marijuana, that has not been proven safe and effective for medical purposes and grants the Food and Drug Administration the authority to enforce this prohibition through seizure and other civil action, as well as through criminal penalties;

Whereas marijuana use by children in grades 8 through 12 declined steadily from 1980 to 1992, but, from 1992 to 1996, has dramatically increased by 253 percent among 8th graders, 151 percent among 10th graders, and 84 percent among 12th graders, and the average age of first-time use of marijuana is now younger than it has ever been;

Whereas according to the 1997 survey by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 500,000 8th graders began using marijuana in the 6th and 7th grades;

Whereas according to that same 1997 survey, youths between the ages of 12 and 17 who use marijuana are 85 times more likely to use cocaine than those who abstain from marijuana, and 60 percent of adolescents who use marijuana before the age of 15 will later use cocaine; and

Whereas the rate of illegal drug use among youth is linked to their perceptions of the health and safety risks of those drugs, and the ambiguous cultural messages about marijuana use are contributing to a growing acceptance of marijuana use among children and teenagers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—*

(1) Congress continues to support the existing Federal legal process for determining the safety and efficacy of drugs and opposes efforts to circumvent this process by legalizing marijuana, and other Schedule I drugs, for medicinal use without valid scientific evidence and the approval of the Food and Drug Administration; and

(2) not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution—

(A) the Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on—

(i) the total quantity of marijuana eradicated in the United States during the period from 1992 through 1997; and

(ii) the annual number of arrests and prosecutions for Federal marijuana offenses during the period described in clause (i); and

(B) the Commissioner of Foods and Drugs shall submit to the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate a report on the specific efforts underway to enforce sections 304 and 505 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act with respect to marijuana and other Schedule I drugs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from