For instance, one county, Franklin, had 19.6 percent growth over the last 8 years. My home county, 18.9; Lee County, 17.1, Nash, 17.3. They are all rural counties in transition and property taxes are under a burden. Wade County, the capital county, right at 30 percent. They are welcoming anywhere from 4,000 to 6,000 students this fall, and they have done it for the last several years. That is true across America. The pressure is getting so great out there, and this is a way we can be a help.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is putting the final touch, and as we heard already, has already put their touches on the final tax bill. We will find out tomorrow morning if they really care about making sure the children in this country have an opportunity for a decent place to go to school. Because if you are in a cold environment in the winter and a hot environment in the summer, and the building roofs leak and the wind blows through the walls, you can talk all you want to about quality education, and then we wonder why we cannot recruit teachers and retain teachers. You do not have to be very bright to figure that out. Business figured that out a long time ago. They provide a good environment for their employees and quality training.

We can do something about it. It is within our goal. We stood in line today to sign the Rangel bill to make sure we got a discharge petition. Today my colleagues are working on it.

Mr. Speaker, I know our time is about to expire. Let me thank my two colleagues from California for joining me this evening. On behalf of the children of America, who only have us to speak for them, because they do not vote, and some of their parents do not take the opportunity to vote, I thank you for coming this evening and sharing and getting into the record the importance of school construction and opportunities for our children.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0038

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2488, THE TAXPAYER REFUND AND RELIEF ACT OF 1999

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106–291) on the resolution (H. Res. 274) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2488) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce individual income tax rates, to provide marriage penalty relief, to reduce taxes on savings and investments, to provide estate and gift tax relief, to provide incentives for education savings and health care, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2684, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2000

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106–292) on the resolution (H. Res. 275) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1467, EXTENDING THE FUNDING LEVELS FOR AVIATION PROGRAMS FOR 60 DAYS

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106–293) on the resolution (H. Res. 276) providing for consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1467) to extend the funding levels for aviation programs for 60 days, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1905

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 1905) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 106–290)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1905) ''making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes'', having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

Amendment numbered 1:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 1, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed, insert:

SENATE

EXPENSE ALLOWANCES

For expense allowances of the Vice President, $10,000; the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, $10,000; Majority Leader of the Senate, $10,000; Minority Leader of the Senate, $10,000; Majority Whip of the Senate, $5,000; Minority Whip of the Senate, $5,000; and Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Conference Committees, $3,000 for each Chairman; in all, $56,000.

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

For representation allowances of the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, $15,000 for each such Leader; in all, $30,000.

SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For compensation of officers, employees, and others as authorized by law, including agency contributions, $89,968,000, which shall be paid from this appropriation without regard to the below limitations, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

For the Office of the Vice President, $1,721,000.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

For the Office of the President Pro Tempore, $437,000.

OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders, $2,644,000.

OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY WHIPS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips, $1,634,000.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries of the Committee on Appropriations, $6,525,000.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

For the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, at rates of compensation to be fixed by the Chairman of each such committee, $1,132,000 for each such committee; in all, $2,264,000.

OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE MAJORITY AND THE CONFERENCE OF THE MINORITY

For Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, $590,000.

POLICY COMMITTEES

For salaries of the Majority Policy Committee and the Minority Policy Committee, $1,151,000 for each such committee; in all, $2,302,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

For Office of the Chaplain, $277,000.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Office of the Secretary, $14,202,000.

OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER

For Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, $34,794,000.

OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY

For Offices of the Secretary for the Majority and the Secretary for the Minority, $1,246,000.

AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS AND RELATED EXPENSES

For agency contributions for employee benefits, as authorized by law, and related expenses, $21,332,000.

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE SENATE

For salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate, $3,901,000.

OFFICE OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Senate Legal Counsel, $1,035,000.