from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit this report on the Nation's achievements in aeronautics and space during Fiscal Year (FY) 1998, as required under section 206 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2476). Aeronautics and space activities involved 14 contributing departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the results of their ongoing research and development affect the Nation in many ways.

A wide variety of aeronautics and space developments took place during FY 1998. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed five Space Shuttle flights. There were 29 successful Expendable Launch Vehicle (ELV) launches in FY 1998. Of those, 3 were NASA-managed missions, 2 were NASA-funded/Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-licensed missions, 8 were Department of Defense (DOD)-managed missions, and 16 were FAA-licensed commercial launches. Scientists also made some dramatic new discoveries in various space-related fields such as space science, Earth science, and remote sensing, and life and microgravity science. In aeronautics, activities included work on high-speed research, advanced subsonic technology, and technologies designed to improve the safety and efficiency of our commercial airlines and air traffic control system.

Close international cooperation with Russia occurred on the Shuttle-*Mir* docking missions and on the ISS program. The United States also entered into new forms of cooperation with its partners in Europe, South America, and Asia.

Thus, FY 1998 was a very successful one for U.S. aeronautics and space programs. Efforts in these areas have contributed significantly to the Nation's scientific and technical knowledge, international cooperation, a healthier environment, and a more competitive economy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *November 18, 1999.*

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2699

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2699.

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

There was no objection.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1180, TICKET TO WORK AND WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 387 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 387

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1180) to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, H.Res. 387 would grant a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1180, the Ticket to Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, and against its consideration. The rule further provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report to accompany H.R. 1180 establishes a ticket to work program for recipients of Social Security disability benefits to seek vocational rehabilitation and employment services as well as enabling those individuals to work while keeping their health insurance. This legislation also creates new options for States to allow disabled individuals to purchase Medicaid insurance.

The conference agreement also provides approximately $15.8 billion in tax relief over 5 years, $18.4 billion over 10 years, by extending certain tax credits. This tax extenders package includes renewal of several expiring tax credit provisions, including the R&D tax credit, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, and the Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit as well as providing tax relief for individuals and families by protecting at least 1 million families from higher taxes over the next 3 years due to the AMT tax. Finally, the measure includes approximately $2.6 billion in revenue offsets over the next 5 years and $2.9 billion over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from Texas (Chairman ARCHER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), ranking member, for their leadership in resolving the many complex issues contained in this legislation and urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the conference report itself.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding me the time.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have heard it said that human beings exhibit their most creative potential when they are kindergarten age. Well, whoever said that probably needs to spend a little time around here at the end of a session. There is some very creative work being done.

Vexing problems which have been around for months and may be even years are suddenly solved when the sand starts running out of the Congressional hour glass, or they are suddenly turned into bargaining chips. Witness what is happening with reproductive rights and the payment of our UN debts.

Major issues which have languished unattended are addressed and then tossed abroad whenever the legislative vehicle is leaving the station. Meanwhile, many others, such as the bill of rights protecting people from their HMOs or efforts to fight gun violence never get their tickets punched.

But rest assured, Mr. Speaker, the American people want a Patients' Bill of Rights, they want us to do better on gun violence, and they will be watching when we return in the year 2000.

As for the rule which is currently before us, H. Res. 387, it provides for the consideration of several disparate issues which have been corralled under a single bill title.

Part A of the bill is the Work Incentives Improvement Act, a bill to modernize our woefully outdated national disability policies.

When policies on Medicaid and other programs for the disabled were first developed decades ago, having a disability often meant that an individual is confined to home or an institution. Today, however, with advances in technology, training, and rehabilitation, many individuals with disabilities are allowed to hold good jobs and live very full lives in the mainstream of society.

The Work Incentives Improvement Act will allow persons with disabilities to continue receiving certain benefits, particularly health coverage, while returning to work. The proposal also provides for more State flexibility and serving individuals with disabilities through health programs, associated services like transportation assistance, and training.

This legislation does not benefit only persons with disabilities, it also has major benefits for the Federal Government and the taxpayer. If an additional one-half of 1 percent of the current Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income recipients were to cease receiving benefits as a result of employment, the savings and cash assistance would total $3.5 billion over the worklife of the individuals.

This worthy legislation was passed by the House overwhelmingly earlier this year, and I expect it will enjoy similar support today.

Part B of the underlying bill is a collection of tax extenders. I am pleased that this agreement includes a 5-year extension for research and development tax credit. Science and technology are critical for our future development, our knowledge about the world around us, and our understanding of ourselves.

I have long been a strong supporter of incentives to encourage businesses to invest in the development of new technologies and products. Through its existence, the R&D tax credit has served as a fundamental component of our Nation's competitiveness strategy by increasing the amount of research undertaken by the private sector.

One key provision which I would have strongly supported had it been allowed to remain in the bill would have entitled workers to better pension benefits through what is known as section 415 of the tax code. But, regrettably, this provision was left at the station.

In addition, the bill includes a delay in the implementation of rules proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services to restructure organ allocation in our Nation. While this delay is not likely to please people on either side of this emotional issue, it should at least allow the Congress to debate this matter more fully when we return in January.

Mr. Speaker, my main regret on the legislation is that we are dealing with what should have been several bills and are, instead, forced to consider them as a single package. This approach limits debate and prohibits many Members from exercising their right to discuss the legislation. It is unfair and it is unnecessary. There is no reason why these bills should not have been brought up earlier under open rules with full debate. This is to say nothing of the many, many worthwhile bills that are being pushed aside altogether in the majority's rush to adjourn.

But we are coming back with renewed energy and commitment to passing the Patients' Bill of Rights, increasing the minimum wage for working families, and halting the violence and gunfire which threatens our homes and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, by all accounts, this will be the final rule to be considered this century. This is also the final rule of this millennium. Those of us who serve on this important committee are keenly aware of its historical and institutional role in this Congress on behalf of the American people. Grounded by that tradition and honored by the opportunity, we are thankful to the Members who have gone before us, and we look forward to the new millennium and meeting the challenges facing the American people in the 21st Century. I am grateful for my colleagues on the Committee on Rules.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for noting that this is the last rule of this millennium. From my perspective, I had forgotten about that, and I thank the gentlewoman for bringing it up.

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

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

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

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 391), and I ask unanimous consent for its consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 391

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing Committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Science: Mr. Baca of California.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1800

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1180, TICKET TO WORK AND WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 387, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 1180) to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to House Resolution 387, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of November 17, 1999, at page H12174.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the conference report H.R. 1180.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 1180, the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act, which also contains an important package of tax relief for American workers and families.

First, let me discuss the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act. Most of those receiving disability benefits today, due to the severity of their impairments, cannot attempt to work. Today, however, the Americans with Disabilities Act, along with advances in technology, medicine and rehabilitation, are opening doors of opportunity never thought possible to individuals with disabilities. Now people can telecommute to work. There are voice-activated computers. And, as technology provides new ways to clear hurdles presented by a disability, government must also keep pace by providing opportunity and not just dependency. Government should be helping people to work, not building barriers to independence and freedom.

This is one more victory in a string of health care achievements that the Republican Congress has guided into law. We strengthened Medicare, we made health insurance more portable, we passed tax breaks for long-term health care and to cut health insurance costs for people who buy their own health insurance, unfortunately, only to see all those vetoed by the President. And now we have modernized a key program for people with disabilities so that the Government is a help and not a hindrance. Mr. Speaker, that is truly a record of achievement and progress.

Another significant victory is the tax relief package in this bill. Because of our action, millions of families can now breathe easier knowing they will not get hit with a surprise tax hike for the next 3 years because we fixed the alternative minimum tax. The AMT is