

Weldon (FL)	White	Woolsey
Weldon (PA)	Whitfield	Wynn
Weller	Wicker	Yates
Wexler	Wise	Young (AK)
Weygand	Wolf	Young (FL)

## NAYS—17

Bonior	Kucinich	Petri
Clayton	McDermott	Rahall
Conyers	Minge	Sununu
Dellums	Moran (VA)	Traficant
Dingell	Obey	Watt (NC)
Hamilton	Paul	

## ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Bateman

## NOT VOTING—10

Blumenauer	Molinari	Schiff
Farr	Northup	Schumer
Flake	Pelosi	
Livingston	Pickett	

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

¶62.27 PROVIDING FOR THE  
CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 54

Mr. GOSS, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 105-126) the resolution (H. Res. 163) providing for the consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 54) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶62.28 PROVIDING FOR THE  
CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 437

Mr. GOSS, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 105-127) the resolution (H. Res. 164) providing for the consideration of the bill (H. R. 437) to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶62.29 COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK—MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. PEASE, laid before the House a communication, which was read as follows:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
*Washington, DC, June 9, 1997.*

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
*The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on June 9, 1997 at 2:34 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he returns without his approval, H.R. 1469, the "1997

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act."

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,  
*Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.*

¶62.30 VETO OF H.R. 1469

The Clerk then read the veto message from the President, as follows:

*To the House of Representatives:*

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 1469, the "Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act, FY 1997." The congressional majority—despite the obvious and urgent need to speed critical relief to people in the Dakotas, Minnesota, California, and 29 other States ravaged by flooding and other natural disasters—has chosen to weigh down this legislation with a series of unacceptable provisions that it knows will draw my veto. The time has come to stop playing politics with the lives of Americans in need and to send me a clean, unencumbered disaster relief bill that I can and will sign the moment it reaches my desk.

On March 19, 1997, I sent the Congress a request for emergency disaster assistance and urged the Congress to approve it promptly. Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees acted expeditiously to approve the legislation. The core of this bill, appropriately, provides \$5.8 billion of much-needed help to people in hard-hit States and, in addition, contains \$1.8 billion for the Department of Defense related to our peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and Southwest Asia. Regrettably, the Republican leadership chose to include contentious issues totally unrelated to disaster assistance, needlessly delaying essential relief.

The bill contains a provision that would create an automatic continuing resolution for all of fiscal year 1998. While the goal of ensuring that the Government does not shut down again is a worthy one, this provision is ill-advised. The issue here is not about shutting down the Government. Last month, I reached agreement with the Bipartisan Leadership of Congress on a plan to balance the budget by 2002. That agreement is the right way to finish the job of putting our fiscal house in order, consistent with our values and principles. Putting the Government's finances on automatic pilot is not.

The backbone of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement is the plan to balance the budget while providing funds for critical investments in education, the environment, and other priorities. The automatic continuing resolution would provide resources for fiscal year 1998 that are \$18 billion below the level contained in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, threatening such investments in our future. For example: college aid would be reduced by \$1.7 billion, eliminating nearly 375,000 students from the Pell Grant program; the number of women, infants, and children receiving food and other services through WIC would be cut by an average of 500,000 per month; up to 56,000

fewer children would participate in Head Start; the number of border patrol and FBI agents would be reduced, as would the number of air traffic controllers; and our goal of cleaning up 900 Superfund sites by the year 2000 could not be accomplished.

The bill also contains a provision that would permanently prohibit the Department of Commerce from using statistical sampling techniques in the 2000 decennial census for the purpose of apportioning Representatives in Congress among the States. Without sampling, the cost of the decennial census will increase as its accuracy, especially with regard to minorities and groups that are traditionally undercounted, decreases substantially. The National Academy of Sciences and other experts have recommended the use of statistical sampling for the 2000 decennial census.

The Department of Justice, under the Carter and Bush Administrations and during my Administration, has issued three opinions regarding the constitutionality and legality of sampling in the decennial census. All three opinions concluded that the Constitution and relevant statutes permit the use of sampling in the decennial census. Federal courts that have addressed the issue have held that the Constitution and Federal statutes allow sampling.

The enrolled bill contains an objectionable provision that would promote the conversion of certain claimed rights-of-way into paved highways across sensitive national parks, public lands, and military installations. Under the provision, a 13-member commission would study the issue and provide recommendations to resolve outstanding Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477 claims. R.S. 2477 was enacted in 1866 to grant rights-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands not already reserved for public uses. It was repealed in 1976, subject to "valid, existing rights."

This provision in the enrolled bill is objectionable because it is cumbersome, flawed, and duplicates the extensive public hearings conducted by the Department of the Interior over the last 4 years. In addition, the proposed commission excludes the Secretary of Defense, but military installations are among the Federal properties that would be affected by the recommendations of the commission. Furthermore, there is no assurance that the proposed commission would provide a balanced representation of views or proper public participation. Under the provision, the Secretary of the Interior can disapprove the commission's recommendations, preventing their submission to the Congress under "fast-track" procedures in the House and Senate. I believe—and my Administration has stated—that a better approach would be for Interior to submit a legislative proposal to the Congress within 180 days to clarify R.S. 2477 claim issues permanently, with full congressional and public consideration.