843. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of State, transmitting notification of the intent to obligate Fiscal Year 1999 SEED funds by the Department of State; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

844. A letter from the Deputy Executive Secretary to the Department, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare Program; Changes to the MedicareChoice Program [HCFA–1030–F] (RIN: 0938–AI29) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

845. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on the schedule for the development of a prospective payment system (PPS) for home health services furnished under the Medicare program; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

¶15.7 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 701 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–454; 5 U.S.C. 7104(e)), I am pleased to transmit the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for Fiscal Year 1997.

The report includes information on the cases heard and decisions rendered by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the General Counsel of the Authority, and the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 2, 1999.*

The message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Government Reform.

¶15.8 COMMITTEE RESIGNATION—MINORITY

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, February 23, 1999.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, on Feb. 12, 1999, I was appointed by the House Democratic Caucus to serve on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. According to Rule 19 E of the Rules of the Democratic Caucus, "no Democratic Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence may serve on more than one standing committee during the Member's term of service on the select committee."

Rule 19 E also states that "Members shall be entitled to take leaves of absence from service on any committee (or subcommittee thereof) during the period they serve on the select committee and seniority rights on such committee (and on each subcommittee) to which they were assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if they had continued to serve during the period of leave of absence."

Accordingly, I am requesting a leave of absence from the House Committee on Science for the 106th Congress, with the understanding that my seniority rights on the Committee will be fully protected in accordance with Rule 19 E of the Democratic Caucus. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

TIM ROEMER,
Member of Congress.

By unanimous consent, the resignation was accepted.

¶15.9 YOUTH TO PERFORM WORK WITH WOOD PRODUCTS

Mr. GOODLING moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 221) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to permit certain youth to perform certain work with wood products; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. GOODLING and Mr. CLAY, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶15.10 DISASTER MITIGATION BY SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. TALENT moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 818) to amend the Small Business Act to authorize a pilot program for the implementation of disaster mitigation measures by small businesses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. TALENT and Mr. BAIRD, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, was passed.

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

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶15.11 APPLES EXPORT

Mr. COMBEST moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 609) to amend the Export Apple and Pear Act to limit the applicability of the Act to apples.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. COMBEST and Mr. STENHOLM, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. COMBEST demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶15.12 NULIFICATION OF CONSTRAINTS ON GUARANTEEING FARM LOANS

Mr. COMBEST moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 882) to nullify any reservation of funds during fiscal year 1999 for guaranteed loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for qualified beginning farmers or ranchers, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. COMBEST and Mr. STENHOLM, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

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

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶15.13 SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE INITIATIVE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. SHAW moved to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 32) expressing the sense of the Congress that the President and the Congress should join in undertaking the Social Security Guarantee Initiative to strengthen and protect the retirement income security of all Americans through the creation of a fair and modern Social Security Program for the 21st century; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. SHAW and Mr. RANGEL, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said joint resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin objected to the vote on the ground that a quorum was not present and not voting.