

Mr. CLINGER. Madam Speaker, in an attempt to allay the concerns of the gentleman, this particular provision; in fact, this section of the bill we requested the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS], the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, to review. She, in turn, requested the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS], to review this.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, with due respect to both of those valuable people, they are not from States that are covered by the Voting Rights Act, and this has a particular significance to us in States which are substantially covered by the Voting Rights Act that it may not have to someone in Illinois.

Mr. CLINGER. Madam Speaker, if I may respond to the gentleman in this respect: The counsel to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight is standing at the gentleman's right shoulder and is going to provide the gentleman, I hope, with information that would, again, allay your concerns that, in fact, information is going to be provided.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, the gentleman has handed me a section which is section 207 of the Voting Rights Act, which appears to direct the Census Bureau to do exactly the same thing that this particular section directs the Census Bureau to do.

So why is it necessary to repeal this provision? We are not accomplishing anything by repealing it if, in fact, the same requirement is imposed on the Census Bureau somewhere else.

Mr. CLINGER. Madam Speaker, if I may respond to the gentleman this way, that it is really basically a technical redrafting of the law so that we make it a little bit more understandable.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WATERS].

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, [Mr. GENE GREEN] for yielding time to me.

Madam Speaker, let me just try and follow up on the request of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT] about delaying or pulling out this provision. This is very, very sensitive. As a matter of fact, the work of many, many civil rights organizations went into the development of the Voting Rights Act, and that which covers all of the States. All of those States that are covered under the Voting Rights Act are covered for very specific reasons.

So we have to be very careful about doing anything that would alleviate the responsibility for data and information and voting patterns and voter registration without knowing what we are doing.

This kind of request for repeal, in my estimation, would have to be circulated among those organizations, including

the NAACP and SCLC, NACLU, and all of the organizations who put so much time and effort into developing legislation that would give us a measure of protection and help to shine the light on those practices that would eliminate participation in the process in ways that we have solved historically.

So, Madam Speaker, I think the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT] really does make a serious request, and it is not understood by those of us who try and watch this kind of thing why, in fact, you would be repealing something that you want to request the Census Bureau to do. If it is the same thing, why not leave it intact and not mess with it?

As a matter of fact, it may even look innocent, but I submit to you that it may not be that innocent.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. WATERS. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, it appears to me that I have been handed just a summary of what this particular bill does, which is repeal this particular section, rather than having been handed some duplicative provision, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER] has indicated.

I would have to say to the gentleman that unless I can be satisfied that there is, in fact, in place a provision in the law, I will have to vote against the bill.

Mr. CLINGER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute, basically to respond to the gentleman.

As I say, I come somewhat fresh to this issue, because we had understood, at least, that it had been pretty carefully vetted to ensure that we were not going to be undercutting or in any way affecting the collection of very vital, I would agree, very vital and important data.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. CLINGER

Mr. CLINGER. Madam Speaker, because of the concerns that the gentleman has raised, I ask unanimous consent that section 1021(A) of subtitle B of the proposed legislation be deleted.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. CLINGER: In the proposed amendment strike subsection (a) of Sec. 1021 in Subtitle B (Page 12, strike lines 20-22).

□ 1215

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Is there objection to the modification offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER]?

There was no objection.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified, and the bill.

The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER].

The amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified, was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLINGER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 790, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the 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 a rollcall vote, if postponed, will be taken after the veto message from the President is disposed of.

ENFORCEMENT OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT AND PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER FEDERAL TRUST FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2621) to enforce the public debt limit and to protect the Social Security trust funds and other Federal trust funds and accounts invested in public debt obligations.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2621

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

**SECTION 1. APPLICABILITY OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT TO FEDERAL TRUST FUNDS AND OTHER FEDERAL ACCOUNTS.**

(a) PROTECTION OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) no officer or employee of the United States may—