

Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary of the Committee on Appropriations.

With that, I thank the gentleman for allowing me this time. It is unusual for me to speak out, but I have become aware of this through a very good friend and former Member, Joseph DiGarde. This is a tragedy, this is a shame, this is a human rights concern beyond reproach, and Congress must not allow this deafening silence throughout the world.

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

Once again, I urge the House to pass the bill. It is a bipartisan approach. I must say that I appreciate the kind words of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT]. He says that rarely does he speak out, but he can always be counted on to speak out and do what is right for this country. I think he is a great American and I appreciate his efforts and all he has done for this House and for this country.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1161.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PROVIDING PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF AU PAIR PROGRAMS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1211) to provide permanent authority for the administration of au pair programs.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1211

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR AU PAIR PROGRAMS.

Section 1(b) of the Act entitled "An Act to extend au pair programs", approved December 23, 1995 (Public Law 104-72; 109 Stat. 776) is amended by striking " through fiscal year 1997".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL].

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

Today we bring to the floor the Senate bill, S. 1211, a permanent extension

of the au pair program. The date of the present program's expiration is approaching, and so it is imperative to continue the program through this legislation.

The au pair program gives young people from many different countries a chance to visit the United States and to live with an American family for up to a year, assisting with child care and other needs around the home. It is a way for providing for round-trip travel, tuition fees, and weekly stipend. It is of assistance both to our country and to the individual visitor who learns more about the United States.

This is a bipartisan, noncontroversial measure. It has already passed the other body, and I hope that my colleagues in the House will support this bill in passage and promptly send it to the President for signature.

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

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

I commend the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL], for bringing before the House this bill to permanently extend the authority of USIA to run the au pair program. I have had my doubts about whether the program should be run by USIA. I understand the program brings many positive experiences, both to the au pairs as well as to the host families.

The 1995 lapse in authorization was very disruptive to the program and its participants, and to the U.S. host families. Another such interruption will be avoided by passing this bill before authorization would expire on September 30. Given its long history and the favorable October 1996 report to Congress by USIA, the au pair program should no longer be subject to uncertainty and short-term authorizations.

I urge the adoption of the measure. I commend again the chief sponsors of it, including the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL].

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to simply add that it is always a pleasure to be on the floor with my colleague and good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1211, the Senate bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1211.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CLINT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1116) to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District and the Fabens Independent School District.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1116

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.

Subject to section 2, the Secretary of State shall execute and file in the appropriate office such instrument as may be necessary to release the reversionary interest of the United States in the 40-acre tract of land referred to in Public Law 85-42.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

The release under section 1 shall be made upon condition that the Clint Independent School District and the Fabens Independent School District in the State of Texas use any proceeds received from the disposal of such land for public educational purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL].

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, this bill is authored by our colleague and friend, Mr. REYES, from Texas, and I expect that we will hear from him as soon as the opportunity arises on the Democratic side of the aisle, but I wish to begin by giving him credit for authorship of the bill. It is my privilege to bring the bill to the floor. This bill will provide for the reversionary interest to be conveyed from the United States, in which it presently lies, to the Clint Independent School District and the Fabens Independent School District in the State of Texas.

The present reversionary interest is exercised by the United States through the Department of State. The Department of State has informed us that it no longer has any interest in the property. Through this bill, the State Department relinquishes its reversionary interest and gives it back to local school districts in Texas.

It is an utterly noncontroversial, bipartisan measure. The two local school districts will benefit from it. Their educational programs will benefit from

it. The land will be free and clear for whatever further conveyancing or use these school districts have. It is a straightforward bill, and I urge my colleagues to adopt H.R. 1116.

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

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

Let me again express appreciation to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] for bringing before the House the bill by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. REYES] to release the Federal Government's reversionary interest in the Clint and Fabens independent school districts.

We on the committee are glad that we have been helpful to our friend from Texas on this matter. As I understand it, the school districts in his district in Texas have had this property since about 1940. The Federal Government originally retained a reversionary interest in the property for good oversight reasons.

□ 1230

According to the Department of State, it no longer has any interest in the property. In order to allow the district's ability to make best use of the property, it is necessary for us to pass H.R. 1116 to release the Secretary of State from the reversionary interest. Under this bill the release of the interest shall be conditional upon the property being used for public educational purposes. I urge the adoption of the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. REYES], the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill, which is highly important to two school districts in El Paso, the Sixteenth District of Texas. This legislation would make only a minor change in the law, but would provide much-needed relief to the Clint and Fabens Independent School Districts, and provide them the power to determine how to use one of their assets much more effectively.

Since 1957 the Clint and Fabens Independent School Districts in El Paso have used land conveyed to them by the Federal Government to enhance their agricultural and vocational curriculum. An agricultural farm used mainly by the Clint School District is situated on this land.

Before the farm was built, the Federal Government had let the land lie unused for 23 years. By locating an educational farm on this land, the Clint Independent School District made the land useful and an important dimension to their educational programming. For decades we have greatly appreciated the Federal Government's transferring this property to our school districts.

Over the years, however, transporting students to the educational farm has grown increasingly problematic. The land is located 2 miles beyond the outermost boundary of the Clint Inde-

pendent School District, and school officials and teachers must confront daily the difficulties of getting the students to the farm and back safely.

Students must travel 2 miles each way on busy streets. This takes time away from learning and places the students in danger during the school day. Also, in a district like Clint, most students do not have vehicles, so teachers and students must work to locate transportation to and from the farm.

Because of the distance to the farm, it would make sense for Clint to sell the land and use the proceeds to purchase land closer to the school. As a matter of fact, the school district has already located land directly adjacent to the school on which they could build an agricultural farm for their students. This would allow students simply to walk next door to the educational farm, avoiding costly transportation needs, danger, and increasing the learning time.

As the law is written, however, the State Department holds a reversionary interest in the land where the farm is currently located. This reversionary interest requires that ownership of the land revert to the Federal Government if any attempt is made to dispose of the lands.

For 40 years Clint and Fabens have been confined by this law, which requires them to either keep the lands, regardless of changes in local circumstances, or surrender it back to the Federal Government and leave their students with even fewer vocational resources and opportunities than are currently available.

Mr. Speaker, in pursuing this legislation, I have worked closely with the Department of State, which currently holds the reversionary interest in the land. I have a letter here from Barbara Larkin, Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, which states that the Department no longer has an interest in this land and does not object to the release of the reversionary interest.

I have also worked closely with the Committee on International Relations on this bill, and I want to thank both the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Hamilton) for their cooperation in this matter, and for bringing my bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank their staffs, Ms. Kristen Gilley and Ms. Elana Broitman for their assistance in moving this bill forward. Waiving this reversionary interest is a simple and straightforward way to help the young people in my district in Texas. The language of the legislation is narrowly tailored to ensure that any proceeds from the sale of lands will go toward improving the education of students. The State Department does not want or need the reversionary interest, and it would provide much needed authority to my local school districts. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here with my colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. REYES]. I want to give tribute to my chairman, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], who allowed me to represent him in bringing this bill to the floor.

The logic that our colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. REYES], brings to us in this context also is present in a bill that my colleague might be not yet aware of, offered by the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. RYUN], regarding reversionary interests in land where there had been an easement for railroad use. Land should go back to its original owners when an easement is no longer needed. I applaud the gentleman from Texas for his thinking in this case. I urge that he might want to look at the other case as an example of a comparable approach.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1116.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. UPTON]. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1116.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE OCEAN

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 131, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ocean, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 131

Whereas the ocean comprises nearly three quarters of the surface of the Earth;

Whereas the ocean contains diverse species of fish and other living organisms which form the largest eco-system on Earth;

Whereas these living marine resources provide important food resources to the United States and the world, and unsustainable use of these resources has unacceptable economic, environmental, and cultural consequences;

Whereas the ocean and sea floor contain vast energy and mineral resources which are critical to the economy of the United States and the world;

Whereas the ocean largely controls global weather and climate, and is the ultimate source of all water resources;