

when requested to do so. An airline would be required to consult with family members regarding any monuments to the victims that may be built. Finally, airlines would be required to assist families in traveling to the accident site, and to provide for their comfort while there. Under the measure, airlines that do not meet this plan could be denied permission to operate in the United States.

The loneliest people in the world are those left behind when their loved ones are killed in such a tragic and terrible manner. These are catastrophic accidents and while we are not always able to prevent such disasters, we can vote now to ensure that families touched by such tragedy will receive competent, compassionate, and efficient assistance during their time of great need. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this compassionate legislation.

Mr. DUNCAN. 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 Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2476, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2476, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1026, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the Senate bill (S. 1026) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of November 7, 1997, at page H10210.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

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

Mr. Speaker, this important bipartisan legislation reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Eximbank, for an additional 4 years.

Reauthorizing Exim is critical to supporting America's ability to export and will help ensure that American businesses and American workers are able to compete and win against sub-

sidized foreign competition in today's global market. This common-sense legislation is good for America; it advances the national interests, helps reduce the trade deficit, and enhances our export competitiveness.

Briefly, the conference report provides for the following: First, a 4-year extension of the bank's authority through September 30, 2001; second, an extension of tied-aid authority; third, an extension of the authority for providing financing for the export of non-lethal defense articles; fourth, a clarification of the President's authority to deny bank financing based on national interest concerns; fifth, creation of an Assistant General Counsel for Administration; sixth, authorization for the establishment of an Advisory Committee to assist the bank in facilitating U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa; seventh, a requirement that two labor representatives be appointed to the Bank's Advisory Committee; eighth, a requirement that the bank's chairman design an outreach program for companies that have never used its services; ninth, identification of child labor as a human right which can serve as a basis for a Presidential determination to deny applications for credit based on national interest concerns; and, tenth, the denial of export financing for sales to the Russian Government or military if that country transfers SS-N-22 missile systems to China, the President determines that such action represents a significant and imminent threat to the security of the United States, and the President also requests the Bank to cease that export financing.

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At this time, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to all of the members of the conference committee and others who have worked so hard in support of Exim, beginning with the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH], as well as the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE], the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MANZULLO].

In particular, I would like to express my gratitude for the extraordinary help and cooperation of the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE], not only on this legislation, but for the extraordinarily productive partnership we have shared in serving together on the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy. It has been a privilege for me to serve with the gentleman on this subcommittee. Frankly, I cannot imagine how we are going to manage without the gentleman, or his first rate chief of staff Shawn Peterson. We will miss them both.

In closing, I believe this is a non-controversial conference report. It deserves enthusiastic bipartisan support. I urge its immediate adoption.

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

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

I rise this evening in support of the conference report, S. 1026, the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 1997. The gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and I are proud to preserve the ideas and efforts of the House in our deliberations with the other body. We both believe that this conference report is indicative of our good working relationship on the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy.

First, we instruct the State Department to expressly use the CHAFEE amendment process when it has national interest concerns with potential Exim deals. Moreover, this provision has been enhanced to explicitly include child labor abuses in recipient countries. We also preserved an advisory panel to counsel the bank on efforts to increase the U.S. exports to Sub-Saharan Africa. These efforts reflect a bipartisan commitment to increasing trade with Africa, and are indicative of and positive efforts by the administration, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Speaker, the trade-oriented leaders of Congress. I believe this is the right thing to do, and I am happy to have created this panel as I leave Congress.

The conference report preserves a mandated ethics counseling unit within Exim. Consequently, we ensure that employees have the best possible ethical advice when major financing decisions are made.

The conference report also adopted modified provisions of the House bill that experience the labor communities' representation on the bank's advisory panel, a provision that instructs the bank to reach out to small businesses and language which clarifies the bank's role in expanded job opportunities and economic growth within the United States.

Let me expand my remarks by stating that we need the Export-Import Bank. The need was always in mind during the rather difficult negotiations with the other body with respect to most of the House amendments that had been adopted on this floor. I am pleased to state that the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH], the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE], the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE], the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], and I were never in disagreement on these issues. Accordingly, our belief in bipartisan solidarity, our belief in the necessity of the bank, and our duty to preserve the House provisions are reflected in this conference report.

It is in this spirit that we reached a very difficult agreement on prohibiting export financing to Russia, should it export SS-22 missile systems to China. This provision clearly identifies a major policy concern of the Congress and still cedes to the executive branch the flexibility to use its expertise in the areas of intelligence and threat assessment.