

BEST WISHES TO THE MEMBERS UNDERTAKING THE STUDY OF OUR CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA IN AN ELECTION YEAR

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House voted to fund a \$2.5 million study of our current relationship with China. The newly-appointed chairman, a Republican, the gentleman from California (CHRIS COX) and the ranking member, a Democrat, the gentleman from Washington (NORM DICKS), two well-respected Members of this body, deserve our support and respect as they begin investigating whether our decades-long policy and current procedures allowing commercial American satellites to be launched by Chinese rockets have inadvertently allowed transfer to the Chinese of information useful to the Chinese missile program. These are issues deserving thoughtful analysis, but unfortunately for the gentleman from California and the gentleman from Washington they undertake this investigation at a time of intense rhetoric and prejudgment, and of course elections are 4½ months away.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage this body to let these Members do their work unobstructed by the hot rhetoric that sometimes overtakes this body. The gentleman from California (Mr. COX) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the other members of this committee, we wish them well.

KILLER CONGRESSMEN

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's Washington Post headlines says it all: GOP Kills McCain Tobacco Bill. And in this body the Republicans leadership is trying to derail campaign finance reform.

Let me add what the Philadelphia Inquirer says today: Killer Congressmen. So unfair to call this a do-nothing Congress. Top Republicans on the Hill are putting in a lot of hard work right now. Think it is easy to kill off the tobacco bill and campaign financing reform at the same time? That is what they did yesterday, and that is what they continue to try to do.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH) and his minions are killing off campaign finance reform. It is an astute gamble. Thwarting the Shays-Meehan bill may hurt their ability to pose as reformers, but it will keep open the soft money spigot they count on to hold their House majority.

What more proof do we need that our political system is hopelessly broken? Vote to fix our political system, vote to end big money in campaigns, and vote for real campaign finance reform. Vote for the Meehan-Shays bill.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4059, THE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 477 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 477

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4059) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Pending the adoption by the Congress of a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1999, the following allocations contemplated by section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 shall be considered as made to the Committee on Appropriations:

- (1) New discretionary budget authority: \$531,961,000,000.
- (2) Discretionary outlays: \$562,277,000,000.
- (3) New mandatory budget authority: \$298,105,000,000.
- (4) Mandatory outlays: \$290,858,000,000.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I

may consume. During consideration of this resolution all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 477 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 4059, the Military Construction Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. Further, the rule waives points of order against the consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of Rule XXI, prohibiting unauthorized appropriations or legislative appropriations in general appropriations bills, and clause 6 of Rule XXI, prohibiting reappropriations in general appropriations bills.

Further, Members who have preprinted their amendments in the Congressional RECORD prior to their consideration will be given priority recognition to offer their amendments if otherwise consistent with House rules.

In addition, the rule grants the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole the authority to postpone votes and reduce voting time to 5 minutes, provided that the first vote in a series is not less than 15 minutes.

The rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Finally, because we are still without a budget resolution conference report, the rule provides that the allocations required by the Budget Act, section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 that sets out the process requiring those numbers, shall be considered as made to the Committee on Appropriations. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we are using last year's budget resolution numbers, as adjusted for economic assumptions.

The Committee on Rules hearing was cordial and bipartisan, which I am told is a reflection of how the Subcommittee on Military Construction of the Committee on Appropriations has acted during the stewardship of the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD), the chairman of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), the ranking member. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) has been a tremendous asset to this House, and his contributions to a better quality of life for our men and women in uniform are truly commendable.

I support this open rule as well as the underlying bill. The bill funds military construction, family housing and base closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999. The spending level represents a reduction in the underlying bill of \$1 billion from last year's bill, \$8.2 billion this year versus \$9.2 billion for 1998, a reduction from last year's bill, and I believe that the bill contains a reasonable amount of spending, with the majority of the money going to family housing.