

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2411 is a bill introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT). The gentleman from Massachusetts is to be commended on a bill which successfully resolves an environmentally sensitive issue and will benefit the people of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2411 provides for a land exchange and minor boundary adjustment to the Cape Code National Seashore consistent with requirements of the omnibus parks bill enacted last year. It conveys to Provincetown, Massachusetts, 7.6 acres of Federal land in exchange for approximately 11.2 acres of land outside the park, and modifies the park boundary to include the added land. In addition, the bill extends the statutory term of the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission by 10 years to September 2008. The Commission has provided valuable guidance to the Park Service and given local officials and community members a voice in the management of the Seashore.

This bill is noncontroversial and is supported by the administration. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2411.

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

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

(Mr. DELAHUNT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation which I sponsored which would resolve two matters concerning the Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts. I wish to thank the gentlewoman from Washington for her management of this bill.

□ 1530

First, as she indicated, the bill would extend the statutory term of the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission for some 10 years. Since the seashore was created during the Kennedy administration, the commission has indeed provided invaluable guidance to the National Park Service and given residents of lower Cape Cod towns a voice in the management of the seashore. This extension is strongly supported by local, State and National Park Service officials.

In addition, again as the gentlewoman indicated, the bill includes minor boundary adjustments to the national seashore consistent with requirements enacted last year. These adjustments resolve a decade-old dispute concerning the construction of a solid waste transfer station and is part of a settlement agreement among the Park Service, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the town of Provincetown.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, by thanking and acknowledging the support and the assistance of the Chair of the full committee, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the Chair of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) as well as the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) and my friend, the ranking member of the subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial yet important legislation.

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

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA). (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2411, as was introduced by my colleague and a Member of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT). This is a piece of legislation that is supported by the National Park Service as well as the local community.

The bill has two provisions. The first provision authorizes a minor land exchange between the National Park Service and the town of Provincetown. The second provision extends of the term of the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission. This advisory commission has been in existence since the seashore was established and works with the National Park Service and the local community on numerous issues.

Mr. Speaker, when the committee marked up 2411, it adopted an amendment to the bill that spells out the uses that are permitted on the exchange property and limits the extension of the advisory commission to 2008. These changes have been agreed upon by the National Park Service and the gentleman from Massachusetts, and I do support these provisions as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. LINDA SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2411, 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

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. 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. 2411, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1620

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT) at 4 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY AND MILITARY/COMMERCIAL CONCERNS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 3(a) of House Resolution 463, 105th Congress, the Chair appoints the following Members of the House to the U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People's Republic of China:

Mr. COX of California, Chairman,
Mr. GOSS,
Mr. BEREUTER,
Mr. HANSEN,
Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania,
Mr. DICKS,
Mr. SPRATT,
Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD,
Mr. SCOTT.

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Pursuant to House Resolution 477 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4059.

□ 1621

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the State of the Union for the 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, with Mr. PEASE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD).

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), ranking member of the subcommittee. He has served for 12 years as chairman of this subcommittee and

has made a great contribution to the Congress. He is leaving at the end of this year, and it has been a true pleasure for me to be able to work with him on this subcommittee. I will say more about that in a moment.

Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege for me to recommend this military construction bill to the Congress for adoption. It is a very stringent bill. It does not meet the needs, nor the requirements of military construction, but it is basically all that we have to work with, the numbers were given to us.

Actually, the administration presented a budget request that is considerably lower than last year's appropriated level, about \$1.4 billion dollars lower. That is a 15 percent cut from last year's appropriated level. We have had to add to that level, to the President's request, about \$450 million or we would have never been able to have met even the most dire military construction needs.

Mr. Chairman, we do not see any controversy on this bill. We feel that it is

a very good bipartisan bill. The minority and the majority have worked very closely on it in crafting the bill. We also have worked very closely with the authorizing committee. In fact, this bill really reflects the authorizing committee bill and we are pleased to present it to the House.

In conclusion, I want to again mention that we have had the great privilege of working with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), who will be leaving the Congress. And I might mention that we included in the bill a recommendation that a military highway in his district be named after him, the "W.G. 'Bill' Hefner All American Parkway."

We think that it is important that the gentleman be remembered in this way for his great contribution to military construction, to the Congress, and to the United States Government.

Mr. Chairman, I submit the following for the RECORD:

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1999 (H.R. 4059)

	FY 1998 Enacted	FY 1999 Estimate	Bill	Bill compared with Enacted	Bill compared with Estimate
Military construction, Army.....	714,377,000	790,876,000	780,599,000	+66,222,000	-10,277,000
Military construction, Navy.....	683,666,000	468,150,000	570,643,000	-113,023,000	+102,493,000
Military construction, Air Force.....	701,855,000	454,810,000	550,475,000	-151,380,000	+95,665,000
Military construction, Defense-wide.....	646,342,000	491,675,000	611,075,000	-35,267,000	+119,400,000
Total, Active components.....	2,746,240,000	2,205,511,000	2,512,792,000	-233,448,000	+307,281,000
Military construction, Army National Guard.....	118,350,000	47,675,000	70,338,000	-48,012,000	+22,663,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 105-174).....	3,700,000			-3,700,000	
Military construction, Air National Guard.....	190,444,000	34,781,000	97,701,000	-92,743,000	+62,940,000
Military construction, Army Reserve.....	74,167,000	71,287,000	71,894,000	-2,273,000	+607,000
Military construction, Naval Reserve.....	47,329,000	15,271,000	33,721,000	-13,608,000	+18,450,000
Military construction, Air Force Reserve.....	30,243,000	10,535,000	35,371,000	+5,128,000	+24,836,000
Total, Reserve components.....	464,233,000	179,529,000	309,025,000	-155,208,000	+129,496,000
Total, Military construction.....	3,210,473,000	2,385,040,000	2,821,817,000	-388,656,000	+436,777,000
NATO Security Investment Program.....	152,600,000	185,000,000	169,000,000	+16,400,000	-16,000,000
Family housing, Army:					
New construction.....	101,650,000	70,100,000	41,700,000	-59,950,000	-28,400,000
Construction improvements.....	86,100,000	28,629,000	37,429,000	-48,671,000	+8,800,000
Planning and design.....	9,550,000	6,350,000	6,350,000	-3,200,000	
General reduction.....		-1,639,000	-2,639,000	-2,639,000	-1,000,000
Subtotal, construction.....	197,300,000	103,440,000	82,840,000	-114,460,000	-20,600,000
Operation and maintenance.....	1,140,568,000	1,104,733,000	1,097,697,000	-42,871,000	-7,036,000
Total, Family housing, Army.....	1,337,868,000	1,208,173,000	1,180,537,000	-157,331,000	-27,636,000
Family housing, Navy and Marine Corps:					
New construction.....	175,196,000	59,504,000	29,125,000	-146,071,000	-30,379,000
Construction improvements.....	203,536,000	211,991,000	92,037,000	-111,499,000	-119,954,000
Planning and design.....	15,100,000	15,618,000	15,618,000	+518,000	
General reduction.....		-6,323,000	-6,323,000	-6,323,000	
Subtotal, construction.....	393,832,000	280,790,000	130,457,000	-263,375,000	-150,333,000
Operation and maintenance.....	976,504,000	915,293,000	915,293,000	-61,211,000	
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 105-174).....	18,100,000			-18,100,000	
Total, Family housing, Navy.....	1,388,436,000	1,196,083,000	1,045,750,000	-342,686,000	-150,333,000
Family housing, Air Force:					
New construction.....	159,943,000	140,499,000	124,344,000	-35,599,000	-16,155,000
Construction improvements.....	123,795,000	81,778,000	81,778,000	-42,017,000	
Planning and design.....	11,971,000	11,342,000	11,342,000	-629,000	
General reduction.....		-7,584,000	-9,584,000	-9,584,000	-2,000,000
Subtotal, construction.....	295,709,000	226,035,000	207,880,000	-87,829,000	-18,155,000
Operation and maintenance.....	830,234,000	789,995,000	785,204,000	-45,030,000	-4,791,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 105-174).....	2,400,000			-2,400,000	
Total, Family housing, Air Force.....	1,128,343,000	1,016,030,000	993,084,000	-135,259,000	-22,946,000
Family housing, Defense-wide:					
Construction improvements.....	4,900,000	345,000	345,000	-4,555,000	
Planning and design.....	50,000			-50,000	
Subtotal, construction.....	4,950,000	345,000	345,000	-4,605,000	
Operation and maintenance.....	32,724,000	36,899,000	36,899,000	+4,175,000	
Total, Family housing, Defense-wide.....	37,674,000	37,244,000	37,244,000	-430,000	
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.....		7,000,000	242,438,000	+242,438,000	+235,438,000
Homeowners Assistance Fund, Defense.....		12,800,000	7,500,000	+7,500,000	-5,300,000
Total, Family housing.....	3,892,321,000	3,477,330,000	3,506,553,000	-385,768,000	+29,223,000
New construction.....	(436,789,000)	(270,103,000)	(195,169,000)	(-241,620,000)	(-74,934,000)
Construction improvements.....	(418,331,000)	(322,743,000)	(211,589,000)	(-206,742,000)	(-111,154,000)
Planning and design.....	(36,671,000)	(33,310,000)	(33,310,000)	(-3,361,000)	
General reduction.....		(-15,546,000)	(-18,546,000)	(-18,546,000)	(-3,000,000)
Operation and maintenance.....	(2,980,030,000)	(2,846,920,000)	(2,835,093,000)	(-144,937,000)	(-11,827,000)
Family Housing Improvement Fund.....		(7,000,000)	(242,438,000)	(+242,438,000)	(+235,438,000)
Homeowners Assistance Fund.....		(12,800,000)	(7,500,000)	(+7,500,000)	(-5,300,000)
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 105-174).....	(20,500,000)			(-20,500,000)	
Base realignment and closure accounts:					
Part II.....	116,754,000			-116,754,000	
Part III.....	768,702,000	433,464,000	433,464,000	-335,238,000	
Part IV.....	1,175,398,000	1,297,240,000	1,297,240,000	+121,842,000	
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 105-174).....	1,020,000			-1,020,000	
Total, Base realignment and closure accounts.....	2,061,874,000	1,730,704,000	1,730,704,000	-331,170,000	

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1999 (H.R. 4059)—Continued

	FY 1998 Enacted	FY 1999 Estimate	Bill	Bill compared with Enacted	Bill compared with Estimate
Family housing, Navy and Marine Corps (FY99 Sec. 125)		6,000,000	6,000,000	+6,000,000	
Revised economic assumption (FY98 Sec. 125).....	-108,800,000			+108,800,000	
Grand total:					
New budget (obligational) authority	9,208,488,000	7,784,074,000	8,234,074,000	-974,394,000	+450,000,000
Appropriations	(9,183,248,000)	(7,784,074,000)	(8,234,074,000)	(-949,174,000)	(+450,000,000)
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 105-174).....	(25,220,000)			(-25,220,000)	

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, at the risk of forgetting it or letting it pass, I certainly want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle, who I think are the finest staff that I have ever worked with in the committees in all of my tenure here on Capitol Hill.

They have done yeoman's work. They have worked very, very hard. They are dedicated people, and I want to thank them very much for their hard work.

It goes without saying, the admiration that I have for the gentleman from California (Chairman PACKARD). He has done a remarkable job. He is a joy to work with. We worked very closely together, and what we bring today is a bill that we believe that everyone in this body can support, even though it does not meet the needs for our men and women in the service. But it is beyond our reach to do the kinds of things that we would like to do because of our allocation. Because of budgetary constraints, we are not able to do the kind of things we want to do in family housing, but it does provide \$8.2 billion for military construction and the last two rounds of the base closings.

Mr. Chairman, this is one of the bills that comes to this House every cycle in which we never have enough money to do the things that we would like to do for quality of life and to make sure that young men and women coming into our service will want to stay and serve their country. But we have done the best that we could in putting this bill together as far as it relates to quality of life and retention in our Armed Forces.

Mr. Chairman, I want to again thank the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) and all the staff for putting together this bill. I would hope that we would have 100 percent participation, and that all of that 100 percent would vote for our bill when the roll is called and maybe we will have 100 percent.

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

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) for yielding me this time for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, as the gentleman knows, I am very eager to see design funding for the P-208 aircraft platform interface, the API laboratory consolidation project, move forward this year at Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station. I would ask the gentleman, is it accurate to say that this bill, H.R. 4059, provides the necessary funding for the design of the API lab and will keep the Navy on track for construction in fiscal Year 2000?

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, the funding is included in this bill, H.R. 4059, for planning and design of the API lab for fiscal year 1999. The Navy is expected to move ahead with the planning and design of this project beginning on October 1 of this year, so that the construction can take place as scheduled in fiscal year 2000.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for affording me this opportunity to clarify the funding situation for the API lab at Lakehurst. There have been far too many delays with this project already, and H.R. 4059 will finally set the wheels in motion to begin the construction of the API lab at Lakehurst in fiscal year 2000.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would continue to yield, I thank him for his efforts and leadership and advocacy on behalf of the API lab project at Lakehurst. The gentleman's leadership on this bill will help the Navy to meet the challenge of naval aviation.

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

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), one of the members of the subcommittee.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), our ranking member, for yielding me this time. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman PACKARD) a truly "gentle man," for his leadership and his evenhandedness in putting together this bill, our bill, H.R. 4059.

□ 1630

The gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD), chairman, and the ranking member, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) and their excellent staff, particularly Hank Moore and Tom Forhan, have made my 2 years on the subcommittee a learning experience and a pleasure.

On my side of the aisle, what can I say about the retiring ranking member that has not already been said in the newspapers here in Washington and in North Carolina? The gentleman has made a lasting mark on this subcommittee as both chairman and ranking member, and he will be greatly missed. We all wish him the best from here.

This bill is as good as I think it can be, given the allocation that has really been foisted upon the subcommittee by the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, and I certainly urge its very quick passage.

I must send up a couple of signals, which lie somewhere between yellow cautionary and red crisis, in relation to the whole subject of military construction, because this bill, if it were enacted exactly as it is, would be more than \$2 billion below the appropriated level just four years ago. That is a huge hit on a budget which is really in

the \$10 billion category, \$10 billion level in the first place.

So one might ask, what does it matter? Some Members think that the military construction bill is all hangars and armories, but it is really a lot more than that. It is environmental compliance and cleanup. It is energy conservation. It is hospital and medical facilities. It is child development centers. It is family housing for the growing numbers of our peacetime service personnel who have spouses and children.

I would like to focus on just that one last category, the family housing program, for just a minute, pointing out that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), when he was Chair, and the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) in the past several years that he has been the Chair for the committee, have labored mightily each year to support the family housing program and do the best they could with the numbers that we have been given.

But if this bill is enacted, as I am sure, if it is enacted as it has been proposed here under the constraints of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the program for family housing will be down 19 percent, down in actual dollars by 19 percent since fiscal year 1996, from fiscal year 1996 to the present.

I just would like to address, call Members' attention, call the membership's attention to the sections in the report on H.R. 4059 on family housing, a report that points out that military family housing and the need for that has changed with the all volunteer structure of the force. Whereas 40 years ago only about 40 percent of our military personnel had families, now, 40 years later, it is over 60 percent who have families. Today the family housing program is the quality of life incentive that attracts and retains, and I am quoting really from the report, dedicated individuals to serve in the military. The housing deficiencies are a severe disincentive to reenlistment.

Now, it has been the Department of Defense policy that married couples will live off base with their families whenever it is possible and when there is housing available, and a good number of them do live off base. One out of roughly 8 is living off base in substandard housing because there is not adequate housing in the area for them. And in spite of the policy, with that policy, and because there is not adequate housing available, we have under the Department of Defense a total of over 300,000 units of housing on base, and the majority of that housing, the majority of those units are substandard. And in order to do the replacement and bring up to standard those housing units would require something like \$15 billion.

Now, with the kind of appropriation that we are having forced upon this subcommittee by the terms of the Balanced Budget Act, it is almost inevitable that we are not going to be able to catch up on this family housing

need, that we are going to fall further behind on that, despite what I have said is the yeoman effort on the part of the ranking member, when he was chairman, and the present chairman to try to deal with that.

I just want to speak to that as one issue or problem when that budget is dropping by as much as it is in the appropriated, final appropriated levels. In totality, this budget funds training and housing and health care and child care for the men and women who do our dirty work, and they deserve every penny that is in this bill and they deserve more.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), a valued member of the subcommittee.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

No war was ever won with technology alone. Battles and wars, whether in the 15th century or in the 20th or 21st century, require quality men and women, dedicated to our country, well trained, capable of defending our national interest. That is why this piece of legislation is so important to our Nation and our children's future.

It is important because in this legislation is the funding for quality of life issues for our military families. In today's all volunteer force, I can think of few things more important to our long-term national security than ensuring quality housing facilities and day care facilities for military families, often split by thousands of miles as the father or mother are off deployed to other nations, or even fighting for the interests of our country, while their children remain at home.

I want to say that I am deeply disappointed that this bill spends \$1 billion less before inflation is even taken into account than the military construction budget of just one year ago. It seems to me that a Congress that can somehow find \$20 to \$30 billion for increased funding for potholes and highways in the recent highway bill ought not to have to cut day-care centers and housing programs for men and women willing to put their lives on the line for this country. But that criticism, that disappointment has nothing to do with the leadership of the Committee on Appropriations or this subcommittee. That is a decision made at a different pay level.

I would urge Speaker GINGRICH and the leadership of this House and the Committee on the Budget, who made the decision to cut military construction funding by \$1 billion this year, to reconsider that cut and that budget as we review the budget in the months ahead.

I must say, as a compliment to those people who did not set the overall level of spending, no two Members could have done a better job in fighting for our military families and their quality

of life than the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD), chairman of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), the ranking member. I want to applaud them not only for their dedication to military families and a strong national defense, but I want to applaud them for the bipartisan manner in which they have put this bill together.

The reason, Mr. Chairman, people will not see a lot of Members on the floor during this debate, the reason there will not be an visceral disagreement of debate on this issue is simply because the gentlemen have done the business of the House and our country the way it should be done, on a fair, bipartisan basis. For that, we all say thank you to both of them.

I think the bipartisan nature of Mr. PACKARD and Mr. HEFNER's work together should be a model, not an exception to the rule, for this and future Congresses.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the reason I truly wanted to be on the floor of the House this afternoon was to say thank you for a lifetime of service to our colleague and my dear friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER). In the 7½ years I have had the privilege to serve in this body, I have considered no one a better friend than the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), who took this young green Member from the State of Texas under his wing and helped me as I tried to learn the process of Congress in my effort to represent Ft. Hood, which is now the largest populated Army installation in the world.

Not only through his service as chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction for over a decade but also because of his many years of service as a member of the very powerful military subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) has made a difference for the military families of this Nation. He has made a difference in ensuring that America has a strong national defense. On behalf of my two little boys, who will live in a safer world because of the service in Congress of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), I want to express my deep-felt gratitude to the gentleman from North Carolina. I know in the weeks and months ahead, many, many of my colleagues will join me in reflecting these feelings toward the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) and his service.

Let me also say beyond the scope of these two important committees on which he serves, I have seen no Member that has shown greater courage on the floor of this House week after week, month after month. When one comes to floor and looks up at Mr. HEFNER's light, yeah or nay on a bill, they may not know the best political vote but they know what the right vote is. As someone who was not here in 1981, I can only imagine how difficult it was for a southern Democrat from North Caro-

lina to vote against President Reagan's tax bill, which, in the opinion of some, not all, had something to do with the increased national debt that we face today.

But whether you agreed or disagreed with him, to have the courage to vote "no" on that bill and "yes" and "no" on so many other important pieces of legislation, to be motivated by doing what his conscience told him was right, that is the sort of thing that causes all of us throughout the country, as well as the constituents of his in North Carolina, to have a deep and abiding respect for the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER).

So on behalf of my colleagues that serve on the committee and all others who are here and who will be here in the days ahead to speak of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), recognizing this is his last time to come to the floor as part of leadership in bringing the military construction budget to this House, I want to express my lifelong respect and gratitude for Mr. HEFNER's friendship and leadership on behalf of our Nation.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON), chairman of the full Committee on Appropriations.

(Mr. LIVINGSTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Chairman, I first want to rise and congratulate the chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD), and the ranking member, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), for once again doing the outstanding job that both of them are accustomed to doing on this bill. The gentleman from Texas preceded me by pointing out a few problems that they had to work with. He failed to mention, though, that the administration had underfunded the military construction part of the budget by some \$1.4 billion.

I share his concern that we should not deprive the men and women of the military of the accoutrements that lead to a better quality of life for them. And for that reason, within our given budget limits, within the fact that we are living within a balanced budget with very strict budget ceilings, I am very pleased that we were able to put back in \$450 million into this subcommittee so that they could apply that money to the needs of the servicemen and women of America.

I am concerned. I share his concern that the administration would underfund this account by \$1.4 billion. That being said, in the same bipartisan fashion that the gentleman used who preceded me, let me say that the two gentlemen that manage this bill exemplify the type of bipartisan spirit that is not only welcomed but is so critically necessary to the conduct of the business of the House of Representatives.

□ 1645

Together they have worked well on behalf of both the young men and women of our armed services and on behalf of America. I just want to congratulate them from the bottom of my heart.

But I want to reiterate and exaggerate those congratulations to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) from Concord, North Carolina, about 60 miles from Fort Bragg, who has represented the Eighth Congressional District of North Carolina so well since he was first elected in Congress in 1974.

The fact is that the gentleman began service on this subcommittee in 1981. Whether as chairman of the subcommittee when his team was in the majority or as ranking member when our team took over the majority, the fact is that he has been steadfast in his devotion to serve America and to serve the people who have rendered themselves valiant service in the cause of America in uniform.

I particularly appreciate the effort that the gentleman has made on behalf of America's military, but also I want to say that he has distinguished himself in so many other ways during his service here. First, he is a great golfer who participated with me in one of the most memorable golf events in my life, which I did not distinguish myself, but he certainly did. He played well, and I will let him complete the record on the rest of it.

Secondly, he is a man of enormous sensibilities and great sense of humor. He has played host to the Chile cookoff, which is a function that occurs on an annual basis for congressional wives. Try as we might, we have never been able to come up with anybody who could compare with him in hosting this event. I must say I saw his performance this year, and I think he outdid even himself.

The gentleman has got a wonderful sense of humor. He not only is an accomplished musician and accomplished musical performer, but as a stand-up comic, he is unparalleled. I want to thank him for his service to this country. I want to thank him for his spirit of bipartisanship which contributed mightily to this bill. I want to take this opportunity to wish him and his family all of the best of luck and success in everything that he does henceforth.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that we have 2 extra hours.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair cannot entertain such a request at this time.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, could the Chair enlighten us as to how much time is remaining for each side?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) has 15½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) has 20½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wis-

consin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member on the Committee on Appropriations

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I very much thank the gentleman for the time. I simply wanted to come to the floor to really pay honor to the gentleman who is managing this bill on this side of the aisle for the last time, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER).

I have known Bill since the first day he walked into this institution, and I have never seen a day when he did not bring honor to this House by his service. He has, as our chairman has already indicated, a wonderful sense of humor. He has a wonderful sense of music. He also has a wonderful sense of honor.

Those that know him know that religion means a lot to him. But as we have seen him demonstrate often on this floor, he also has a very healthy skepticism about the use to which some politicians put religion, or at least their professed religiosity.

The gentleman has indicated time and time again that he recognizes all too often the propensity of some people in public life to wrap an economic or political message in a religious ribbon and call it religion when it is, in fact, something very, very different, something which demeans God and demeans religion.

He, I think, understands that there are some things in life that are too important to politicize, religion being one of them. I have admired for so long his ability on an issue to be righteous without being sanctimonious.

He has, I think, demonstrated in countless ways on countless days a sense of justice, a sense of outrage against injustice, and most of all, a political courage that we wish would be emulated more often on this floor than it is.

In addition to being a first-rate legislator, he is a first-rate human being. I for one will miss him greatly. I will miss his good judgment. I will miss his good temper. I will miss his wonderful sense of humor. I will certainly miss the opportunities that I have had through the years to play my bluegrass harmonica in backup to his gospel singing. His gospel singing is better than my bluegrass harmonica, but we have had a lot of fun doing that.

I simply want to say to young people who will be entering this House in the future, they could do a lot worse than to emulate the style of the gentleman from North Carolina. He has brought grace to this House. He has brought determination and courage and guts to this House.

As someone else indicated, I have never heard him ask what is the political vote. I have often heard him ask what is the right vote. That is the right question that ought to be asked in this institution.

So, Bill, we are going to miss you, but we know that wherever you are, you will be keeping an eye on us. From time to time, I think you will be pull-

ing our leash to let us know when you think we are getting out of line. It has been a pleasure to serve with you.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We still have just a couple speakers, but I did not realize that these folks were going to say these nice things about me after all these years. I guess it is just a pent-up exuberance that they have been building up over the years, hoping one day I would retire and they would be able to say nice things.

I was kind of hoping for a watch, but I guess that is not going to materialize. At least, I have a road that is going to be named after me. I am working with the Governor of North Carolina to see if we can make it into a toll road which will be some benefit in my old age and in my retirement.

But serving in this body has been something that I could never have dreamed about when I was a kid growing up in rural Alabama. I had never been to the capital of Alabama, Montgomery, let alone to think someday I would be able to come to the Capitol of the United States and represent a half a million people. So it has really been a tremendous experience for me.

I defend this body and I defend the Members in this body, because I believe that if we take all 435 of us and we put us up to the scrutiny and put 435 average citizens across this country up to the same scrutiny, that we would stack up very, very well among the rank and file of people in this country.

We all want the same things for our country, for our States, and for our families. We just have a little bit different way sometimes how we want to get there. But it has been an honor for me to serve in this body, and it has certainly been an honor for me to serve on this committee and this subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from the 18th District of Texas, (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding to me. He took away my momentum. That watch was coming, but we are checking the gift rule.

But I could not come to the floor for a better occasion than to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) as well for his leadership and certainly the ranking member.

I think that any time someone maintains themselves in this body for 24 years, has seen the conclusion of the Vietnam War, one of the most tragic periods in our history, watching just a few miles down the road the return of the 265-plus Marine bodies in the Lebanon tragedy, and certainly now at one point facing the crisis in Bosnia.

I think the ranking member knows full well the importance of our military personnel and particularly this committee that helps to house them

and respect them for who they are. So I personally, as a nonmember of the committee, wanted to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) for his leadership and as well his quiet deliberation.

There is good humor in what he says on many occasions, but there is also wisdom. I thank the gentleman as a second-term Member for his wisdom and for challenging the rest of us that we should combine debate and adversarial activities with knowledge and wisdom and sensitivity, and I appreciate and applaud him for that.

This bill is an important bill. I am not a member of the community of those who are on this committee, but as I go about my business in Texas, I consider Texas sort of a feeder school for the United States military.

Throughout my district, high school students are enrolled in ROTC. Many of them look to the United States as a source for their future, and I applaud them for that and encourage them for that. In fact, as someone representing what has been termed as a majority minority district, I go in particular to the inner city schools and encourage those that are interested in the U.S. military to become involved.

For that reason, this military construction appropriations bill is very important, because my young people who enter into the military make it a career, and bring their families there who need the kind of housing that will be provided by this legislation, troop housing, hospitals, and medical facilities, NATO infrastructure, and other activities associated with base closings which Texas knows so much about.

I would have wanted more, but I applaud the leadership of the ranking member and chairperson for bringing about the funding that we now have. It is more than the administration would have provided. I am glad of that.

Unfortunately, I wish that we could press the button, if you will, for more money for our family housing; though the \$3.5 billion for family housing is 43 percent of the total, \$635 for new barracks, 10 percent more than requested, but, again, we need to do more.

The measure also provides the \$1.7 billion for base realignment, \$31 million for new construction and improvements to existing day care centers. If I might, Mr. Chairman, I would like to dwell on that for a moment.

First of all, in this military construction scenario, I would like to emphasize the access and the availability of including our local businesses, our small and minority businesses in assisting with this construction, whether it is domestically or foreign.

That is a very important economic piece to many of our communities. I want to ensure that at least my voice is heard to ensure that our military, knowing that the affirmative action has not been eliminated in Federal law, that we make sure that we outreach to the small businesses.

But I really wanted to focus as a member and participant in the Con-

gressional Children's Caucus on the importance of the increased money for day care. Let me thank the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD). Let me thank the ranking member as well for having emphasized something that I have heard from military personnel over and over.

Most critical is what H.R. 4059 does for our children. There are roughly 300,000 children involved in military day care. So the additional monies is extremely important. The Secretary of Defense established a goal of providing quality child care to 65 percent of the potential need in 1992.

I think we will be there when we are able to provide 80 percent of the child care need that is so very important. DOD will be conducting a demonstration project to review ways of providing child care services by using third-party contracting. I encourage that as a participant of the Congressional Children's Caucus.

I would also say that we must emphasize and make sure that we have the right kind of family housing. So let us remember that these men and women are, in fact, the survival of the freedom of the democratic principles of our country.

Can we do any less than to provide them with safe housing, good hospitals, and, yes, protection and protected environment for their children? I applaud this legislation, and I thank the two gentlemen for their collaborative efforts. Most importantly, let me salute my ranking member for the highway and byway, but for his leadership and for his commitment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to address H.R. 4059, the Military Construction Appropriations bill for FY 1999.

In general, the bill provides a total of \$8.2 billion for military construction, including family and troop housing, hospitals and medical facilities, NATO infrastructure, and activities associated with the last two rounds of base closings. I am pleased that the bill includes:

\$3.5 billion for family housing (43% of the bill's total), slightly more than the President requested, but 10% less than was appropriated in FY 1998;

\$635 million for new barracks, 10% more than requested, but 24% less than the current appropriation;

The measure also provides \$1.7 billion for base realignment and closures previously authorized by Congress (16% less than in current year); and

H.R. 4059 appropriates \$31 million for new construction and improvements to existing daycare centers for military dependents (\$8 million more than the administration's request).

As chair of the Children's Caucus, I am very pleased that money is increased for daycare. In short, the measure goes far in accomplishing much for the well-being of our military. Most critical is what H.R. 4059 seeks to do for children and their parents. There are roughly 300,000 children involved in military daycare.

First, the Appropriations Committee has recommended an additional \$7.9 million above the budget estimate of \$23.15 million for a total appropriation of (roughly) \$31 million for new construction, or improvements, for child development centers.

In 1992, the secretary of defense established a goal of providing quality child care to 65% of the potential need in 1992. The Army proudly met the 65% goal this year. The Marine Corps expects to reach the goal by 2002, and the Air Force and Navy are programmed to reach 65% by 2003. The Appropriations Committee notes that to optimally meet the DOD's demand an 80% goal must be achieved.

The Appropriations Committee correctly recognizes the increased importance of these centers due to the rising number of single military parents, dual military couples, and military personnel with a civilian employed spouse. The Committee report states that the DOD is encouraged to maintain all efforts possible to meet 80% of the child care need.

Second, the DOD is conducting demonstration projects to review ways of providing child care services by using third party contracting, such as purchasing spaces in accredited child development centers by buying down the cost for military families. The Defense Logistics Agency is testing, for example, the management and operation of a military-constructed child development center by a private contractor in Ohio.

As a co-chair of the Children's Caucus in the House, I commend these efforts to secure quality housing and child care facilities for the children of our nation's fighting men and women.

Another key component of Military Construction Appropriations bill is family housing for the men and women of our nation's armed services. The committee report takes note of the changing nature, if you will, of military housing as our all-volunteer force has led to more service members with families. This change has coincided with a general decline in the standard of housing suitable for today's military to create a severe disincentive to re-enlistment.

Of the amount appropriated for family housing, the bill allocates the president's request of \$2.8 billion to operate and maintain existing family housing units. The funds are used for maintenance and repair, furnishings, management, services, utilities, leasing, interest, mortgage insurance and miscellaneous expenses.

What's more, this measure appropriates \$301 million for the construction of 1,871 new family housing units (\$31 million more than the administration's request). The total includes \$105 million from the Family Housing Improvement Fund.

Furthermore, the bill also provides \$7.5 million for the Homeowners' Assistance Fund for F.Y. 1999 (\$5 million less than requested by the president). The fund helps personnel who have been affected by the closure of military bases.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly encourage my esteemed colleagues to support H.R. 4059.

□ 1700

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, I apologize for all the speakers, but the requests just keep coming in. Far be it from me to curtail anybody wanting to say a nice word after all these years on my behalf.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), a very good friend who is one of the finer Members of this House.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, let me just say about the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER), I know a lot has been mentioned about his years of service and his sense of humor and his musical abilities, and all those are certainly true, but I just want to say, I have only been here 10 years, but I have noticed on many occasions both within our Democratic Caucus as well as on this House floor where his statements have been crucial in swaying the Members of this body to vote a certain way or to support certain legislation. In many ways he has been one of those people that is sort of the conscience of this body and particularly of our Democratic Caucus. I know that has been recognized, but I do not know if it was mentioned today. We will sorely miss him because of what he contributes to this body and to our Democratic Caucus.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) again and also the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) for this legislation. I also want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAPPAS) who cochairs our Save our Fort Committee, which is a bipartisan committee that deals with two military bases in our two districts, Fort Monmouth and Earle Naval Weapons Depot.

Two projects for which funding was included in this bill are of importance to us. One is the addition to the Communication and Electronics Command Software Engineering Center at Fort Monmouth and the second is the design study for berthing pier replacements at Naval Weapons Station Earle. Expansion of Seacom's Software Engineering Center will allow Fort Monmouth to intensify its efforts to ensure American soldiers have the types of technological advantages that are the hallmark of U.S. military forces around the world.

With respect to Earle, Piers 2 and 3 were constructed in 1944, and after over 40 years the time has come to replace them. Because the pier complex at Earle is one of the Navy's most important facilities on the eastern seaboard, it is extremely important that resources be provided for their upkeep. I am very pleased the committee has recognized the importance of Earle's mission and thank my colleagues for approving the first step of the DOD's long-term plan to modernize Piers 2 and 3 at Earle.

I just want to thank again my colleagues on the committee, and particularly the chairman and retiring member the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4059. I would also like to express a very special and sincere thanks to the chairman of the appropriations subcommittee, the gentleman from California

(Mr. PACKARD); and to also express appreciation to the ranking Democrat of the subcommittee, the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina who is receiving such understandably high praise today in light of his career here in the House. And, of course, I thank the chairman and the ranking member of the full committee for their assistance.

Their assistance to this Member relates to efforts in approving funding for the Nebraska National Guard Joint Army-Air Medical Training Facility located in Nebraska's First Congressional District which I represent. I know it is particularly important in light of the limited financial resources for the subcommittee's work this year.

The new facility will be a unique cost saving military construction project for both Nebraska's Army and Air National Guard units. It will provide resources jointly to fund the construction project. While this joint funding construction arrangement is unusual and was initially bureaucratically challenged, to say the least, it is the reasonable way to go, for a jointly used facility is by far the most cost-effective and economical use of taxpayer resources. Is it not ironic that taking the most cost-effective approach in spending the taxpayers' money is not always the easiest bureaucratic course? This project will go a long way toward improving the quality of training that the Army and the Air National Guard health professionals will receive, and will also improve the quality of health care provided to their personnel.

In conclusion, I want to express my sincere thanks to the National Guard Bureau and especially to the authorizing and appropriating subcommittees for assisting this Member in his efforts to make this joint, cost-effective project a reality. The gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) and his staff have been assisting this Member in this effort for more than a year now to bring us to this point. I thank the gentleman for that effort. This is a frugally prepared piece of legislation worthy of support. I urge my colleagues to vote "aye."

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, I have one other speaker, but I would be remiss if I did not single out one particular person who has been very dedicated to this process and to this subcommittee, Liz Dawson, who has labored absolutely far beyond the call of duty. Liz, we are going to miss you. We hope the very best for you. You have done a tremendous job through all these years.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON).

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Chairman, in this institution through the years we see many people come and go. The great wealth of American ability is that they get replaced by capable individuals that go on to represent their constituents. It is not often that a vacuum is felt in this Chamber. This is a very vibrant country. Most of us when

we leave here and go back to our personal lives, while occasionally remembered, the society runs just fine, and the institution runs fine.

We are going to miss our friend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER). We are going to miss him not just because of his personality and his friendship but because the courage he has exhibited on this floor over and over again on so many issues. People always talk about political courage as if there is a political benefit for political courage, but I think most people inside this institution know that oftentimes in the instances where there is the greatest political courage, there is actually a larger political cost. You lose more votes for being courageous. You are often safer playing in the middle of the road.

The gentleman from North Carolina has not done that. In the years here on tough vote after tough vote, he stood up for what he believed to be right, right for the country and right for his constituents. At times I guess it has cost him some votes back home. But from the people that know him and admire him as I do, it just increased our respect for the work he has done here.

We often do not get this sentimental in speaking about each other, but in the 18 years that I will be here at the end of this term, I cannot think of but several other Members that I hold in the same high standard as I do the gentleman from North Carolina. He has been a good friend, he has been a great Member of Congress, and he has used his political base and capital for the betterment of this country and his district. For that we all owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Chairman, I hope that every Member of this body will vote "aye" on this military construction bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to conclude this debate by just simply saying how much I appreciate the work that the staff has done on my side of the aisle. Liz Dawson, Hank Moore and Mary Arnold have done yeoman's work for years on this subcommittee and certainly have made my job easy. On the Democratic side, Tom Forhan and Irene Schecter. We deeply appreciate the work that each of our staff does. They serve the gentleman from North Carolina and myself very well.

I really appreciate the Members who have come to the floor on both sides of the aisle and expressed their feelings about the character and the service of the gentleman from North Carolina, and I certainly wish to relate myself to those remarks. He has been a remarkable Member. I have deep love and affection for him and for the work he has done for the country.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bill. This bill appropriates \$450 million

above the President's request for military construction. However, it represents a total decrease of approximately \$974 million from last year's bill.

As a member of the installations and facilities authorizing subcommittee, I continue to be concerned about the backlog of unfunded military construction projects in our Armed Forces. Those concerns are evident throughout this bill.

I would like to highlight two areas. The bill provides \$125 million for chemical weapons demilitarization, including \$29.5 million for the Newport Army Ammunition Plant in Indiana. Timely destruction of our chemical weapons is a time-sensitive problem. This bill, along with National Security Committee's authorization bill, outlines the long-term plan to destroy the stockpile.

The bill also appropriates \$309 million for Guard and Reserve construction. Maintaining our Guard and Reserve facilities is a key to readiness. While the bill provides nearly \$130 million more than the Presidents request, the total is \$155 million less than last year's amount.

In this 14th year of real decline in the Defense budget, I intend to vote for this bill, but with the warning that we need to pay more attention to Defense spending if we intend to remain the sole remaining superpower in this world.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Military Construction Appropriations bill which provides \$8.2 billion for the construction of up-to-date facilities for our hard-working men and women in the military and their families. I, along with my colleagues on the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee, feel that this is a good bill that addresses serious health and human safety issues at our aging military bases.

I am pleased that 2 crucial projects in my area are included in the bill. One of these projects is replacement of the antiquated, 30-year old Air Traffic Control Tower at Travis Air Force base. I've been up in that tower a number of times and felt the entire structure sway under my feet, and I can vouch for the absolute necessity to have a new one built as soon as possible. The current tower is extremely dangerous, and I'm pleased that construction of a new tower can begin this year.

Another important provision included in the bill is language instructing the Army to demolish buildings and clean up environmental hazards at the Rio Vista Army Reserve Center in an expedited fashion. The Rio Vista Army Reserve Center was all but abandoned in the late 80's, and the Army has done little to maintain the property since that time. With my help in 1994, the residents of Rio Vista jumped at the chance to take over the base property and convert it to a recreational area. But the slow pace of the Army's environmental clean-up has hampered the community's efforts to begin construction of new facilities. I am pleased that the community can now put their plans into action.

Because of these and other important health and safety projects in the Military Construction Appropriations bill, I would urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 4059, the Military Construction Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1999. I wish to commend Chairman PACKARD, Ranking Member HEFNER and the Committee on Ap-

propriations for crafting a bill which provides the necessary funding to improve the quality of life for our men and women in the Armed Forces.

I believe that this measure goes far in addressing the backlog in readiness, revitalization, and quality of life projects. The measure before us today will fund the planning and construction of several barracks, family housing and operational facilities.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia is home to three military installations; Fort Benning, home of the 75th Ranger Regiment, Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, home of the 347th Fighter Wing, and the Marine Corps Logistics Center in Albany. I have seen first hand the excellent work that our fighting men and women do, often under very difficult circumstances. Our responsibility is to make their jobs easier. We cannot expect to attract qualified recruits if we provide inadequate facilities for them to work out of.

This measure would provide Fort Benning with \$28,600,000 to construct barracks, a soldier community building, a battalion headquarters with classroom building, and company operations buildings. It will also provide the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany \$2,800,000 with a Child Development Center which will increase the Base's current capacity of 228 to over 300 children. This center will address the growing demand for quality child care on our bases. And, it will provide \$11,000,000 for alterations to a medical and a dental clinic. These expansion and modernization plans will positively contribute to the delivery of quality health care and patient accessibility to quality medical care.

The portions of the bill I just spoke of place a human face on this debate. We know that we have the most technologically advanced military in the world. It is time we improve the quality of life for the men and women who are the heart and soul of that military. This bill does a very good job of doing just that! Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this measure.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone a request for a recorded vote on any amendment and may reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the time for voting on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote, provided that the time for voting on the first question shall be a minimum of 15 minutes.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure functions administered by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes, namely:

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$780,599,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided,* That of this amount, not to exceed \$63,792,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of his determination and the reasons therefor.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Members on both sides for allowing me to do this. I came late to be a part of what I guess will be the gentleman from North Carolina's official management of the military construction bill. I would be remiss if I did not have an opportunity to join with my colleagues in saying what a yeoman's job he has done, but what an outstanding job he has done for the State of North Carolina and how grateful we are for his leadership. We will miss him for a lot of things. Among those as being uniquely the gentleman from North Carolina not only as singer, a kidder and a joker but being a legislator with heart and having the gumption to speak his feeling so people would know his passion. But also for the people that we jointly represent, the people of Cumberland County. That is where Fort Bragg is.

I certainly would be remiss on this last bill if the military men and women who serve our country so well in that area did not through me say thank you for all the things that he has done for the military throughout the United States but particularly for Fort Bragg.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$570,643,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided,* That of this amount, not to exceed \$60,346,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of his determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$550,475,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided,* That of this amount, not to exceed

\$37,592,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of his determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as authorized by law, \$611,075,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as he may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$24,866,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of his determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$70,338,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL
GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$97,701,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$71,894,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVAL RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$33,721,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$35,371,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Se-

curity Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized in Military Construction Authorization Acts and section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, \$169,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension and alteration and for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, as follows: for Construction, \$82,840,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003; for Operation and Maintenance, and for debt payment, \$1,097,697,000; in all \$1,180,537,000.

FAMILY HOUSING, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension and alteration and for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, as follows: for Construction, \$130,457,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003; for Operation and Maintenance, and for debt payment, \$915,293,000; in all \$1,045,750,000.

FAMILY HOUSING, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension and alteration and for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, as follows: for Construction, \$207,880,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003; for Operation and Maintenance, and for debt payment, \$785,204,000; in all \$993,084,000.

FAMILY HOUSING, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension and alteration, and for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, as follows: for Construction, \$345,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003; for Operation and Maintenance, \$36,899,000; in all \$37,244,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING
IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$242,438,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed \$7,000,000 shall be the sole source of funds available during the current fiscal year for planning, administrative, and oversight costs incurred by the Housing Revitalization Support Office relating to military family housing initiatives and military unaccompanied housing initiatives pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2883, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE FUND, DEFENSE

For activities authorized by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3374), \$7,500,000, to remain available until expended.

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACCOUNT,
PART III

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 1990 established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1991 (Public Law 101-510), \$433,464,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not more than \$271,800,000 of the funds appropriated herein shall be available solely for environmental restoration, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of his determination and the reasons therefor.

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACCOUNT,
PART IV

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 1990 established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1991 (Public Law 101-510), \$1,297,240,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not more than \$426,036,000 of the funds appropriated herein shall be available solely for environmental restoration, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of his determination and the reasons therefor.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds appropriated in Military Construction Appropriations Acts shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be used to begin construction of new bases inside the continental United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. No part of the funds provided in Military Construction Appropriations Acts shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; or (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or his designee; or (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds appropriated in Military Construction Appropriations Acts shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Military Construction Appropriations Acts.

SEC. 107. None of the funds appropriated in Military Construction Appropriations Acts for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 108. No part of the funds appropriated in Military Construction Appropriations Acts may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds appropriated in Military Construction Appropriations Acts may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 111. None of the funds appropriated in Military Construction Appropriations Acts may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any NATO member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds appropriated in Military Construction Appropriations Acts for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense is to inform the appropriate committees of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of the plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel thirty days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Not more than 20 percent of the appropriations in Military Construction Appropriations Acts which are limited for obligation during the current fiscal year shall be obligated during the last two months of the fiscal year.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 115. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 116. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds appropriated to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were appro-

riated if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. During the five-year period after appropriations available to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense" to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 119. The Secretary of Defense is to provide the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives with an annual report by February 15, containing details of the specific actions proposed to be taken by the Department of Defense during the current fiscal year to encourage other member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Japan, Korea, and United States allies bordering the Arabian Gulf to assume a greater share of the common defense burden of such nations and the United States.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 120. During the current fiscal year, in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, proceeds deposited to the Department of Defense Base Closure Account established by section 207(a)(1) of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (Public Law 100-526) pursuant to section 207(a)(2)(C) of such Act, may be transferred to the account established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1991, to be merged with, and to be available for the same purposes and the same time period as that account.

SEC. 121. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c, popularly known as the "Buy American Act").

SEC. 122. (a) In the case of any equipment or products that may be authorized to be purchased with financial assistance provided under this Act, it is the sense of the Congress that entities receiving such assistance should, in expending the assistance, purchase only American-made equipment and products.

(b) In providing financial assistance under this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide to each recipient of the assistance a notice describing the statement made in subsection (a) by the Congress.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 123. (a) Subject to thirty days prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as

amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Fund shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169, title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

(b) Subject to thirty days prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for the acquisition or construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Fund shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169, title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and ancillary supporting facilities.

SEC. 124. (a) Not later than 60 days before issuing any solicitation for a contract with the private sector for military family housing or military unaccompanied housing, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall submit to the congressional defense committees the notice described in subsection (b).

(b)(1) A notice referred to in subsection (a) is a notice of any guarantee (including the making of mortgage or rental payments) proposed to be made by the Secretary to the private party under the contract involved in the event of—

(A) the closure or realignment of the installation for which housing is provided under the contract;

(B) a reduction in force of units stationed at such installation; or

(C) the extended deployment overseas of units stationed at such installation.

(2) Each notice under this subsection shall specify the nature of the guarantee involved and assess the extent and likelihood, if any, of the liability of the Federal Government with respect to the guarantee.

(c) In this section, the term "congressional defense committees" means the following:

(1) The Committee on Armed Services and the Military Construction Subcommittee, Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) The Committee on National Security and the Military Construction Subcommittee, Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 125. Payments received by the Secretary of the Navy pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section 2842 of the National Defense Authorization Act, 1993 (Public Law 102-484) are appropriated and shall be available for the purposes authorized in subsection (d) of that section.

SEC. 126. It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of the Army should name the "All American Parkway" at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as the "W.G. 'Bill' Hefner All American Parkway".

Mr. PACKARD (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 19, line 21, be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any amendments?

If not, the Clerk will read the last two lines of the bill.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the "Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1999".

The CHAIRMAN. If there are no further amendments, pursuant to the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER) having assumed the chair, Mr. PEASE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration 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, pursuant to House Resolution 477, he reported the bill back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

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.

□ 1715

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER). The question is on the passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings are postponed until later today.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on 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, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 4103, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. LIVINGSTON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-591) on the bill (H.R. 4103) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30,

1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 4104, TREASURY DEPARTMENT, UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATION ACT, 1999

Mr. LIVINGSTON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-592) on the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCDADE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4060, making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, and that I be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 478 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill, H.R. 4060.

□ 1718

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4060) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCDADE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCDADE).

Mr. MCDADE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the energy and water bill making appropriations for fiscal year 1999. I want to point out to my colleagues that this bill was reported about a week ago unanimously by the Committee on Appropriations, and just about a week before that it was also reported unanimously by our subcommittee.

We in the subcommittee had a tremendous challenge this year, a tough bill, difficult to work, primarily because we had a budget that was inadequate.

I do not believe there was a scintilla of doubt among the membership that when we saw the budget for the Corps of Engineers particularly we knew that we could not execute it. But the Members hunkered down, on both sides of the aisle, and re-wrote this bill, Mr. Chairman, from the bottom up. We reordered priorities, we focused resources on areas of investment promising the greatest returns, we demanded greater efficiencies, and produced a bill that in my view is both fiscally responsive and protective of so many interests within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

Total spending on the bill is \$20.65 billion. That represents a reduction of \$80 million from fiscal year 1998 and \$649 million below the budget request. Of the total amount, \$11.8 billion, just about 60 percent of every penny spent in this bill, is for the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy. The remaining \$8.7 billion is for domestic programs, and it represents a decrease of \$473 million from the current fiscal year and \$284 million from the budget request.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out to my colleagues in the House that in reordering those priorities that we talked about, we looked at highly significant projects that we could complete in an efficient and effective way. My colleagues will see this bill unanimously appropriating \$63 million for the Los Angeles harbor project, and \$60 million for the Houston-Galveston navigation project, and \$60 million for the L.A. County drainage area project, where human lives are at stake and where people of lower incomes have been forced to pay ever-rising insurance costs to try to stay in their homes.

We have completed a work that represents a togetherness on the subcommittee and on the full committee, and that respects the necessary programs to keep this Nation strong. There is, as far as I know, and I think I can speak with authority, no dissent from any member of the committee on this bill. I hope that all Members will support this bill.

Mr. Chairman: I rise in support of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1999. The bill was reported without dissent by the Committee on Appropriations last Tuesday, June 16.