

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the gentleman from Texas that I think he raises the question that is a good question; and it should be raised, should be looked at.

It will not come as a surprise to him that we do not agree on all the aspects of what he has said, but he certainly raises an issue that ought to be focused on. I know in talking to the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) that he shares that concern. I want to assure the gentleman that both the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and myself will be looking at this.

Furthermore, as the gentleman may know, the Postal Department has made very substantial changes to its initially sponsored resolution through the efforts of the organizations that the gentleman from Texas talked to and himself and others who raised these issues with the department, so that they are moving to ensure greater privacy and protection to the individuals of which the gentleman spoke.

The gentleman from Texas raises a legitimate issue. I certainly intend to, along with the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), look at that further. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Maryland.

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

In furtherance of this discussion, as has been discussed by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), I would like to also say to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) and to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) that I would like to thank them for bringing this issue up.

The gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON) and the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) have also been a part of working with the Postmaster General, General Henderson, on reasonable changes as a result of the marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 276, nays 147, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 300]

YEAS—276

Abercrombie	Gekas	Myrick
Andrews	Gephardt	Nadler
Archer	Gillmor	Napolitano
Armedy	Gilman	Neal
Bachus	Gonzalez	Ney
Ballenger	Goodlatte	Northrup
Barr	Goodling	Nussle
Barrett (WI)	Goss	Oberstar
Barton	Graham	Obey
Bass	Granger	Olver
Bateman	Green (TX)	Ortiz
Bentsen	Greenwood	Owens
Bereuter	Gutierrez	Oxley
Berman	Gutknecht	Packard
Biggart	Hall (OH)	Pallone
Bilbray	Hansen	Pastor
Bilirakis	Hastert	Payne
Bishop	Hastings (FL)	Pease
Blagojevich	Hastings (WA)	Pelosi
Bliley	Hefley	Pickering
Blumenauer	Hilliard	Pickett
Blunt	Hinchee	Pitts
Boehlert	Hobson	Pombo
Boehner	Hoekstra	Porter
Bonilla	Holden	Pryce (OH)
Bonior	Horn	Quinn
Bono	Houghton	Radanovich
Borski	Hoyer	Rahall
Boucher	Hunter	Rangel
Boyd	Hyde	Regula
Brady (PA)	Isakson	Reyes
Brown (FL)	Istook	Roemer
Burton	Jackson (IL)	Rogers
Buyer	Jackson-Lee	Rohrabacher
Callahan	(TX)	Ros-Lehtinen
Calvert	Jefferson	Roybal-Allard
Camp	John	Rush
Campbell	Johnson, E. B.	Ryun (KS)
Canady	Johnson, Sam	Sabo
Cannon	Jones (OH)	Sawyer
Capuano	Kanjorski	Saxton
Cardin	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Castle	Kilpatrick	Scott
Clay	King (NY)	Serrano
Clayton	Kingston	Sessions
Clement	Klecza	Shadegg
Clyburn	Klink	Shaw
Coburn	Knollenberg	Shays
Collins	Kolbe	Shuster
Combest	Kuykendall	Simpson
Condit	LaFalce	Sisisky
Conyers	Lampson	Skeen
Cooksey	Lantos	Skelton
Cox	Largent	Slaughter
Coyne	Larson	Smith (MI)
Crane	LaTourrette	Smith (NJ)
Crowley	Leach	Smith (TX)
Cubin	Lee	Snyder
Cummings	Levin	Spence
Cunningham	Lewis (CA)	Stark
Davis (FL)	Lewis (GA)	Stenholm
Davis (IL)	Lewis (KY)	Stupak
Davis (VA)	Linder	Sununu
Deal	Lipinski	Sweeney
DeGette	Lowe	Tanner
DeLahunt	Lucas (OK)	Tauscher
DeLauro	Maloney (NY)	Tauzin
DeLay	Markey	Thomas
Diaz-Balart	Martinez	Thompson (CA)
Dickey	Matsui	Thompson (MS)
Dicks	McCarthy (MO)	Thornberry
Dingell	McCarthy (NY)	Tiahrt
Dixon	McCollum	Towns
Dooley	McCrery	Upton
Doolittle	McHugh	Velazquez
Doyle	McInnis	Vento
Dreier	McIntosh	Walsh
Ehlers	McKeon	Walters
Ehrlich	Meek (FL)	Watkins
Engel	Meeke (NY)	Watt (NC)
Eshoo	Menendez	Watts (OK)
Everett	Metcalf	Waxman
Ewing	Millender-	Weiner
Farr	McDonald	Weldon (FL)
Fattah	Miller (FL)	Weldon (PA)
Filner	Miller, Gary	Wexler
Foley	Miller, George	Wicker
Forbes	Mink	Wolf
Ford	Moakley	Woolsey
Fowler	Mollohan	Young (AK)
Frank (MA)	Moran (VA)	Young (FL)
Ganske	Morella	
Gejdenson	Murtha	

NAYS—147

Aderholt	Hill (IN)	Ramstad
Allen	Hill (MT)	Reynolds
Baird	Hilleary	Riley
Baker	Hinojosa	Rodriguez
Baldacci	Hoeffel	Rogan
Barcia	Holt	Rothman
Barrett (NE)	Hoolley	Roukema
Bartlett	Hostettler	Royce
Becerra	Hulshof	Ryan (WI)
Berkley	Hutchinson	Salmom
Berry	Insee	Sanchez
Boswell	Jenkins	Sanders
Brady (TX)	Johnson (CT)	Sandlin
Brown (OH)	Jones (NC)	Sanford
Bryant	Kaptur	Scarborough
Burr	Kasich	Schaffer
Capps	Kelly	Sensenbrenner
Carson	Kildee	Sherman
Chabot	Kind (WI)	Sherwood
Chambliss	Kucinich	Shimkus
Coble	LaHood	Shows
Cook	Lazio	Smith (WA)
Costello	LoBiondo	Souder
Cramer	Lofgren	Stabenow
Danner	Lucas (KY)	Stearns
DeFazio	Luther	Strickland
DeMint	Maloney (CT)	Stump
Deutsch	Manzullo	Talent
Doggett	Mascara	Tancredo
Duncan	McGovern	Taylor (MS)
Dunn	McIntyre	Taylor (NC)
Edwards	McKinney	Terry
Emerson	Meehan	Thune
English	Mica	Tierney
Etheridge	Minge	Toomey
Evans	Moore	Traficant
Fletcher	Moran (KS)	Turner
Fossella	Nethercutt	Udall (CO)
Franks (NJ)	Norwood	Udall (NM)
Frelinghuysen	Ose	Visclosky
Gallely	Pascarell	Vitter
Gibbons	Paul	Walden
Goode	Peterson (MN)	Wamp
Gordon	Peterson (PA)	Weller
Green (WI)	Petri	Weygand
Hall (TX)	Phelps	Whitfield
Hayes	Pomeroy	Wilson
Hayworth	Portman	Wise
Herger	Price (NC)	Wu

NOT VOTING—12

Ackerman	Frost	McNulty
Baldwin	Gilchrest	Rivers
Brown (CA)	Latham	Thurman
Chenoweth	McDermott	Wynn

□ 1526

Messrs. SANDERS, GALLEGLY, DEUTSCH, JENKINS, DEFAZIO, TAL-ENT, STEARNS, BARCIA and BECERRA changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. CLAY, CALVERT, MARTINEZ, METCALF, and COX changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KOLBE. 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. 2490) 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, 2000, 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 246 and rule XVIII, 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. 2490.

□ 1528

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. 2490) 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, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. LAHOOD 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 Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 30 minutes.

□ 1530

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE).

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

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be on the floor this afternoon to present to my colleagues H.R. 2490, the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000.

As this bill has been reported by the full committee, it provides \$13.5 billion in discretionary budget authority for the agencies that come under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee. The level of funding is the same, I want to repeat that, this is the same level of funding as the amount appropriated in FY 1999.

The bill presented here today is strong on law enforcement, tough on drugs, supportive of efforts to restructure and reform the way IRS does business, and increases Federal resources to enforce our current gun laws.

All of this is accomplished in a fiscally responsible manner. That has been a tall order for our subcommittee to fill. With the help of my colleagues on the subcommittee and the committee, we have accomplished what I think is a very daunting task.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their help on this bill, all the Members, particularly my ranking member the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and his staff, Scott Nance and Pat Scheulter, who have done an outstanding job to help us get to where we are today.

I might add, I think this bill comes to the floor in a very bipartisan fashion. We have differences, as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) will explain, but we come to the floor in a very bipartisan fashion because we have worked well together on this. I salute my colleague the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Hoyer), the ranking member, for the work that he has done and his assistance in getting us to this point.

I believe that, in its current form, this is an excellent bill and, remarkably, it is a clean bill. There are not controversial legislative riders on this bill. Believe it or not, this bill is an appropriations bill, pure and simple. It is my hope that it will remain that way not only on the floor here today but also as we move through conference with the Senate.

My colleagues know that the allocation required us to make some tough choices to put this bill together. This allocation is based on budget caps, which, may I remind everybody, both parties in both chambers and the President of the United States support.

In order to keep pace with inflation, the subcommittee needed nearly \$600 million in new money. But clearly the allocation we received did not give us that. So in order to support the base operations of the agencies which we fund, we were required to look elsewhere for our savings.

We found these savings. We found these savings by postponing construction of new courthouses, by extending the time that was needed to complete some of our projects.

However, let me make it clear that the funding levels that are contained in this bill will adversely affect no programs. In fact, we were able to increase critical efforts to keep guns out of the hands of children, to make sure that the IRS treats taxpayers fairly.

In addition, I want to remind my colleagues that this bill supports approximately 30 percent of all the Federal law enforcement operations, the personnel that are in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, those in the Customs Service, the Secret Service, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

In total, the bill before us provides \$4.4 billion for these efforts, the same as the President's request, and about \$185 million above the current year. We target all of these resources to sup-

porting efforts that enforce and implement laws currently on our books, laws that seek to prevent guns from getting in the hands of criminals and youths, laws that seek to prevent illegal drugs from coming across our borders, and laws that seek to protect our Nation's leaders and the financial systems of this country.

I know that many Members in this body feel that the Federal Government is too big, that it is bloated and it is inefficient. I, for one, agree completely that we need to be able to transfer more power and more money out of Washington and back to our States and our local communities. But we should not do this in a haphazard and irresponsible fashion.

I cannot support amendments which make additional funding reductions to this bill. We are already \$840 million below what the status quo would be with inflation alone. Further reductions would allow our infrastructure to deteriorate. It would cause us to delay the IRS reforms that we all voted for so willingly last year. It would rob our law enforcement agencies of the resources they desperately need. It would negatively impact our ability to protect our borders.

I have had the privilege of chairing this subcommittee for 3 years. I believe that we have applied a fiscally conservative philosophy to this bill, one which I certainly share. I think we have steadily chipped away at inefficiencies that we find in Government, at least in the agencies that are included within the jurisdiction of this bill.

The bill that is before us today continues to do this, but I think it does so in a responsible and a well thought out way. We have spent the past 6 months carefully scrubbing the appropriations requests we received from the administration, from OMB, and from each of these agencies that come under our jurisdiction.

The funding levels that are recommended in this bill reflect what I believe is the best judgment of the Subcommittee and the Full Committee on Appropriations, their judgment about the funding levels that are necessary to sustain the operations of agencies that are under our jurisdiction.

So I urge, no, in fact I would implore my colleagues not to make other radical cuts to the beneficial programs that this bill supports.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would urge my colleagues to withhold amendments that would ultimately jeopardize our sending this bill to the President in a timely manner. Let us get on with the business of appropriating. Let us get on with moving this bill forward.