supplies from the State Water Project (SWP). The bill amends the San Luis Act of 1960, which prohibits water transfers between the SWP and users in the San Luis Unit of the CVP.

Given the likelihood of water shortfalls in the future, I believe that voluntary transfers will become an increasingly important water management tool to address future supply needs. Your legislation is consistent with current state and federal policies aimed at encouraging voluntary water transfers and will likely play a key role in facilitating such transfers. In addition, in furtherance of state and federal policies to encourage water transfers, it is appropriate to remove barriers that might otherwise restrict transfers between the two projects.

I also support Representative George Miller's recent amendment to H.R. 3077 that conditions the transfer of water between the SWP and the San Luis Unit on measures to prevent irrigation drainage problems or degradation of water quality. I am pleased that you and your colleagues on the House Resources Committee were able to reach agreement on this language during the recent markup session.

As the legislation moves through the House in the closing days of this year's session, please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

GRAY DAVIS.

An important issue raised by any proposal to provide additional supplies of irrigation water to the San Luis Unit is subsurface drainage. Discharges of subsurface agriculture drainage from the San Luis Unit contributed to the deaths of hundreds of waterfowl at the Kesterson Reservoir site in the mid 1980s, and, while farmers and water districts in the San Joaquin Valley have made great progress in recent years, drainage management in the San Luis Unit continues to be a critical and unresolved issue.

I had the opportunity to participate with Secretary Babbitt just yesterday in doing a tour of the San Luis Unit and had the chance to see some of the terrific work that the water districts are doing there in order to try to manage their drainage water.

The Committee on Resources accepted an amendment on this subject offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the senior Democrat on the committee. The gentleman from California's amendment would allow the State to deliver water to the San Luis Unit only after specific requirements have been met to protect water quality.

The purpose of the Miller amendment is to ensure that irrigation water deliveries from the State Water Project to the Federal San Luis Unit service area are carefully managed and are not directed to lands that are known to contribute to agricultural drainage problems with the resultant adverse effects on water quality in the San Joaquin River, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, or San Francisco Bay. I was pleased to accept the gentleman from California's amendment during the committee's consideration of H.R. 3077. Governor Davis' letter also expresses his support for this amendment.

Madam Speaker, San Luis Unit farmers are the only farmers in the State of California who must farm under an outdated legal restriction that prevents them from supplementing their water supplies. H.R. 3077, as amended, will correct this inequity and will encourage responsible water use and cooperation among California water users.

I urge my colleagues to support the enactment of H.R. 3077, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), a cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 3077, I want to express my support for this bill on the floor. As we all know, water is a precious commodity in the State of California and particularly in the great Central Valley. I have seen the extra mile that water users in this area have taken to conserve water. This is not enough, however, because their water supply reliability has been significantly reduced and no certainty in supply is on the horizon for California agriculture and urban water users.

The Central Valley has a long agricultural history, producing over 250 of California's crops. With its fertile soil, temperate climate, and water supply capabilities, the Central Valley produces 8 percent of the agricultural output in the United States, on less than 1 percent of our Nation's farmland. Valley farmers grow nearly half of the fresh fruits and vegetables grown in the entire Nation.

At the same time, the Central Valley is the fastest growing region in the State, placing an ever-increasing demand on its urban water requirements. While agricultural and urban water demands are often in competition with one another, neither can be provided for unless a reliable supply of water is made available. Long-term environmental and habitat restoration needs of the Central Valley ecosystem must also be addressed, squeezing still more water out of a dwindling supply. Currently, under the CVPIA, over one million acre-feet of water is provided for environmental purposes each year.

The demands for agricultural, environmental and urban water uses in the great Central Valley are endless. Since water is directly tied to the economy, any disturbance in its supply will almost certainly result in the loss of jobs and agricultural production. By the year 2020, a net loss of 2.3 million acre-feet of water is projected for agricultural use. This is unacceptable and irresponsible. The impact of such a decline would be devastating. Thus, an adequate water supply should and must be secured.

For these reasons, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3077. This measure gives water users the ability to obtain water from the State of California by facilitating water transfers at the San Luis Unit. Currently, the San Luis Act prohibits the State from allowing water to go through the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project. This will be corrected under H.R. 3077 and some of the tremendous strains on water supplies in the State will be alleviated.

Again, I support this bill and urge its passage.

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I urge an ''aye'' vote and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3077, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam 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. 359, H.R. 3002, and H.R. 3077.

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

There was no objection.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2904) to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize funding for the Office of Government Ethics, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2904

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

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 405 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking ''1997 through 1999'' and inserting ''2000 through 2003''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on October 1, 1999.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF ''SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE''.

(a) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 202(a).—Subsection (a) of section 202 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a) For the purpose of sections 203, 205, 207, 208, 209, and 219 of this title the term 'special Government employee' shall mean—

''(1) an officer or employee as defined in subsection (c) who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed in the legislative or executive branch of the United States Government, in any independent agency of the United States, or in the government of the District of Columbia, and who, at the time of