

done by both bodies, carried forward in a most positive way by the leadership of both the ranking member and the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, this is my last year on the committee, and I want to express to our Chairman and to Mr. DIXON my sincerest thanks for their dedication in ensuring this nation has the intelligence capabilities critical to protecting our freedoms. It's not often thought of in these terms, but intelligence truly is our first line of defense, and the close, personal, working relationship Chairman GOSS and Mr. DIXON have, has made our jobs all the easier. I want to thank you both, and I believe this entire body owes you a great deal of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, every year those of us who serve on the Intelligence Committee stand before this body to discuss the Intelligence Authorization bill. Because of very real national security issues, we cannot discuss the sensitive details of the bill. We simply have to ask our colleagues to "trust us" as we vote on the classified aspects of our intelligence agencies and activities. Mr. Speaker, let me assure you, and, most importantly, the American people, that each member of the committee takes that responsibility very seriously. The issues and debates we take up in committee about our intelligence programs are based solely on national security interests.

Partisan politics is not a function in the conduct of committee business. This has earned the Intelligence Committee the trust that is required. Mr. Speaker, while the Members deserve much for their efforts to oversee our Nation's intelligence organizations, I would be remiss in not making mention of the superb committee staff. The staff deals with some of the most difficult issues facing our country. They do tough work, in a tough environment, and we ask much of them. I thank each member of the Intelligence Committee staff for the support they provide, and more importantly, for what they do for America.

Mr. Speaker, a quick word about our magnificent intelligence community. It is a community of professionals who work in the background and who don't get much credit, if any, for successfully accomplishing the difficult tasks they are asked to carry out. The men and women of the intelligence community often bear the full brunt of public criticism for the rare, but inevitable intelligence shortfall—after all "perfect knowledge" is a noble, but usually unobtainable, goal. So it is important that we, who know the details of the good work of this community, take every opportunity to thank them for their heroism publically.

We can't, for example, publically acknowledge the Central Intelligence Agency for an operation that might stop a planned terrorist attack, or the National Security Agency for providing the piece of information that might allow military commanders to locate critical targets, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency for providing the proof that a foreign nation is developing weapons of mass destruction, or the FBI for locating and removing a Russian listening device in the State Department conference room. These and the other intelligence organizations and the analysts who make sense of the myriad information stand watch for all Americans day in and day out. I thank them for the jobs they do, for the professionals that they are, and for the sacrifices they make every single day.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this conference report. Indeed it provides the intel-

ligence community with the resources it needs to carry out its mission, and it ensures that the American military forces deployed around the world have the best information resources we can provide them.

That is not to say that I think we have done enough. The world is not a safe place. There are truly bad actors in the world and, in fact, we may be living in a more dangerous and unstable world today than we faced during the cold war: This past week's events in the former Yugoslavia are example; the increase in terrorism—as, tragically, we saw again this morning in the Persian Gulf; the proliferation of inexpensive weapons of mass destruction that puts unbelievable destructive power in the hands of small nations and non-nation groups; the number of countries with nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them is increasing. These threats present tough information challenges for our intelligence community; challenges that must be met. We have to make sure our intelligence organizations are given the proper resources to successfully operate in this dangerous world.

This conference report provides adequate resources that should be seen as a down payment on keeping our intelligence community capable and viable in this dangerous world. But to protect our national security, we must resolve to invest more in our "intelligence first line of defense." I urge my colleagues to vote with me in support of this conference report.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say I support subtitle B of this conference report regarding the Diplomatic Telecommunications Service. Along with the ranking democratic member of the International Relations Committee I wanted to clarify that section 322(a)(6)(C) does not include personnel requirements. It is our understanding that this provision does not require State Department personnel detailed or assigned to the DTS or DTSPD to be polygraphed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). All time has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will count. An insufficient number of Members have risen, a recorded vote is not ordered.

A recorded vote was refused.

So, the conference report was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4392, and the conference report just considered and passed.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF THE LATE HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 618, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Bruce F. Vento:

Mr. OBERSTAR, Minnesota.

Mr. HASTERT, Illinois.

Mr. GEPHARDT, Missouri.

Mr. BONIOR, Michigan.

Mr. SABO, Minnesota.

Mr. PETERSON, Minnesota.

Mr. RAMSTAD, Minnesota.

Mr. MINGE, Minnesota.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, Minnesota.

Mr. LUTHER, Minnesota.

Mr. OBEY, Wisconsin.

Mr. LAFALCE, New York.

Mr. MARKEY, Massachusetts.

Mr. KILDEE, Michigan.

Mr. RAHALL, West Virginia.

Mr. FROST, Texas.

Mr. COYNE, Pennsylvania.

Mr. HOYER, Maryland.

Mr. KLECZKA, Wisconsin.

Mr. KANJORSKI, Pennsylvania.

Mr. LEWIS, Georgia.

Mr. SAWYER, Ohio.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, Washington.

Mr. BARRETT, Wisconsin.

Mr. HINCHEY, New York.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Texas.

Mr. POMEROY, North Dakota.

Mr. WATT, North Carolina.

Ms. WOOLSEY, California.

Mr. FARR, California.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, Guam.

Mr. BENTSEN, Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Texas.

Mr. CUMMINGS, Maryland.

Mr. KIND, Wisconsin.

Ms. LEE, California.

Mr. GONZALEZ, Texas.

Mr. GARY MILLER, California.

Mr. THOMPSON, California.

Mr. UDALL, Colorado.

Mr. UDALL, New Mexico.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM.

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I ask for this time to inquire about next week's schedule, and I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS).

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I am very pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week. The House will not be in session tomorrow.

The House will meet next week for legislative business on Tuesday, October 17, at 10:30 a.m. for morning hour, and at 12 noon for legislative business.

The House will consider a number of measures under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices tomorrow.