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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OSE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 19, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG OSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, students do not like testing; the sick dread examination; all of us try to avoid chastisement and criticism. Lord, be our strength in times of trial.

You teach us, Lord, to look upon all suffering with the eyes of faith. Isaiah's suffering servant speaks to the Jew. Jesus' cross interprets life for the Christian. All religions hold up champions who persevere in the name of wisdom, love, or justice.

Be with the Members of the House of Representatives as they strive to bring finality to their work as the 106th Congress. Prepare them as the people of

this Nation move closer to the day of election. May all of us, as believing people, seek first and foremost Your judgment and Your forgiveness alone. For You live and reign now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule 1, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4132. An act to reauthorize grants for water resources research and technology institutes established under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984.

H. Con. Res. 404. Concurrent resolution calling for the immediate release of Mr. Edmond Pope from prison in the Russian Federation for humanitarian reasons, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1550. An act to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1639. An act to authorize appropriations for carrying out the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, for the National Weather Service Related Agencies, and for the United States Fire Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002.

S. Con. Res. 146. Concurrent resolution condemning the assassination of Father John Kaiser and others in Kenya, and calling for a thorough investigation to be conducted in those cases, a report on the progress made in such an investigation to be submitted to Congress by December 15, 2000, and a final report on such an investigation to be made public, and for other purposes.

NOTICE

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2796, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 639 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 639

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (S. 2796) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 2 pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. If the Senate bill, as amended, is passed, then it shall be in order to move that the House insist on its amendment to S. 2796 and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

H. Res. 639 provides for consideration of S. 2796, better known as the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. This closed rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. It provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Transportation.

Further, the rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 2 shall be considered as adopted. The rule provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Finally, the rule provides that, should the Senate bill, as amended, pass the House, it then shall be in order to move that the House insist on its amendment to S. 2796 and request a conference with the Senate.

I believe it is a very fair rule under the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the clock on the 106th Congress is running out, and we do need to move quickly. In view of the strong bipartisan support this bill enjoys and the constraints associated with the calendar, I believe this is a very sensible way to proceed

today and, as I have said, extremely fair under the circumstances. I definitely encourage my colleagues to support this rule so we can get on with this very important legislation.

The WRDA bill is a critically important piece of environmental legislation. Of particular note is that this year's WRDA bill contains an initial authorization for a plan to restore the Florida Everglades, unquestionably a unique national treasure of which we are very proud. The Everglades Restoration Project represents the largest, most comprehensive environmental restoration ever attempted.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush recently termed the Everglades restoration effort "perhaps the defining environmental issue of this new century." Governor Bush is absolutely correct.

It should be noted that the State of Florida has already set aside funds from its budget to meet its entire cost share of the restoration effort for the next 10 years, an unprecedented step and an unmistakable display of commitment. I am proud of the State of Florida for taking that step.

The Everglades has always been a nonpartisan effort. Every Member of the Florida delegation has been united in support of this treasure. Our delegation has been especially well led on the Everglades issue by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), the chairman of the Florida delegation and the extremely capable man who has kept us in an effective fighting team from Florida to bring attention to this.

The Clinton administration has also done quite an excellent job here and deserves praise. I said this was a bipartisan effort. Even so, I must say now that I have been somewhat disturbed at recent efforts to drag the Everglades into presidential politics. It does not belong there. I hope Vice President GORE will reverse course and recognize what all of us do, that the Everglades is far too important to be manipulated for short-term political gain.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, after months of negotiations, the Senate crafted an initial authorization plan embodied in their version of the WRDA bill. The Senate's plan was widely supported by all stakeholders involved, quite a feat.

When the House began its work on its version of the WRDA bill, we were cautioned not to tamper with the delicate balance of the Senate Everglades proposal. While in the end, the Senate Transportation Committee did make a number of changes to the Senate bill, changes everyone enthusiastically supports and acknowledges improve on the Senate product. So I am extremely grateful for the hard work and the very responsible stewardship of the Everglades authorization by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) and his Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge we have always faced is to put together a restoration plan that will get it right,

undoing years of neglect and misunderstanding that have brought the Florida Everglades to the brink of disaster. In my view, the Everglades provisions in the WRDA bill will do just that, putting us now on solid footing for the next 10 years.

The Everglades is a national treasure, and the House action today to implement a comprehensive plan to restore it is, indeed, historic, as Governor Bush has said.

I hope all of my colleagues will support the water resources bill and the restoration of the Everglades. Furthermore, I strongly urge support of this rule so we can get on with this important debate.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this rule expedites moving the Senate bill S. 2796 to conference and thus one step closer to being passed by the Congress and sent to the President before the adjournment of the 106th Congress. While this is a closed rule, it is supported by the majority of the Democratic Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and for that reason, I will support it.

The rule provides that the text of an amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 2796, which was developed by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, shall be considered as adopted. The substitute contains authorizations for important water resources projects. It provides Army Corps of Engineers policy and procedure reforms and the first increment of the important comprehensive restoration of the Everglades plan, which I know is of special importance to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS).

The rule also provides for 1 hour of general debate and for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

I should note, Mr. Speaker, this rule is not without controversy. The Committee on Rules did not make in order several amendments offered by other Members, including two offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) and one by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) and one by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER). While all of these amendments may be worthy of consideration, I believe, given the late hour of this Congress, these issues might best be left to the next Congress so as to expedite the consideration of the important projects contained in the substitute.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the rule and the bill.

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), who has participated in every way in this arrangement for a number of years and is, indeed, one of the leaders and champions of the Everglades.