

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, it was before the events of September 11 and its aftermath that a diverse group of House Members—including, Democrats and Republicans, Members from different regions, different backgrounds, and widely, differing viewpoints—began discussing the idea of drafting a resolution that focuses this often-contentious body and the country at large on the higher purpose that unites us all as American citizens and as children of God.

Little did we know how profound the need for such a focus would soon be.

The resolution we consider tonight asks that we seek the blessings of Providence for forgiveness, reconciliation, unity, and charity for every American in order to fulfill our country's purpose in bringing hope to the defenseless and freedom to the oppressed.

Our country is, in fact, the hope and inspiration of countless millions of people held in oppressed circumstances throughout much of the world.

At times, we Americans differ bitterly over policies. We have our own struggles over justice and opportunity for all. For more than two centuries, we have fought to make the promise of our Constitution a reality for every citizen, regardless of race, religion, gender, or national origin.

Yet, through it all, no country in the world has made a greater contribution or greater sacrifice to advance the cause of freedom and human dignity.

Tonight, our Nation and the free world face one of the greatest tests in our history. Let us stand together, in reconciliation and unity, as the "champion of hope, vindicator of the defenseless, and the guardian of freedom," here in America and across the world.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). Are there further requests for time? If not the question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 184, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROPERTY PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2924) to provide authority to the Federal Power Marketing Administrations to reduce vandalism and destruction of property, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2924

SECTION 1. PROPERTY PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrators of the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration may each carry out programs to reduce vandalism, theft, and

destruction of property that is under their jurisdiction.

(b) PROVISION OF REWARDS.—In carrying out a program under this section, each Administrator referred to in subsection (a) is authorized to provide rewards (including cash rewards) to individuals who provide information or evidence leading to the arrest and prosecution of individuals causing damage to, or loss of, Federal property under their jurisdiction. The amount of any one such reward paid to any individual may not exceed a value of \$1,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Power Marketing Administration's Western Area Power Administration, Southwestern Power Administration, and Southeastern Power Administration are responsible for maintaining and operating over 18,000 miles of high-voltage electrical transmission lines, providing an important contribution to the movement of electrical power across our country. They also have hundreds of substations and communications sites, most located in remote areas. These facilities have been subjected to increased incidents of vandalism.

This bill would give the agencies authority to curb this threat to Federal property and our Nation's power infrastructure by vesting them with the authority to pay rewards to individuals that offer information leading to prosecution of vandals. These rewards would be limited to \$1,000 each and would be paid out of existing appropriations.

The Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration already have such authority. Bonneville estimates that they save \$800,000 annually by successfully applying this program to protect Federal property. The Department of Energy has asked that we extend this authority to the other power marketing administrations, and I urge my colleagues to do so by adopting this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2924 would authorize the administrators of the Western Area and Southeastern and Southwestern Power Administrations to carry out reward programs to reduce vandalism and theft at their facilities. The bill would authorize agencies to offer up to \$1,000 to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals charged with vandalism and/or theft at the three power market administrations. The Bonneville Power Administration has similar authority and its rewards program has helped reduce crime.

Mr. Speaker, the administration supports H.R. 2924. It is a worthwhile bill. I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I certainly urge the passage of the legislation. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2924, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY AT BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FACILITIES

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2925) to amend the Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 in order to provide for the security of dams, facilities, and resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2925

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

SECTION 1. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY AT BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FACILITIES.

(a) PUBLIC SAFETY REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall issue regulations necessary to maintain law and order and protect persons and property within Reclamation projects and on Reclamation lands.

(b) VIOLATIONS; CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any regulation issued under subsection (a) shall be fined under chapter 227, subchapter C of title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or both. Any person charged with a violation of a regulation issued under subsection (a) may be tried and sentenced by any United States magistrate judge designated for that purpose by the court by which he was appointed, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions and limitations as provided for in section 3401 of title 18, United States Code.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—The Secretary of the Interior may—

(1) authorize law enforcement personnel from the Department of the Interior to act as law enforcement officers to enforce Federal laws and regulations within a Reclamation project or on Reclamation lands;

(2) authorize law enforcement personnel of any other Federal agency that has law enforcement authority (with the exception of the Department of Defense) or law enforcement personnel of any State or local government, including an Indian tribe, when deemed economical and in the public interest, through cooperative agreement or contract, to act as law enforcement officers to