

a sufficient return that is going to leave the program there strong enough for our kids and our grandkids.

What we are talking about tonight is working together to preserve that program in a bipartisan way, to preserve it so that our kids and our grandkids are going to get a fair deal. Can we go to our kids and our grandkids, can I go home and tell them they are going to pay 12.4 percent of their wages and FICA taxes and, oh, by the way, you are going to take a cut after taking care of my generation and our Social Security benefits? That is wrong. That is wrong. And we do not need to do it. But if we continue the partisan bickering, we will need to do it.

I would challenge my friends on the other side of the aisle to come forward with a plan. The reaction has been absolutely absent. There are not even phantom plans out there to deal with this. We have to work together. Come forward with a plan, sponsor a plan, have it programmed and say that it is going to save Social Security for all time and we will work with it and have it scored that way. For us to continue the bickering on both sides of the aisle with regard to this is terrible.

This commission has worked hard, and as the gentleman correctly pointed out, they are distinguished individuals. They worked hard. Maybe the gentleman does not like the results, maybe I do not like the results, I think we can do better; but their job was not to legislate. Their job was to come forth with ideas, and this is what they have done.

I commend the President for putting together this bipartisan commission to come back to us. They have shown there is a problem out there. This resolution very clearly states that the Social Security System is going to be in trouble in 2016. So tomorrow when we get a big vote, and I am going to ask for a recorded vote, this is going to be an acknowledgment by the Congress that there is a problem that must be faced.

Let us face it now and let us face it together.

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 282, Keeping the Social Security Promise Initiative. This resolution simply reaffirms Congress's resolve to strengthen the Social Security program for future generations without lowering benefits or increasing taxes. Mr. Speaker, Social Security provides essential retirement security for more than 45 million Americans. With each paycheck, workers send their hard-earned payroll taxes to Social Security with the promise of security in their retirement. In reforming the system Congress should not do anything that will jeopardize that security or break our promises to America's seniors.

President Bush has recognized that Social Security cannot sustain the imminent retirement of the baby boomers and future generations. He should be commended for creating a bipartisan Commission to Strengthen Social Security. The final report is due on December 21, 2001. The Commission has proposed three options to date, two of which would reduce benefits.

The responsibility for reforming Social Security ultimately lies with the Congress. I believe we can protect Social Security's commitment to our current and future retirees without lowering benefits or raising taxes while providing cost-of-living adjustments. With Social Security anticipated to run a deficit in 2016, now is the time for Congress and the President to work together in a bipartisan fashion to put Social Security on sound financial footing for generations to come.

I ask my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 282.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 282, which reiterates Congress' commitment to our seniors to keep the promise of Social Security.

For years now, Congress and the public have known that Social Security would soon be facing serious financing challenges due to shifting demographics. With the aging of the baby boom generation, the number of retiring Americans receiving benefits is beginning to overwhelm the number of working Americans paying into the Social Security system. In addition, thanks to important medical advances and healthy behavioral changes, Americans are living longer. The result of these factors is that beginning in 2016, Social Security payments will exceed worker contributions into the trust funds.

This is a scary prospect for the millions of Americans who receive Social Security benefits. Many of those individuals depend upon their monthly Social Security checks to survive. As we fight our global war on terrorism, we must not lose sight of the fact that terror can come in many forms. It is every bit as frightening to an elderly man or woman that the Social Security check might be late—and far more real. Too many of these people are living from one check to the next and balancing food against medicine. As their Representatives in Congress, we should at least provide them with the security of the promise of Social Security.

It is also a scary prospect, Mr. Speaker, for the millions of Americans who are approaching retirement. They have been paying into the Social Security trust funds because they have to, not because they believe in Social Security. In fact, numerous studies have shown that more young Americans believe in UFOs than in their future Social Security checks.

It is clear that Social Security in its current form—the form it has had since the Great Depression—is unsustainable. If we are to keep the promise that so many seniors and working Americans have relied upon for years, we must reform this program. There are many possibilities for reform, including adding personal investment options. The President appointed a commission of experts from business, think tanks, and government to explore these alternatives and to make recommendations to Congress for change. They are expected to vote on their final report today, and Congress should consider their recommendations with due deliberative speed. We must act quickly, but more importantly, we must act right.

But throughout our deliberations, Mr. Speaker, we must maintain our steadfastness to keep the promise of Social Security. We should not raise Social Security taxes and we should not cut benefits. We must use the innovative spirit that is America's hallmark to meet this challenge and find a way to strengthen and improve Social Security.

Building upon the Social Security lock box legislation that this body has already approved, this resolution lays the groundwork for our coming debate, reaffirming our commitment to Social Security's beneficiaries, in particular, the most vulnerable beneficiaries—the low-income, the women, and minorities. I look forward to reviewing these issues with my colleagues and developing a real solution to this challenge.

I urge all my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 282.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 282.

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. SHAW. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of House Concurrent Resolution 282.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3295, HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-331) on the resolution (H. Res. 311) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3295) to establish a program to provide funds to States to replace punch card voting systems, to establish the Election Assistance Commission to assist in the administration of Federal elections and to otherwise provide assistance with the administration of certain Federal election laws and programs, to establish minimum election administration standards for States and units of local government with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2883, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-332) on the resolution (H. Res. 312) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2883) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA ADDITIONS ACT

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 38) to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundaries of the Homestead National Monument of America in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 38

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homestead National Monument of America Additions Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **MAP.**—*The term "map" means the map entitled "Proposed Boundary Adjustment, Homestead National Monument of America, Gage County, Nebraska", numbered 368/80036 and dated March 2000.*

(2) **MONUMENT.**—*The term "Monument" means the Homestead National Monument of America, Nebraska.*

(3) **SECRETARY.**—*The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.*

SEC. 3. ADDITIONS TO HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—*The Secretary may acquire, by donation or by purchase with appropriated or donated funds, from willing sellers only, the privately-owned property described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b). The Secretary may acquire, by donation only, the State-owned property described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b).*

(b) **PARCELS.**—*The parcels referred to in subsection (a) are the following:*

(1) **GRAFF PROPERTY.**—*The parcel consisting of approximately 15.98 acres of privately-owned land, as depicted on the map.*

(2) **PIONEER ACRES GREEN.**—*The parcel consisting of approximately 3 acres of privately-owned land, as depicted on the map.*

(3) **SEGMENT OF STATE HIGHWAY 4.**—*The parcel consisting of approximately 5.6 acres of State-owned land including Nebraska State Highway 4, as depicted on the map.*

(4) **STATE TRIANGLE.**—*The parcel consisting of approximately 8.3 acres of State-owned land, as depicted on the map.*

(c) **BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.**—*Upon acquisition of a parcel described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall modify the boundary of the Monument to include the parcel. Any parcel included within the boundary shall be administered by the Secretary as part of the Monument.*

(d) **DEADLINE FOR ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY.**—*If the property described in subsection (b)(1) is not acquired by the Secretary from a willing seller within 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall no longer be authorized to acquire such property pursuant to this Act and such property shall not become part of the Monument pursuant to this Act.*

(e) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—*The map shall be on file in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.*

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—*There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$400,000.*

SEC. 4. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Nebraska, Gage County, local units of government, private groups, and individuals for operation, maintenance, interpretation, recreation, and other purposes related to the proposed Homestead Heritage Highway to be located in the general vicinity of the Monument.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 38 introduced by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) would authorize the expansion of Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice, Nebraska, by 30 acres.

The monument, which currently encompasses 189 acres, was established to commemorate the Homestead Act of 1862, one of the significant and enduring events in the western expansion of the United States. The Act granted 160 acres of free land to claimants willing to live on the frontier. The monument includes the site of one of the first homesteads claimed, located in the tallgrass prairie landscape that so many pioneers settled and traversed.

Mr. Speaker, the 30 acres would be acquired from willing sellers, two privately owned and two owned by the State of Nebraska. The bill also authorizes \$400,000 to purchase the parcels of land. The bill is supported by the National Park Service and the majority and minority of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 38, as amended.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. The Homestead National Monument of America was created in 1936 to commemorate the Homestead Act of 1862 and its significant role in the settlement of the American west.

The monument includes the first parcel of land claimed under the Home-

stead Act as well as the Freeman School, an original, one-room schoolhouse adjacent to that parcel. The monument is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

H.R. 38 authorizes the Secretary to acquire two specific parcels of private property, either by donation or purchase from willing sellers, and two parcels of State-owned land, by donation only. Once the land is acquired, the Secretary would be authorized to alter the boundaries of the monument to include these new properties.

It is our understanding that this expansion will allow the National Park Service to better protect the monument's historic resources from potential flood damage and aid in interpretation of the site.

Mr. Speaker, I support passage of H.R. 38.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in strong support of H.R. 38, a bill this Member re-introduced on January 3, 2001, as during the prior 106th Congress, this Member introduced the same legislation.

This Member would like to begin by thanking the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), the Chairman of the National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands Subcommittee, and the distinguished gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), the ranking Member of the Subcommittee, for their work in bringing this bill to the Floor. This Member would also like to express his appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the Chairman of the Resources Committee, and the distinguished gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for their efforts to move this legislation forward.

This legislation, the Homestead National Monument of America Additions Act, is a straightforward bill. It is also noncontroversial. The bill would simply adjust the boundaries of Homestead National Monument of America and allow a small amount of additional land to be included within its boundaries. It is also important to note that the funding necessary to implement this bill was appropriated last fiscal year.

The legislation being considered today reflects the recommendations in the recently completed General Management Plan (GMP) calling for a minor boundary expansion for Homestead National Monument. Unfortunately, the current visitor center is located in a 100-year flood plain. The acquisition of land outside the existing boundaries as recommended in the GMP would allow a new "Homestead Heritage Center" to be constructed outside the floodplain. This location would offer greater protection to the Monument's collections, interpretive exhibits, public research facilities, and administrative offices.

As the bill makes clear, the land for the Heritage Center would be acquired on a willing-seller basis. It is this Member's understanding that all of the individuals who would be involved in the boundary adjustment have expressed a willingness to sell for a negotiated price.

Homestead National Monument of America commemorates the lives and accomplishments of all pioneers and the changes to the land and the people as a result of the Homestead Act of 1862, which is recognized as one of the