

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. 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. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4156.

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

There was no objection.

FAMILY FARMER BANKRUPTCY EXTENSION ACT

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4167) to extend for 8 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4167

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS.

Section 149 of title I of division C of Public Law 105-277, as amended by Public Laws 106-5, 106-70, 107-8, and 107-17, is amended—

(1) by striking "October 1, 2001" each place it appears and inserting "June 1, 2002"; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "May 31, 2001" and inserting "September 30, 2001"; and

(B) by striking "June 1, 2001" and inserting "October 1, 2001".

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 1 shall take effect on October 1, 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. 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. 4167, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4167. This bill reenacts and extends

Chapter 12, a specialized form of bankruptcy relief for small family farmers for a period of eight months retroactive to October 1, 2001.

Chapter 12 was enacted on a temporary basis in 1986 and has been subsequently extended on several occasions over the years. Without question, the family farmer plays a critical role in our Nation's health and economic well-being. Unfortunately, bad weather, rising energy costs, volatile marketplace conditions, competition from large agri-businesses and economic forces experienced by any small business affect the financial stability of some family farmers.

Although Chapter 12 addresses the special needs of family farmers, it is utilized infrequently. While total bankruptcy filings in each of the past 6 years surpassed more than a million cases, the number of Chapter 12 cases has exceeded 1,000 on only one occasion, and that was back in 1996. In the absence of Chapter 12, family farmers may apply for relief under the bankruptcy code's other alternative, although these generally do not work quite as well for farmers as Chapter 12.

As my colleagues know, I have consistently supported prior efforts to extend Chapter 12 in this Congress. In addition, I have supported a provision included in both the House and Senate versions of H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, that would make Chapter 12 a permanent component of the bankruptcy code.

H.R. 333 is currently in conference. As the chairman of the bankruptcy conference, I am pleased to report that the anticipated bankruptcy conference report will likely include a series of other provisions that will give family farmers even more enhanced protections under Chapter 12. These farmer-friendly provisions were included in the bankruptcy conference as part of complex and an extensively negotiable effort.

Specifically, the other provisions would, first, increase the debt eligibility limit and require it to be automatically adjusted for inflation so that more family farmers would qualify for relief under Chapter 12.

Second, lower the percentage of income that must be derived from farming operations which would also ensure that more farmers would be eligible for Chapter 12 than would be under current law.

Third, give farmers more protection with respect to how they may treat the claims of creditors.

Fourth, for the first time in the history of Chapter 12, allow certain family fishermen to be eligible for this form of bankruptcy relief.

Since August of last year, the House and Senate staff have been actively working to resolve the differences between the respective bills. In February of this year, House conferees sent the Senate a proposed offer resolving all outstanding issues. Although the Sen-

ate did not accept the proffer, only a mere handful of issues remain to be resolved.

In fact, I have scheduled a meeting of the bankruptcy conferees one week from today for the purpose of resolving these remaining issues. Accordingly, I expect to complete the bankruptcy conference well before the extension of Chapter 12, effectuated by this bill, expires.

H.R. 4167 is good for family farmers because it immediately restores Chapter 12 and maintains the status quo for an appropriate period of time. This bill serves to support our efforts in resolving the pending bankruptcy conference which when completed and enacted will provide even more protection for family farmers.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4167.

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

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

This bill today is important to my congressional district back home in rural Arkansas, and quite frankly, it is important to farm families all across America. Family farmers injured by low commodity prices are being held hostage by the lack of certainty of whether or not Chapter 12 is going to be there for them.

Just last week, the House and Senate both voted to make Chapter 12 permanent through bankruptcy reform legislation. Yet that legislation remains in conference committee, and it is an issue that has been going on since 1997, and I do not know that it is going to be resolved anytime soon.

I support bankruptcy reform. As a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, I have fought hard to see that bill to the floor. I fought hard to see it passed on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, and I am as frustrated as anyone else that we have been trying to get bankruptcy reform since 1997, and yet it remains in the conference committee with an awful lot of amendments attached to it that have nothing in the world to do with bankruptcy reform, and I am perhaps a little less optimistic than the Chairman that we may see bankruptcy reform come our way soon.

I believe the gentleman from Wisconsin raises some very good points about what we need to do for our farm families as it relates to Chapter 12 bankruptcy reform, and I would, in fact, offer to sign on as a Democratic sponsor with him to write a bill that addresses the aspects that are in the overall bankruptcy reform legislation that is stuck in the conference committee. Let us take that, let us extract those ideas that will help our farm families out of that bill that has been around since 1997 in one form, fashion or the other, and let us really try to file a bill tomorrow that will really help, that will really help our farm families in an important way.

I think it is also important to note that although we have not had a lot of farm families file Chapter 12 bankruptcy, I think the ability to do that has helped a lot of our farm families be able to negotiate rather than simply file for bankruptcy. I do not think there is any dispute that Chapter 12 has worked well in saving our farm families by protecting the needs of both our financially struggling farm families as well as protecting their creditors.

Our farmers cannot afford to continue to be left hanging out in the wind and held hostage by bankruptcy legislation that is stuck in conference committee. I am not opposing the bankruptcy reform bill. I support it. I supported it in the House Committee on Financial Services. I supported it on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I hope it is enacted and I hope it is enacted soon.

I also hope a new farm bill is enacted soon. I am on the House Committee on Agriculture. We wrote and passed that bill last October. It went to the Senate. They put some amendments on it that have really caused a lot of problems for farm families in my district. That, too, is now in conference committee. It seems like these conference committees are really causing a lot of havoc for our farm families, everything from bankruptcy reform to a new farm bill.

Our farm families, they need help and they need it now. I think it is important to note that farm families are the backbone of our rural communities, of rural America, and when we lose farm families, it has a devastating impact on the economy of rural America. Unfortunately, our farmers are under increasing financial pressure each year to make ends meet due to low crop prices, added debt simply to get their crops planted and increasing competition from imports from other countries.

We have seen that with commodities, with Canadian soft wood lumber. We have even seen it with the dumping of the so-called catfish that are being raised in cages in polluted rivers in Vietnam.

When Chapter 12 of the bankruptcy code was first enacted, there was legitimate concern over whether it would work. We now know that it has worked, and there is no reason why our farmers should have to wait to know that this safety net is there for them. Yet it has not been there for them since October 1 of last year.

We must move forward in helping our farm families. This measure extends Chapter 12 for 8 months, retroactively starting on October 1 and ending on May 31. While this is only a temporary fix, while the conference committee continues to do what they have done since the mid to late 1990s and, that is, try to work out a bankruptcy reform bill that can pass both the House and Senate and gain the President's signature, it is desperately needed for our farmers, for rural America. It is needed

now and that is why this temporary fix is so very, very important.

I urge my colleagues not to delay any further, pass the Chapter 12 bankruptcy extension. Please let us pass it today for our farm families, so that they can do what they do best, and that is, feed America and feed much of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN), whose district joins mine in Texarkana.

□ 1530

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, the well-being of family farms in America is critical to our economy and to the American way of life. Family farmers deserve certainty in pricing. They deserve certainty in legal protections. This legislation and bankruptcy reform is a part of that critical protection for American families and American farmers.

Last year both the House and the Senate voted to make Chapter 12 permanent, and yet here we sit. No decision, no reform, no protection; and uncertainty reigns supreme. We all recognize that it is important to protect both the family farmer and the creditor who provides needed and necessary capital. Neither the farmer nor the creditors can afford endless uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical to help farmers now. We need a legitimate farm bill that is truly pro-agriculture. Additionally, we need legitimate protections for farmers as provided by this bill. Family farmers face uncertainty every day; it is nothing new. Weather, foreign markets, increasing competition from big corporate farmers, the list goes on and on. They should not face another uncertainty. We can prevent it. We can do something about it. We can pass this bill. We can tell American farmers and their families that their well-being is important to us.

Now this bill is not the be-all and the end-all. It is a temporary fix; but one that is critical, nevertheless. Haul this safety net up for our farmers and their children. Extend Chapter 12 for 8 months starting on October 1 and ending on May 31. Let us pass this bill and support our family farmers in America.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) for calling attention to this issue and presenting it to us today. Our farmers deserve our attention and our respect.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PHELPS).

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 4167, which extends Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection. However, I have concerns that this legislation will only temporarily extend Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection, by being retroactive to October 12 and extending through the end of May. Our farmers

need this legislation to be made permanent, the point we made about a week ago.

When Chapter 12 was enacted in 1986, there were some questions whether it would work properly, so Congress made it temporary. The idea behind Chapter 12 is very straightforward. Other forms of bankruptcy relief are either too costly or do not fit the particular circumstances of a family farm. If one is out in the small hamlets and villages, they will make that very clear.

Last week I offered a motion to instruct the conferees on the farm bill; and my motion to instruct, which passed overwhelmingly, asked the conferees on the farmer bill to accept the language in the Senate bill that would make Chapter 12 of the bankruptcy code permanent. I do not think there is any controversy whatsoever that Chapter 12 works well and that it protects our family farmers who are in distress, or that it properly balances the legitimate needs of financially troubled farmers and their creditors, and that it preserves the family farm, which is our whole intent, our whole point.

It is our hope that the farm bill conferees will include Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection in the farm bill and that we will finally be able to offer this to our family farmers. Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection is also included in the bankruptcy bill which is currently in conference. Again, it is my hope we are able to pass this legislation and that it does not remain tied up in conference. Our farmers need this option; and I hope that we see through all of this, that we can simplify, cut to the chase and equip the family farms with what they need to face the terrible situation that was not brought on through any fault of their own.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is very important to farmers. I have been working on it for the last 6 years, trying to make Chapter 12 permanent so farmers are not put in the predicament of kind of an on-and-off situation, and also the bankruptcy courts holding pending some of those farm applications. I am glad that we are bringing it up to date and extending the Chapter 12 provisions until June 1, 2002.

Chapter 12 was originally enacted in 1986. We had a lot of farm bankruptcies. There was a problem. The other chapters were putting farmers at a disadvantage, making them sell their equipment which made it impossible for them to reorganize and start developing the kind of farm operation that could pay back some of those loans.

I appreciate that this is important legislation. It is an important piece of bankruptcy law. I am hopeful that we can make Chapter 12 permanent as the chairman's bankruptcy bill provides for. There are more than 12,000 farmers that have filed for Chapter 12 bankruptcy since it went into effect in 1986,

and they have been able to restructure their debts without having to liquidate property. The continued low commodity prices, the financial stresses facing farmers further exacerbate the importance of extending Chapter 12.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced several bills. I would have preferred that we were going ahead with my bill, but I appreciate the chairman helping to make sure that this law is current for those farmers desperately needing bankruptcy protection.

Why is Chapter 12 so important to farmers—especially small, family farmers? Chapter 12 contains special provisions that allows farmers to use bankruptcy laws in the manner that is available to others seeking bankruptcy.

Under the bankruptcy laws, debtors must only have a certain level of debt to reorganize rather than liquidate. Many farmers have too many assets to do this, primarily because of the value of their farm equipment—their tractors, plows, combines, and tools. Obviously, this equipment is essential to the farm operation. If this equipment were used to pay off debts, how would the farmer then be able to operate the farm and reconstruct the business? Chapter 12 recognizes this fact of farm life and lets these farmers reorganize their debts rather than liquidate their property.

Extending this provision is especially critical today. There are many farmers who have filed for bankruptcy since the last Chapter 12 extension expired last fall. The courts are waiting for Congress to act and change the law to allow these farmers to re-file under Chapter 12. These farmers need the options available under Chapter 12 now.

I have introduced legislation that would make Chapter 12 protection permanent, and working with the Gentle Lady from Wisconsin, TAMMY BALDWIN, I have offered many bills extending these protections, most recently H.R. 2914.

Like many other Members, I am hoping that we can free the logjam that is holding up permanent Chapter 12 protections for farmers. I understand that the House and Senate conferees will be meeting soon on H.R. 3333, the bankruptcy reform bill. Let's hope that an agreement can be reached soon so that we do not have to come to the floor of the House to extend once again a provision that should be a permanent fixture in law.

I would like to express my support for the Gentleman for Wisconsin, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, not only for this bill, but also for his efforts to get the other body moving on a bankruptcy reform compromise that will make Chapter 12 permanent.

Mr. Speaker, Chapter 12 is critically important if we are to help family farmers maintain farms that, for many, have been in their families for generations. I urge my colleagues to support this very important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would simply close in support of the bill by saying that this weekend I was driving across my congressional district, as I do every weekend, some 75,000 miles we traveled across those 29 counties over the past 16 months. There is a lot of row crop land not planted because our farm families do not know what to do. They do

not know what to do because they are waiting on Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection; they are waiting on a new farm bill, both of which are tied up in conference committees.

Our farm families do not need more conference committees. They need Chapter 12 bankruptcy reform, and they need it permanent and they need it today. They need a new farm bill today. When that bill got gutted with amendments in the Senate and went to conference committee, in my district we began to see three-, four-, and five-generation farm families selling out. The price of equipment at those auctions dropped 35 percent overnight after those amendments were attached to the farm bill in the Senate and it was sent to the conference committee.

The time for action on bankruptcy reform, the time for action on a new farm bill for our struggling farm families is now. I think it is important to note that this bill sunsets 45 days from today. This is a temporary fix, and our farm families need it; but they need a long-term solution so they can continue to do what they do best, generation after generation after generation, and that is simply feed America and feed the world. I am proud today to stand in support of our farm families.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I have been listening with great interest to the three speakers on behalf of my bill on the Democratic side of the aisle, and each of them complained about how long the bankruptcy conference has taken. Believe me, as the chairman of that conference, I am even more frustrated than they are because I have to deal with attempting to negotiate out very complex issues.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell the gentleman that we have made Chapter 12 permanent in that bankruptcy conference, and we have made it better for farmers so farmers will get a better deal by having the bankruptcy conference passed and signed into law, not only in Chapter 12, but also on the entire economic effect of bankruptcies on our economy.

In the last several years, bankruptcy courts have written off \$44 billion of debt every year, and that amounts to \$400 of additional cost of goods and services, in effect, a \$400 hidden tax on people all throughout this country who pay their bills as agreed.

I think practically every farm family, let alone every other family in this country, would rather have that \$400 in their pocket rather than having to pay more for goods and services because debts have been written off. One of the purposes of the bankruptcy bill that we have been dealing with has been to drive that \$44 billion down so that the hidden tax on every American family would not be as great as \$400 a year.

Last February I sent an offer to the Senate conferees. They rejected it.

They never came back with their own offer; and I have called a meeting of the bankruptcy conference for Tuesday, April 23, 2002. I would like to ask the three Democratic speakers on behalf of Chapter 12 if they would do me a favor, and that is to write the Democratic Senate conferees and ask them to reach an agreement on the bankruptcy bill.

If we reach that agreement, I can assure the gentlemen that we can bring that bill to the floor the end of this month or the first part of next month and beat the farm bill conference to the President's desk.

I regret even having to talk about this because both Houses of Congress did pass bankruptcy reform legislation in the last Congress that included a permanent extension of Chapter 12, and guess what happened? The former President, Mr. Clinton, pocket vetoed the bill. If he had not done so, we would not be talking about this issue at all.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am in the House of Representatives. I am proud to be a conservative, small-town-value kind of Democrat that is standing before the gentleman today, and I am appalled that for some reason a Member of the House has some control over what happens in a Senate conference committee. I have no more control over the Democrats in the Senate than the gentleman from Wisconsin does.

Mr. Speaker, I think the American people are sick and tired of the partisan bickering that goes on in the Nation's Capitol. It should not be what makes the Republicans or Democrats look good or bad; it ought to be about doing what is right and providing a strong, effective voice for the people who sent us here to represent them.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, absolutely. I sent an offer over to the Senate 2 months ago to resolve all of the issues in the bankruptcy conference. They rejected it, but they never came back with a counterproposal of their own. So whatever we send over there, they appear not to like; but they do not have a counterproposal.

One of the things I think we are supposed to do in reconciling bills is to go back and forth until something is reached in the middle. I want to bring this matter to a head. I want to get the bankruptcy bill off the national table. I want to get Chapter 12 made better and made permanent, and I want to do it by getting H.R. 333 passed through both Houses and signed by the President of the United States. All I am doing is enlisting the gentleman's help and the help of the two other speakers to write a letter to those folks over there and tell them to be constructive, because they have not been that constructive to date.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his support for H.R.

4167, which retroactively extends Chapter 12 bankruptcy for family farms and ranches to June 1, 2002. Chapter 12 bankruptcy expired on October 1, 2001. This legislation is very important to the nation's agriculture sector.

This Member would express his appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, for introducing H.R. 4167. In addition, this Member would like to express his appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) for his efforts in getting this measure to the House Floor for consideration.

This extension of Chapter 12 bankruptcy is supported by this Member as it allows family farmers to reorganize their debts as compared to liquidating their assets. The use of the Chapter 12 bankruptcy provision has been an important and necessary option for family farmers throughout the nation. It has allowed family farmers to reorganize their assets in a manner which balances the interests of creditors and the future success of the involved farmer.

If Chapter 12 bankruptcy provisions are not extended for family farmers, it will be another very painful blow to an agricultural sector already reeling from low commodity prices. Not only will many family farmers have no viable option other than to end their operations, but it will also cause land values to likely plunge. Such a decrease in value of farmland will negatively affect the ability of family farmers to earn a living. In addition, the resulting decrease in farmland value will impact the manner in which banks conduct their agricultural lending activities. Furthermore, this Member has received many contacts from his constituents supporting extension of Chapter 12 bankruptcy because of the situation now being faced by our nation's farm families—it is clear that the agricultural sector is hurting.

I closing, this Member urges his colleagues to support H.R. 4167.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend my strong support for H.R. 4167 and for farmers in financial distress. Extension of Chapter 12 is necessary to insure that these financially distressed farmers are granted the protection they need.

I would doubt that there is any one of us who does not want to aid a farmer in distress. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that H.R. 4167 will be approved today because the vast majority of this body recognizes the difficulty and risk inherent in farming and want to give farmers a fail-safe net of bankruptcy in case they become distressed. I have consistently supported efforts to extend Chapter 12. Since the bankruptcy reform movement started five years ago, there was not one moment in which we did not consider making Chapter 12 permanent.

Chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy code is a specialized form of bankruptcy relief available to family farmers. The special attributes of Chapter 12 makes it better suited to meet the particularized needs of family farmers in financial distress than other forms of bankruptcy relief, such as Chapter 11 (business reorganization) or Chapter 13 (individual reorganization). Chapter 12 allows family farmers to keep essential farm assets and reorganize their debts.

Chapter 12 was enacted on a temporary seven-year basis as part of the Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees, and Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986 in response to

the farm financial crisis of the 1980's. It has subsequently been extended on several occasions. H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, would make Chapter 12 permanent.

But isn't there more we can do? Of course farmers want a fail-safe net of bankruptcy in case they go into distress, but more than that, they want expanded markets, and an end to the federal death tax. We stand here today debating the merits of a bill that will aid failing farms, but we can't stop here—we must keep fighting to help American farms succeed. The best farmers in the world, American farmers, want a fair chance to compete with other farmers around the world and they want a legitimate chance to make a profit. I will continue to support Trade Promotion Authority and death tax repeal to help insure that American farmers have less need for the bankruptcy protections we vote to advance here today.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4167 for distressed farmers, but I urge my colleagues to grant the president Trade Promotion Authority so that markets for our agricultural goods will be opened from which our farmers will profit. I also ask that my colleagues permanently abolish the federal death tax, which is a specter that hangs over every family farmer who looks forward to passing his farm on to the next generation. Action on these pieces of legislation sends a message that the United States Congress recognizes the importance of the hard work, pride and competitive nature of the American agriculturalist.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4167.

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. SENSENBRENNER. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H.R. 1374, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 4156, by the yeas and nays; and
- H.R. 4167, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

PHILIP E. RUPPE POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1374.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1374, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 408, nays 0, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]
YEAS—408

Abercrombie	Capito	Ehlers
Ackerman	Capps	Ehrlich
Aderholt	Capuano	Emerson
Akin	Cardin	Engel
Allen	Carson (IN)	English
Andrews	Carson (OK)	Eshoo
Armey	Castle	Etheridge
Baca	Chabot	Evans
Bachus	Chambliss	Everett
Baird	Clay	Farr
Baker	Clayton	Fattah
Baldacci	Clyburn	Ferguson
Baldwin	Coble	Flake
Ballenger	Collins	Fletcher
Barcia	Combest	Foley
Barr	Conyers	Forbes
Barrett	Cooksey	Ford
Bartlett	Costello	Fossella
Barton	Cox	Frank
Bass	Coyne	Frelinghuysen
Becerra	Cramer	Frost
Bentsen	Crane	Gallegly
Bereuter	Crenshaw	Ganske
Berkley	Crowley	Gekas
Berry	Cubin	Gephardt
Biggert	Culberson	Gibbons
Bilirakis	Cummings	Gillmor
Bishop	Cunningham	Gilman
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Gonzalez
Blunt	Davis (FL)	Goode
Boehlert	Davis (IL)	Goodlatte
Boehner	Davis, Jo Ann	Gordon
Bonilla	Davis, Tom	Goss
Bonior	Deal	Graham
Bono	DeFazio	Granger
Boozman	DeGette	Graves
Borski	Delahunt	Green (TX)
Boswell	DeLauro	Green (WI)
Boucher	DeLay	Greenwood
Boyd	DeMint	Grucci
Brady (PA)	Deutsch	Gutknecht
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Hall (OH)
Brown (FL)	Dicks	Hall (TX)
Brown (OH)	Dingell	Harman
Brown (SC)	Doggett	Hart
Bryant	Dooley	Hastings (WA)
Burr	Doolittle	Hayes
Buyer	Doyle	Hayworth
Callahan	Dreier	Hefley
Calvert	Duncan	Heger
Camp	Dunn	Hill
Cantor	Edwards	Hinche