Messrs. Hoekstra, Gingrey, and Hinojosa.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of section 303 and title IV of the House amendments, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. Young of Alaska, Petri, and Matheson.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will notify the Senate of the change in conferees.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1119

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a sponsor of H.R. 1119. It was an error that my name was added to the bill, since I did not authorize the action.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

H.R. 1451, STUDENT ATHLETE PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, this is the final week of the NCAA basketball tournament. This is an exciting time, and it is also a time when large amounts of money are gambled. In 1998, $2.5 billion was gambled on the NCAA tournament. Today, that would probably be almost double that amount.

Gambling on NCAA sports has become a major problem. In 1951, CCNY had a point-shaving scandal, and Kentucky in the 1940s. In 1994, a Northwestern running back intentionally fumbled to fix a game. In 1996, 13 Boston College football players bet on NCAA games, and several bet against their own team. In 1998, a Northwestern basketball player was indicted for point shaving. In 1999, two Arizona State basketball players shaved points. This was done to pay off gambling debts. The fix was traced to organized crime in Chicago.

Last month, Florida State quarterback Adrian McPherson was charged with illegal gambling, and of course he owed a bookie thousands of dollars. A University of Michigan study recently found that 5 percent of NCAA athletes that play football and basketball provided inside information to gamblers.

So over 36 years of coaching, gambling was a major concern to me. I was always worried about our players getting involved because of gambling debts; but more importantly, as a coach you had to win twice. You had to win once on the scoreboard, and then you had to win again in beating the point spread.

Someone up in the stands who had bet $10,000 on the outcome of a game that he could not afford to lose was not a casual observer. Most of the nasty memories that I have from coaching, and I do not have very many, had to do with hate mail, obscene phone calls at night, a mailbox that was blown up. In general, most all the time these were caused by situations where somebody had lost a bet.

Gambling on NCAA sports is illegal in 49 States, yet it is legal in one State, which is the State of Nevada. So we might ask, why not have a uniform standard? It is like having 49 States that have to pay Federal income tax and then one State is given a pass.

I have four major concerns with the Nevada loophole. First, this allows bets to be laid off. If there is a big game and the action is getting pretty heavy, a local bookie can have a runner or himself go to Las Vegas, up the ante, and have his bets covered. I had a young man from Nebraska who traveled to Las Vegas weekly to do this over a period of time.

Kevin Pendergast, who orchestrated the Northwestern gambling scandal, said this: ''Without the option of betting in Nevada, the Northwestern basketball point shaving scandal would never have occurred.''

Secondly, the loophole provides money-laundering opportunities. The former chairman of the Nebraska Gaming Control Board said, ''We have no way of knowing how much is laundered through legal sports books, but based on wiretaps, it is millions of dollars.''

Thirdly, this results in ties to organized crime. FBI agent Mike Welch said this: ''Most student bookies, even if they don't know it, are working for organized crime.''

Fourthly, giving one State a pass on amateur gambling sends a message that this is not really a serious problem. It is like legalizing drugs in one State and having them be illegal in 49 others.

□ 1915

The argument is often advanced that legal gambling on amateur sports in Nevada tips off a fix. In other words, as the points change and there is a big shift in gambling money, this will alert people that the fix is on. Yet in 2001 testimony on Capitol Hill, NCAA officials pointed out that legal sports betting in Nevada has never prevented a point-shaving scandal from happening. Sometimes after the fact you might go back and look at it and say, well, maybe something was going on here, but it has not really prevented anything.

The National Gambling Impact Study Commission said in its 1999 report, it recommended that current legal gambling on college athletics be banned altogether, and of course this would apply to the Nevada loophole.

So I urge support for H.R. 1451 which will do exactly that. This will not eliminate all gambling, I realize that, on NCAA sports; but it certainly would be a step in the right direction and I urge support of H.R. 1451.

TIGHTENING AMERICAN BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, the Washington Times carried an interesting article on March 28. Headlines read: Bonner Says U.S. Borders Sealed Better Than Ever.

''America is better protected against terrorists and weapons of mass destruction today than it ever has been, says the head of the new Federal agency assigned to guard the Nation's 6,000 miles of international borders and 300 ports of entry.''

The borders, he says, are sealed better than ever. Well, maybe something has happened down there in the last several days that I am not aware of, but I can tell you what is the situation on our borders, at least our southern border, as recently as the last couple of weeks because I have just returned from there and observed how sealed these borders are. In fact, of course, they are anything but protected. They are completely and entirely porous.

This is a picture of exactly what I am talking about. This is the border between the United States and Mexico