

A similar House bill (H.R. 4975) was laid on the table.

□ 1200

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5384, and that I might include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 830 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5384.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1201

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5384) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, with Mr. MILLER of Florida (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to bring before the House today the fiscal year 2007 appropriations bill for Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies. Before I do so, I would like to say how proud I am to be serving in my final year as chairman of the subcommittee. It has been a great privilege and a great experience.

I want to compliment my ranking member, Ms. DELAURO, for helping us get to this point today to produce a good bill for the American people. My goal every year has been to produce a bipartisan bill.

We began our hearings on the budget on February 15, and we added an additional hearing at the request of Ms. DELAURO on bird flu, which is a very important issue to people not just in this country, but around the world; and I have tried very hard to accommodate every Member who had a request for this bill. But it has been difficult. We received this year over 1,600 individual requests for specific spending from most Members of the House.

I would say that all Members can support this bill and tell their constituents that they voted to improve their lives while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

I would also like to thank all of my subcommittee members on both sides of the aisle for helping to produce this bill, and I would like to thank people who oftentimes don't get recognized for all of the hard work, sometimes on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings, that goes into putting a bill together. It is not just the Members that are

elected to serve on this subcommittee and full committee, but we have the committee staff: Martha Foley of the minority staff; Martin Delgado, the great, distinguished leader, the clerk of the subcommittee; Maureen Holohan, Leslie Barrack and Jamie Swafford of the majority staff. In addition, I would like to thank our detailee, Mike Arnold, and Walt Smith from Texas A&M back in Texas at College Station from my personal staff for working hard on this.

I also want to mention some people that I would say have never had their names mentioned before on the floor of the House, but without them we could not be here today. They are the ones that helped put this whole product together: Larry Boarman, Theo Powell, Cathy Edwards, Linda Muir and the staff of the Government Printing Office.

Mr. Chairman, we refer to this bill as the agriculture bill, but it goes so much more than assisting basic agriculture. It also supports rural and economic development, human nutrition, ag exports and land conservation, as well as the food, drug, and medical safety in this country. This bill will cover benefits to of every one of your constituents everyday, no matter what district you represent.

There are some key increases over the fiscal year 2006 spending level in the bill that include the following: \$80 million for bird flu; \$24 million for food safety; \$11 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the budget request proposed to zero out this program; \$34 million for the Farm Service Agency, salaries and expenses; \$12 million for farm operating loans; \$91 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and \$20 million for the FDA user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, and animal drugs.

Mr. Chairman, I will include at this point in the RECORD tabular material relating to the bill.