

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution supporting the appointment of a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, during roll-call vote No. 482 on H. Res. 992, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "nay" when I should have voted "yea."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 817

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name from H.R. 817.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was unavoidably detained and as a result missed rollcall 478, a privileged motion offered by the minority leader.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the motion.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 5631.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 5631, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP- PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1037, I call up the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 5631) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1037, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of September 25, 2006, at page H6996.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the conference report on H.R. 5631 which makes appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2007. The agreement provides \$377.6 billion for the United States military. In addition, \$70 billion is provided in the so-called bridge fund for the operations of the war against terror. Finally, \$200 million is included in emergency funding to help the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service combat wildfires.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report also carries a continuing resolution which will fund other activities of the government through November 17. It is a totally clean CR, and it merely establishes the date.

The House passed the defense bill on June 20 by a vote of 407-19. The other body completed its action on its version of the bill on September 7. By September 21, only 2 weeks after the Senate approval, we resolved conference and present a good conference report.

There was some difficulty about the total number, the top line, the 302(b) allocation, and I want to compliment the chairman of the full committee, Chairman LEWIS, for having stuck to his guns. We were able to get that top number up to the House number and this bill reflects very closely the bill as passed by the House.

I will say that a statement has been prepared in writing of the highlights of this legislation. I would advise the Members that there were no new earmarks, no new Member projects added in conference, and that in the bridge fund there are no Member projects whatsoever. It is a good conference report. It was agreed to unanimously by the conferees of both parties in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report on H.R. 5631, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2007. This agreement provides \$377.6 billion for the United States military. In addition, \$70 billion is provided in the so-called "Bridge Fund". Finally, \$200 million is included in emergency funding to help the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service combat wildfires.

This conference report also carries a continuing resolution, which will fund other activities of the government through November 17th.

The House passed the Defense appropriations bill on June 20th by a vote of 407 to 19. However, the Senate did not complete action on its version until September 7th. We reached a conference agreement on Thursday, September 21st, only two weeks after final approval by the Senate, despite having to resolve some major funding differences.

The centerpiece of this legislation is the funding for the Global War on Terror contained in title IX. This includes \$17.1 billion to fully cover the fiscal year 2007 reset needs of the United States Army, and \$5.8 billion to do the same for the Marine Corps.

The reset funding in this conference agreement will enable deploying units to have all the equipment they require to face the enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, returning units can be reset and trained in order to be at full readiness for any future deployment. We owe it to our troops to ensure they have all the equipment they need to perform their missions. This funding keeps that commitment.

In addition, the conference agreement provides operating expenses for the services to conduct the Global War on Terror for the first half of fiscal year 2007. Finally, we provide funding for 10 additional C-17 aircraft in the Bridge Fund, for a total of 22 in this conference report.

Within the base bill, the conference agreement maintains the two littoral combat ships provided for the Navy in the House bill but eliminated by the Senate, as well one T-AKE ammunition ship. We have reluctantly agreed to the proposal of the Administration and the Senate to incrementally fund the two lead ships of the DDG-1000 destroyer series, formerly DD(X). However, we expect them to stay within the total funding envelop for both ships, which is currently projected at \$6,582,200,000. In the future, I do not believe Congress should entertain any funding above this level.

The conference agreement also includes \$2.7 billion to fully fund the procurement of 20 F-22A fighter aircraft, and \$687 million for advance procurement of 20 aircraft in fiscal year 2008.

The Senate bill had eliminated procurement funding for the Joint Strike Fighter program. However, in the conference agreement we were able to restore full funding for 2 production aircraft and advance procurement for 12 additional aircraft in fiscal year 2008. Including research and development costs, the conference agreement contains \$4.3 billion for the Joint Strike Fighter program, making it the largest single program in the Department of Defense.

We also responded to the emerging threat posed by North Korea and Iran by providing \$9.4 billion for ballistic missile defense, an increase of \$1.6 billion over fiscal year 2006. This includes funds to begin the establishment in Europe of a third ground-based interceptor site.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other important programs addressed in this conference report. Let me just conclude by stating that this bill provides essential funding for the war fighter in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world as we wage the Global War on Terror. Every member of the conference committee signed the conference report. It deserves the strong support of the House. I urge its adoption.