

player in the decision that will have great impact on our State, relying on scientific data rather than rhetoric and affording us the opportunity to institute a more precise policy than our current moratorium year to year.

The House Committee on Resources is scheduled to have a hearing on this bill the first week in August, and I remain hopeful we can move forward on this critically important issue to our State. Of course, there are some issues in the Interior bill that remain controversial, and that will certainly be the subject of some debate later this afternoon.

I look forward to the opportunity to resolve some of those controversies and move forward on this important legislation. I applaud the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and Members of the Committee on Appropriations for their hard work at this point.

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me and just wanted to reemphasize on the Everglades that we have put a condition in here to ensure that in the long haul that the water will be available to protect the Everglades because that is the primary responsibility of the American taxpayer, and the reason they are going to spend 7 to \$10 billion of taxpayers' money from all across the country is to ensure the protection of the Everglades, and we tried to do that with the language in the bill.

Mr. GOSS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, part of my applause for the chairman's efforts is his understanding of all the intricate issues and complexities that are involved. I think he has handled them well. I congratulate him on that, and I know that under his leadership we are going to keep this on course.

I urge support of the rule, and I urge support of the bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise support of this rule, and I wish to particularly commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), my good friend, the Subcommittee on Interior chairman, as well as the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the ranking member. These gentlemen have had to wrestle hard with severe caps and meeting their responsibilities; and to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) in particular I say I am indebted to him on behalf of the coalfield residents throughout this country for the \$11 million increase in Abandoned Mine Land funding.

And I also want to say to the gentleman from Ohio that many of us appreciate his support for the Heritage Area program, citizens working together from the grassroots to celebrate and promote their heritage. I am indebted to the gentleman from Ohio for funding this worthy program as well.

In conclusion, I like to draw attention to three amendments that will be offered to the bill today. One seeks to strike the funding limitation it carries for the American Heritage Rivers program. One of these heritage rivers flows through my congressional district, the New River. I cannot tell my colleagues how much excitement this designation has generated from local citizens, community leaders and chambers of commerce. I urge support of this amendment.

Another amendment to be offered by myself, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) seeks to maintain some semblance of sanity in the mining law program. It is my hope that perhaps the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) will be kind to us when this amendment is offered.

And the third amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and myself and a cast of thousands seeks to bolster funding for the low income weatherization program. This is so critically important to so many people who are struggling to improve their lot in our society. I urge adoption of the rule, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1434

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 2 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1691, RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. MYRICK, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 106-229) on the resolution (H. Res. 245) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1691) to protect religious liberty, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on the bill (H.R. 2465) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

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

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 242 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. 2465.

□ 1435

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. 2465) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. GILLMOR in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

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

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to present the House recommendation for the Military Construction Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000.

Let me begin by thanking the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), my ranking member, and all the members of our subcommittee for their assistance and interest in putting together this year's bill.

The bill presented to the House today totals \$8.5 billion, the same as last year's enacted level, and it is \$141 million below this year's House passed authorization bill.