upon prior initiatives to improve Federal
debt collection practices by pro-
viding Federal agencies with the addi-
tional tools they need to improve Fed-
eral debt collection. It is almost iden-
tical to H.R. 4857, a bill that passed the
House of Representatives with over-
whelming bipartisan support under sus-
pension of the rules in the 105th Con-
gress. We passed these provisions by a
vote of 419 to 1 earlier this year.

I would like to commend the gen-
tleman from California (Chairman HORN), who has done an outstanding
progress. We passed these provisions by a
diligent legislative oversight activi-
ties. The gentleman has worked to as-
sure that the taxpayers get every dol-
lar they are entitled to and no more.

I also want to mention and commend
the leadership of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), who
has continued her partnership with the
gentleman from California (Chairman HORN) since the time she served in the
position of ranking member of this sub-
committee.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further re-
quests for time, and I yield back the
balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield my-
self such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the
gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER),
the ranking member. He had an excel-
 lent series of questions this morning of
the Commissioner of Internal Revenue
and the General Accounting Officer.

The gentleman is deeply committed to
an effective and efficient government,
and especially to getting at the non-
tax debt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to
support this legislation. H.R. 1442, as amended,
provisions to improve the efficiency and effective-
ness of Federal debt collection and
credit management. It would also as-
sist State and local governments in
their efforts to acquire needed surplus property for law enforcement and
emergency response. This legisla-
tion has broad bipartisan support, as
was evident on the floor. The provi-
sions are the result of a bipartisan ef-
fort between majority and minority on
the Committee on Government Reform,
working closely with the administra-
tion.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in
support of H.R. 1442, the Law Enforcement

I am a co-sponsor of this legislation which
makes permanent the General Services Ad-
ministration authority to transfer federal sur-
plus lands at no cost to state and local gov-
ernments for the purpose of law enforcement and
emergency response services.

H.R. 1442 will have a direct and immediate
impact on my Congressional District as well as
a number of other districts throughout the
country. Currently, thirteen sites across the
nation, one of which is in my District, are uti-
DOR, and the General Accounting Officer.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
question was taken; and (two-
thirds having voted in favor thereof)
the rules were suspended and the bill,
as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so
as to read: 'To reduce waste, fraud, and
error in Government programs by
making improvements with respect to
Federal management and debt collec-
tion practices, Federal payment sys-
tems, Federal benefit programs, and for
other purposes.'

A motion to reconsider was laid on the
table.

SILK ROAD STRATEGY ACT OF 1999
Mr. BERTEUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move
to suspend the rules and pass the bill
(H.R. 1152) to amend the Foreign Assis-
tance Act of 1961 to provide assist-
tance to support the economic and po-
litical independence of the countries of
South Caucasus and Central Asia, as
amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1152

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Silk Road
Strategy Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

1. The ancient Silk Road, once the eco-
nomic lifeline of Central Asia and the South
Caucasus, traversed much of the territory
now within the countries of Armenia, Azer-
baijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

2. Economic interdependence spurred mu-
tual cooperation among countries along the
Silk Road and restoration of the historic
relationships and economic ties between
those peoples is an important element of en-
suring their sovereignty as well as the suc-
cess of democratic and market reforms.

3. The development of strong political,
economic, and security ties among countries
of the South Caucasus and Central Asia and
the West will foster stability in this region,
which is vulnerable to political and eco-
nomic pressures from the south, north, and
east.

4. The development of open market econo-
 mies and open democratic systems in the
countries of the South Caucasus and Central
Asia will provide positive incentives for
international private investment, increased
trade, and other forms of commercial inter-
actions with the rest of the world.

5. Many of the countries of the South
Caucasus have secular Muslim governments
that are seeking closer alliance with the
United States and that have active and cor-
diplomatic relations with Israel.

6. The region of the South Caucasus and
Central Asia could produce oil and gas in suf-
cient quantities to reduce the dependence of
the United States on energy from the volatile Persian Gulf region.

7. United States foreign policy and inter-
national assistance should be narrowly tar-
geted to support the economic and political
independence as well as democracy building,
free market policies, human rights, and re-
gional economic integration of the countries
of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

SEC. 3. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.

It shall be the policy of the United States in
the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia—

1. To promote and strengthen independ-
ence, sovereignty, democratic government,
and respect for human rights;

2. To promote tolerance, pluralism, and
understanding and counter racism and anti-
Semitism;

3. To assist actively in the resolution of
regional conflicts and to facilitate the re-
moval of impediments to cross-border com-
merce;

4. To promote friendly relations and eco-
nomic cooperation;

5. To help promote market-oriented prin-
ciples and practices;

6. To assist in the development of the in-
frastructural necessary for communications,