CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

November 17, 1999

SEC. 2. HOLDING OF COURT AT WHEATON, ILLINOIS.

Section 93(a)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding after Chicago "and Wheaton".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hyde) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. Weiner) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hyde).

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 1418.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1418, which provides for the holding of court in Natchez, Mississippi, in the Northern District of Mississippi.

While only a small number of Federal court cases are now tried at Natchez County Court facilities, it is important to the Federal Government to be able to establish additional places of holding court. The current law that limits the authority of the Federal courts to hold court in different places within a judicial district is not necessary to ensure the efficiency of the administration of justice in our Federal court system.

Section 1 was approved in the House and Senate bill (S. 1235) to amend part G of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to allow railroad police to be trained in FBI facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1418

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

SECTION 1. HOLDING OF COURT AT WHEATON, ILLINOIS.

Section 194(b)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding the second sentence by striking all beginning with the colon through "United States".

Federal judges need the flexibility to hold court in different places within their judicial districts. However, the headquarters of Federal judges in the southern district of Mississippi are tied because of arcane language in Federal law. Language was written into law sometime ago that said the court could meet in Natchez "provided, that court shall be held at Natchez if suitable quarters and accommodations are furnished at no cost to the United States." To my knowledge no other city presents this kind of obstacle to the Federal courts.

S. 1418 strikes this unfair and restrictive language and gives the court flexibility to meet in Natchez. And who would not want to meet in Natchez, a beautiful city in Mississippi? I appreciate the efforts of Senator THAD COCHRAN and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) to expedite the passage of this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to pass this fair and non-controversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1418, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAILROAD POLICE TRAINING AT FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1235) to amend part G of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to allow railroad police officers to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy for law enforcement training.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1235

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

SECTION 1. INCLUSION OF RAILROAD POLICE OFFICERS IN FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING.

(a) In General.—Section 701(a) of part G of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "State or unit of local government" and inserting "State, unit of local government, or rail carrier";

(B) by inserting "including railroad police officers" before the semicolon; and

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking "State or unit of local government" and inserting "State, unit of local government, or rail carrier";

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The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hyde).

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 1418.

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There was no objection.

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