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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN INSTITUTES AND SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the Senate bill, S. 440, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 128, nays 291, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 597]

The House and Senate leadership are working together to try to find ways to work around a couple of particular parliamentary problems that the Senate has. At this time of the year, as Members know, in order to do the final work of the year, the two bodies must coordinate and must be able to move together. They have some difficulties over on the other side of the building that we are trying to work around.

So I would say to the Members that, if, in effect, we are able to work through some agreements, we might be able to have one additional vote of big consequence to all of our membership later in the day, and we should also be prepared to vote again tomorrow. All of this is contingent upon how well we can negotiate agreements that leadership on both sides of the aisle in both bodies, and then get sort of key, what should I say, agreements by individual Members here and there regarding possible UCs that might be necessary to implement what it is we can agree to.

So we have 435 House Members, 100 Members of the other body that must be copasetic with whatever we can work out. We are working hard on this. We would not want any Member to feel like they lost their opportunity to be here at that magic moment when we could come to the floor with all of those people in agreement with one another.

So I would ask Members to stay close to their best information source, their
In the process of working out these possible agreements, it has been proven in the past to be generally prudent to not make any public revelations about what our expectations and hopes might be; while these Members, who have such heart-felt feelings, have a chance to look at the proposals, consider them, and decide whether or not they can come to agreement.

I can only tell the Members at large, we are making every effort to get by some of the difficult, what should I say, delays that are pending out there and get back to this floor with the legislation the Members are all interested in as quickly as possible; and we will do everything we can to give Members timely notification so that they will have a clear understanding of what it is they are being asked to come back for.

In the meantime, if I may, Mr. Speaker, I will give the floor available to take up special orders; and pursuant to that, we may even, in fact, recess subject to the call of the Chair. I again would encourage all of the Members to understand that they will be noticed.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, can the gentleman from Texas give us a sense of timing? Are we looking at late afternoon, early evening, midnight? Where are we in terms of people planning for the rest of the day?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, I do understand that, and I understand the frustration. The ability of working out agreements, as the gentleman knows, sometimes can be done fairly quickly, sometimes it takes more time. As soon as we knew that we have a course of action that can command the attention of the body at large, we will make that information available.

But it is possible, as long as Members want to continue working, that on into the evening we may find ourselves holding the opportunity available to continue the work this evening. As it proceeds, if it ever comes to a point where we can give Members sort of a definitive notion that the votes will be at this time or another, we will make every effort to quickly get the information to the Members.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would just say in conclusion from Texas, we obviously would like to cooperate. As well, I think it is in everyone's interest to finish the business of this session of this Congress. To the extent that we can be included in understanding what we will be doing and when we will be doing it, it will expedite that process. The majority will need unanimous consent from this side of the aisle to bring the extender bill up; and I am not going to speak for everybody on our side of the aisle, but we would be inclined to do that if we are part of the process. If we are not, if it is sprung on us without any notice and with provisions that we are not comfortable with, then we are going to run into difficulty later on.

That is why I am trying to, as the gentleman from Texas aptly described it, pull from him as much information as I can this afternoon.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, throughout this day, last evening, this morning, yesterday, and as we continue to work on this, we will continue to contact the minority leadership as we have been doing, including as many long-distance phone calls as are necessary to California and other places and as many fund-raising events that we may have to interrupt, we will keep our colleagues informed.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I do not think that was necessarily necessary. That is the kind of thing that is going to keep us here longer than any of us would want.

So I would hope that we could refrain from those types of references. I did not get up here this afternoon and make reference to the comments of the gentleman before we left here for Veterans' Day that we would be here that weekend and Members had to change their schedule on both sides of the aisle. I refrained from doing that, and I would hope in the future that the gentleman from Texas would refrain from comments that he just made.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman.