

tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) at 5 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1654, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-147) on the resolution (H. Res. 174) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1654) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1553, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-148) on the resolution (H. Res. 175) providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1553) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service, Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1141, 1999 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 173 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 173

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1141) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I

yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Committee on Rules met and granted a rule to provide for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1141, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1999. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule also provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 173 should not be controversial. It is a normal conference report rule, allowing for timely consideration of the emergency supplemental bill.

While I suspect that many of us will have strong opinions about the underlying spending bill, let us pass this rule and have the debate on the floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule, Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague has described, this rule waives all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1141, which is the Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act for fiscal year 1999.

The measure appropriates \$15 billion for military operations in Kosovo and other defense spending, humanitarian assistance to refugees and misplaced persons in the Balkans, hurricane-related relief in Central America and the Caribbean, aid to the country of Jordan, assistance to U.S. farmers hurt by low commodity prices, tornado victims in Oklahoma, Kansas, and for other purposes.

Most of the spending is considered emergency, and therefore is not offset by spending cuts in other programs.

Mr. Speaker, there is something for everyone in this massive spending bill. If Members like the bill, they can find critical programs that are funded. If they do not like the bill, they can find wasteful spending and harmful cuts.

I am particularly pleased with the refugee relief and humanitarian assistance provided by the measure. The conference agreement includes \$1.1 billion for international assistance programs, refugee resettlement, and State Department funding. This is more than 60 percent above the level approved by the House.

I am grateful to the conferees for including \$149.2 million in food assistance to refugees and misplaced persons in the Balkans through the PL-480 Food for Peace program. Failure to include money for this program was a serious omission, and I am glad that this has been corrected in the conference committee. These funds will ensure America provides its share of the food need-

ed in the Balkans through the end of the year 2000.

Equally important, this change follows the longstanding tradition of providing food aid through the Food for Peace program, which is an established channel that benefits America's farmers. This program has proven to be the most effective way to provide the large quantities of food essential to any relief effort.

Including funding for PL-480 food aid is an example of bipartisan leadership at its best, and I am particularly grateful to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEN), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

The measure also includes \$2.2 billion for enhancing military operations and maintenance, and this will improve the readiness of our armed services.

I am concerned about some of the offsets for nonemergency spending. The offsets include cuts in food stamps and Section 8 housing for low-income individuals. Also, I regret that the conferees rejected a Senate proposal to include funding to pay the money the U.S. owes to the United Nations for back dues. I think it is a disgrace that our Nation has not paid our debt to the U.N., and this bill would have been a good vehicle to include that payment.

On the whole, the conference report represents a good compromise, and I say that in a good way. It is much better than the House-passed version, and I intend to support it. Though the measure under consideration is by no means ordinary, this is the standard rule for conference reports.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, this supplemental appropriations conference report contains critically needed resources for our armed forces to assure that they continue unchallenged as the finest fighting force in the world for the protection of the people and the freedom of the people of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report, among other things, contains aid for America's farmers, and it contains humanitarian and development assistance for our neighbors in Central America who suffered the recent natural disaster known as Hurricane Mitch.

I think, Mr. Speaker, this Congress today makes a clear demonstration of solidarity with and concern for the well-being of our friends and neighbors in Central America.