

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 147, 148, and 149, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on each vote.

CONCERNING TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 178.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 178, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 150]

YEAS—418

Abercrombie	Brady (TX)	Davis (VA)
Ackerman	Brown (FL)	Deal
Aderholt	Brown (OH)	DeFazio
Allen	Bryant	DeGette
Andrews	Burr	Delahunt
Archer	Burton	DeLauro
Army	Callahan	DeLay
Bachus	Calvert	DeMint
Baird	Camp	Deutsch
Baker	Campbell	Diaz-Balart
Baldacci	Canady	Dickey
Baldwin	Cannon	Dicks
Ballenger	Capps	Dingell
Barcia	Capuano	Dixon
Barr	Cardin	Doggett
Barrett (NE)	Carson	Dooley
Barrett (WI)	Castle	Doolittle
Bartlett	Chabot	Doyle
Barton	Chambless	Dreier
Bass	Chenoweth	Duncan
Bateman	Clay	Dunn
Becerra	Clayton	Edwards
Bentsen	Clement	Ehlers
Bereuter	Clyburn	Ehrlich
Berkley	Coble	Emerson
Berman	Coburn	Engel
Berry	Collins	English
Biggert	Combest	Eshoo
Bilbray	Condit	Etheridge
Bilirakis	Conyers	Evans
Bishop	Cook	Everett
Blagojevich	Cooksey	Farr
Bliley	Costello	Fattah
Blumenauer	Cox	Filner
Blunt	Coyne	Fletcher
Boehlert	Cramer	Foley
Boehner	Crane	Forbes
Bonilla	Crowley	Ford
Bonior	Cubin	Fossella
Bono	Cummings	Fowler
Borski	Cunningham	Frank (MA)
Boswell	Danner	Franks (NJ)
Boyd	Davis (FL)	Frelinghuysen
Brady (PA)	Davis (IL)	Frost

Galleghy	Lucas (OK)	Sabo
Ganske	Luther	Salmon
Gejdenson	Maloney (CT)	Sanchez
Gephardt	Maloney (NY)	Sanders
Gibbons	Manzullo	Sandlin
Gilchrest	Markey	Sanford
Gillmor	Mascara	Sawyer
Gilman	Matsui	Saxton
Gonzalez	McCarthy (MO)	Scarborough
Goode	McCollum	Schaffer
Goodlatte	McCrery	Schakowsky
Goodling	McDermott	Scott
Gordon	McGovern	Sensenbrenner
Goss	McHugh	Serrano
Granger	McInnis	Sessions
Green (TX)	McIntosh	Shadegg
Green (WI)	McIntyre	Shaw
Greenwood	McKeon	Shays
Gutierrez	McKinney	Sherman
Gutknecht	McNulty	Sherwood
Hall (OH)	Meehan	Shimkus
Hall (TX)	Meek (FL)	Shows
Hansen	Meeks (NY)	Shuster
Hastings (FL)	Menendez	Simpson
Hastings (WA)	Metcalfe	Sisisky
Hayes	Mica	Skeen
Hayworth	Miller (FL)	Skelton
Hefley	Miller, Gary	Slaughter
Heger	Miller, George	Smith (MI)
Hill (IN)	Minge	Smith (NJ)
Hill (MT)	Mink	Smith (WA)
Hilleary	Moakley	Snyder
Hilliard	Mollohan	Souder
Hinchee	Moore	Spence
Hobson	Moran (KS)	Spratt
Hoeffel	Moran (VA)	Stabenow
Hoekstra	Morella	Stark
Holden	Murtha	Stearns
Holt	Myrick	Stenholm
Hooley	Nadler	Strickland
Horn	Napolitano	Stump
Hostettler	Neal	Stupak
Houghton	Nethercutt	Sununu
Hoyer	Ney	Sweeney
Hulshof	Northup	Talent
Hunter	Norwood	Tancredo
Hutchinson	Nussle	Tanner
Hyde	Oberstar	Tauscher
Inslee	Obey	Tauzin
Isakson	Oliver	Taylor (MS)
Istook	Ose	Taylor (NC)
Jackson (IL)	Owens	Terry
Jefferson	Oxley	Thomas
Jenkins	Packard	Thompson (CA)
John	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Johnson (CT)	Pascrell	Thornberry
Johnson, E. B.	Pastor	Thune
Johnson, Sam	Paul	Thurman
Jones (NC)	Payne	Tiahrt
Jones (OH)	Pease	Tierney
Kanjorski	Pelosi	Toomey
Kaptur	Peterson (MN)	Towns
Kelly	Peterson (PA)	Traficant
Kendry	Petri	Turner
Kennedy	Phelps	Udall (CO)
Kildee	Pickering	Udall (NM)
Kilpatrick	Pickett	Upton
Kind (WI)	Pombo	Velázquez
King (NY)	Pomeroy	Vento
Kingston	Porter	Visclosky
Kleczka	Portman	Walden
Klink	Price (NC)	Walsh
Knollenberg	Pryce (OH)	Wamp
Kolbe	Quinn	Waters
Kucinich	Radanovich	Watkins
Kuykendall	Rahall	Watt (NC)
LaFalce	Ramstad	Watts (OK)
LaHood	Rangel	Waxman
Lampson	Regula	Weiner
Lantos	Reynolds	Weldon (FL)
Largent	Riley	Weldon (PA)
Larson	Rivers	Weller
Latham	Rodriguez	Wexler
LaTourette	Roemer	Weygand
Lazio	Rogan	Whitfield
Leach	Rogers	Wicker
Lee	Rohrabacher	Wilson
Levin	Ros-Lehtinen	Wise
Lewis (CA)	Rothman	Wolf
Lewis (GA)	Roukema	Woolsey
Lewis (KY)	Roybal-Allard	Wu
Linder	Royce	Wynn
Lipinski	Rush	Young (AK)
LoBiondo	Ryan (WI)	Young (FL)
LoBundo	Ryun (KS)	
LoFgren		
Lowe		
Lucas (KY)		

NOT VOTING—15

Boucher	Hinojosa	Millender-
Brown (CA)	Jackson-Lee	McDonald
Buyer	(TX)	Ortiz
Ewing	Kasich	Reyes
Gekas	Martinez	Smith (TX)
Graham	McCarthy (NY)	

□ 1329

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 188) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 188

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Small Business: Ms. BERKLEY of Nevada; Mr. UDALL of Colorado

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,

Washington, DC, May 25, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Title 44 of the U.S.C. 2702, I hereby appoint the following individual to the Advisory Committee on The Records of Congress:

Dr. Joseph Cooper of Baltimore, MD.

Yours Very Truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. 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 materials on the bill (H.R. 1906) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies 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 New Mexico?

There was no objection.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 185 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. 1906.

□ 1333

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. 1906) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. PEASE 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 New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN).

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

Mr. Chairman, today I have the honor to present to the House the fiscal year 2000 bill appropriating funds for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies. The bill we are taking up today has a total discretionary budget authority of almost \$13.99 billion. This is \$296 million above the current level and \$531 million below the request.

In mandatory spending, this bill has \$47 billion for fiscal year 2000, about \$4.8 billion over current levels and \$890 million below the request. Almost two-thirds of the mandatory spending in this bill is for food stamps, child nutrition, and most of the rest goes to support basic farm programs. This bill is within the allocations required by the Committee on Appropriations.

This bill is truly a bipartisan product, Mr. Chairman, constructed from hearings that began on February 10 and ended on March 18. The Committee on Appropriations has produced seven volumes of hearing records containing thousands of pages of information on the hearings, the detailed budget requests, and the answers to questions asked by Members and the public as well.

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies and the Committee on Appropriations held markups on May 13 and May 19 respectively, and these were public meetings with which the Members participated actively in shaping the bill.

Many Members would like to spend more than is in the bill, and so would I. We have about 250 letters to date, many of them with multiple requests, but only a handful ask for reduced spending.

Once again this year the administration proposed to pay for requested increases, more than \$780 million, with user fees that require legislation. Once again the administration has favored budget gimmicks over reality because the main component of this legislation, user fees on meat and poultry inspection, has been strongly opposed by consumer groups, industry, and the authorizing committee for several years.

This bill does a lot of good in many areas. Farm Service Agency salaries and expenses are increased by \$80 million to improve delivery of farm programs; agricultural credit programs are increased by more than \$700 million; and funds to protect our Nation's soils are increased by \$13 million. Rural housing programs are increased over last year's level and rural telephone and electric loans are increased or held at last year's levels.

Once again, the Food Safety and Inspection Service gets the full request, a \$36 million increase. FDA has an increase of \$115 million. Funding for the Food Safety Initiative is provided throughout the bill.

Child nutrition programs have been increased by \$370 million and WIC by \$81 million. P.L. 480, Titles I and II, the two main food aid titles, are restored to last year's levels, and the full request is provided for the Foreign Agricultural Service.

I would also like to say to my colleagues that the bill so far does not have any significant provisions that would bring objections from authorizing committees, and I would strongly urge that we keep it that way.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Chairman Young) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), our even more distinguished ranking member on the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, for their help in putting this bill together.

I would also like to recognize the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD), our new subcommittee members who have brought a great deal of enthusiasm and creativity to this bill. I look forward to their participation on the floor today and in the conference.

Mr. Chairman, I say to all my colleagues that this is a bill that will benefit every one of our constituents every day of their lives, no matter where they live in this great country.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise to acknowledge the hard work of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, members of our subcommittee, as well as the staff for their leadership, including our new staff director, Hank Moore, who has worked so hard this year.

This bill makes a reasonable effort to apportion the limited resources available to our subcommittee to keep our Nation at the leading edge for food, fiber, new fuels, and forest production, as well as the counts relating to research, trade and food safety.

May I begin by reminding my colleagues that food is not produced at the local grocery store. There is no question that agriculture and food processing are America's leading industries. Our farmers and our agricultural sector remain the most productive on the face of the Earth. They well understand, as we do, how difficult it is to maintain our Nation's commitment to excellence in agriculture in tight budgetary times.

While on balance this bill seems like a reasonable effort to stretch a limited sum of money as far as possible, and I would encourage my colleagues to vote for this bill, we simply disagree on the levels of support needed for priority programs, including the Women, Infants and Children feeding program; the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the primary conservation operation in this country; and other programs like farmland protection which were not able to be funded at all in this bill, nor was the school breakfast pilot program that the administration requested.

We must also keep in mind that this bill simply does not do enough to address the Depression-level conditions affecting many sectors of rural America from coast to coast, whether we are talking about the Salinas Valley, cattle country in Florida, hog producing country in the Midwest, cotton fields in Texas, the list goes on and on.

This bill simply is an exceedingly limited response to an extremely serious situation afflicting many sectors of the farm economy across our Nation. As we consider this bill today, I would urge my colleagues to think about what is going on in rural America, as farmers continue to experience significant decreases in commodity prices. It started with wheat and with cattle, and it spread to the feed grains, to oil seeds, to cotton, to pork, and even now the dairy sectors.

At the same time, the costs of production are not decreasing. In fact, they are increasing. Total farm debt has risen now to over \$170 billion at the