CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1141, 1999 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reluctantly support this conference report, as well as commend Chairman YOUNG, Mr. OBEY, and the conference for their hard work in bringing this difficult bill to the floor. Clearly, many of my colleagues share my ambivalence about this legislation. As a body, we seem to be all over the place on this measure. Some of my friends on the Republican side voted earlier this month to oppose NATO intervention in Kosovo; now they support doubling the President’s Kosovo budget request. My Democratic colleagues support it in order to provide aid to the injured in the wake of the tornadoes in Oklahoma, hurricane victims in Central America, and refugees in Kosovo; however, they balk at the bill’s environmental riders and inflated defense spending. Members on both sides of the aisle decry emergency designations of non-emergency items, but we have a bipartisan inability to admit that our current budget caps are unrealistic and unworkable.

I have great concerns over portions of this legislation; however, on balance, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the need for much of the funding is real and outweighs my reservations. Given the situation in Kosovo three months ago and our commitment to the defense of Europe, I believe that President Clinton made the right decision to join our NATO allies in acting against Milosevic’s ethnic cleansing campaign. The responsibility to allocate dollars to pay for the military campaign falls on the Congress. While the increases over the President’s request for Kosovo should be addressed in the regular 2000 appropriations process, we need to move forward to commit these funds.

I strongly support emergency funding for non-defense items in the supplemental. The Congress has moved expeditiously, as is our tradition, to address the destruction caused by recent tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas. H.R. 1141 also includes long overdue relief to Central America still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. Sorely needed relief is being supplied to America’s farmers.

Today’s vote to provide $100 million in military assistance and economic support to Jordan coincides with the visit of King Abdullah. These funds will enable the government to provide assistance to the Middle East peace process, pursuant to the Wye River agreement. There is renewed optimism that the recent elections in Israel can help restart the peace process.

These funds will enable that nation to assist in the relief work caused by the earthquake and landslides in Indonesia and the Philippines. The increased flooding in the South Florida region is being supplied to America’s farmers.

One of the many urgent needs of the conference report is the request for $1 billion to pay for hurricane disaster relief in the United States. The Conference Report on the emergency supplemental appropriations includes the $1 billion, plus another $20 million for the District of Columbia.

The Republican majority continues to use appropriations bills to pass damaging environmental provisions. This time we have Senate provisions to protect narrow special interests at the expense of the environment. We continue to delay reforms to the 1872 mining law which ensures that the government receives reasonable royalties from drilling on federal land. I urge my colleagues to vote to recommence this legislation so that the bill’s onerous environmental provisions can be removed.

So, while I share the reservations voiced by many of my colleagues, I believe we need to move forward with the important work H.R. 1141 funds.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. ROBERT W. NEY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following statement to my colleagues. When I was traveling back to Washington, D.C. on May 24, 1999, H.R. 974, the District of Columbia College Access Act, was passed by voice vote. Due to the fact that I was commuting and the vote took place before the 6 p.m. schedule time, I missed the voice vote. I would like to make it known for the record that had I been present, I would have asked for a recorded vote and voted against this bill. I do not feel that students in the District of Columbia should be made “exceptions” when it comes to paying in-states fees at any state institution. This privilege is not granted to students in this country who choose to attend a state college outside of their residential state.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 300 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this status.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Benedict Beniaikovich officiating. In the afternoon, there will be a program featuring a guest speaker, Mr. John Buncich, Sheriff of Lake County, Indiana. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Croatian Glee Club, “Preradovic,” directed by Brother Dennis Barunica, and the Hoosier Hrvarti Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, directed by Edo Sindicic, will both perform at this gala event. The Croatian Strings Tamburitze and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica, and the Adult Kolo group, under the direction of Elizabeth Kyriskides, will provide additional entertainment for those in attendance. A formal dinner banquet at 4 o’clock in the afternoon will end the day’s festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL RECIPIENT PRINCESS VICTORIA KA’ULANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Princess Victoria Ka’ulani Elementary School, which has earned the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program identifies and gives national recognition to a diverse group of public and private schools that have been judged particularly effective in meeting local, state, and national goals. In being selected, Princess Ka’ulani Elementary School displayed the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. The school demonstrates its strong leadership by providing high quality teaching, instilling policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning, initiating strong parental and community involvement, and helping all students achieve to high standards.

The awarding of Princess Victoria Ka’ulani Elementary School as a Blue Ribbon School is another tribute made even more special by the fact that this year marks the school’s centennial anniversary. The school opened its doors on April 22, 1899 and was named for the beautiful Princess Victoria Ka’ulani. The name Ka’ulani