

program. It was originally planned as a program with a fixed end to it. And so I think it is appropriate, just expressing my view, that at this juncture we wait until the next administration, wherever that might take us, to see exactly where we are going to go on that particular issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER), who has done an extraordinary job in pushing this legislation. Without his leadership on this issue, I do not think we would be here today talking about this.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) for yielding me this time, and I certainly thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for his support of this. I also want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) for all the work that he has done on this and the Subcommittee on Crime and the staff there that has done a lot of work on this.

As it stands right now, we have had a program similar to this instituted; it has been through the appropriations. We have never had it fully authorized. We passed a bill similar to this or it was passed in Congress before I was here, at least on the House but never on the Senate side. So we are hoping very much that we can get this bill fully authorized, fully passed to authorize this program with the appropriate changes that have been made here.

First of all, it allocates \$2 billion a year for the fiscal years 2001 through 2005. We also understand as far as the improvements, they have already been mentioned, these as far as providing block grants back to local law enforcement agencies, it ensures that those communities, those poor communities that are not able to meet that match requirement previously will not be precluded from getting these block grants because of a waiver that we have instituted. I know this is going to be particularly helpful for our State of Kentucky. We have several communities that may need certain items for safety or police officers or other crime prevention programs, and yet they may not be able to meet that 10 percent match sometimes. So in those hardship cases, they are able to receive this grant which previously was unavailable to them. We are glad that that change was able to be instituted.

Why have we had so much emphasis on crime? I am glad to say that over the last 8 years we have seen a decrease in crime in this country, but if we look back as early as 1960, from 1960 or 1964 up to 1991, 1992, we had a 600 percent increase in crime in this country, a tremendous increase in crime. Seventy to 80 percent of all families were affected by crime, many types of crimes. Certainly it has affected our region.

I reference an article we had recently in Lexington, Kentucky, where we have

particular needs. I think it points out the diversity of communities and the diverse needs communities have where it says the crime in Lexington increased in 1999 and that probably happened in other communities around the country. We can see from the diversity of problems that we have across the Nation that a plan that implements just a one-size-fits-all is not best for particular communities.

I think, clearly, the Federal Government certainly has a role; but the best crime prevention needs to come locally where they understand the particular problems that they have. That is what makes this program so effective and really so popular among law enforcement agencies and other institutions that work to prevent and reduce crime.

In Kentucky, we have already received \$4.2 million in grants from this program. Almost \$1 million has gone to our State police in Kentucky. Over half a million has gone to my district alone. In these we have used funds to hire police and to pay overtime. We have used the funds to purchase other law enforcement equipment and increased the technology that allows them to more effectively prevent and detect crimes. And we have used it to establish crime prevention programs that otherwise would not be able to be afforded or be available for the communities. So it is very important.

I am certainly pleased that we have a tremendous amount of bipartisan support on this bill, the approach to reduce crime by ensuring that we provide flexibility to local law enforcement agencies and organizations and that we understand that we can bring certainly the priority of crime prevention from the Federal level but many of the decisions need to be made at the local level to ensure that we do effectively fight crime, reduce crime in this country, and make this a safer Nation for all people. I encourage everyone to vote for this bill.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4999, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERIODIC REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYMENTS MADE TO CUBA PURSUANT TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC LICENSES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114, 110 Stat. 785, I transmit herewith a semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 19, 2000.

□ 1700

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees on the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. COBURN moves that the managers on the part of the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 4577, be instructed to recede to Section 517 of the Senate Amendment to the House bill, prohibiting the use of funds to distribute postcoital emergency contraception (the morning-after pill) to minors on the premises or in the facilities of any elementary or secondary school.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the Chair, who has the right to close on this debate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has the right to close.