

Madam Speaker, what it would do would be to simply take the 1040, the tax return as we now know it. And right now, we can send \$3 to the presidential campaign. This would create another box wherein we could send 3 bucks to debt reduction. That is not enough money to change our national debt, but it is enough money to make a small step in an important debate that we all ought to be a part of.

RETURN EDUCATION DECISIONS TO LOCAL CONTROL

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, the Federal Government has spent a lot of money on education. Yet the United States continues to rank near the bottom of industrialized nations in student test scores. This simply is unacceptable.

The United States is the most prosperous Nation in the world. There is no reason why our schools cannot be second to none. However, just loading up the Federal bureaucracy with more money is not the solution. Yet this is the very approach the Big Government party of Clinton and Gore and the other liberals are attempting, and it has failed time and time again over the past 40 years.

So what is the solution? We Republicans want to return the dollars and the decisions back to the parents and teachers who know our children's names and their educational needs. Parents and teachers should set education policy, not some Washington bureaucracy or someone sitting in a fourth story of a government office building right here in Washington, D.C.

The only way to turn the test score embarrassment around is local control of local schools. But if the liberals keep following their presidential nominee down the path to the roadblock, America's future in education has no hope. For the sake of our Nation's children, let us join together and return control back to our schools and our local governments and our parents and teachers.

KENNY GAMBLE'S ONE-MAN URBAN RENEWAL IN SOUTH PHILADELPHIA

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, recently I had the opportunity to go to Philadelphia, and there I met with Kenny Gamble. My colleagues may remember the Gamble and Huff song writing team who produced music for the O'Jays and Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes. Mr. Gamble is a very suc-

cessful businessman and music producer. He moved back to South Philly, his childhood home in the ghetto, and is basically starting a one-man urban renewal project.

It is a very inspirational project. One of the keystones of that is a charter school that he started. Four hundred kids are in that charter school, with a waiting list of 1,400 children.

Why is it successful? Because it is run locally with input from the teachers and the parents. It is something that all the neighborhood and the community can focus on and take a lot of pride in. It does not have Washington bureaucrats micromanaging it. It does not have people from the State capital in Pennsylvania telling them what to do.

Madam Speaker, I believe this is a key corner to our education reform effort to get people back home interested and involved in the education process, because our children and our future are at stake. We should all follow Mr. Gamble's lead.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4733, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 598 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 598

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4733) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, 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 (Mrs. BIGGERT). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), the ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 598 is a rule providing for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4733, the Energy and Water Appropriation Act of 2001. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration and provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

The conference agreement provides \$23.59 billion in new discretionary spending authority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy, and several independent agencies.

The bill is \$2.3 billion above fiscal year 2000, and \$889 million above the President's request.

Most notably, Madam Speaker, as a Member whose district includes the most challenging nuclear cleanup project in the Nation, I am pleased that the conference report increases the funding for the defense environmental management cleanup activities by \$6.12 billion, an increase of \$406 million over last year.

Specifically, this legislation includes \$377 million for the critically important Hanford Tank Waste Treatment Facility that is located in my district.

Finally, I would like to point out to my colleagues that this conference report also includes an appropriation of \$5 million dedicated solely to reducing the national debt.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations, the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), for their efforts to defend the House position on a long list of important items in this legislation. They have worked long and hard to bring this agreement to the House, and accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the conference report.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1045

Mr. MOAKLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), my colleague and my dear friend, for yielding me the customary half hour.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), and the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) for their work on this bill. They really had to juggle a lot of requests and a lot of issues. And as a result, this conference report contains funding for some very, very good water projects and infrastructure projects.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, something happened last night in conference that will force me to oppose this rule and oppose it very strongly. Despite the fact that many people in the Northeast are currently facing what promises to be the worst heating crisis, winter heating crisis in two decades, some of my colleagues have decided to eliminate the funding in this conference report for Northeast home heating oil reserve.