

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 406.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1330

#### AUTHORIZING REPAYMENT OF MEDICAL BILLS FOR U.S. PARK POLICE

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4404) to permit the payment of medical expenses incurred by the United States Park Police in the performance of duty to be made directly by the National Park Service, to allow for waiver and indemnification in mutual law enforcement agreements between the National Park Service and a State or political subdivision when required by State law, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4404

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. MEDICAL PAYMENTS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subsection (e) of the *Policemen and Firemen's Retirement and Disability Act* (39 Stat. 718, as amended by 71 Stat. 394) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Notwithstanding the previous sentence, in the case of any member of the United States Park Police, payment shall be made by the National Park Service upon a certificate of the Chief, United States Park Police, setting forth the necessity for such services or treatment and the nature of the injury or disease which rendered the same necessary."

(b) *NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REIMBURSEMENT.*—Section 6 of the *Policemen and Firemen's Retirement and Disability Act Amendments of 1957* (71 Stat. 399) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: "Such sums are authorized to be appropriated to reimburse the National Park Service, on a monthly basis, for medical benefit payments made from funds appropriated to the National Park Service in the case of any member of the United States Park Police."

#### SEC. 2. INDEMNIFICATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 10(c) of the *Act of August 18, 1970* (Public Law 91-383; 16 U.S.C. 1a-6(c)), is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) mutually waive, in any agreement pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection or pursuant to subsection (b)(1) with any State or political subdivision thereof where State law requires such waiver and indemnification, any and all civil claims against all the other parties thereto and, subject to available appropriations, indemnify and save harmless the other parties to such agreement from all claims by third parties for property damage or personal injury,

which may arise out of the parties' activities outside their respective jurisdictions under such agreement; and"

(b) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.*—Paragraph (5) of section 10(c) of the *Act of August 18, 1970* (Public Law 91-383; 16 U.S.C. 1a-6(c)) (as redesignated by subsection (a)(2)), is further amended—

(1) by striking "(5) the" and inserting "The"; and

(2) by moving the text flush and 2 ems to the left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4404 is a bill that would allow the payment of medical expenses incurred by the United States Park Police to be paid directly by the National Park Service. This bill would also allow the Park Service to enter into mutual aid agreements with adjacent law enforcement agencies in order that Park Police are indemnified from third party civil claims.

Currently, payments are made through the District of Columbia, a process which is very slow. As a result, reimbursement payments to the Park Police have been a hardship to the officers, staff, and their families. This bill would direct the NPS to make direct payments to the Park Police.

The bill would also allow the Park Service to enter into a mutual aid agreement with adjacent law enforcement agencies in order that the Park Police are indemnified from third party claims.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is ready to move forward. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4404, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4404, which was introduced at the request of the administration, addresses the payment of medical expenses for the United States Park Police and the indemnification needed for mutual law enforcement agreements.

Evidently, there have been a number of instances where there have been problems with timely medical payments being made to the Park Police officers injured in the performance of their duties. This has resulted in a hardship to some officers, staff, and their families.

Further, the lack of indemnification is a potential barrier to cooperative law enforcement agreements between the Park Police and other police agencies. Such indemnification is needed to hold the assisting agency harmless from claims by third parties dealing

with property damage or personal injury.

H.R. 4404 provides the U.S. Park Police with the authority to address these two issues. The Committee on Resources did amend the bill to reflect technical changes to the legislation requested by the National Park Service.

We on the minority side support passage of the bill, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4404, 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.

#### IVANPAH VALLEY AIRPORT PUBLIC LANDS TRANSFER ACT

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1695) to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal public lands in the Ivanpah Valley, Nevada, to Clark County, Nevada, for the development of an airport facility, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 2, lines 24 and 25, strike out "assessment" and insert "assessment, using the airspace management plan required by section 4(a)".

Page 3, strike out lines 15 through 22 and insert:

(2) *DEPOSIT IN SPECIAL ACCOUNT.*—(A) The Secretary shall deposit the payments received under paragraph (1) into the special account described in section 4(e)(1)(C) of the *Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998* (112 Stat. 2345). Such funds may be expended only for the acquisition of private inholdings in the Mojave National Preserve and for the protection and management of the petroglyph resources in Clark County, Nevada. The second sentence of section 4(f) of such Act (112 Stat. 2346) shall not apply to interest earned on amounts deposited under this paragraph.

(B) The Secretary may not expend funds pursuant to this section until—

(i) the provisions of section 5 of this Act have been completed; and

(ii) a final Record of Decision pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) has been issued which permits development of an airport at the Ivanpah site.

Page 3, strike out all after line 22 over to and including line 2 on page 4 and insert:

(d) *REVERSION AND REENTRY.*—If, following completion of compliance with section 5 of this Act and in accordance with the findings made by the actions taken in compliance with such section, the Federal Aviation Administration and the County determine that an airport should not be constructed on the conveyed lands—