

until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 133) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, to the end that the joint resolution be hereby passed; and that a motion to reconsider be hereby laid on the table.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 133 is as follows:

H. J. RES. 133

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 106-275 is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(c) and inserting "December 21, 2000" and by adding the following before the period in section 113: ", and in addition, from within the amount provided by section 101, \$217,000,000: Provided, That of these funds, \$100,000,000 may be made available only pursuant to a certification by the Secretary of State that the United Nations has taken no action in calendar year 2000 prior to the date of enactment of this Act to increase funding for any United Nations program without identifying an offsetting decrease elsewhere in the United Nations budget and cause the United Nations to exceed the budget for the biennium 2000-2001 of \$2,535,700,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on the legislative day of December 15, 2000, to consider the conference report to accompany 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; that the conference report be considered as read; that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived; and that the conference report be debatable for 90 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I am concerned about what we are doing here today. We are being asked to vote on a huge package of bills that we have not seen, we have not read, and we certainly do not know what is in them. We are being asked to agree to dispense with the regular order of the House and simply vote "yes" on a combination of bills, despite the fact that we do not know for sure what bills they are, we do not know how they may or may not have been changed if we did know them, and we do not know what private dealings were struck and may have been inserted into those bills as recently as this afternoon.

Now, many of us support some of the elements that we think are in this package, such as the Medicare add-backs, which our hospitals badly need and which I support; but we do not support other elements of this package. Nevertheless, we are going to be forced to vote on the whole package up or down.

I know this certainly is not the first time we have been asked to vote on a package of bills that we have not seen, but that does not make it right. And I know we all want to go home. We all want to be with our families for the holidays. I certainly also want to do that. But do we not have a responsibility to our constituents to at least know what we are voting on when we vote on the largest nondefense appropriation bill in the Federal Government?

We are going to vote on one element of this package which alone is \$109 billion of taxpayer money. I think it is disturbing that we are going to vote on that without knowing the details. But what is almost as disturbing as what we do not know is the things that we do know, or at least I think we know, about what is in this package. Mr. Speaker, we know that the spending on the Labor-HHS portion of that appropriation bill is, frankly, out of control. Using the Committee on Appropriations' own numbers, the budget deal that we are going to vote on today increases spending by \$12 billion, or nearly 12 percent or nearly 5 times the rate of inflation. And if we take into account all the funding gimmicks, like advanced funding, and we look on an apples-to-apples basis, the actual

money that will be spent is \$23 billion more than in this previous year, an over-26 percent increase, nine times the rate of inflation. Frankly, we are squandering too much of the budget surplus that could be used for other purposes.

The bill apparently is going to create untold new programs, and I do not know how many earmarks. It is \$7 billion higher than what the House approved; it is \$4 billion more than what the Senate approved; it is even \$3 billion higher than the President's request. And of course, we are not sure exactly how all that money has been spent.

Now, despite all of these big spending increases, some are probably going to come to this floor and say this is a cut of \$3.6 billion from previously agreed-upon levels. Let me remind my colleagues that the so-called agreement was to an arbitrary number by a handful of Members under the duress of a threatened veto which never was agreed to by either Chamber.

If I went ahead and objected, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that would not accomplish much. I know a rule could be brought up, it would be debated, it would be passed, and we would only be delaying the inevitable. But I will urge my colleagues to vote against final passage on this bill. Vote against the huge spending increase that is in this bill; vote against joining all these unrelated bills in one package; vote against a package the contents of which are a mystery to most of us.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

Washington, DC, December 15, 2000.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 15, 2000 at 4:09 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Report H.R. 4942.

With best wishes, I am.

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk of the House.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within