

we have talked about. In fact, I think he can do it more speedily than that, given the other matters going on of interest to this body. I would be prepared to accept the amendment and thank the gentleman again for his contribution.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to accept the amendment, and I rise to support the amendment. I think the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) has an excellent amendment. But I also think it is fair to point out that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation of the Committee on Appropriations, has been encouraging Members of this House to get two briefings from the Central Intelligence Agency.

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In fact, I received those briefings with staff on Friday. So I cannot say that the Central Intelligence Agency does not have information available. Perhaps this will better organize it and have a date certain for it to come, but any Member can request those two briefings and I think it is only fair to point that out.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DIXON. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I appreciate the gentleman yielding, and I would simply ask, does the Central Intelligence Agency, under the milieu of events occurring around the world, do they support our efforts in moving forward with the trade agreement? And does the Central Intelligence Agency believe that the behavior of China poses a significant threat?

I think just having people coming in and talking to us, I want them to put it down on paper, and I think that is what Congress should require. We may be, without a doubt, dealing with the most serious threat in our Nation's history, and our children and their children, God forbid, may some day realize that. I hope that does not occur.

So with that, I appreciate the time the gentleman has afforded me and appreciate the gentleman's statement.

Mr. DIXON. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, the Central Intelligence Agency made it clear from the very beginning of the briefing that they had obtained certain information and analyzed it; it was up to the Member of Congress receiving that briefing to make a judgment on it.

So I do not think that we will find the Central Intelligence Agency making a judgment. In this particular case, as it relates to China and whether they have permanent normal trade relations, that is up to each Member of Congress based in part on what the analysis is. But as far as whether they are a threat or a nonthreat, the CIA

made it very clear that they were not taking a position in this debate and that they were presenting what they felt was sound information and that we should, in fact, make our own judgment.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will continue to yield, the amendment says the CIA shall let us know whether or not the policies and goals of the People's Republic of China constitutes a threat to our national security. That is all in writing.

Mr. DIXON. I realize the amendment says that, but the threat is in the eye of the beholder. And one agency may think it is a threat and another agency may think that it is a nonthreat.

But in the final analysis, we have to take intelligence information, that every Member of this House has been encouraged over and over by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) to receive, and make a judgment call Wednesday or some time in the future.

The CHAIRMAN. The question on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote, and pending that, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 506, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong bipartisan support of the fiscal year 2001 intelligence authorization.

I believe this bill sets about the right level of overall funding for intelligence activities next year. The President requested 6.6 percent more in funding for national programs over last year's appropriated level. While some have complained that the administration failed to request sufficient funding for intelligence activities, the testimony we heard during our budget hearings did not convince me we needed to go beyond the relatively robust topline increase in the request.

Nevertheless, there was room for concern about some aspects of the request and the allocation of those resources. I have been very critical of one classified program of great cost and exceedingly doubtful impact. I have also been extremely concerned that the heightened pace of U.S. Government counterterrorism efforts arising out of the threat identified over the Millennium could not be sustained through the end of this fiscal year and into FY 2001. Finally, through oversight and legislative hearings, the compiled evidence significantly increased my concerns about the state of language capabilities of intelligence community personnel. I have found that not only are there too few people speaking the language in country, but too often the ones who do are not sufficiently proficient. I addressed these three concerns with an amendment to transfer some

of the funding from the highly questionable classified program to areas of greater need involving terrorism and language proficiency. This was a bipartisan effort and I thank Chairman GOSS and Ranking Member DIXON for their help.

Mr. Chairman, later in the debate I will offer an amendment to require an annual unclassified statement of the aggregate amount appropriate for the previous fiscal year. It is my understanding that one of the reasons offered for why the intelligence budget total should remain classified is that its disclosure may provide foreign governments with the U.S. Government's own assessment of its intelligence capabilities and weaknesses. This is not persuasive. The fact of the matter is that in our great democratic country, there is considerable unclassified information openly published containing official assessments of intelligence capabilities and shortcomings. The intelligence community has, in fact, published the 1997 and 1998 aggregate level of spending. There are legitimate concerns about protecting through counter intelligence measures and enhanced security our sensitive information. An accurate report of the aggregate number appropriated for intelligence each year would cause no harm to national security and would clearly be a welcome addition to the public's understanding of the roles and mission of the intelligence community. It could also provide some measure of accountability from the agencies. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment later this week.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS) having assumed the chair, Mr. THORNBERRY, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4392) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 4392) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and other extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.