

me. The purpose of the unanimous consent is to expedite the business of this House. We passed in this body the supplemental on the 30th day of March, and it has been hanging out there now until today. It has been a work in progress. We have been working diligently to cover every possible issue that we could with a limitation on the amount of money available.

Now, here is the problem, and here is why we need to expedite this. We are recessing for the 4th of July recess. The Army, as well as the other services, has the biggest problem because its money for the fourth quarter has been spent in Kosovo and other deployments.

It is essential that this money be replaced before the Army has to stop driving its trucks or the Navy has to tie up its ships or the Air Force and the Marine Corps have to stop flying their airplanes.

It is essential that we move this conference report through the House tonight in order for the Senate to take it up tomorrow before we all get home for our 4th of July activities. That is the reason that we are trying to expedite this through a unanimous consent request.

Now, there probably will be some parts of this bill that someone does not like, but that is always the case. We need to move this conference agreement. I hope that no one will object to us taking it up so we can debate it and move it on to the Senate.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, let me simply say that there are large portions of this bill to which I am strongly opposed, as the gentleman from Florida knows, including the Colombia aid package. I have expressed my view through my votes as this has gone through the process.

I feel it is my institutional obligation, even though I continue to be opposed to large sections of this, to at least facilitate the House's ability to work its will. There will be, I am sure, a rollcall vote on final passage so Members will express themselves.

So in the interest of moving the House forward more quickly, I do not intend to object.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I think we need to ask ourselves, there is no question there are significant needs in this bill. But we are getting ready to vote on a bill that is \$2.7 billion larger than the bill we voted on before. Nobody in this

body outside of those in the appropriations process is going to be privy to what is in this.

The question will be, do we know what we are voting on? The answer to that is no. If my colleagues feel very comfortable in spending \$11.2 billion and not knowing where the money is going, then we should take that up.

I will not object, but I think we are doing a disservice to the people of this country. I also might note that in this appropriation bill is \$105 million in both the Senate and the House to sprinkle around for us, just \$105 million each; \$105 million for pork projects or otherwise. My colleagues are not going to know where it is, but they are going to vote for it whether they agree with it or not.

So I will withdraw my reservation, but I think the process, even though well-intended, will create major problems for us here forward.

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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4425 and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4425, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4425) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see prior proceedings of the House of today.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and

the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

(Mr. YOUNG of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this conference report deals with the military construction appropriations bill. The conference report contains two parts, one is the conference report on the military construction appropriation bill, as I said, and the other part is the conference report on the supplemental for the Defense Department and other items that were passed on March 30 in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), the very distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, to explain what is in that part of the bill.

(Mr. HOBSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, Division A of the conference report we present to the House today recommends a total appropriation of \$8.8 billion for military construction, family housing, and base closure. Overall, the agreement recommends \$3.6 billion for items related to family housing, \$4.2 billion for military construction, and \$1 billion for the implementation of base realignments and closures.

As always, I want to express my appreciation to all members of the subcommittee, as well as expressing to our ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), for his cooperation in crafting this agreement.

These funds represent an investment program that has significant payback in economic terms and in better living and working conditions for our military personnel and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to congratulate the big chairman and all the other chairmen that worked on Division B. This has not been an easy process for them to go through, but it is an essential process to maintaining our defense posture in this country. I hope that when we complete our work tonight we will have passed this bill in support of our troops, in support of their living conditions, and I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone who worked very hard to make this a reality this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD data relating to Division A of the Military Construction Appropriations Bill.