Mr. ISTOOK. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS). I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be printed, or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 30 minutes; the amendment numbered 8, which shall be debatable for 40 minutes.

Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member designated in this request, the Member who caused it to be printed, or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment, except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or a designee, each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of further debate on any pending amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Clerk will print the amendment. The Clerk read as follows:

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FILNER

Mr. FILNER of California that I have placed at the desk which shall be debatable for 40 minutes.

The amendment by Representative FILNER of California that I have placed at the desk which shall be debatable for 40 minutes.

The amendment by Representative FILNER of California that I have placed at the desk which shall be debatable for 40 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Clerk will print the amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 206 no further amendment to the bill may be offered except:

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to H.R. 2950 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2950.

In the Committee of the Whole

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2950) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. DREIER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I think there was a unanimous consent to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment is as follows:

LIMITATION ON AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2950, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 2950 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 206 no further amendment to the bill may be offered except:

The amendment by Representative FILNER of California that I have placed at the desk which shall be debatable for 40 minutes.

The amendment by Representative FILNER of California that I have placed at the desk which shall be debatable for 40 minutes.

The amendment by Representative FILNER of California that I have placed at the desk which shall be debatable for 40 minutes.

Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member designated in this request, the Member who caused it to be printed, or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment, except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or a designee, each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of further debate on any pending amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Clerk will print the amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 206 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2950.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.
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the best voting machines on the market because it cannot afford them. My concern is if we do not appropriate now and legislate later, as Senator McConnell has said, then we are missing our opportunity to provide the necessary funds in time for election day 2002.

Mr. Chairman, Republican leadership has yet to provide us with a formal commitment that a submittal or emergency appropriations bill will accompany any election reform legislation. I am hopeful that, as this debate progresses, such commitment will be made.

The amendment sends a message to the American people that help is on the way. My amendment says to State and local governments throughout America that the Federal Government wants to assist, and I began conversations, along with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) as we have discussed many, many times before in private, that I am here to be supportive of this, and I believe most of our colleagues will as well, once we determine what the real number is as far as the Federal responsibility in partnership with our States and in partnership with our communities.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank my esteemed colleague from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding me this time. I support the Hastings amendment.

Our election system is sick. Mr. HASTINGS has a remedy. That remedy would go throughout this country and make us whole again.

Do not fool yourselves. The people of this country are upset. They are angry. They are disappointed. It is time that we step up to the plate and say, yes, let’s fund this system and work out something that will make all Americans happy to be able to vote.

We cannot muzzle justice. No matter who says to move on, we cannot move on until justice is rendered. It is hard to imagine in a free world that I must stand here and beg to be sure that we get the system, that we have the Federal Government participate in the reform of our system.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for this initiative.

Mr. HOYER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Paterson, New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, the great poet Langston Hughes asked, “What happens to a dream deferred?” Well, in the case of the dream of fair and equal treatment at the polls, the dream deferred is a dream denied.

Last year’s presidential election was a civics lesson for all of us. Unfortunately, not only did we learn that every vote counts, we learned that not every vote is counted.

For example, in Atlanta’s Fulton County which uses punch card voting machines similar to those that gained notoriety in Florida, one of every six ballots for President was invalidated. In Harris County, Texas, which includes the city of Houston, 14,000 votes were not counted because the voter’s selections simply did not register. In many Chicago precincts that have high African American populations, one in every six ballots was thrown out.

By not addressing this blatant inequality, we are letting down the thousands of Americans that take the time to vote each year and those votes are not counted because the voting machines in these districts are old, broken and inaccurate. Our goal should be simply to fix the system, to help in every way we can.

Yes, justice is difficult, Mr. Chairman, but as Sir James Mansfield said, “Let justice be done though the heavens fall.” And Ferdinand I, the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, said, “Let justice be done though the world may perish.” That should be our primary motivation, to bring justice to the system.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt that some citizens were disenfranchised, many of those in Florida. But I also know that I thought it was a travesty for the Gore and the Vice President candidate to try and disenfranchise our military vote in Florida as well through technicalities.
A Federal law says that you do not require a postmark because an FPO or APO many times, our military, are not able to have that date. But yet the Gore and Vice President candidate tried to send lawyers to disenfranchise on technicalities those votes.

Also, the State law says that you have to have a date on it. The absentee ballot was sent out by Florida did not have a date on it. I do not know about you, but if it does not have a date on there, I am not going to add it.

Yes, across this country, we need a fair voting system. I do not reject that. But what I do reject is people trying to make political points, coming down, saying that the election was stolen.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, when we find neighborhoods built on top of toxic waste dumps, no longer responding to that emergency by buying out the homes and protecting the people who live there. When floods wipe out communities, we respond by buying out property to protect residents and help them find safe places to live.

Mr. Chairman, error-prone voting equipment is an emergency situation that threatens our democracy, and we need an immediate response. I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for offering an amendment that offers such a response. It is going to take some money to upgrade voting technology from error-prone punch card and other systems to reliable machines. We simply cannot afford to do nothing.

Just look at what error-prone voting equipment like punch cards does to our democracy. A study done by Cal Tech and MIT revealed that the spoilage rate for punch cards was as many as 968,000 ballots in 2000. In Florida last year the spoilage rate for punch cards was almost 4 percent. And in Cook County, Illinois, it was 5 percent during the last election.

Earlier this year, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and I and other colleagues introduced the Voting Improvement Act, which would make buy-out grants available to any jurisdiction that used punch card voting systems in the last election. We want to see new equipment in place, and we want it there soon, in time for the 2002 elections. We want to buy out that inferior equipment and put accurate equipment in place that will give citizens the assurance that their vote is being counted. We need to rush for adequate appropriations to make that happen.

Unfortunately, the President and our Republican friends failed to include any funding for election reform in the budget this year. But Congress can and must make the challenge of restoring faith in our democracy. The Hastings amendment rises to that challenge, and I commend the gentleman for offering it.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking member of the subcommittee.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me this time, and I also thank him for his statement and his continuing willingness to work with all of us for a mission that he thinks is very important and we share and we know is going to require money. He is going to be a critical player in that effort. We very much appreciate it.

I rise, however, to pass along a paragraph that would have been in the statement of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) had he been able to stay. Unfortunately, he had an engagement he could not get out of. If the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) were here, the chairman of the Committee on House Administration, he would have said this:

"These programs will cost money." "These programs" being the election reforms which are being discussed on the floor today. "I want to assure the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) that I am fully committed to ensuring that the necessary funds are authorized and appropriated."

I know that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) has talked to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG). I know that they are working together, that we are working together. This is a critical issue. I will have a few words to say on it later. But I am pleased that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), although he could not be here, wanted me to make these remarks so that his commitment and his view of the importance of this issue was clearly on the record during the consideration of the Hastings amendment

I might say at this point in time that the Hastings amendment's sum of $600 million is very close to the sums that are in most of the Senate bills and that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and I have been discussing will be necessary to effect the ends that I think all of us seek.

Thank you for yielding this time, and I thank him for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON), one of our newer Members.

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for offering the amendment. As he has said, we are running out of time to fix our broken election process in time for the next elections.

Unspeakably, the disenfranchisement last year's presidential election in Florida brought national attention to the failures of our voting process in many communities. I was in the Federated States of Micronesia at the time, and I could not believe what I saw. We reassembled a banana republic.

In the 9 months since then, studies by the press, by universities, and even this House have all detailed the same problem, that too many Americans are forced to use outdated or faulty voting equipment. The vast majority of these faulty machines are concentrated in the communities of poor and minority voters.

No single act is more central to the American democratic process than casting a vote for the candidate of one's choice. The idea that some Americans might have their votes discarded because they live in the wrong neighborhoods is what the wrong people should spur every Member of this body into action.

This amendment would finally give the Federal Election Commission the resources it needs.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Baltimore, Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I stand here to commend a good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), on his efforts to keep election reform alive and in the forefront of this body's legislative agenda.

I support this amendment in recognition that recently the principle of one person, one vote was abandoned, resulting in the disenfranchisement of thousands of citizens. It is time to take action to address this serious issue, and this amendment does just that.

Shamefully, the general election resulted in numerous allegations of irregularities and minority voter dilution. The history of our country reveals the disturbing story of how many people fought and died in this country for the right to vote and exercise the full measure of their citizenship. It is outrageous that this country, the leader of the free world, continues to be plagued with this problem in this new millennium. Through numerous hearings, reports and individual citizen statements, it has come to light that outdated election systems caused thousands of votes to be undervalued, overcounted or not processed accurately.

Mr. HOYER. Appropriately, this amendment would provide funding to the FEC to provide assistance to State and local governments in updating their election systems. This is not just a first step, but a giant leap towards addressing an issue that the American people believe in.
Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, there are a host of questions that need to be answered by the system of elections in this country, but there is one thing upon which Congress and I believe most Americans should agree: no single American should be disqualified by virtue of using a defective voting machine.

Mr. Chairman, it was not isolated to Florida or any other part of the country. My Secretary of State did a study and, strangely enough, twice as many votes were disqualified in counties that used punchcard systems in Oregon as counties that used optical scanners. Now, a lot of people will say we cannot afford to help the States and counties; we cannot afford a system of good technology for the people of America to record their votes flawlessly.

Come on. This is the basis, the foundation, of our franchise, what makes this country work. If we cannot afford to pay for that technology, if we cannot afford to have a better election system, then we are indeed headed toward very dark times.

This is a modest amount of money to resolve this problem, and this should be approved by this Congress.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, it is not relevant who anyone believes really, in quotes, “won” the election in Florida last year to this amendment. This amendment is necessary because we know that people are being deprived of their votes by faulty and inadequate voting equipment, probably in every State and certainly in most States of the Union. Certainly in my State of New York, as well as in Florida.

A Regional Association of Election Commissioners in 1988 said that punchcard voting machines have more than twice the error rate and disqualification of other technologies then in use, and that they ought to be phased out and discarded, in 1988. An MIT study just said about $600 million a year is what is necessary to bring to bear modern technology which will tell the voter who has tried to vote for two candidates he would be disqualified or if he skipped a vote, you have done it, before you leave the voting booth so he can correct it if he wants to.

We ought to do that. We ought to make sure our future elections are accurate and fair, regardless of which side of the aisle you are on. I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for his amendment.

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

Mr. Chairman, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS).
In addition, I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Ney) for his leadership on this issue as well. The chairman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), a lot of us, have been discussing this matter, not in the light of the public as we have here today, but in an effort to really try to get something done. I am confident that under the leadership of these individuals, we will succeed in once again bringing dignity to the American election system.

One of my colleagues from California pointed out inequities with reference to military ballots. I did not bother to try to take a shot at him, because the election is over. It is time for us to move forward and reform our election system in this Nation. I challenge this body to roll up its sleeves and pass meaningful election reform.

Mr. Chairman, with that, with the chairman’s final remarks, I am prepared to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 1⁄2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), distinguished subcommittee chairman.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I thought in this discussion that people were having of the great importance of making sure that Americans have the opportunity to vote, to vote correctly, to make sure their vote is counted, to put the responsibilities where they lie, between the voter and those who administer the voting. I thought it was very important when we talk about the problems, that somebody get up and talk about somebody who has done it right, a State that has done it right, and that is my home State of Oklahoma.

Several years ago, our State spent millions of dollars that could have been spent on roads, could have been spent on schools, could have been spent on public health, but felt that there was a very pressing need to spend it on solid uniform voting equipment. Every county, every precinct in Oklahoma uses the optical scanner voting machines, and has for several years, which is one of the methods that is receiving the highest level of support from people talking about the way it ought to be done.

If a voter has an improper ballot that has been marked twice, for example, the machine will spit it right back out at you so you still have a chance to correct it. I know that is an important thing to a great number of people.

I wanted to give some credit to the people who did that in Oklahoma. Our State Election Board secretary, a Democrat, Lance Ward, deserves a lot of credit for his foresight, and those that came before him, to say that there is a pressing need.

So when we talk about having the Congress of the United States spend a great amount of money to help States out in this situation, let us remember that there are some States, or certain States in Oklahoma, and the foresight to put it in place to prevent these problems. I want to make sure that we consider that in whatever we craft.

We are trying to say when other States ask for financial assistance for election reform, remember, we already bore the cost; and we hope that will be duly considered with whatever is done with appropriations from this body.

There was a map in USA Today right after the elections talking about the great disparity and the types of machines or paper ballots used in different places; and you looked at patchwork quilts, not only among the 50 States, but within the 50 States. Except if you look at that USA Today map, there was one State that was solid, with modern up-to-date uniform voting systems, and that was my home State of Oklahoma. I want to give credit to the State officials who had that foresight.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, I do so to thank everybody for the very important debate that we have just had here.

Mr. RUSH, Mr. Chairman, on July 9, 2001, the House Government Reform Committee released the results of a national study that examined the income and racial disparities in the undercount of the 2000 presidential election. At my request, the Committee investigated voting patterns in the First Congressional District of Illinois, which I represent. The investigation also examined the impact of different voting machines on the undercount. This was the first report to examine voter undercounts on both the national and local levels.

The report analyzed the voting results in 20 Congressional districts with high poverty rates and majority minority populations. The startling results of the investigation illustrated that voters in my district were almost seven times more likely to have their votes discarded than voters in affluent white districts.

This disturbing quantification gives my district the dubious distinction of being one of two Congressional districts with the highest rate of undercounted votes among those surveyed. The first District tied with the 17th District of Florida, with the undercount rate a disturbingly high 7.9 percent!

Overall, the report found that voters in low-income predominantly minority districts were significantly more likely to have their votes discarded than were voters in affluent, predominantly white districts.

The report also showed that better voting technology significantly reduced undercounts in low-income, minority areas and narrowed the disparity between the two types of districts and voting populations examined.

Ballot undercounts in my Congressional district are nothing new. I have heard and repeatedly sponsored amendments for over many years on this subject. However, now, we, in Congress, have quantifiable proof that better technology improves the undercount rate.

What can be done is illustrated simply before us—both by the Government Reform Committee report and by the gentleman from Florida’s amendment. We must provide the financial resources so critically needed by state and local governments to update their voting equipment. I urge my colleagues to support the Hastings amendment.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman. I support Alcee Hastings’ amendment to the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Act. The amendment will provide an additional $600 million to the FEC budget, funds that are necessary to assist state and local governments in updating voting systems. This is an excellent first step in tackling the election reform issue. It is disappointing that President Bush’s budget made no allowance for election reform.

But additional funding is not enough. Just throwing money at the problem will not solve the problem. We will end up with states simply taking the money and using it for rich neighborhoods while a state could continue using most disenfranchising machinery and procedures for minority communities. Or, if we offer the money conditionally, states will simply elect to decline a federal check and opt out of any standards.

We must provide minimal guarantees to every eligible voter. This is precisely what the bill I have introduced with Senator Dodd and Majority Leader DASCHLE, the “Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act,” would do. The bill has a 140 cosponsors, more than any other election reform bill.

It sets comprehensive minimal standards for voting machines used in federal elections but does not tell states and localities what machine to buy—in other words, it only establishes a baseline for what the machines have to be capable of doing.

The standards for machines are common sense standards that would solve problems uncovered in 2000: First, to prevent spoiled ballots, machines would have to warn voters of mistakes like overvotes and undervotes and give them a chance to correct those mistakes; Second, machines would have to be accessible to voters with disabilities; Third, the machines would have to be accessible to language minorities; Fourth, to eliminate the use of antiquated machines, the error rate for machines would have to be as close to zero as practicable.

To correct haphazard voting purges and registration mistakes by officials, the bill establishes a right for every citizen to cast a proportional ballot in a federal election if he or she has been improperly excluded from the rolls.

To help prevent voter error and establish minimal standards for voter education, the bill requires that every registered voter in a federal election receive a sample ballot and instructions for filling out the ballot prior to an election.

To ensure that voting rights violations are reported, the bill requires that every registered voter receive a document advising them of their voting rights and who to contact if those rights have been violated.

The bill is constitutional. It is limited to federal elections. Under Art I, Sec. 4, Clause 1 of the Constitution, the Congress has the authority to set standards for federal elections.
It avoids creating an unfunded federal mandate by fully funding the minimal standards. It recognizes that states may incur costs for meeting these obligations in state and local elections so it reimburses states for the costs of making state and local elections conform to the standards if they choose to do so.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, the interim report from Florida has indicated that he intends to withdraw this amendment, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment I offered be withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FILNER

At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

None of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Office of Management and Budget may be used for the purpose of implementing the final report of the President's Commission to strengthen Social Security to virtually all American citizens.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FILNER: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

None of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Office of Management and Budget may be used for the purpose of implementing the final report of the President's Commission to strengthen Social Security.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and a Member opposed each will control 20 minutes.

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment, which is only one sentence long, may be the most significant sentence that we vote on in this Congress, because it would prevent any funding being used for the purpose of implementing a Social Security privatization plan.

Now, why must we take what seemingly looks like a drastic step? Because we have seen the report that was just issued by President Bush's Social Security Commission, a commission hand-picked by the White House because they already supported a privatization plan.

Privatizing Social Security, Mr. Chairman, is tantamount to gambling with the security of Americans. It would expose workers and retirees to unacceptable risks, as well as substantial administrative fees that would eat into the returns. It would undermine the concept that through Social Security, we take care of each other, from neighbor to neighbor, and from generation to generation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the Filner amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) for 20 minutes in opposition of the Filner amendment.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW).

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Chairman, sometimes in this body it pays to read the amendment. The amendment says that at the end of the bill, insert after the last section the following new section: none of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Office of Management and Budget may be used for the purpose of implementing the final report of the President's Commission to strengthen Social Security.

Mr. Chairman, is it not a correct read of the amendment that the word privatization in this amendment. I have read the report, the interim report of the commission. I do not read the word privatization in that report.

I am absolutely dumbfounded why we even talk about the possibility of implementing the recommendations anyway. The recommendations and any implementation is going to have to come back here to the Congress. It is us that are going to have to change the method Social Security is going forward with if it is going to be changed at all.

But let us talk for just a moment about the trust fund itself. The trust fund, it is agreed by Democrats and Republicans, will not run out of Treasury bills until 2038. That is an estimate, but it is a pretty good one, if the trust fund is further depleted. Sure, they are going to have to come from other sources beginning in 2015. My colleagues may say this report is not true. Let me tell my colleagues that I do not believe it. The Secretary of the Treasury, Lawrence Summers; Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala; the trustee, Stephen Kellison; Alexis Herman, who is Secretary of Labor; Ken Apfel, the Commissioner of Social Security under President Clinton, and there are others.

I think that what is necessary and what we must do is face up to the fact that we are facing a cash shortfall beginning in 2016, and it may slip, and it may come back to 2015, if the trust fund is further depleted. Sure, they are Treasury bills, and Treasury bills are a safe investment and it is a sign of the commitment of the Congress to the future retirees. But are we going to send our retirees beginning in 2015 or 2016 saying sorry, here is a check for some cash, but there is a shortfall, so here is a Treasury bill. Of course not. We are going to continue to send them cash. And we are going to maintain the strength of the Social Security system.

What did the Commission say? The Commission says that they have to accumulate some wealth. They have to accumulate something in order to pay
future benefits. Did it say anything about privatization? No. No, we did not. And, so many Members will get up and talk about the risky stock market. I was watching the unions protesting the meeting that was going on. But we are going to have an opportunity just next week, because the Railroad Retirement Fund is coming before this House and we are going to have an opportunity to say that the railroad retirement fund now does not have to be limited to just investing in Treasury bills; the railroad retirement fund now can invest in stocks. Mr. Chairman, I will guarantee my colleagues that people on both sides of the aisle and the very people that are getting up and talking about the risky stock market are going to vote yes, and they are going to vote yes, because both of them are savers, and I am savers, for that way, because they understand that that is the way to accumulate real wealth.

I see my friend from New York (Mr. NADLER), who I am sure is going to get up and speak. He has a plan to save Social Security, but it involves the Social Security Administration investing in stocks and bonds of the private sector. I think it is time that we stop these scare tactics. Let the Commission come forward with their report. And in order to implement any change in the Social Security system of any consequence is going to require legislation to come out of this body. So I am saying, let us not only have faith that they may come up with something that we can use and something that will be good, but let us have faith in ourselves, and let us live up to this problem that we have, and that is, we have a cash shortfall beginning in the year 2016. We will no longer have the payroll taxes coming in to take care of the benefits, and we are going to have to find the money to start paying off the Treasury bills.

This is going to be a huge problem, and the problem is caused by a very simple situation: we have less workers supporting less retirees than we have ever had before, and that is going to continue to go down, so not too long from now, we are going to be down to two workers per retiree. We can plan ahead and pay now, or we can live for the next generation, so let us get together and let us get the job done and forget the scare tactics.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DeFazio).

Mr. DeFazio. Mr. Chairman, I support one thing the gentleman preceding me in the well said: let us stop the scare tactics. The scare tactics are contained in this report of the so-called Commission to privatize Social Security, not with aggregate investments, but with individual accounts, so Wall Street can better profit by charging 250 million people a little bit of money every month, reducing their benefits, pretaxes, by 40 percent.

This report, for the first time in the 225-year history of the United States of America, is questioning whether or not the Federal Government will make good on its debts. Guess where the money is going to come from? He is saying, we are going to have a cash flow problem. Yes, Americans have been saving. We have been paying more taxes every year than are necessary to support Social Security with the idea that that money was put on deposit for future generations. This fund in 2016 will have more than $5 trillion, and $5 trillion of what? Of securities against the Federal Government.

In fact, one of these securities says, this bond is incontestable in the hands of the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund; this bond is supported by the full faith and credit of the United States and the United States has pledged the payment of the bond with respect to both principle and interest, yet the gentleman who preceded me and this so-called commission are questioning whether or not we can or will honor those bonds.

There is no question. We must honor those bonds, and we should honor those bonds and that obligation to the American people, through the process that we use to honor all other debts in the United States of America. We either run a surplus and we pay out of that, or we roll over debt. We have $6 trillion of debt. Now, it is okay apparently to honor the debts for people in Japan or industrial investors or anybody else, but we are now questioning whether we are going to take the debt to the working people of America.

Mr. Chairman, this is extraordinary. It is bold in its scope. It is unprecedented that a Secretary of the Treasury, or President of the United States, or hand-picked commission, would question whether or not we will honor this debt.

This year, Americans will pay $93 billion more in Social Security taxes than are necessary to support the system. If the gentleman who preceded me in the well is right, then let us lower that tax today, because we are defrauding the people of that $93 billion, because we are saying, hey, it is going to be really painful to pay that money back. We are taking it from them now, we are depositing it for them in the U.S. Treasury; we are telling them that it will pay their benefits, but maybe we will not be able to afford to honor that. That is absolutely unacceptable to the working people of America.

Social Security is totally and fully sound until the year 2038. It can pay 100 percent of every promised benefit to every American, every recipient, every beneficiary, disabled or dependent. After that, it can afford to pay 73 percent.

Now, that means we have a 27 percent problem beginning in 38 years, but what they are going to propose is to destroy the existing system, to steal the $6 trillion on account for the American people, and convert to something else, and ignore the trillions of dollars in transition costs and benefits.

They can only get there a couple of ways. They are going to have to reduce existing benefits, or they are going to have to raise taxes to pay for the existing promises; one or the other. Or, they can honor the debts and fix the program in the future. The simplest way to do it is to lift the cap on earnings. If people earn over $80,000 a year, they do not pay the same tax as everybody else; they pay less. They only pay on the first $30,000. If we just lifted the cap and people paid Social Security on every penny they earn, guess what the actuaries say? The system is solvent forever, and, in fact, we could afford to lower the tax burden on working Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I think this amendment is really the height of irresponsibility. It is the height of the ostrich saying, “Let us put our heads in the sand.” It is the height of the Alfred E. Newman, “What, me worry,” syndrome. It pretends we do not have a problem when everybody knows there is a problem, every American.

If we talk to Americans out there, they know there is a problem with Social Security. Yet what we are hearing over here is, “What? There is no problem. There is nothing we need to do here.”

I am glad, actually, that the gentleman from California has brought this amendment to us tonight, because at least it gives us a chance to call attention to the fact that we have a problem. I urge the Members of this body and I urge the American people to read this report, this interim report of the Commission, because it does talk about some of the problems. The simple fact is, we have a system right now that really is not sustainable in the long run. The gentleman from Florida said it very well: We have a cash flow problem that begins in 2016, a cash flow problem. That is a very real
problem that we have to deal with 15 years from now, in 2016.

Fifteen years ago I was finishing my first term in Congress. That was the middle of Ronald Reagan's second term. That was not that long ago. Fifteen years from now we begin to see a serious problem: How are we going to pay the benefits? Where are we going to borrow the money to make the cash, to cash in those bonds that the gentleman from Oregon was talking about, and to pay those benefits?

If we do not do anything by the year 2020 that requires cuts to Federal spending to address Social Security's financial shortfall, it would equal the combination of Head Start, WIC, the Departments of Education, Interior, Commerce, and the EPA. Either we cut that or borrow the money someplace else, or we reduce it, the gentleman said. But let us not deny the fact that we have a problem.

If tomorrow's shortfalls are faced today, if we had those problems right now, a two-earner couple with $50,000 in income would have to pay an additional $2,100 in taxes per year in the year 2030. I do not know about other Members, but I think these kinds of changes are really unacceptable.

The gentleman said that we have a system, do not tinker with it. We have made 50 changes-plus in the history of Social Security with the system. Do not tell me it is not going to be changed. It is a political system. We are going to make changes to it. We are going to have to do something. Let us figure out what we can do that protects everybody.

Let me just refer to the draft commission's report itself. I just want to read two simple paragraphs.

One, the third conclusion they reached. "The system is broken. Unless we move boldly and quickly, the promises of Social Security for future retirees cannot be met without eventual resort to benefit cuts, tax increases, or massive borrowing. The time to act is now."

And then they go on to say this: "If the problems spelled out in this interim report become a topic of national debate and receive the public's focus and scrutiny, that in itself will be a positive step forward. The greatest threat is in taking the course of least resistance, ignoring the challenge and doing nothing."

Mr. Chairman, those who oppose the commission's report have a responsibility to stand here now, tonight, and tell us what we should do, what their conclusion is. The answer is not to put our heads in the sand and pretend there is not a problem. We do have a problem with Social Security, but it can be fixed. We have fixed in a way that guarantees that those who get Social Security benefits now are protected today, and those who get them in the future are protected, but the young people have an opportunity to know that they, too, will have some benefits and some Social Security and some retirement system in their future, as well.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, some of my colleagues have talked about one putting one's head in the sand. I would agree that we must be careful not to keep our head in the sand while the President has appointed a commission which is fully in favor of privatizing Social Security.

I agree, it is time to stop the scare tactics. We do not need to scare the American people, or try to stampede them into believing that Social Security must be privatized, because the fact of the matter is, the money is there. Social Security is solvent through the 2023 and any changes whatsoever. It has $5 trillion in assets by the year 2015. There is no reason to scare the people and stampede them into agreeing with the privatization of Social Security.

It has been said that there is a cash flow problem. Mr. Chairman, next year the Department of Defense has a cash flow problem. In the year 2003, the Department of Defense, absent our action, will be lacking the need for operation. But somehow this Congress in its wisdom finds a reason and a means to finance the operations of the Department of Defense.

I think it is important that we look at this Commission, because the amendment of the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) focuses on causing this Commission to lose its funding. Then Congress can regroup and fund a commission that would investigate the problems, any changes whatsoever. It has $5 trillion in assets by the year 2015. There is no reason to scare the people and stampede them into agreeing with the privatization of Social Security.

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they want to destroy Social Security. Let us get rid of Social Security. One voted for it. In New York (Mr. NADLER). Minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER). The real key date is not some date off in 2033, when it says the Social Security Trust Fund is becoming insolvent. The real date that we have to pay attention to, the latest estimate is 2016, when there is less money coming in from the Social Security taxes than is required to pay benefits. With the downturn, make it clear to the American people that we are not using any of the disability insurance funds, the disability insurance or the survivor benefit trust funds. That is off the table. That is not being considered. How do we get a better return than the 1.7 percent that future retirees are going to get from the Social Security taxes the employees and employers have paid in? Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me. Mr. Chairman, in 1935, about 178 Republicans voted against establishing Social Security. One voted for it. In 1964, 30 years later, the Republican party, behind Barry Goldwater, said, “Let us get rid of Social Security. Let us make it private.” Thirty years later they are right on schedule again, and they want to destroy Social Security in order to privatize it.

To do this, the Bush administration sets up a biased commission. They have a habit of setting up biased commissions: first, Mr. CHENEY’s energy task force of oil company executives; and now this task force, composed 100 percent of people who are on record as favoring the partial or full privatization of Social Security.

We can have an honest amendment that says, do not implement the report of the Commission because we know it is going to be privatization, because they said so. They told us that. We do not have to wonder about what it is going to be. “Let us establish a commission to investigate the problem and come up with the solution that they designed before they investigated the problem.”

We are told in 2016 Congress, in order to pay off the Social Security bonds, will either have to raise taxes, cut benefits, or borrow to pay back these bonds. Why? Why did we increase FICA taxes in 1933 and cut the benefits in order to build up a trust fund so that it would keep Social Security solvent? Now they tell us those $5 trillion in assets do not matter; they are not real assets. Well, they are real assets to the Social Security system.

True, the government is to pay it. It will cost, to pay it, $200 billion a year, starting in 2016. How are we going to pay it? For one thing, the tax cut that we approved a few weeks ago will cost about $400 billion a year starting in 2011, once it is fully phased in. Half of that tax cut would pay for all the bonds on an annual basis.

They are only part of the bonds. That part is paid for by the Social Security Trust Fund of the United States. They are no different than the bonds that are held by Mitsubishi or the series E bonds held by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMIRTH). We always pay back those bonds.

We are not going to have to raise taxes or cut benefits. If we do it, it is a government budget problem, not a Social Security problem.

Now we are told the solution is privatize; take a system which guarantees a person a certain benefit, a certain retirement benefit, and tell them they will only get a certain fraction of that benefit, and the rest of it will depend on their luck on the stock market.

Maybe they will do well, and maybe they will not. A lot of people will do well, but a lot of people will not do well, and we will recreate the situation we had before Social Security in which some people have good retirements and others are in abject poverty because their investments were foolish or simply unlucky.

We are told that the railroad retirement system is going to invest in the stock market, pension funds will invest in the stock market. Sure, the whole system does, not individuals, and that makes all the difference in the world. If the Government decided to buy private stocks and bonds with the Social Security Trust Fund to get greater returns, the Government has a budget problem if those stocks do not pan out. The individuals still are guaranteed by law their Social Security. So the fact that pension funds invest in stocks does not mean we ought to put individual assets at risk of the private stock market.

We are also told by an operation, by this task force, by others, Chicken Littles, that the sky is falling, we are going to run out of money. Well, the system will have enough money to pay all benefits for the next 37 years, if we believe the trustees; and then it will have a 28 percent shortfall, if we assume that the rate of economic growth of the United States is going to plummet to a rate not seen since the Depression and going to stay there.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

I rise in strong support of the Filner amendment, which would prohibit the Office of Management and Budget from spending any funds to implement the final report of the President’s Commission to Strengthen Social Security. People with disabilities, minorities, and women are especially hurt by Social Security privatization.

Today, there are approximately 45 million Americans receiving Social Security benefits. Of those, 20 percent of whom reside in my home State of California. Many people depend on this retirement benefit as a source of major income. Social Security is the principal source of retirement income for two-thirds of low-income Americans, and 30 percent of the annual income for 29 percent of all seniors over the age of 65. In fact, Social Security benefits lifted approximately 13 million senior citizens out of poverty last year.

Social Security is not just a retirement program for our seniors. For millions of Americans, Social Security is the only protection against the shackles of low lifetime earnings, the financial hardships related to death or disability, the danger of poverty in old age, and the uncertainty of inflation. Privatization undermines these protections and adds one more risk that workers would have to worry about, and that is Wall Street.

We must bring a little diversity to this debate this evening. Elderly African Americans and Latinos rely on Social Security benefits more than white elders do. From 1994 to 1998, African American and Latino seniors and their spouses relied on Social Security for about 44 percent of their total income, while white elders and their spouses relied on the program for only 37 percent of their total income. This is because minorities, unfortunately, have a lower rate of pension coverage. Only 29 percent of elderly African Americans and 22 percent of elderly Hispanic Americans get a pension income. By comparison, 45 percent of white seniors do. Unfortunately, people of color are disproportionately represented among low-wage workers; therefore, it is much harder for them to set aside savings for retirement. Privatization of Social Security will jeopardize their retirement income.

Now, people with disabilities are also hurt significantly by privatizing their benefits. As of January 2001, over 13 million Americans, or about 30 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries, rely on Social Security disability. For
the average wage earner with a family, Social Security offers the equivalent of a $200,000 disability insurance policy. The vast majority of workers would not be able to get similar coverage from the private sector. The GAO concluded in a January 2001 examination of Social Security privatization plans that the income from workers’ individual accounts would not sufficiently compensate for the decline in the insurance benefits that disabled beneficiaries would receive.

The uncertainty of privatization also hits women extra hard. Poverty among American women over 65 is already twice as severe as among men in the same age group. Women are more likely to earn less than men and are more likely to live longer. Women also lose an average of 14 years of earnings due to the time out of the workforce to raise children or care for ailing parents or spouses. And since women generally have a higher incidence of part-time employment, they have less of an opportunity for retirement. Social Security privatization proposals make no provision for these differences and would thus make poverty among women even worse.

Currently, Social Security provides guaranteed lifelong benefits. No matter what the stock market does the day one retires, or in the months leading up to retirement, an individual’s benefits will be unaffected.

The American people deserve the truth. Now that the Bush administration has passed a $1.6 trillion tax cut that primarily benefits the wealthy, they are trying to find another method or save it. It diverts money from the numbers and, for Heaven’s sake, do not be careful when talking about the high level of this debate. Please be careful when talking about what goomwah is, if they come from a stacked deck. Do my colleagues believe what they believe? If my colleagues really believe that the income from workers’ individual accounts was not sufficient to compensate for the decline in the insurance benefits that disabled beneficiaries would receive.

I want my colleagues to see if they really disagree with the numbers the gentleman from Florida did an excellent job of outlining. Everyone knows in this business in 2001 we are going to have a difficult time funding the benefits. It can be done, but it is going to take some reform.

As I mentioned earlier, let me be clear about this country. Do we want some corrective measures taken, but they just do not like what they believe is going to be forthcoming. Well, be careful about that, because there are some other ideas that will be circulating.

Please be careful when talking about what in his heart he knew he should have done when he was in the Congress. We do not represent very many Democrats when it comes to the issue of Social Security.

As you know, I agree with the gentleman from Arizona. The purpose of a brief colloquy. I would also say I do not know why it is so tragic that the majority of this House floor. I have minimum high regard at best for that commission’s makeup as well as its intended recommendations. I would also say I do not know why it is so tragic that the majority of this House floor.

Mr. Chairman, I did not bring this amendment before us tonight, but as long as it is here, I am going to vote for it, because I do believe that the Social Security commission staff report issued last week is a cynical effort to trash Social Security and undercut its public support in order to pave the way for cutting Social Security’s guaranteed benefits and turn much of the program over to Wall Street. And I do most certainly believe that that commission is a stacked deck. Every single Democrat appointed to that commission was appointed by the President. And the last time I looked, their views do not represent very many Democrats when it comes to the issue of Social Security.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I would simply say, yes, we are going to have to take actions to strengthen Social Security, and that is why it is so tragic that the majority of this House and the White House cooperated in putting together a tax package that was so large that it took away many of the surpluses that could have been used to strengthen Social Security long term, so that the tweaking that is going to be required in Social Security would be required in Social Security.
have to be less than it now will have to be if we follow the misguided and misbegotten tax policies that this Congress has repeatedly imposed.

So I make no apology for voting for this amendment, and I make no apology for saying I have no confidence in the membership of that commission as presently constituted. It is a stacked deck, and it is a stacked deck full of jokers.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. TANCREDO).

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Chairman, I wish to engage in a very brief colloquy with the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) related to the fifth proviso under the heading “Office of Management and Budget.”

It is my understanding that this proviso would prohibit the use of funds for the purpose of OMB calculating, preparing or approving tabular or other material that proposes the suballocation of a budget authority or outlays by the Committee on Appropriations. Is this the correct understanding of this provision?

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

Mr. TANCREDO. I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to enter into a dialogue with the gentleman regarding this and I am pleased to advise him that his understanding of the provision is incorrect.

Mr. TANCREDO. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, would the gentleman be amenable to reviewing the need for revision during the conference deliberations on this bill?

Mr. ISTOOK. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I would certainly agree to review this provision during the conference deliberations, and I appreciate the interest of the gentleman from Colorado and his patience and understanding that some things, of course, cannot be resolved until we come to conference with the Senate.

Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume in closing, and I want to echo the comments of the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) regarding his appreciation for the constructive comments that were made during the course of this debate.

Social Security is an extremely important issue to all of us.

Mr. Chairman, in opposing the amendment that was offered, I think it is necessary that everyone understand that when we are trying to find a solution to a very challenging circumstance, we do not find that solution by looking for a solution, we have got to put on the blindfolds, put on the handcuffs, and put in the ear plugs. If my colleagues do that, they are going to be restricted from the congressional record—house july 25, 2001 the question was taken; and the chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) will be postponed.
The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed in the following order; the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) and the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

The Chair will reduce 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TRAFICANT

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were 24, noes 401, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 372]

AYES—24

Baker

Bilirakis

Chabot

Coble

Collins

Duncan

Gibbons

Hall (TX)

Baker

Bilirakis

Chabot

Coble

Collins

Duncan

Gibbons

Hall (TX)

Baker

Bilirakis

Chabot

Coble

Collins

Duncan

Gibbons

Hall (TX)

Abercrombie

Ackerman

Aderholt

Akin

Allen

Andrews

Armey

Baca

Baird

Baldacci

Baldwin

Bancilhon

Barcena

Barrett

Barth

Barton

Bascomb

Bereuter

Berkeley

Berman

Berry

Biggert

Bishop

Blagojevich

Blunt

Boehner

Bolling

Bono

Borski

Bowser

Boucher

Boyle

Bradley (PA)

Bradley (TX)

Berecera

Brown (FL)

Brown (OH)

Brown (SC)

Bryan

Burke

Burton

Buyer

Callahan

Caputo

Capuano

Carlin

Cox

Cox (OK)

Castle

Clay

Clayton

Clement

Clyburn

Congenial record—house July 25, 2001

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The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

July 25, 2001

Ms. BROWN of Ohio, ROEMER, LANGEVIN, HELFLEY, WAMP, BRADY of Texas, LEWIS of Kentucky, HAYWORTH, SHIMKUS, PALLONE, WEINER, FOSSIEKE, SHELLEY, and GREEN of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. MILLER of Texas, LEWIS of Kentucky, Ms. HAYWORTH, SHIMKUS, PALLONE, Mrs. MILLER of Texas, LEWIS of Kentucky, Ms. HAYWORTH, and Mr. MILLER of Texas offered the following amendment:

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY FILNER

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the Chair announces that it will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device will be taken on the additional amendment on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY FILNER

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device.

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote will be taken on the additional amendment, on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

The vote was taken by electronic device.

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The vote was taken by electronic device.

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote will be taken on the additional amendment, on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

The vote was taken by electronic device.

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device.

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote will be taken on the additional amendment, on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

The vote was taken by electronic device.
Mr. HILLIARD changed his vote from "no" to "aye." So the amendment was rejected as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read the final lines of the bill.

The Clerk reads as follows: This Act may be cited as the "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002."

The CHAIRMAN. There being no other amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. DELEANEY, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that the Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2590) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 206, he reported the bill, as amended pursuant to that rule, back to the House with further sundry amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Mr. TURNER changed his vote from "yea" to "nay.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.