

COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Dianna J. Ruskowsky, Financial Administrator, Committee on Education and the Workforce:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND THE WORKFORCE,  
Washington, DC, July 27, 2001.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that I have received a subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

DIANNA J. RUSKOWSKY,  
Financial Administrator.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote on the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT EXTENSION

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2602) to extend the Export Administration Act until November 20, 2001.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2602

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 1979.

Section 20 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2419) is amended by striking "August 20, 2001" and inserting "November 20, 2001".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2602 and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2602, the extension of the Export Administration Act of 1979, a measure approved on a voice vote last week by the Committee on International Relations.

Enactment of this measure is intended to reauthorize the existing Export Administration Act for a 3-month period, through November 20 of this year, permitting Congress to fashion a comprehensive rewrite of this 21-year-old statute.

The Export Administration Act was extended for 1 year in the 106th Congress, through August 20 of this year; and it is now clear in the final week of our current session that a major EAA reform measure will not be enacted before that date.

The prompt enactment of this stopgap authorization will, however, enable the Bureau of Export Administration of the Department of Commerce to continue to administer and enforce our export control system, and in particular, to protect licensing information.

I would also point out to my colleagues that any lapse in the current EAA authorities would mean an automatic reduction in the level of fines for criminal and administrative sanctions against individuals and companies found to be in violation of our export control regulations.

A comprehensive EAA reform measure, S. 149, the Export Administration Act of 2001, is expected to be placed on the Senate floor schedule later this week or shortly after we return from the August recess, and the Committee on International Relations will consider a very similar version of this bill on Wednesday, August 1.

I would urge my colleagues to support this important stopgap authorization measure to maintain the integrity of our Nation's export control system.

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

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

First, I want to commend my friend, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. The current Export Administration Act will expire on August 20. On that day, the ability of the United States to implement dual use export controls will come to an end.

The Senate has not yet acted on its legislation on this matter, and it is highly unlikely that it will do so before September. We are slated to mark up in the Committee on International Relations a version of the Senate bill later this week, but it will not go

through the Committee on Armed Services, nor will it reach the House floor prior to September.

The authority to maintain export controls, Mr. Speaker, can be continued under an executive order, as was done in recent years. But the lack of statutory authority will compromise the administration's ability to implement fully controls on militarily-useful goods and technology.

Obviously, more time is needed to enact a new bill. Our temporary legislation will accomplish bridging this gap by extending statutory authority until November, 2001. This is the only responsible course of action, given the circumstances, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in yielding time to me to speak on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the opportunity we have to have an extension of the current statutory provisions. I hope that, as we take the time to reexamine this, we look at the long-term sweep of this legislation.

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I have had some great concerns myself that there may be less here than meets the eye. There is an opportunity now across the world for people to buy a computer product that is far more powerful than was used to generate the hydrogen bomb, for instance.

We have had situations where American enterprises have been hamstrung by slow-moving bureaucracy on the Federal level that cannot keep pace with the rapid changing technology. There are jokes at times about handheld devices that teenagers have that could potentially have been subjected to this legislation in times past. I think we have to be very, very careful about how we craft this legislation. There are opportunities for us to simply divert business to other countries to hamstring American enterprise that in the long term will just encourage the development of this technology and help finance the technology in other countries while it undermines the potential for development here at home.

I hope that over the course of the 6 months we can use this opportunity to review the impact we have had over the course of the history of this legislation and to really ask ourselves whether or not we are being fair in terms of American industry and if it will have the intended consequences. But if we move forward, I hope that the leadership of our committee, under the able chairmanship of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) will make sure the tools are available for the administration to be able to effectively administer it so that we do not get caught in