the past is any guide, we may anticipate further intransigence. Therefore, I am joining today with my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, in introducing a bill that we intend to push later this year if we do not see any movement on the part of the Government of Japan. The bill—which is identical to the bill we introduced late last year in the form of H.R. 5488—is very straightforward. It says: If the Federal Maritime Commission finds that vessels built under the NDF program are unable to obtain employment in a particular trade route in the foreign commerce of the United States for which they are designed, that Government of Japan will support the development of a successor program. As I pointed out last year, it should not be necessary to enact legislation to encourage support for a program so self-evidently in the mutual security interests of our two nations. I trust that the Government of Japan will support the new consultative mechanism so that the NDF program can begin the much needed recapitalization of our aging Ready Reserve Force.

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There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. CALLAHAN, ROGERS, FRELINGHUYSEN, LATHAM, WICKER, WAMP, Mrs. EMERSON, MESSRS. DOOLITTLE, YOUNG of Florida, VISCLOSKY, EDWARDS, PASTOR, CLYBURN, Mrs. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. OBES.

There was no objection.

APPPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2317, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. WALTHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2317) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. SKEEK, REGULA, KOLBE, TAYLOR of North Carolina, NETHERCUTT, WAMP, KINGSTONE, PETERSON of Pennsylvania, YOUNG of Florida, DUCKS, MURTHA, MORAN of Virginia, HINCHY, SABO, and OBIE.

There was no objection.

APPPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2904, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. BOBSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107–207) on the bill (H.R. 2904) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

APPPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2647, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2647) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. TAYLOR of North Carolina, WAMP, LEWIS of California, LAHOOD, SHERWOOD, YOUNG of Florida, MORAN of Virginia, HOYER, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. OBIE.

There was no objection.

APPPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2620, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. WALSH, DELAY, HOBSON, KNOLLENBERG, FRELINGHUYSEN, Messrs. SUNUNU, GOODE, ADERHOLT, YOUNG of Florida, MOLLOHAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, and Messrs. PRICE of North Carolina, CRAMER, FATTAH, and OBIE.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that the House and the Senate meet in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his left and right will be opened.