we are ready today. Yet, for the committee to therefore overlook our shortcomings and try to manage the District of Columbia by withholding funds, I find egregious and embarrassing. I hope we will reject the rule and reject the bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I call for a no vote on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule so we can get on with the debate on the important appropriations bills.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the previous question was ordered.

The question on the resolution.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the rule so we can get on with the debate on the important appropriations bills.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present. The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening a tornado ripped through several towns and I was in Maryland surveying the damage.

I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present I would have voted "no" on roolcall 351.

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. 2944) making appropriation for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part for the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, and that I be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). Pursuant to House Resolution 245 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2944.

In the Committee of the Whole

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.