VACATING PROCEEDINGS ON H.R. 2510, DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous action of the House on H.R. 2510 will be vacated. There was no objection.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 2510) to extend the expiration date of the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment there-to, and concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment.

The Clerk reads the title of the bill. The Clerk reads the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 2, strike out all after line 8 down to and including line 14 and insert: “2002.”

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 731(b) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2161(b)) is amended by striking “2001” and inserting “2002.”

The Clerk reads the House amendment to the Senate amendment, as follows:


Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the reauthorization of the Defense Production Act and the amendment that will be adopted by the House today. As you are aware, the Defense Production Act gives the President important emergency powers to ensure that industry produces needed materials during times of military or civil emergencies.

Unfortunately, with the events of September 11, we find ourselves in the midst of both. The President declared the DPA expires on Sunday, and it is important that we renew these powers during this critical period in our Nation’s history.

The House passed a clean 3-year reauthorization on September 5. The Senate returned the bill to us late Friday night, limiting the President’s authority to only one year. With the clock ticking, we don’t want to be back in this same position next year. Therefore, in the best spirit of compromise, we are amending the Senate bill and splitting the difference—extending the DPA for 2 years. I know that some of my colleagues in the other body have some concerns about the powers granted to the President under the DPA, and particularly in how they have been used in the past. They have my assurance that we will look closely at those concerns in the interim, and make changes where they are necessary.

I want to thank Chairman King, and ranking members LAFALCE and MALONEY for their help in moving this bipartisan legislation forward. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and this amendment.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for the extension of the Defense Production Act for a two-year period. I also want to commend the Chairman of the Financial Services Committee, as well as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy, for their vigilance and bipartisanship in insuring that these statutes are extended prior to expiration.

Clearly, this body would have preferred a 3-year extension of the Act, as reflected in the earlier legislation already passed in the House. However, it is also clear that a 2-year extension is the most prudent course of action in order to ensure that reauthorization of the Act is signed into law within the next few days.

As I have argued repeatedly during the past two weeks, the Act contains Presidential powers that may well be needed to be called upon in the aftermath of the terrorist attack. In fact, we already have indications that the DPA will be invoked in the coming weeks. One news report from this morning states, “[The DPA] is one of an array of statutes likely to be used frequently in the coming weeks as DOD seeks to expedite procurements—especially in the information technology and telecommunications sectors.”

With today’s action in this body, I am confident that we will have an extension of the DPA signed into law prior to its expiration on September 30, and I want to thank my colleagues again for demonstrating the wisdom and flexibility that has been necessary to make that happen.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICE COORDINATION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2199) to amend the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Govern-