

ECONOMIC AID FOR THE  
SOUTHERN BORDER STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make sure all of my colleagues understand the economic crisis that is occurring at the U.S.-Mexico border from San Diego, California, which I represent, all the way east of Brownsville, Texas. These border communities are in an economic crisis and need immediate help.

After September 11 this country took all sorts of security measures designed to prevent terrorist acts again. All those measures were extremely necessary, important and supported by this body and by the American people. Yet some of those measures that we took had economic consequences which we did not foresee and which have to be taken care of in the months following September 11. For example, we grounded all general aviation. Many businesses went out of business in that sector of the economy. Now they are trying to get back on their feet.

The border communities had been neglected in looking at the aftermath of September 11. We heightened security at the southern border, appropriately so. We started what is called a level one alert, to make sure no further terrorists could get into our country. That level one alert required much more search of cars, much more questioning of individuals, checking of IDs, all of which the American people support; but we did not add increased resources at the southern border to handle this increased level of security.

So the waits at the border for legal crossers, those who are doing business, those who are going to school, those that live in this country and are U.S. citizens, perhaps, but live for whatever reason in Mexico, people who shop, people who work legally, the wait at the borders have been at least several hours, up to 4, sometimes up to 7 or 8 hours. The border wait can be 2 hours one day, 8 hours next day, an hour the next day.

It is the uncertainty that prevents people who legally want to cross our southern borders, work here, shop here, they are prevented from doing so. In fact, in the biggest border crossing in the world, which is in my congressional district in San Ysidro, California, businesses have dropped anywhere from 50 to 90 percent. Many have gone out of business. Others are facing bankruptcy.

If you go across the border to Calexico, California, or Nogales, Arizona, or El Paso, Texas, or Laredo or Brownsville, the situation is the same. The dropping of business is anywhere from 50 to 90 percent. These are small businesses. They cannot sustain this level of activity before they go out of business.

We can cure this, Mr. Speaker. We can cure this with more resources. I have asked the Governor of California, my colleagues have asked their Governors, we asked the President of the United States to declare an economic state of emergency along the border so we can get in low-interest loans and economic help for these small businesses; but more important, we need to keep the lanes of traffic flowing and open.

The district director in San Diego told me that if she had 20 more positions per shift, or a hundred more new positions, she could keep all 24 lanes of San Ysidro open 24 hours a day. What would that require? It would require \$6 million, Mr. Speaker, \$6 million. If that is multiplied out across the border, we mean maybe 20 to \$25 million to make sure we kept the level one security and we keep that flow of legal traffic moving swiftly across the border.

We need to put that 20 to \$25 million in any supplemental bill that comes through this House, Mr. Speaker. We need to make sure that we can assure Americans that our borders are safe, that we do not put out of business all of the communities that live on that crossborder's legal trade.

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So, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Governors of the border States, and I ask the President of the United States to declare an economic state of emergency, and I ask this House to appropriate \$20 million to \$25 million for full staffing of the southern border checkpoints so that we can have both security and commerce.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2590

Mr. ISTOOK submitted the following conference report and statement on 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":

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 107-253)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to 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", having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

*That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise ap-*

*propriated, 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, namely:*

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

*For necessary expenses of the Departmental Offices including operation and maintenance of the Treasury Building and Annex; hire of passenger motor vehicles; maintenance, repairs, and improvements of, and purchase of commercial insurance policies for, real properties leased or owned overseas, when necessary for the performance of official business; not to exceed \$3,500,000 for official travel expenses; not to exceed \$3,813,000, to remain available until expended for information technology modernization requirements; not to exceed \$150,000 for official reception and representation expenses; not to exceed \$258,000 for unforeseen emergencies of a confidential nature, to be allocated and expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury and to be accounted for solely on his certificate, \$177,142,000: Provided, That of these amounts \$2,900,000 is available for grants to State and local law enforcement groups to help fight money laundering: Provided further, That of these amounts \$2,000,000 shall be available for a grant associated with research on transfer pricing, and that such sum shall be transferred within 90 days of enactment of this Act.*

DEPARTMENT-WIDE SYSTEMS AND CAPITAL  
INVESTMENTS PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

*For development and acquisition of automatic data processing equipment, software, and services for the Department of the Treasury, \$68,828,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That these funds shall be transferred to accounts and in amounts as necessary to satisfy the requirements of the Department's offices, bureaus, and other organizations: Provided further, That this transfer authority shall be in addition to any other transfer authority provided in this Act: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated shall be used to support or supplement the Internal Revenue Service appropriations for Information Systems.*

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

*For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, not to exceed \$2,000,000 for official travel expenses, including hire of passenger motor vehicles; and not to exceed \$100,000 for unforeseen emergencies of a confidential nature, to be allocated and expended under the direction of the Inspector General of the Treasury, \$35,424,000.*

TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX  
ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

*For necessary expenses of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, including purchase (not to exceed 150 for replacement only for police-type use) and hire of passenger motor vehicles (31 U.S.C. 1343(b)); services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, at such rates as may be determined by the Inspector General for Tax Administration; not to exceed \$6,000,000 for official travel expenses; and not to exceed \$500,000 for unforeseen emergencies of a confidential nature, to be allocated and expended under the direction of the Inspector General for Tax Administration, \$123,746,000.*