

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME
CONSIDERATION OF CON-
FERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2944,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2944) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes; that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived; that the conference report be considered as read when called up; and that H. Res. 307 be laid on the table.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. 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. 2944, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2944,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report accompanying the bill (H.R. 2944) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the previous order of the House, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 5, 2001, at page H8914.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG).

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

I am pleased to bring to the House the conference report for H.R. 2944, the fiscal year 2002, the District of Columbia Appropriations Act. When I took the helm of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia of the Committee on Appropriations in January, I said I wanted to be a partner with the District of Columbia as we jointly developed an agenda that promotes the continued renaissance of the city. Our subcommittee held several hearings covering a broad range of issues that I believe were tremendous assets as we crafted the bill. Our focus then, as it is now, was on economic development, education, and public safety, and they remain my focus, as they will in the future.

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I believe this conference agreement reflects this commitment and the hard work of each and every member of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia of the Committee on Appropriations. Their collective and individual dedication and expertise is to be commended.

As I wrap up the first year as chairman of the subcommittee, I want to thank two of my colleagues in particular. First, I wish to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) for all the great work he has done as a member of the committee from Pennsylvania.

We have worked, I think, very well in this process. There have been open

channels of communication. His advice and counsel have been very valuable to me, and I think truly we have a better bill because of him.

I also want to thank the District of Columbia and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON). She is a tireless advocate for the city, and the District's residents are lucky to have her. She has been very open and candid with me, and has been a very valuable source of information.

Before I move the bill, I would like to thank the many staff members: Migo Miconi and Mary Porter of the subcommittee staff, and also Jeff Onizuk and Candra Symonds from my own staff; Tom Forhan from the minority staff has been a great help, and William Miles of Mr. FATTAH's staff, as well. There have been many long days and long nights, and their dedication and professionalism has been something worthy of a lot of praise.

I want to also salute Mary Porter, who has been staffing this bill for 40 years. Mary is behind me here somewhere.

I believe this is a fiscally responsible conference report, and I will not go into all the details; there are many. But I can tell the Members this: We were all, I believe, very pleased with what did develop here. It is a bipartisan effort, and one that myself and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) have worked to bring about.

I just want to emphasize that this legislation does eliminate approximately half of the general provisions contained in last year's legislation, and it does some things that simplify things, I believe, for us in the future.

Obviously, the events of 9-11 were a concern for all of us, and D.C., outside of New York City, was the most focused-upon city in the country because of the terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a chart relating to H.R. 2944, District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2002: