CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise or extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 83, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002.

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to come to the House floor to respond to the statement last week, the National Education Technology Corps Act of 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE NET CORPS ACT

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to come to the House floor to speak about legislation I introduced last week, the National Education Technology Corps Act of 2001, or better known as NET Corps.

As a former science teacher, principal and school board member, I am extraordinarily pleased that Congress is becoming more engaged in the plight of our schools. Much of the discussion on the House floor has been about how the Federal Government can be more creative and how we can meet the needs of our schools. I agree that we do need to be more creative, and I am confident that the Net Corps Act is as intelligent and innovative as the backers, the high-tech industry, educators, and nonprofits.

Representatives from each of these sectors recently attended a press conference in San Jose where they voiced their support for this bill and efforts to improve our education system. I crafted this bill in the spirit of the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, programs that are based on the premise that American citizens of all backgrounds have something constructive to offer underfunded and underserved communities.

It is a shame that in America we must classify our schools as underfunded. As a member of the Committee on the Budget, I argue that it is a sad statement about our national values when our schools open our children the tools that will prepare them for the information economy.

I often talk about accountability. No, not just teacher accountability, but also about holding our political institutions accountable for inadequately serving our schools. I am discouraged by the Republican budgetary earmarks for education. The vote today only reinforces how necessary it is for advocates of schools to be creative.

NET Corps is creative and it is smart. The NET Corps program, an expansion of the Corporation for National Service, will recruit high-tech savvy volunteers from academic institutions and high-tech companies. I am particularly excited by the inclusion of the high-tech companies in the NET Corps.

The reality is that many high-tech companies already have organized programs and efforts to help our schools. Companies like 3Com and Silicon Graphics, Intel and Hewlett-Packard come immediately to mind. NET Corps rewards these companies for their efforts by providing them a 20 percent tax credit on the time their employees have spent in schools working directly with teachers and school administrators. But NET Corps is not an afterthought.

I am pleased to be joined in my effort by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), as a former president of the California State University at Long Beach, understands the great challenges our schools and children face,

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.