

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, June 21, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Paul A. Stoot, Sr., Pastor, Greater Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, Everett, Washington, offered the following prayer:

O Lord our God, if ever we needed Thy wisdom and Thy guidance, it is now as this honorable body of great men and women begin a new day, a day that will hold many opportunities and many possibilities.

We pray that You will bless these men and these women who have been chosen by the great people of this great Nation, for You know them and You know their needs, You know their motives and their hopes and their fears. Lord Jesus, put Your arms around them and give them strength and speak to them to give them wisdom greater than their own. May they hear Your voice as You speak to them and as they seek to hear from You and Your guidance.

May they remember that You are concerned about what is said and what is done here and may they ever have a clear conscience before Thee, that they need fear no man. Bless us each according to our deepest needs as we are here today to use us to Your honor and to Your glory, we humbly ask. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOME TO REVEREND PAUL A. STOOT, SR.

(Mr. LARSEN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride today that I would like to welcome Pastor Paul Allen Stoop to the House floor

and to thank him for that moving prayer.

Providing dynamic leadership, Pastor Stoot founded the Greater Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in Everett, Washington. In this capacity, Pastor Stoot gives much of himself to Everett and to his community each and every day.

Pastor Stoot is not only concerned with those who are presently within the church, but also the well-being of everyone in our community. He does more than preach his faith, he lives it through precept and example. He is always reaching out to those in need, providing spiritual advice and support. When he is not directly serving members of his own church or running Operation Latchkey to help children be averted from dangerous behaviors, he volunteers his time as chaplain for the Everett Police Department for emergency services.

His service to people does not end there. He serves the members of our community with dedication and even remembers the many crew members at the Everett Naval Home Port, who call Everett home for only a short period of time. The men and women stationed there know Pastor Stoot as one of the first faces crew members can count on to welcome them to their new home.

Everett, Washington is indebted to Pastor Stoot for his services and I am honored to have him here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair announces that we will have 1 minutes at the end of the day.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2217, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 174 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 174

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2217) making

appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: beginning with "Provided further," on page 89, line 13, through "participant:" on line 18. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill, points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time is yielded for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 174 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 2217, the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against the bill and waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI, prohibiting unauthorized or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill, except as specified in the rule.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The rule provides that the bill shall be considered for amendment by paragraph; it waives points of order during consideration of the bill against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI, prohibiting nonemergency designated amendments to be offered on an appropriations bill containing an emergency designation.

Finally, the rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority and recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2217 provides regular annual appropriations for the Department of the Interior, except for the Bureau of Reclamation, and for other related agencies, including the Forest Service, the Department of Energy, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Foundation for the Arts and the Humanities.

President Bush requested \$18.1 billion for the fiscal year, \$700 million less than last year's enacted level. The Subcommittee on Interior has allocated \$18.9 billion.

I am particularly pleased that the bill includes \$200 million for the payment in lieu of taxes, the same level as last year, and \$50 million above the President's request. I am also pleased that the committee has increased the level of funding for maintenance and operation of existing Federal facilities, an effort that should receive at least as high a priority as the acquisition of land; at least that is from this Member's perspective.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2217 was reported by a voice vote on June 13, 2001, and the Committee on Rules is pleased to report an open rule requested by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 2217.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding me the customary half-hour, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule that I will not oppose. The underlying bill has the support of many from both sides of the aisle and, moreover, the minority was consulted throughout the process of developing this legislation, something all too rare in much of the legislation moving through this body.

I strongly commend the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), the chairman of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the ranking member, for their success in funding of the new Conservation Trust Fund created last year. By including the \$1.3 billion authorized for conservation, Congress has kept a

promise to expand funding for land acquisition, wildlife protection, and other preservation and conservation programs. My constituents in upstate New York will also be pleased by the committee's inclusion of a \$120 million increase for weatherization and State energy programs to insulate homes, schools, and hospitals, money that is sorely needed.

But yesterday, the Committee on Rules, in what is becoming an annual act of hubris, failed to allow for restoration of some of the unwise cuts made 6 years ago in funding for the agencies responsible for the country's small but critically important arts and humanities education and preservation efforts.

The bill funds the National Endowment for the Arts at \$105 million, a level still 40 percent below the 1995 funding level. The National Endowment for the Humanities, NEH, is funded at \$120 million, 30 percent below the level of 1995, and these levels fundamentally ignore the successful efforts by both NEA and NEH to broaden the reach of their programs and eliminate controversial programs, the two "reforms" that were requested by the majority when they reduced funding in 1995. It is time to recognize the success of these reforms and give these agencies the resources they need to meet this critical need.

This is penny-wise and pound-foolish. The National Endowment for the Arts is essential as part of the important link between education and the arts. The economic benefits we receive are enormous compared to our small investment in the NEA.

□ 1015

Moreover, the public supports continued funding for the NEA because NEA grants affect every congressional district. The NEA's budget represents less than one-hundredth of one percent of the Federal budget, and returns \$3.4 billion annually to the Federal treasury.

The arts support at least 1.3 million jobs, and the nonprofit arts industry alone generates \$36.8 billion annually in economic activity, a large return for our small investment, not what we usually get. In addition, the arts produce \$790 million in local government revenue, and \$1.2 billion in State revenue.

Members may recall our efforts last year on the floor to increase funding for the arts and humanities. Members voted to increase the funding for the arts, but a few minutes later the vote was essentially overturned when the savings were diverted to another account which came up earlier in the reading of the bill.

Yesterday, the Committee on Rules could easily have prevented similar gamesmanship by allowing me to move forward with these amendments under

an en bloc procedure. This would have provided Members with an up-or-down vote on arts funding. Instead, I will be compelled to offer offsets and amendments that run the risk of procedural attacks by opponents of the arts and humanities.

The minority members of the Committee on Rules, as well as my colleagues and the majority of the American people who support funding for the arts and humanities, deserve far better.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to enter into a colloquy with the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee.

First, let me thank the chairman for his attention and detail to salmon recovery efforts and hatchery reform efforts included in the fiscal year 2002 appropriations bill.

While these items are terribly important for the entire Pacific Northwest, there are a couple of additional items important to central Washington in my district, and I hope to see them addressed in the conference. One issue involves noxious weed funding in the Forest Service budget, and the other is related to ground water research in the USGS agency in regards to the Methow Valley.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's kind words, and recognize his support for the projects in the legislation.

I assure the gentleman that the subcommittee will work to address his concerns regarding these projects in conference.

Mr. HASTINGS. Again, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman for his efforts on this in his very first Interior appropriations bill. I will certainly provide any assistance I can give and additional information necessary to help him in conference on these two projects.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill and rule.

I want to say to my colleague, the gentleman from Washington, I will help him in the conference on the measures that he just mentioned.

I also want to say that I want to applaud the chairman of this committee and the majority and the minority for working to keep the commitment last year in our substitute for CARA. This bill carries with it \$1,320 million in conservation spending. I think it is a dramatic step in the right direction.

If Members will remember, last year over 300 House Members voted for CARA, which would have been a 15-year \$3 billion program. I offered an amendment with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) that was accepted by the majority that would keep this within the purview of the Committee on Appropriations, and to create a trust fund to make sure that these important programs were funded. The majority is working with the minority. We have funded it in the Interior bill, and we hope it will be also funded in the State, Justice, and Commerce bill.

I agree with the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) that we would have hoped that the Committee on Rules might have helped us on a couple of these amendments, but I want to say to my colleagues, we are going to offer an amendment to increase funding for the cultural institutions, \$10 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, \$3 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and \$2 million for museum services.

We are taking the money out of administrative expenses. I am confident that if the amendment is approved, we will be able to protect that in conference. So I am enthusiastically supporting this bill. I think we should move ahead and pass the rule on a voice vote and get to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule providing for consideration of the Fiscal Year 2002 Appropriations bill for the Department of Interior and Related Agencies, despite a denied request to make two amendments in order that were proposed yesterday to the Committee on Rules.

The Minority has been consulted throughout the process of developing this legislation and we believe our views are reflected in many aspects of the bill. While we do not agree with every recommendation and continue to work for improvements in several areas, in balance we believe that this Interior bill is one which Members from both parties can support.

The Minority is particularly pleased with the recommendation for funding of the new Conservation Trust Fund created last year. By including the full \$1,320 million authorized for conservation, Congress has kept faith with last year's commitment to significantly expand funding for land acquisition, wildlife protection and other preservation and conservation programs. We are also pleased by the Committee's inclusion of a \$120 million increase for weatherization and State energy programs to insulate homes, schools and hospitals. These funds are critical to low income families.

We applaud the Committee's decision to restore many of the unwise cuts proposed by the President in a number of critical areas. This includes approximately \$300 million to the Energy Conservation and Fossil Energy research accounts. These funds can significantly ameliorate the energy crisis identified in the President's National Energy Policy. It made no sense to cut these programs when current gasoline prices and electricity prob-

lems remind us daily of the need for energy conservation and alternative energy programs.

Although the Committee did not make in order the amendment proposed yesterday, Congresswoman SLAUGHTER and I plan to offer a new amendment today to increase funding for our cultural agencies. The amendment would provide \$10 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, \$3 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and \$2 million for the Institute for Museum and Library Services offset by small reductions in administrative costs at the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. We had originally planned to offset these amounts through a deferral of excess clean coal funds as we did last year. Unfortunately the Rules Committee did not waive the rule to allow this. Instead this amendment makes a very small reduction of less than .3 percent in administrative costs.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule protecting the bill as reported. It is a clean bill which I intend to support.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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 resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. 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. 2217, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 174 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. 2217.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1021

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agen-

cies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Under the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN).

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the Interior bill that was reported out of the committee provides a total of \$18.9 billion, \$86 million above fiscal year 2001. The increase is less than one-half of 1 percent above 2001.

I want to say a few things about this bill. This is a good, bipartisan bill. The committee members worked to put together a good bill for this Congress, and this is a good bill for our States and counties and our programs, with money that will help States, counties, and cities to solve their problems.

This is a good bill for our parks. The bill fulfills President Bush's commitment to our parks, and continues efforts of my good friend and former chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Regula, to the parks.

This is a good bill for wildlife stock and endangered species. There is money for President Bush's landowner incentive program, there is money for critters in this bill. This is a good bill for Indian schools and Indian medical facilities. New hospitals, new clinics, and new schools are funded in this bill. This is a good bill for weatherization programs across the Nation.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good and responsible bill in responding to our Nation's wildfire needs. This is a great bill for those who want to save and bring back the Everglades. This is a good bill for needed energy research.

This bill is also a good bill for those who want to limit the riders on appropriation bills, and this is a good bill for Members who want to pass a non-controversial bill. Yes, this is basically an Interior bill free from the normal controversies.

I just want to add a few more things. This bill is \$791 million above the President's request, but only \$86 million above this year's budget. This increase is easy to explain. We have put back \$164 million for critical wildfire needs. We put back \$87 million in cuts for the U.S. Geological Survey. We put back \$15 million for the payment in lieu of taxes, known as PILT, the PILT program that goes to our counties. We have put back \$294 million to restore energy research programs requested by over 200 Members in the House.

We put in \$64 million in the conservation category to fulfill the promises we made in last year's appropriation bill.