

chairman for bringing this legislation to the floor, and also my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LUNGREN) who has been helping relentlessly to get some legislation passed to stop this criminal endeavor into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the drug dealers find new ways to bring this cancer, cocaine, into the United States. And now what they're doing in the hills and jungles of Colombia is they build these fiberglass boats, submarines, that are about 100-foot long that can bring in several hundred million dollars worth of cocaine into the United States. They float them down the river into the Pacific Ocean. Here is one of these vessels here. It is about 100 feet long. It's fiberglass.

These vessels can go all the way from Colombia to the United States without refueling. They are built with stealth technology so they're very difficult to find by our Navy and our Coast Guard. They go very slowly so they can't create a wake. And they bring this stuff into the United States.

The problem is that when our Navy and our Coast Guard find one of these ships on the high seas, these ships have no flag, they're not under any flag of any nation, the crew members on the ship, usually five to six members, will scuttle the submarine. It will sink to the bottom of the ocean, taking with it the cocaine. Then the five or six crew members that are on this submarine have to be rescued by our Navy and then taken back where they came from, usually Colombia or Guatemala or whatever nation they came from. And they can't be prosecuted because there is no crime of the high seas to have one of these in your possession.

And what this legislation does is basically says "no more." You cannot be a crew member of one of these submersible subs and if you are captured, whether the boat is captured or not, you have committed a criminal offense, and now a civil penalty can be imposed on you as well. The Coast Guard tells us that at any given time, Mr. Speaker, there are 100 of these on the high seas working their way to the United States. And it doesn't take much common sense to realize that these same vessels that use and bring in cocaine can bring in other material into this country, things that will do us harm, like explosive devices. And they're so shallow they can go up our ports and our seaways and cause damage. So this legislation is important for two reasons. It is a national security issue. And second, it's a way of keeping that cancer, cocaine, out of the United States. I applaud this legislation to make it a criminal offense and a civil offense to be in possession of one of these subs on the high seas.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas as well as the gentleman from California.

At this time we are without additional speakers, and I would yield back the balance of my time and urge passage of the bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield myself the remaining time to thank the gentleman from California, my colleague in the informal Hip Replacement Caucus, for raising the issue of submersibles and for introducing the bill that he champions that we are happy to incorporate, and which is important to do in this legislation. Again I express my profound respect, appreciation and admiration to the gentleman from Maryland for his leadership of the Coast Guard subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio for his superb management of the issues on the minority side of the committee on this issue and for the constant communication that we've had. As long as we keep the communications going, as we have done over these 2 years and over the previous years, we will do good work for the country and for the Congress.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask for a unanimous vote on this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6999, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5001. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to provide for the redevelopment of the Old Post Office Building located in the District of Columbia.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2631. An act to strengthen efforts in the Department of Homeland Security to develop nuclear forensics capabilities to permit attribution of the source of nuclear material, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2963. An act to transfer certain land in Riverside County, California, and San Diego County, California, from the Bureau of Land Management to the United States to be held in trust for the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5350. An act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property located in Norfolk, Virginia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5618. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 906. An act to prohibit the sale, distribution, transfer, and export of elemental mercury, and for other purposes.

S. 1492. An act to improve the quality of Federal and State data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation.

S. 1582. An act to reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2913. An act to provide a limitation on judicial remedies in copyright infringement cases involving orphan works.

S. 3109. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system.

S. 3192. An act to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to authorize the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians of Oregon, the Coquille Tribe of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Reservation, Oregon, to obtain 99-year lease authority for trust land, and to authorize the Morongo Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians of the Morongo Reservation, California, to obtain 50-year lease authority for trust land.

S. 3477. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence.

S. 3536. An act to amend section 5402 of title 39, United States Code, to modify the authority relating to United States Postal Service air transportation contracts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 496) "An Act to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965."

GREAT LAKES LEGACY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 6460) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike section 3(f) and all that follows and insert the following:

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 118(c)(12)(H) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(12)(H)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other amounts authorized under this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2010.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Not more than 20 percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to clause (i) for a fiscal year may be used to carry out subparagraph (F).”.