potential commercial and economic benefits and effects of the project; and

''(2) in the case of an annual progress report, includes a project plan for the subsequent year.

''SEC. 204. MARINE MINERAL RESEARCH CENTERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—No later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate 3 centers for marine mineral research and related activities.

''(b) CONCENTRATION.—One center shall concentrate primarily on research in the continental shelf regions of the United States, 1 center shall concentrate primarily on research in deep seabed and near-shore environments of islands, and 1 center shall concentrate primarily on research in arctic and cold water regions.

''(c) CRITERIA.—In designating a center under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to a university that—

''(1) administers a federally funded center for marine minerals research;

''(2) matriculates students for advanced degrees in marine geological sciences, nonenergy natural resources, and related fields of science and engineering;

''(3) is a United States university with established programs and facilities that primarily focus on marine mineral resources;

''(4) has engaged in collaboration and cooperation with industry, governmental agencies, and other universities in the field of marine mineral resources;

''(5) has demonstrated significant engineering, development, and design experience in two or more of the following areas;

''(A) seabed exploration systems;

''(B) marine mining systems; and

''(C) marine mineral processing systems; and

''(6) has been designated by the Secretary as a State Mining and Mineral Resources Research Institute.

''(d) CENTER ACTIVITIES.—A center shall—

''(1) provide technical assistance to the Secretary concerning marine mineral resources;

''(2) advise the Secretary on pertinent international activities in marine mineral resources development;

''(3) engage in research, training, and education transfer associated with the characterization and utilization of marine mineral resources; and

''(4) promote the efficient identification, assessment, exploration, and management of marine mineral resources in an environmentally sound manner.

''(e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—In distributing funds to the centers designated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, allocate an equal amount to each center.

''(f) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section during a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary for expenses associated with administration of the program authorized by this section.

''(2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds made available under this section may be used for the construction of a new building or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

''SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this title.''.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRRIGATION PROJECT CONTRACT EXTENSION ACT OF 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1649) to extend contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigation districts in Kansas and Nebraska, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1649

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Irrigation Project Contract Extension Act of 1996''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS.

The Secretary of the Interior shall extend the water service contracts for the following projects, entered into by the Secretary of the Interior under subsection (e) of section 9 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h) and section 9(c) of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 891, chapter 665), for a period of 4 additional years after the dates on which each of the contracts, respectively, would expire but for this section:

(1) The Bostwick Unit (Kansas portion), Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Republic County, Jewell County, and Cloud County, Kansas.

(2) The Bostwick Unit (Nebraska portion), Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Harlan County, Franklin County, Webster County, and Nuckolls County, Nebraska.

(3) The Farwell Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and the Act of August 3, 1956 (70 Stat. 975, chapter 923), situated in Howard County, Sherman County, and Valley County, Nebraska.

(4) The Frenchman-Cambridge Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665) as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Chase County, Frontier County, Hitchcock County, Furnas County, Red Willow County, and Harlan County, Nebraska.

(5) The Frenchman Valley Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Hayes County and Hitchcock County, Nebraska.

(6) The Kirwin Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 641, chapter 596), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Phillips County, Smith County, and Osborne County, Kansas.

(7) The Sargent Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 641, chapter 596), situated in Blaine County, Custer County, and Valley County, Nebraska.

(8) The Webster Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 641, chapter 596), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Rooks County and Osborne County, Kansas.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2183) to make technical corrections to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2183.

This bill would allow States, like New Mexico, that have a growing number of people who qualify for food stamps or are unemployed access to the contingency fund moneys that were included in the recently enacted welfare reform bill.

This is merely a technical correction which is necessary for many States which will not be able to reform welfare programs until their State legislatures meet again next year, but as of October 1 are operating under limited block grants funding.

In New Mexico, our population is growing at such a rapid pace that continuing our current welfare program under the block grant system will lead to a funding shortfall.

Inadequate block grant funding would cause States like New Mexico to make across-the-board cuts in welfare payments to families in need.

This legislation would allow States like New Mexico to tap into the welfare contingency fund and avoid financial hardships during the transition to a new welfare program.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2183

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF LIMITATION ON CERTAIN FEDERAL OBLIGATIONS FOR 1997.—Section 116(b)(1)(B)(ii)(II) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 is amended—

(1) in item (aa), by striking ''the State family assistance grant'' and inserting ''the sum of the State family assistance grant and the amount, if any, that the State would have been eligible to be paid under the Contingency Fund for State Welfare Programs established under section 403(b) of the Social Security Act (as amended by section 103(a)(1) of this Act), during the period beginning on October 1, 1996, and ending on the date the Secretary of Health and Human Services first receives from the State a plan described in section 402(a) of the Social Security Act (as so amended) if, with respect to such State, the effective date of this Act under subsection (a)(1) were August 22, 1996,''; and

(2) in item (bb)—

(A) by inserting ''sum of the'' before ''State family assistance grant''; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting '', and the amount, if any, that the State would have been eligible to be paid under the Contingency Fund for State Welfare Programs established under section 403(b) of the Social Security Act (as amended by section 103(a)(1) of this Act), during the period beginning on October 1, 1996, and ending on the date the Secretary of Health and Human Services first receives from the State a plan described in section 402(a) of the Social Security Act (as so amended) if, with respect to such State, the effective date of this Act under subsection (a)(1) were August 22, 1996.''.

(b) CORRECTIONS RELATED TO THE CONTINGENCY FUND FOR STATE WELFARE PROGRAMS.—Section 403(b)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act, as amended by section 103(a)(1) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, is amended—

(1) in clause (i)(II), by striking ''minus any Federal payment with respect to such child care expenditures''; and

(2) in clause (ii)(I)—

(A) by inserting ''the sum of'' before ''the expenditures''; and

(B) by inserting '', and any additional qualified State expenditures, as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i), for child care assistance made under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990'' before the semicolon.

(c) CLARIFICATION OF HEADING.—The heading of section 116(b)(1) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 is amended by inserting ''; LIMITATION ON FISCAL YEARS 1996 AND 1997 PAYMENTS'' after ''DATE''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of and the amendments made by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

Section 11 of the Northern Great Plains Rural Development Act (Public Law 103–318; 7 U.S.C. 2661 note) is amended by striking ''the earlier'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''September 30, 1997.''.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENDING PERIOD OF STAY IN UNITED STATES FOR CERTAIN NURSES

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2197) to extend the authorized period of stay within the United States for certain nurses, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I am concerned that we in fact are extending the stay in this country of probably thousands of nurses who come from another country, at a time when we do not necessarily have a nursing shortage in America.

However, I am informed by one of my colleagues, who spent an enormous amount of time and effort, from North Carolina, that in his area and in several areas of the United States they have a nursing shortage that would be exacerbated tremendously if we did not pass this legislation.

My concern, and I do intend to withdraw my objection, is that these nurses are put on notice and those hospitals and nursing homes that are using these services are put on notice that this is a one-time extension; that we are not granting these nurses that are in question in this legislation something that is going to be extended to them again and again; and next year when this comes up, it is going to be more difficult, because the time when they are legally supposed to leave this country will be all at the same day, because this bill suggests that their visas are then going to expire, every one of these nurses will expire on the same day. But, for the record, I am stating that we will make sure and we should ensure that is not the intent of this legislation, to extend in perpetuity their right to stay in this country.

Again, I will be withdrawing my reservation, but with the understanding that we are not going to just do this every year, and their employers and the nurses are on notice that they should use this time to start preparing themselves, No. 1, to go back to their home country, and, No. 2, to find Americans who can work as nurses in these areas in rural North Carolina, as well as in Chicago and elsewhere where there are, as I say, spot shortages of nurses.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, the gentleman's statement certainly speaks to the point. The gentleman is absolutely correct. That will be the legislative intent.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have become aware of an apparent technical error in two provisions of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. Title III of the act, based on the House-passed version of H.R. 2202, includes a comprehensive reform of the procedures for apprehending, adjudicating, and removing illegal aliens from the United States. Section 306 of title III overhauls the rules regarding judicial review from orders of removal. It was the clear intent of the conferees that, as a general matter, the full package of changes made by this part of title III effect those cases filed in court after the enactment of the new law, leaving cases already pending before the courts to continue under existing law.

The conferees also intended, however, to accelerate the implementation of certain of the reforms in title III. This intent is clearly spelled out in section 309 of the act. Specifically, section 309(c)(4) calls for accelerated implementation of some of the reforms made in section 306 regarding judicial review, but does not call for immediate implementation of all of these reforms. This intent is manifest not only in the plain language of section 309(c)(4), but also in the statement of managers accompanying the conference report on H.R. 2202, at pages 222 and 223—Report No. 104–828.

Unfortunately, a cross-reference in section 309(c)(4) could be read to suggest that implementation of the transitional changes in judicial review should be delayed until after title III's general effective date. This error occurred through adoption of an effective date provision from the Senate-passed version of H.R. 2202. In light of the specific provisions of section 306(c), the reference in section 309(c)(4) to cases ''described in paragraph (1)'' should not have been included in the conference report. In addition, there is a need to clarify the scope of section 306(c) to ensure that it does not conflict with section 309(c)(4).

Section 2 of S. 2197 includes technical corrections to reflect this intent.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2197

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZED PERIOD OF STAY FOR CERTAIN NURSES.

(a) ALIENS WHO PREVIOUSLY ENTERED THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO AN H–1A VISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authorized period of stay in the United States of any nonimmigrant described in paragraph (2) is hereby extended through September 30, 1997.

(2) NONIMMIGRANT DESCRIBED.—A nonimmigrant described in this paragraph is a nonimmigrant—

(A) who entered the United States as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

(B) who was within the United States on or after September 1, 1995, and who is within the United States on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(C) whose period of authorized stay has expired or would expire before September 30, 1997 but for the provisions of this section.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to extend the validity of any visa issued to a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or to authorize the re-entry of any person outside the United States on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT.—A nonimmigrant whose authorized period of stay is extended by operation of this section shall not be eligible to change employers in accordance with section 214.2(h)(2)(i)(D) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect