

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Makes several punctuation and non-substantive language changes as proposed by the Senate and appropriates \$339,499,000 for salaries and expenses. General Accounting Office instead of \$323,520,000 as proposed by the House and \$346,751,000 as proposed by the Senate. With respect to the provision added by the Senate regarding studies and assessments, the conferees have agreed to drop this provision.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

In Title III, General Provisions, section numbers have been changed to conform to the conference agreement. The conferees have agreed to the language of the House bill in section 302, have agreed to the provisions in the House bill regarding "buy American", the Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council, and the amendment to title 18, United States Code, covering the use of the House and the Congressional seals. The conferees have also agreed to sections 306 and 309 of the Senate bill regarding section 316 of Public Law 101-302 and the Senate restaurant system. The conferees have agreed to delete section 307 of the Senate bill, which amends the National Energy Conservation Policy Act, and section 308 of the Senate bill, regarding residence of Members of Congress. Also, the conferees have added a new provision which adjusts the cap on nine senior positions in the office of the Architect of the Capitol. The conferees intend that the cap adjustment be used for cost-of-living adjustment purposes.

ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES

The conferees are aware that the Energy Policy Act of 1992 calls for the incorporation of alternative fuel vehicles into Federal fleets. Inclusion of such clean fuel vehicles provides needed air quality benefits for the Nation's Capital. The conferees note that Senate report language directs the Architect of the Capitol and the Senate Sergeant at Arms to report to the Senate Committee on Appropriations by January 1, 1998, on how they could incorporate alternative fuel vehicles into their fleets consistent with their needs and requirements. Accordingly, the conferees direct the Comptroller General of the States, the Public Printer, the Capitol Police Board, the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Librarian of Congress, as well as the Senate Sergeant of Arms and the Architect of the Capitol to report to their respective Committees on Appropriations on a plan that would incorporate alternative fuel vehicles into their fleets consistent with their needs and requirements and the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH
COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 1998 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 1997 amount, the 1998 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 1998 follow:

New Budget (obligational authority, fiscal year 1997	\$2,202,881,200
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1998	2,394,560,000
House bill, fiscal year 1998	1,711,417,000
Senate bill, fiscal year 1998	2,283,746,000
Conference agreement, fiscal year 1998	2,248,676,500
CONFERENCE AGREEMENT, COMPARED WITH:	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1997	+45,795,300

Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1998	-145,883,500
House bill, fiscal year 1998	+537,259,500
Senate bill, fiscal year 1998	-35,069,500

JAMES T. WALSH,
BILL YOUNG,
R. DUKE CUNNINGHAM,
ZACH WAMP,
TOM LATHAM,
BOB LIVINGSTON,
JOSÉ E. SERRANO,
VIC FAZIO,
MARCY KAPTUR,
DAVID OBEY,

Managers on the Part of the House.

ROBERT F. BENNETT,
TED STEVENS,
LARRY E. CRAIG,
THAD COCHRAN,
BYRON L. DORGAN,
BARBARA BOXER,
ROBERT BYRD,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

□ 1900

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO MINNIE ELIZABETH
HARPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to share the story of a truly remarkable American. While I was back in eastern North Carolina during the month of August, I had the great fortune to make the acquaintance of Minnie Elizabeth Harper.

Minnie Harper was born and raised in eastern North Carolina. A product of a loving and caring family, Minnie Harper is a 1974 honor graduate of Greene Central High School who has always been very active in her church and in her community. Even at a very young age, Minnie Harper was a role model to all who knew her. She was on a direct path to success.

Sadly, in June 1975, a terrible automobile accident left Minnie Harper a C-5 quadriplegic, but she did not let it lead her off her path to success. Such an accident may have hampered the dreams and broken the spirit of most people, but not Minnie Harper.

In her own words, Minnie Harper stated, and I quote, "I am not a failure. My parents did not raise any failures. My handicap has not totally impeded my dreams and goals; it has just altered the path and encouraged me to push forward."

Proving those words to be true, Minnie Harper went on to graduate with honors from Lenoir Community College in Kinston, NC in May 1981. Upon her graduation, Minnie Harper contin-

ued to give to her community. She founded and organized the American Community Girls Club in Snow Hill, NC, where she resides.

In this club, Miss Harper guided and motivated young ladies, encouraging them to pursue excellence and to build self-esteem. Today, these young ladies are following their own paths to success and remain in contact with their role model, Minnie Harper.

While continuing to volunteer in her community, Minnie Harper again focused on her educational goals. Having completed her degree at Lenoir Community College, Minnie Harper went on to obtain a bachelor of science degree in social work from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC.

After she graduated as a member of the National Honor Society, Minnie Harper was accepted to the East Carolina University masters program in social work. Before she could obtain her masters degree, sadly, yet another tragedy struck Minnie Harper's life.

A fire in her parents' home left her with second- and third-degree burns over 40 percent of her body. The accident also left her with severe facial damage, the loss of two fingers, and a permanent lung condition.

Ever optimistic, even after the tragic fire, Minnie Harper said, and I quote again, Mr. Speaker, "God has not given me any more than I can bear."

Minnie Harper continued with her selfless work. Incredibly, she has remained active in the community, helping others and setting an excellent example for all Americans, both young and old.

In December 1995, North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt appointed Minnie Harper to the North Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council. In this capacity she works to raise awareness of the Independent Living Rehabilitation Program and ensures that handicapped citizens are recognized for the work they do.

Minnie Harper is a champion for the rights of handicapped citizens, both by giving them the spiritual and emotional support and encouragement she is famous for and by helping to make lawmakers aware of their needs.

I have truly been inspired by the story of Minnie Harper. Despite extraordinary unfortunate circumstances, Minnie Harper has not asked for handouts. Nor has she ever uttered the words "I cannot." She has persevered, she has succeeded, and she has helped others along the way with her dedication to her church, her family, her friends, and her community.

Minnie Harper has not complained about her hardships, but has always held a positive attitude and has given constant credit to God for giving her the strength to carry on. I admire Minnie Harper for her courage and her strength, and I thank her for serving as a role model to all who hear her incredible story.

Mr. Speaker, citizens like Minnie Harper truly make America great.