

Taylor (NC)	Velazquez	Wexler
Thomas	Walsh	Weygand
Thompson	Wamp	White
Thornberry	Waters	Whitfield
Thune	Watkins	Wicker
Thurman	Watt (NC)	Wise
Tiahrt	Watts (OK)	Wolf
Traficant	Weldon (FL)	Wynn
Turner	Weldon (PA)	Young (FL)
Upton	Weller	

## NOT VOTING—21

Allen	Forbes	Sabo
Bonilla	Gonzalez	Sanders
Bono	Hall (OH)	Schiff
Buyer	Hastings (FL)	Smith (MI)
Doolittle	Hunter	Woolsey
Fawell	McHale	Yates
Foglietta	Pelosi	Young (AK)

□ 1716

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROCEDURES FOR DEBATE TONIGHT ON H.R. 2267, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

(Mr. ROGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, shortly we will be calling up the appropriations bill for the Commerce, Justice, and State Departments when we go into the Committee of the Whole. It is our intention, and we have conferred with the minority on this point, it is our intention to have general debate tonight, and debate the Hyde amendment to title 6, but postpone any vote on that matter until tomorrow. Then we would read through title I of the bill and debate any amendments thereto until 9 o'clock, or if we finish title I before 9 o'clock, stop at the conclusion of title I, roll any votes that may occur to title I until tomorrow, and then pass over any amendments in title I dealing with Legal Services Corporation until tomorrow. We would debate and vote LSC tomorrow.

That is our general intention, and I have conferred with my dear colleague, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. MOLLOHAN], the ranking member of the subcommittee, and if he would like to discuss it, I will yield to him at this time.

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

Mr. ROGERS. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, we have discussed this. I think it is a good way to proceed tonight, and I have no objection.

Mr. ROGERS. So, Mr. Speaker, Members would be advised that barring a motion to adjourn or some such very important matter there would be no further votes this evening.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would continue to yield, it is my understanding that after general debate the gentleman from Kentucky

will be asking unanimous consent to pass over Legal Services?

Mr. ROGERS. That is correct, until tomorrow or later in the bill, to take it out of order.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And we consider Mr. HYDE's amendment and not vote on it until tomorrow?

Mr. ROGERS. I am sorry; I did not hear the gentleman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. We would consider Mr. HYDE's amendment tonight.

Mr. ROGERS. We would consider Mr. HYDE's amendment tonight but roll any vote on that until tomorrow.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. LAHOOD]. Pursuant to House Resolution 239 and rule XXIII, 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. 2267.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Washington [Mr. HASTINGS] as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT] to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1722

## 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. 2267) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Chairman pro tempore, in the chair.

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 Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS] and the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. MOLLOHAN] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS].

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

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2267, the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998, is the centerpiece of action by the Congress this year to: First, continue the war on crime and drugs; second, make our neighborhoods safer for families and children; third, bring our borders under control; and fourth, address skyrocketing rate of juvenile crime with an aggressive new initiative in this bill.

Mr. Chairman, the determination of this Nation to reduce crime is paying off. The Nation's crime rate today is lower than any time since 1985. In 1996 serious reported crime in the United States declined 3 percent, including an 11 percent decline in murder rates.

The Congress deserves substantial credit for beginning to turn the corner on crime after many years of effort. Over the past 2 fiscal years, this subcommittee and the Congress have increased funding for law enforcement programs by \$4.5 billion, a 30 percent increase, and this year we redouble those efforts.

Overall, our bill provides \$31.7 billion. That is an increase of \$750 million or 3 percent over fiscal 1997 in discretionary spending, and another \$750 million from the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund. But 90 percent of the increase in this bill is for law enforcement programs.

For the Department of Justice the bill provides \$17.6 billion, an increase of \$1.2 billion, 7 percent over current year, \$339 million more than was requested by the administration for law enforcement. We provide an increase of \$726 million for State and local law enforcement, \$738 million more than the President asked of us.

We restore the Local Law Enforcement block grant at \$523 million to provide direct funding to our communities for their most pressing needs. The President proposed to eliminate it. We disagreed.

This bill attacks the growing problem of juvenile crime, a crisis that must be addressed by the country. Twenty percent of those arrested for violent crime are less than 18 years of age, 70 percent higher than it was 10 years ago. Weapons offenses and homicides are two of the fastest growing crimes committed by juveniles.

This bill faces that issue straight on. We include a total of \$538 million for new juvenile crime initiatives. We provide \$300 million for new juvenile crime block grants, compared to \$150 million requested by the White House to fund H.R. 3 that passed the House by a 2 to 1 margin. Another \$238 million in the bill is for juvenile crime prevention programs, \$64 million over last year, \$7 million more than we were requested, and that funds H.R. 1818, the bipartisan bill that passed the House in July, an initiative again of the Congress.

For violence against women programs we provide \$306 million. That is a \$109 million increase over current spending, \$57 million more than the President requested.

For the war on drugs we provide a \$200 million increase, including a \$134 million increase for the Drug Enforcement Administration; a \$34 million initiative in the Caribbean, a main route into our Nation from South America of hard drugs; a \$51 million increase for the Southwest border, the other big avenue for drugs coming into our country; and \$46 million to combat heroin and the reemergence of methamphetamines as a scourge on our young people.

To control our borders that are still allowing 300,000 more illegal immigrants into the country each year, we provide a \$272 million increase for the