

from 440,000 to 450,000 families that receive assisted housing support with this particular vote. That is what this vote will do. Yes, it will do some good in terms of the disaster assistance that we need in the Northwest and in the Pacific and with regards to the Northeast types of problems, but it, nevertheless, takes that money away from many communities across this country that need the money in terms of housing.

We are not facing up to it. No budget resolution this year, no issue, no blueprint is in place. And the fact is good intentions are fine to have, but they are not going to meet the tangible needs that we have with regards to housing. The fact is that we should not take this vote on a supplemental appropriation denying the types of funds that are necessary for the permanent assisted housing fund. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and in opposition to the bill, H.R. 3579, the emergency supplemental bill.

I, in particular, want to speak to my concerns about the \$2.3 billion in offsets for emergency funding for section 8 housing. There are people across this country who depend on section 8 housing for the roof over their heads; and when they learn that Congress would take action to take money away from that program next year, this will have a destabilizing effect on many households, because people rely on our good sense and our goodwill and our humanity to sustain them.

I also want to express my concern that we would have on one hand the offsets put in there and at the same time put in there the money for Bosnia. It is really giving people a cruel choice. We know the suffering and the inhumanity that has been expressed in Bosnia and how people have heroically tried to come back from it, and at the same time we are being told to make a choice between that, helping them and people who live in section 8 housing in this country.

I, regretfully, am going to have to vote against this bill, but I think that when similar bills come to this House, we ought not use it as a moment to prey on the disadvantaged, to destabilize their household, and to tell them even for a minute that America does not care about their concerns.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no request for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that I mentioned early on where I heaped praise on the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON) chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

And, incidentally, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON) is sit-

ting next to me here; and for all my colleagues who may not know, today is his birthday. And I told him earlier that when I grow up, I want to be just like him.

But seriously, this measure before us has disaster in it. I have been here for 20 years, and we in the north country of New York State do not have to ask for aid like this very often. We do not have tornadoes. We do not have hurricanes. We do not have earthquakes. Sometimes we have some floods, we have terrible snowstorms, but we are geared up to handle those.

We have always welcomed the opportunity to help people in other parts of the country. So today they are helping us in the north country; and believe me, our people really appreciate it.

I hope everybody votes on the rule and the bill.

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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3579, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCISSIONS ACT

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the rule, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3579) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 416, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see prior proceedings of the House of today.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3579 and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. LIVINGSTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the floor the conference report on the Fiscal Year 1998 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill (H.R. 3579). This conference report includes \$2.859 billion in emergency defense supplemental appropriations to provide for the peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Iraq and provide additional support for intelligence activities. It also provides \$2.588 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters that have occurred this winter and spring all over the country. There is also \$142 million in non-emergency supplemental appropriations mostly to help in fixing the "year 2000" computer problem in some of our agencies. Finally, there is a \$550 million appropriation for Veterans Compensation and Pensions in this bill as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that this conference report get passed today. The Secretary of Defense will be forced to issue furlough notices to some DOD employees if this bill does not reach the President's desk tomorrow. The extraordinary number of recent severe weather episodes is causing emergency accounts to be exhausted. Farmers, dairymen, road repairs, park repairs, flood control facility repairs, reforestation, utility repairs, and people who have had their place of residence damaged all are in dire need of these emergency supplemental appropriations.

I would like to point out that the emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from national disasters and the non-emergency supplemental appropriations are, and I stress, are fully offset. We will hear concern expressed today about one of the rescissions used to pay for this emergency spending. This is the excess section 8 housing reserve rescission, as was mentioned on the floor previously during consideration of the rule.

The excess section 8 housing reserves that will be rescinded are unnecessary, stress "unnecessary," during the remaining portion of the current fiscal year. Currently, there are \$3.6 billion in excess section 8 housing reserve funds that will not be needed this year. The General Accounting Office identified excess funds when it reviewed the Department of Housing and Urban Development's various section 8 housing accounts at the request of the Committee on Appropriations.

Since 1997, HUD and GAO have found more than \$9.9 billion in excess section 8 housing funds. Of that amount, \$2.2 billion is being utilized for contingencies, and Congress has already rescinded \$4.2 billion. Subtracting these amounts from \$9.9 billion leaves a current balance of \$3.6 billion in excess, stress "excess," section 8 housing reserves.