

that I am from, Tracy, California. The city and the school district have come up with a very innovative idea, and that is to create a school that will be a high-technology school that will take all the way from kindergarten through post-secondary education.

Madam Speaker, as part of that, a small portion of this land would also be dedicated for economic development. That small portion of this land that is dedicated to economic development will be targeted toward high-technology firms, which will have the ability to come in and set up a cooperative effort with the school district so that the kids that are graduated from this school, with the vocational education that they need, can go directly from education into working for these high-technology firms. It is an innovative idea. It is something that a lot of people have worked extremely hard on in coming up with this plan.

But once they came up with the plan for what they were going to do, they needed a site to locate that school. This particular site is located just on the outskirts of town. It is currently located in an area that is zoned either as industrial or residential. It is located right across the street from a major residential development which is planned for the future. It is an ideal site for this kind of a high-technology school to be located. It is also very near the new rail system that is being put in where people will be commuting from the Central Valley in California over to the Bay area. So as far as a transportation corridor, it is ideally located for a post-secondary educational facility, as well as for the needs of the high schools in the area.

Madam Speaker, the city has estimated that over the next 12 years, there is going to be a need for two additional high schools to be built in the City of Tracy. This will just be one of those additional high schools.

I think what we have put together is a plan that is a win-win for everyone. It is creating tax revenue for the local city. It is giving the city a facility for economic development, as well as addressing the needs of our kids in the Federal Government providing just the land for a site for a school system. So, it is very positive. I think it is a win-win situation for everybody.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member of the subcommittee who worked with me in putting together this legislation. They were invaluable in trying to negotiate something that was fair to the Federal taxpayer as well as fair to the local school district and local city. I thank them for all the hard work they put in.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), the ranking member, could not be here at this time. I am pleased to note that the minority has worked with the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and with the

majority on this matter of special concern to the gentleman, and we have no objections to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE IS IN CRISIS DUE TO LABOR SHORTAGE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress from the San Joaquin Valley of California, I am proud to represent the two largest agricultural producing counties in the United States. Currently, a severe shortage of labor is raising concern over the economic future of the agriculture community throughout California. Agricultural production is nearly a \$25 billion industry in the state, and California has the largest agricultural economy in the nation. Right now, farmers are competing for the same scarce labor force as the raisin, table and wine grape harvest is entering its peak and tree fruit in the state of Washington and are in need of labor. California has not seen a labor shortage of this magnitude since World War II.

The agricultural community has worked with numerous San Joaquin Valley Social Services Departments and Employment Development Departments to provide needed labor from individuals who are unemployed or entering the workforce after receiving welfare. Such actions have failed to supply adequate labor for harvest. Agricultural groups in Fresno, California are currently looking into the feasibility of a program through the Fresno County Sheriff's office to allow agriculture to use the labor involved with work furlough programs, community service, and inmate work projects.

The agricultural labor situation can be alleviated through action by the federal government. Under a reformed agricultural worker program, substantial opportunities will be given to foreign workers who can often earn significantly more in the U.S. than in their own country. Such reform reduces illegal immigration by creating a streamlined process to temporarily legalize individuals who choose to work in the agricultural sector of the U.S.

I am working to include the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act, authorized by Senator GORDON SMITH (R-OR), in the final conference language of the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriations measure. The act was approved as an amendment to S. 2260, the Senate Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriations bill. It passed by a bipartisan vote of 68-31 in the Senate. Related House legislation did not contain the agricultural worker provision. The Senate measure establishes a national registry within the Department of Labor to track agricultural job seekers. Employers are required to first hire domestic workers from the registry and are able to hire foreign workers if domestic workers are not available. Housing or a housing allowance must be provided by growers, and the prevailing wage rate must be paid. The prevailing wage rate is the mid-point of all wages earned, and it is always higher than the minimum wage.

On behalf of the farmers in the San Joaquin Valley in California, I urge the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary conferees to include the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act in the final bill. I also strongly encourage all members of the House to support its passage. A stable, reliable and affordable food supply is dependent upon Congressional approval of this measure.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2508, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2508, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1715

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 5 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

S. 2206, by the yeas and the nays;.

House Concurrent Resolution 304, by the yeas and nays;.

House Concurrent Resolution 254, by the yeas and nays; and.

House Concurrent Resolution 185, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.