

As I described, the legislation here protects the interest of the Coast Guard, it protects the interest of the Park Service, it calls on the town to make sure that it meets all the requirements that the GSA might put on the land when it is transferred. The Park Service has previously written a letter to the State that states, "We have reviewed the preliminary information submitted by your office regarding these proposed conversions and have no objection."

Now, that is not the be all and end all from the administration, but it is a clear example or clear point that the issues were raised by the town and the State as early as 1995; that they have tried to make sure that everyone has had the information that they need throughout the entire process.

I think what we have here is an opportunity to do the right thing for the town, to transfer 2 acres, not 200 acres as the legislation that the committee dealt with for California was done just a month ago, but just 2 acres so that the people in the town of New Castle can have peace of mind.

We have moved this legislation through the subcommittee. We have tried to address the concerns of the minority. We have had the opportunity to meet with minority and majority staff and other representatives from the administration.

I am disappointed that the administration sent over a fax today, October 5, saying that they have decided to oppose the bill. They could not send that a week ago apparently. They could not send it 2 weeks ago. They could not send it 2 years ago when the Park Service was saying that they have no objection. I am disappointed that we have received such a late response at such a late date, but I think in some ways that just points to the need for this body to do whatever it can to move the legislation forward on behalf of the people of the State of New Hampshire.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4614, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION REFORM ACT OF 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R.

930) to require Federal employees to use Federal travel charge cards for all payments of expenses of official Government travel, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish requirements for prepayment audits of Federal agency transportation expenses, to authorize reimbursement of Federal agency employees for taxes incurred on travel or transportation reimbursements, and to authorize test programs for the payment of Federal employee travel expenses and relocation expenses.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 2, line 5, strike out "1997" and insert "1998".

Page 3, after line 4 insert:

(b) AGENCY EXEMPTION.—The head of a Federal agency or the designee of such head may exempt any payment, person, type or class of payments, or type or class of agency personnel from subsection (a) if the agency head or the designee determines the exemption to be necessary in the interest of the agency. Not later than 30 days after granting such an exemption, the head of such agency or the designee shall notify the Administrator of General Services in writing of such exemption stating the reasons for the exemption.

Page 3, line 5, strike out "(b)" and insert "(c)".

Page 3, line 22, strike out "(c)" and insert "(d)".

Page 5, line 9, strike out "(d)" and insert "(e)".

Page 5, line 20, strike out "(c)" and insert "(d)".

Page 6, line 2, strike out "(c)" and insert "(d)".

Page 6, line 11, strike out "(e)" and insert "(f)".

Page 7, after line 5 insert:

(g) REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES.—In accordance with regulations prescribed by the Administrator of General Services, the head of an agency shall ensure that the agency reimburses an employee who submits a proper voucher for allowable travel expenses in accordance with applicable travel regulations within 30 days after submission of the voucher. If an agency fails to reimburse an employee who has submitted a proper voucher within 30 days after submission of the voucher, the agency shall pay the employee a late payment fee as prescribed by the Administrator.

Page 14, line 11, strike out "1997" and insert "1998".

Page 15, line 23, strike out "1997" and insert "1998".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 930, the Travel and Transportation Reform Act, was passed by this House in April of 1997. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this legislation will save approximately \$100 million in discretionary savings over 5 years by making agency travel and transportation systems more efficient.

One important change made by the bill deals with the taxes that are levied by State and local governments on

Federal travelers. Such taxes can amount to hundreds of dollars per trip. Unofficial OMB estimates are that travelers pay perhaps \$350 million in taxes.

Agencies should consider using centrally billed credit card accounts and other automated reservation billing and paying systems to avoid such charges. The solution would be best for both the employees and the Federal Government.

The Senate made a few changes in H.R. 930. The first change authorized additional exemptions from the requirement that agency personnel use the credit card when traveling on official government business. The other change authorized agencies to pay the interest charge to employees when the agency is late in reimbursing the travel expenses incurred by a particular employee. I think many of us have had that experience.

These changes are not controversial. I urge their support by my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 930, as amended.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) for working closely with the minority in drafting this bill and bringing it to this point. The other body has made some minor but common-sense changes to the House-passed legislation, and I support its current form and urge passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) for his helpfulness on this matter, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) for the chance to work with him, and I, too, yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 930.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES INVENTORY REFORM ACT OF 1998

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 314) to provide a process for identifying the functions of the Federal Government that are not inherently governmental functions, and for other purposes.