S. 2094 gives the Service the opportunity to sell certain wildlife goods now in storage through a public auction process. These auctions would only sell those goods that are legal to possess, and no items derived from endangered or threatened species would be available. By doing this, the stockpile will be reduced, better storage techniques would be implemented, and programs, like Cargo for Conservation, could be expanded to help educate thousands of additional students each year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sound piece of legislation and I compliment the author, Senator WAYNE ALLARD of Colorado, for his outstanding leadership in this matter. I urge an ''aye'' vote on S. 2094.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation. It is supported by the administration, and I want to thank Senator KEMPTHORNE and Senator CRAIG and the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) for their work. I am aware of no controversy.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2505.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2505, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

FISH AND WILDLIFE REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2094) to amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 to enable the Secretary of the Interior to more effectively use the proceeds of sales of certain items.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2094

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Fish and Wildlife Revenue Enhancement Act of 1998''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (referred to in this Act as the ''Service'')—

(A) is responsible for storage and disposal of items derived from fish, wildlife, and plants, including eagles and eagle parts, and other items that have become the property of the United States through abandonment or forfeiture under applicable laws relating to fish, wildlife, or plants;

(B) distributes many of those items for educational and scientific uses and for religious purposes of Native Americans; and

(C) unless otherwise prohibited by law, may dispose of some of those items by sale, except items derived from endangered or threatened species, marine mammals, and migratory birds;

(2) under law in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, the revenue from sale of abandoned items is not available to the Service, although approximately 90 percent of the items in possession of the Service have been abandoned; and

(3) making revenue from the sale of abandoned items available to the Service will enable the Service—

(A) to cover costs incurred in shipping, storing, and disposing of items derived from fish, wildlife, and plants; and

(B) to make more extensive distributions of those items for educational, scientific, and Native American religious purposes.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to make proceeds from sales of abandoned items derived from fish, wildlife, and plants available to the Service and to authorize the use of those proceeds to cover costs incurred in shipping, storing, and disposing of those items.

SEC. 3. USE OF PROCEEDS OF CERTAIN SALES.

Section 3(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 742*l*(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), notwithstanding''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) PROHIBITION ON SALE OF CERTAIN ITEMS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce may not sell any species of fish, wildlife, or plant, or derivative thereof, for which the sale is prohibited by another Federal law.

''(3) USE OF REVENUES.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce may each expend any revenues received from the disposal of items under paragraph (1), and all sums referred to in the first sentence of section 11(d) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1540(d)) and the first sentence of section 6(d) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3375(d))—

''(A) to make payments in accordance with those sections; and

''(B) to pay costs associated with—

''(i) shipping items referred to in paragraph (1) to and from the place of storage, sale, or temporary or final disposal, including temporary or permanent loan;

''(ii) storage of the items, including inventory of, and security for, the items;

''(iii) appraisal of the items;

''(iv) sale or other disposal of the items in accordance with applicable law, including auctioneer commissions and related expenses;

''(v) payment of any valid liens or other encumbrances on the items and payment for other measures required to clear title to the items; and

''(vi) in the case of the Secretary of the Interior only, processing and shipping of eagles and other migratory birds, and parts of migratory birds, for Native American religious purposes.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present the House S. 2094, the Fish and Wildlife Revenue Enhancement Act. This bill would amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 to enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to utilize funds obtained from the sale of certain abandoned or forfeited products.

Mr. Speaker, I know of no controversy with regard to this bill. I, therefore, will ask that the balance of my statement be placed in the RECORD.

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

Mr MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2094. It is a good government bill and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS), who has authored the House bill, deserves credit for his diligence and devotion for getting this legislation passed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2094. This is simply a good Government bill. It allows the Fish and Wildlife Service to auction nonendangered wildlife products that have been confiscated by wildlife agents or the customs service for various reasons. The bill enables the proceeds of those sales to be used to cover the costs of shipping, storing, and disposing of confiscated wildlife products, and to facilitate the distribution of such products for educational or scientific purposes, or for Native American religious purposes.

Sadly, each year millions of dollars in illegal wildlife products are confiscated at our borders. This bill takes these lemons and makes lemonade by allowing some of these products to be used to raise revenue to enhance wildlife awareness and education, as well as to pay the more mundane costs of administering confiscated goods.

This is good legislation made better by the other body, whose amendment ensures that no products whose sale is otherwise prohibited by Federal law may be sold pursuant to this legislation.

The gentleman from Colorado, Mr. SKAGGS, who authored the House bill, deserves credit for his diligence and devotion to getting this legislation passed. This bill is as unassuming and effective and its House sponsor and I urge the House to support its passage.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2094.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2094, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title.

H.J. Res. 133. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 703 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 903, as amended by Section 103 of Public Law 103–296, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member to the Social Security Advisory Board to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Ms. Jo Anne Barnhart, Arlington, Virginia.

There was no objection.

SUPPORT THE U.S. STEEL JOBS PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I am introducing today the U.S. Steel Jobs Protection Act, a bill with already 10 bipartisan cosponsors. This bill imposes an immediate 1-year ban on hot-rolled steel from Japan, Brazil, and Russia.

Our trade partners, knowing the slowness of the petition process, have dumped millions of tons of below-cost steel on the U.S. market. Thousands of permanent U.S. jobs will be lost by the time the petition process concludes.

The U.S. steel industry mass modernized and cut production man-hours per ton from 10 to three. This strong, by temporary, action must be taken if we are to be serious about helping families who work for the steel industry.

We urge support for the bill and strongly urge the President to take immediate action to help America's steelworkers.

Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing ''The U.S. Steel Jobs Protection Act,'' a bill with ten bipartisan cosponsors. Currently, U.S. steel producers are in a crisis due to outrageously unfair conditions. Membership in the World Trade Organization, and signing onto the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) implies a willingness to abide by fair trading practices in order to avoid what some call trade wars.

Unfortunately, a number of countries experiencing severe financial crisis have knowingly allowed their steel companies to export steel to the United States at a cost far below their own domestic market price or even below the cost of production. While I understand the need for income by these countries, I do not condone what at best is a reckless disregard for the effect that such exports have on workers in our steel industry.

Since the 1980's, our steel industry has modernized and streamlined. In 1982, it cost roughly 10 man hours per ton to produce U.S. steel. In 1998, the average is below 4 MHPT. The U.S. steel industry has invested over $50 billion in steel plant modernization over the past two decades. The industry employed 425,000 in 1980, and 160,000 in 1998. The U.S. steel industry forecasts that imports of hot-rolled steel in 1998 will be over 500 percent of that imported in 1995. According to industry analysts, some foreign steel is being sold at one-third the cost of production, or more. Clearly, the U.S. steel industry has done its part.

No business can long withstand that kind of assault. I wish that a gentle call to our foreign trading partners for reasonable action would suffice. I am afraid that we are way beyond that point, however. U.S. companies and unions filing a petition for relief from unfair trade practices know that they must wait until severe financial damage is evident for their petition to be acted upon with any urgency. Even then, the best they can hope for is a partial resolution in 160 days. Such cases usually take 12 to 18 months. The current crisis in the steel industry is too great for that kind of wait.

My bill imposes an immediate, temporary moratorium on the further import of certain steel products from three countries—Japan, Russia, and Brazil—for 1 year. Upon completion of the case filed September 30, 1998, duties may be assessed on all steel dumped at a below-cost price retroactive to one year prior the filing of the petition. Should this bill become law, that 1-year retroactive aspect would also apply to any other petitions naming other countries engaged in similar steel-dumping practices.

I realize that there are some concerns about our obligations under the GATT agreements and as a member of the WTO. I agree that we should keep our word and treat all of our trading partners fairly. I also believe that our first obligation as Members of the federal government is to protect the citizens of the United States. What we are currently experiencing is not a minor misunderstanding, or a cultural difference in economic practices. We are the victim of a deliberate action which is harming our domestic steel industry.

Not defending ourselves in this situation is akin to unilateral disarmament while being fired upon. My suggestion of a temporary import ban is not a strike back; it is a recovery period from a battle in which we are wounded. If you believe that membership in the WTO and accepting GATT overrides all U.S. federal laws, historical precedents, constitutional authority, and the moral duty of the federal government to its citizens, I wish you would please come to Gadsden, Alabama and explain that to the 150 or so families who have lost their income, or will lose it within a few weeks.

Please explain to the remaining 2000+ steel industry employees that they must sacrifice their jobs to outrageously unfair trade practices so that we can stabilize the governments and economies of other nations. I don't think they will understand. Nor, frankly, will I.

If our neighbors, our foreign allies need help, let us discuss in a reasonable and straightforward manner on this House floor a plan specific to each country regarding how we might help them—and by that I do not mean throwing away billions of dollars to the IMF board, who have no idea where billions of dollars recently sent to Russia have ended up.

I would like to see this bill become law. I would like to see the President take a serious look at his authority under various U.S. trade laws and take action himself to impose a temporary import ban so that the industry might have a period in which to recover. If our trading partners do not like these suggestions, the solution is easy. Let them admit to the wrongness of their actions, and present to the President a serious plan for halting or slowing imports and making reparations directly to the U.S. steel industry.

The United States of America is strong, and generous. Let us help our friends abroad, but let us stop sacrificing U.S. jobs in what amounts to an unfunded, unauthorized, program of foreign aid.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). 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.

Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PITTS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) is recognized for 5 minutes.