

Rogan
Smith (MI)

Stupak
Taylor (MS)

Vento
Weller

□ 1418

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I was unavoidably detained in my home district, and therefore, I was unable to be present on the House floor during votes. Had I been here I would have voted "aye" on roll-call votes 488, 489, 490, 491 and 492.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5194

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the name of the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. DANNER) be omitted as a cosponsor of H.R. 5194, which is my bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 591, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 591 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 591

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 109) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY); pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 591 is a closed rule providing for the consideration of H.J. Res. 109, a resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001.

H.Res. 591 provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by

the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, as is the right of minority.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, the current fiscal year expires at the end of the day on Saturday, and a continuing resolution is necessary to keep the government operating while Congress completes consideration of the remaining appropriations bills. This continuing resolution would fund ongoing activities until October 6 using fiscal year 2000 funding rates. In addition, the joint resolution includes provisions for certain anomalies which impact a small number of accounts.

Mr. Speaker, under both Democrat and Republican majorities, Congress has regularly utilized continuing resolutions as a method of keeping the government running while appropriations and negotiations continue. Only three times in the last 21 years has Congress passed all of the appropriations bills by the fiscal deadline. Contrary to what some might contend, the House has been diligent in doing the people's business. In fact, the House has already passed all 13 appropriations bills.

As we continue our bipartisan effort to complete the appropriations process as soon as possible, we remain focused on the priorities most important to working Americans, paying off the national debt, providing prescription drugs to seniors, and educating our children.

We have made real progress on all of these fronts, passing the Debt Relief Lock-box Reconciliation Act that dedicates 90 percent of next year's surplus to paying off the national debt, the Medicare Prescription 2000 Act, the Education Flexibility Act, and the Academic Achievement for All Act.

Mr. Speaker, the fiscal discipline of the Republican Congress has resulted in the payoff of \$350 billion worth of debt and the locking away of 100 percent of the Social Security and Medicare surplus. Despite the efforts of the President and some of the Minority, we are committed to building on this success by passing fair and fiscally responsible appropriations bills. I am confident that H.J. Res. 109 will give us the time we need to get the job done.

This rule was unanimously approved by the Committee on Rules yesterday. I urge my colleague to support it so we may proceed with the general debate and consideration of this bill.

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER), my dear friend, for yielding me the customary half hour; and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional appropriations process has a long, long way to go. In the beginning of this session, my Republican colleagues promised to finish all of the appropriations

bills on time. They said they did not want to shut the government down again. They said that they understood that October 1 was the deadline for these appropriation bills.

But even though it is nearly October, only two of the 13 appropriation bills have been signed into law, and the rest are in various stages of disarray. Four conference reports have yet to pass either the House or the Senate. They are: Transportation, Labor, Health and Human Services, Interior, and Energy and Water. Six appropriation bills have not even gone to conference: Agriculture, VA-HUD, Commerce, Justice, State, Foreign Operations, Treasury-Postal, or D.C. The Legislative Branch conference report failed in the Senate last week by a vote of 69 to 28.

Mr. Speaker, despite the enormous amount of unfinished appropriations work, the last 3 weeks we have done virtually nothing here on the House floor except rename a couple of post offices.

Mr. Speaker, time is running out. So despite the good intentions in the beginning of the session, today the House is considering the first of what promises to be many continuing resolutions.

Today's continuing resolution will keep the Federal Government open until October 6, despite the unfinished work. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of work to be done, and I think we have got to address it.

I will support this continuing resolution because we need it to get these bills finished, but I would remind my colleagues that we have miles and miles to go before we sleep. Eleven appropriation bills are just not going to pass by themselves overnight.

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that it takes two to fight. Well, it takes two to govern as well. Sadly, many of my Democratic friends have decided it is not in their best interest, not in their party's interest to help us govern for America, even though Speaker HASTERT daily extends his hand, is willing to meet more than halfway to solve America's problems.

I have a simple request to my Democratic colleagues: Put America ahead of your ambitions. Set aside just for a few days your all-consuming drive to be in power. For the sake of our seniors, work with us to pass a prescription drug plan for the sickest and the poorest of our elderly now, not next year or 10 years in the future.

For the sake of our children, work with us to have an education system that is second to none, where our quick learners are not forgotten, where our slow learners are not left behind. For the sake of our grandchildren, work with us to pay down the debt so they do not have a crushing burden that they do not deserve on them. I do not think that is too much to ask.