□ 1654

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 146, I was unavoidably detained, and I missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 146 on H. Res. 605, recognizing the importance of increasing awareness about autism, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, personal reasons prevent me from being present for legislative business scheduled after 3 p.m. today, Wednesday, May 5, 2004. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on the motion to instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 95 (rollcall No. 145); and ''yea'' on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 605, a resolution recognizing the importance of increasing awareness of autism (rollcall No. 146).

EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR THE INTELSAT INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 2315) to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to extend the deadline for the INTELSAT initial public offering, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2315

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF IPO DEADLINE.

Section 621(5)(A)(i) of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 763(5)(A)(i)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''December 31, 2003,'' and inserting ''June 30, 2005,''; and

(2) by striking ''June 30, 2004;'' and inserting ''December 31, 2005;''.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I support S. 2315, a bill that would extend the deadline for the INTELSAT initial public offering (IPO).

During debate on the ORBIT Act several years ago, I voiced concerns regarding the specific licensing criteria that INTELSAT and Inmarsat were required to meet to gain access to the U.S. telecommunications market. One provision required each company to conduct an initial public offering by a date certain. I would prefer that the Government not be in the business of requiring companies to go public. At the very least, however, the Government should not be forcing companies to go public when market conditions are unfavorable.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what is now happening, unless we approve the bill before us. The ORBIT Act requires INTELSAT to complete its IPO by June 30—just two short months away. And while we all hope that our economy is on the upswing by then, forcing INTELSAT to conduct an IPO next month is bad policy and will cost INTELSAT's owners, including many U.S. investors, hundreds of millions of dollars.

The bill before us today, S. 2315, amends the Communications Satellite Act to give INTELSAT an additional year to conduct its IPO. Although I would prefer that this bill be addressed through regular order, time is short. A one-year extension is what has passed in the other body, and, in the interest of time, we should pass this bill and allow INTELSAT another year to conduct its IPO.

The satellite marketplace has changed significantly from when the ORBIT Act became law, and the repeated Congressional action to postpone the Act's IPO requirements raises serious questions about whether additional changes need to be made to the Act to ensure that it addresses current market conditions. Accordingly, I hope that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing in the near future on the Act's relevance and effect on today's satellite marketplace.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2315, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

NEW YORK CITY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2771) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize the New York City Watershed Protection Program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2771

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

SECTION 1. NEW YORK CITY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Section 1443(d)(4) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–2(d)(4)) is amended by striking ''1997 through 2003'' and inserting ''2003 through 2010''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to recognize my subcommittee vice chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), for the fine work that he has done on this bill.

The New York Watershed Protection Program reauthorization is bipartisan legislation with 28 cosponsors, including both the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) who are members of our full committee. In fact, the bill has 19 Democrats as cosponsors and 12 Republicans. This bill is a perfect example of fair-minded people from all parts of the political spectrum coming together to support legislation that is good for the environment.

The New York City Watershed covers an area of over 1,900 square miles in the Catskill Mountains and the Hudson River Valley. The watershed is divided into two reservoir systems, the Catskill/Delaware watershed and the Croton watershed. Together, the two reservoir systems deliver approximately 1.4 billion gallons of water every day to nearly 9 million people in the New York City area.

In December 1993, EPA concluded that New York City was able to avoid filtration of its drinking water and assigned New York over 150 conditions relating to watershed protection, monitoring, and studies. Unfortunately, New York City met several key roadblocks to implementation of these requirements, including not being able to obtain a land acquisition permit or approval of revised watershed regulations from the State of New York.

Congress addressed this problem in Section 128 of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, when the New York City Watershed Protection Program was first enacted. The program authorized $15 million per year for fiscal years 1997 to 2003 for EPA to provide matching grants to the State of New York for approved demonstration grants projects that were part of New York's watershed and source water protection program.

In practice, this has been a successful program and has saved the economic vitality and the environmental quality of upstate New York communities in the watershed region, while also saving American taxpayers billions of dollars that would otherwise be necessary to build water filtration systems. Witnesses at our subcommittee hearing on this bill all spoke highly of this program, and they need to see it fully extended.

Of note, EPA Administrator Leavitt has also testified that one way to reduce the financial needs of drinking