

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Pursuant to House Resolution 585, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. STUMP. 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. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 486]

YEAS—411

Abercrombie	Chabot	Fossella
Ackerman	Chambliss	Fowler
Aderholt	Chenoweth-Hage	Frank (MA)
Allen	Clayton	Franks (NJ)
Andrews	Clement	Frelinghuysen
Archer	Clyburn	Gallegly
Armey	Coble	Ganske
Baca	Coburn	Gejdenson
Bachus	Collins	Gekas
Baird	Combust	Gephardt
Baker	Condit	Gibbons
Baldacci	Conyers	Gilchrest
Baldwin	Cook	Gillmor
Ballenger	Cooksey	Gilman
Barcia	Costello	Gonzalez
Barr	Cox	McDermott
Barrett (NE)	Coyne	McGovern
Barrett (WI)	Cramer	McHugh
Bartlett	Crane	McIntyre
Barton	Crowley	McKeon
Bass	Cubin	McKinney
Becerra	Cummings	McNulty
Bentsen	Cunningham	Meehan
Bereuter	Davis (FL)	Meek (FL)
Berkley	Davis (IL)	Meeks (NY)
Berman	Davis (VA)	Menendez
Berry	Deal	Mica
Biggert	DeFazio	Millender-
Bilbray	DeGette	McDonald
Bilirakis	Delahunt	Miller (FL)
Bishop	DeLauro	Miller, Gary
Blagojevich	DeLay	Miller, George
Bliley	DeMint	Minge
Blumenauer	Dickey	Mink
Blunt	Dicks	Moakley
Boehlert	Dingell	Mollohan
Boehner	Dixon	Moore
Bonilla	Doggett	Moran (KS)
Bonior	Doolittle	Moran (VA)
Bono	Doyle	Burton
Borski	Dreier	Graham
Boswell	Duncan	Hastings (FL)
Boucher	Dunn	Hutchinson
Boyd	Edwards	Danner
Brady (PA)	Ehlers	Deutsch
Brady (TX)	Ehrlich	Diaz-Balart
Brown (FL)	Emerson	Doolley
Brown (OH)	Engel	Frost
Bryant	English	
Burr	Eshoo	
Buyer	Etheridge	
Callahan	Evans	
Calvert	Everett	
Camp	Ewing	
Canady	Farr	
Cannon	Fattah	
Capps	Filner	
Capuano	Fletcher	
Cardin	Foley	
Carson	Forbes	
Castle	Ford	

John	Morella	Shays
Johnson (CT)	Murtha	Sherman
Johnson, E. B.	Myrick	Sherwood
Johnson, Sam	Nadler	Shimkus
Jones (NC)	Napolitano	Shows
Jones (OH)	Neal	Shuster
Kanjorski	Nethercutt	Simpson
Kaptur	Ney	Sisisky
Kasich	Northup	Skeen
Kelly	Norwood	Skelton
Kennedy	Nussle	Slaughter
Kildee	Oberstar	Smith (MI)
Kilpatrick	Obey	Smith (NJ)
Kind (WI)	Olver	Smith (TX)
King (NY)	Ortiz	Smith (WA)
Kingston	Ose	Snyder
Kleczka	Owens	Souder
Knollenberg	Oxley	Spence
Kolbe	Packard	Spratt
Kucinich	Pallone	Stabenow
Kuykendall	Pascrell	Stark
LaFalce	Pastor	Stearns
LaHood	Paul	Stenholm
Lampson	Payne	Strickland
Lantos	Pease	Stump
Largent	Pelosi	Stupak
Larson	Peterson (MN)	Sununu
Latham	Peterson (PA)	Sweeney
LaTourette	Petri	Talent
Leach	Phelps	Tancredo
Lee	Pickering	Tanner
Levin	Pickett	Tauscher
Lewis (CA)	Pitts	Tauzin
Lewis (GA)	Pombo	Taylor (MS)
Lewis (KY)	Pomeroy	Taylor (NC)
Linder	Porter	Terry
Lipinski	Portman	Thomas
LoBiondo	Price (NC)	Thompson (CA)
Lofgren	Pryce (OH)	Thompson (MS)
Lowey	Quinn	Thornberry
Lucas (KY)	Radanovich	Thune
Lucas (OK)	Rahall	Thurman
Luther	Ramstad	Tiahrt
Maloney (CT)	Rangel	Tierney
Maloney (NY)	Regula	Toomey
Manzullo	Reynolds	Towns
Markey	Riley	Trafficant
Martinez	Rivers	Turner
Mascara	Rodriguez	Udall (CO)
Matsui	Roemer	Udall (NM)
McCarthy (MO)	Rogan	Upton
McCarthy (NY)	Rogers	Velazquez
McCree	Rohrabacher	Visclosky
McDermott	Rothman	Vitter
McGovern	Roukema	Walden
McHugh	Roybal-Allard	Walsh
McIntyre	Royce	Wamp
McKeon	Rush	Waters
McKinney	Ryan (WI)	Watkins
McNulty	Ryun (KS)	Watt (NC)
Meehan	Sabo	Watts (OK)
Meek (FL)	Salmon	Weiner
Meeks (NY)	Sanchez	Weldon (FL)
Menendez	Sanders	Weldon (PA)
Mica	Sandlin	Weller
Millender-	Sanford	Weygand
McDonald	Sawyer	Whitfield
Miller (FL)	Saxton	Wicker
Miller, Gary	Scarborough	Wilson
Miller, George	Schaffer	Wise
Minge	Schakowsky	Wolf
Mink	Scott	Woolsey
Moakley	Sensenbrenner	Wu
Mollohan	Serrano	Wynn
Moore	Sessions	Young (AK)
Moran (KS)	Shadegg	Young (FL)
Moran (VA)	Shaw	

NOT VOTING—22

Burton	Graham	Metcalf
Campbell	Hastings (FL)	Reyes
Clay	Hutchinson	Ros-Lehtinen
Danner	Klink	Vento
Deutsch	Lazio	Waxman
Diaz-Balart	McCollum	Wexler
Doolley	McInnis	
Frost	McIntosh	

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Mrs. NAPOLITANO changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber today during rollcall vote No. 486, the vote on final passage of H.R. 5109, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 486.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 486, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Act, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 485, 486, I was unavoidably detained. If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 485, 486.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, I rise to inquire of the distinguished majority leader the schedule for the rest of the day, week and any other information he might want to share with us.

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's inquiry, and I know there is a great deal of interest on the part of the Members. We have just concluded our final vote for the day, but as we speak, the Interior appropriators are feverishly working to complete their work on the Interior appropriations bill. I am sure the body will join me in expressing appreciation and encouragement to the appropriators to complete that task in such a manner that will enable us to complete our consideration of that conference report tomorrow.

So that as it stands today, we are waiting upon the Interior appropriators to complete their work and we would expect to vote that bill tomorrow in time to make our regularly scheduled departure time of 2 p.m. tomorrow afternoon. I would ask the Members, of course, to be patient and to again express their appreciation for and encouragement to the appropriators as they struggle to complete this very important work and to stay in town and available for a vote on that bill which would be scheduled in the morning.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin for an inquiry or a comment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, let me simply ask of the distinguished majority leader. Obviously all of us want to get rid of as many appropriation bills as we can. We are going to have enough real

arguments on the bills where we have real differences that we ought not have arguments on bills where we may not have any real differences. But I would just like to caution, or raise one point of caution. We are going to go into conference again on the Interior bill about 2:30. We were in conference on it this morning until it was interrupted for a rollcall vote on the House floor and a leadership meeting, as I understand it. If we go back in, if everything goes well and everything is kissy-face and nobody has any problems with it, we might be able to finish by 5 o'clock or so, very optimistically speaking. But at that point it is my understanding that there is an expectation that there would then be a follow-up meeting with the White House to try to discuss the known objections that the White House has to the conference as it is being formed right now.

Right now there are at least eight items which are still considered vetoable. One is the land legacy item where we have not only a \$500 million difference but substantial differences not between the parties but between the Congress as an institution and the Presidency as an institution on how that package is to be handled.

We have considerable shortfalls in the Native American health area, which the White House is insisting be restored. We have a problem with energy conservation funds. We still have a large argument on the arts. We have had three additional riders that were added in the conference last night, the White River Forest in Colorado, the White Mountain rider in New Hampshire, and now the conferees are possibly going to also include a hard rock mining amendment.

If that is the case, then we will have matters of major controversy between the Congress and the White House that still have to be resolved. Assuming that could be done today, which is a huge assumption, and my evaluation is that there is not much chance that is going to occur in that short a period, but assuming that could happen sometime today, it will take at least 7 or 8 hours after drafting those changes to get that bill in a position where the committee will then have to do its read-out where we walk through every paragraph to make certain that the bill does what the conferees agree.

That means they will have to work all night. The earliest that they could possibly file would be about 5 or 6 in the morning. The earliest the Committee on Rules could meet would be tomorrow morning. Normal order would require a 1-day layover. And, in my view, it is highly unlikely that we are going to get there that fast. I do think if we can work out the differences, the bill could be ready for a vote on Monday. But I have very strong doubts that there is a prayer it will be ready tomorrow. And while we will be here on the Committee on Appropriations and I know the leadership will be here, I would simply ask the gentleman

what is the utility of inconveniencing other Members who could go home or do whatever else they need to do rather than holding out a smidgen of a hope that this bill could be moved up one day? In my view given the large number of controversial items hanging out there, that is not likely to happen.

I assure the gentleman I am raising this simply to try to help meet the convenience of Members who have a right to have a realistic assessment of what is likely to happen on this bill.

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Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for yielding to me.

I want to personally thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for outlining before the body the enormity of the task and the enormous amount of work that there is. And, in fact, I appreciate the Subcommittee on Interior's efforts to accomplish this work.

I think the gentleman has spoken eloquently and completely about how much good work they are doing and how important it is, and we can do nothing other than to elevate the appreciation.

I know the Members of this body will show to the members of the Subcommittee on Interior their appreciation and, in fact, to even sharpen their degree of willingness to encourage them in completing this work. But the fact remains that every Member here in this body was notified in January that on this week the House would be in session and would be available to consider these very important bills until 2 o'clock on Friday; and within the constraints then of that, due and full notification to all of us was given to plan our year, and, indeed, this week within this year.

I believe the only fair way for us to show our appreciation for the appropriators is to wait upon their work, encourage them in every way, and to be available to then take our next step in the completion of the House's consideration of that bill after what the gentleman has clearly outlined will be for today and this evening and tomorrow morning a heroic effort on their part and one we certainly will want to stand and applaud them for when we have the bill on the floor.

Mr. OBEY. If the gentleman would continue to yield.

Mr. BONIOR. I yield further to the gentleman.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I certainly would like to say it is no skin off my nose if other Members are kept here, because I am going to have to be here anyway. But I really do believe that Members need to understand that the percentage chance we have of actually having an agreed bill that is not going to be vetoed, ready for the House to vote on by tomorrow is about 3 percent.

I would note, for instance, that the National Journal indicated that last week when the House took up the NASA authorization act, it actually voted on and passed the wrong bill. It had the wrong text when we voted on it last week, and that is why we have to go through these readouts and we will be here.

We will have to go through those readouts, but I do not think it helps individual Members for them to have to be stuck in their offices when they could be doing something more useful while we are running through those readouts to make certain that that does not happen again, when, in fact, the bill could easily be ready for Monday consideration if we reach agreement on it and we would not have messed up any other Members' schedules.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would continue to yield.

Mr. BONIOR. I yield further to the gentleman.

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, I want to again affirm before the body that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has very good points in support of our commitment as a body to do the Nation's work, complete the Nation's work, and get it done as soon as is possible. I have no doubt that the gentleman from Wisconsin will be instrumental in that task, because he works in the committee to see that the work is done completely and accurately; and we appreciate the gentleman from Wisconsin for his effort.

Madam Speaker, the House will stand now in anticipation of the committee completing their work. We will continue to stay in touch with the committee as their work proceeds, and should there at any time between now and tomorrow be any information that would change the circumstances, I would be happy to come to the floor and announce it to the body. But for now, I want to thank all the Members for their cooperation, their understanding, their patience and their commitment to the Nation's work and look forward to just being on the floor and voting that bill in the morning.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.