Majority Whip

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THE HOUSE RECORD IN THE 94th CONGRESS

JOHN J. McFALL
MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

No. 5 June 28, 1976

FOURTH OF JULY ACHIEVEMENTS CHECKLIST

The 94th Congress at the 18-month mark has compiled an outstanding record of achievement. Congress overcame Administration opposition to initiate economic recovery in 1975 and to keep it moving in 1976. Congress achieved other major successes in improving the energy situation and in making the new budget process work. Achievements include:

ECONOMY: $22.8-billion tax cut and $2.9-billion jobs package in 1975 triggered national economic rebound.

TAX CUT: Congress enacted an interim tax cut extension pending final action on House-passed tax reform bill.

BUDGET: Budget Resolution sets a $413.3 billion target for fiscal 1977, sustains recovery, provides strong defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: House passed 11 of 13 regular fiscal 1977 appropriation bills in a coordinated 15-day sequence.

REVENUE SHARING: A $24.9-billion, three and three-quarter year extension of revenue sharing passed the House.

PUBLIC WORKS: Congress sent President a new $3.95-billion local public works bill that would create 350,000 jobs.

JOBS: New law funds 310,000 public service jobs, 12,400 older Americans jobs, and 888,000 summer youth jobs.

PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS: Bill to increase public service jobs to 600,000 from present 310,000 has passed House.

HIGHWAYS: New $17.6-billion, three-year federal aid-highway act will create or preserve 760,000 jobs.

RAIL REVITALIZATION: New $6.1-billion law revitalizes major rail systems and creates thousands of jobs.

FULL EMPLOYMENT: Hawkins-Humphrey Full Employment Act to cut adult unemployment to three percent has been reported.

CONSERVATION CORPS: Bill to create a year-around, 1.2 million job Youth Conservation Corps passed House.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXPANSION: Bill to extend unemployment coverage and to improve financing passed House.

UNEMPLOYMENT: Congress extended 65-week benefits to March 31, 1977, and special benefits for uninsured to Dec. 31, 1976.

GRAIN STANDARDS: Bill setting tighter grain inspection and grain export standards is in conference.

ANTITRUST: Strong new antitrust enforcement amendments have passed both Houses in differing forms.

ELECTIONS REFORM: New law reconstitutes Federal Elections Commission and improves federal election reforms.

VETERANS: Bills increasing pensions by seven percent and compensation by eight percent passed House.

200-MILE FISHING LIMIT: New law extends exclusive United States fishing jurisdiction to 200 miles offshore.

ENERGY: Landmark law encourages increased supplies and conservation, cut fuel prices in first half of 1976.

VOTING RIGHTS: Citizen protections under Voting Rights Act strengthened and extended for seven years to 1982.

VETOES: Congress has overridden 8 of 49 vetoes by President Ford. He is the most overridden Republican President.

HEALTH: $2 billion in authorizations for health services passed over President's veto. Other health measures.

CHILD NUTRITION: Improved school lunch and child nutrition programs enacted over President's veto.

LABOR-HEW APPROPRIATIONS: Law passed over veto provides $36 billion for health and social service programs.

EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS: $7.9 billion for education through fiscal 1977 enacted over President's veto.

HOUSE REFORM: The House acted to reform its system of accounts and to provide for disclosure.

6/28/76

THE HOUSE RECORD IN THE 94th CONGRESS

JOHN J. McFALL
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H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

No. 6 June 28, 1976

HOUSE PROCEDURES IMPROVED

The House this year continued to approve changes to make its operations more open, democratic and effective and to strengthen the role of the Congress in the federal government.

Adoption of the Obey committee recommendations this month rationalizes, modernizes and improves accountability in the use of funds. This is the latest in a series of institutional improvements the House has made each year since 1973.

The Budget Control Act, enacted by the 93rd Congress and being implemented by the 94th, strengthens Congressional control of spending.

Federal Election Financing Act amendments in 1974 and 1976 curb the influence of big money in elections and strengthen accountability.

The War Powers Act in the 93rd Congress reaffirmed the constitutional authority of Congress.

A series of rule changes in 1973 enhanced the openness and effectiveness of the House, and the Hansen committee reforms of 1974 realigned the jurisdiction of some House committees.

1973

* Committee chairmen made subject to election by full Democratic Caucus
* Committee meetings, including markups, opened to public
* Authority to grant closed rules sharply limited
* Steering and Policy Committee given wider role
* Disruptive quorum calls limited by institution of notice quorum procedure
* Separate votes authorized for nongermane Senate amendments
* Recorded teller votes ordered to show Member positions on amendments
* Members limited to one subcommittee chairmanship, opening 35 new chairmanships.

1974

* Federal Election Financing Act Amendments adopted
* Congressional Budget Act adopted to strengthen control over spending
* War Powers Resolution adopted to reaffirm constitutional authority
* Staff positions authorized for the minority
* Proxy voting restricted
* Creation of subcommittees required
* Inflation impact statement required on all legislation
* Factual description required on introduction of all bills
* Early organizational meeting authorized for each new Congress
* Updating of House precedents required

1975

* Committee assignment responsibility shifted from Ways and Means Committee to more broadly based Steering and Policy Committee
* Membership of Ways and Means expanded from 25 to 37 members
* Appropriations subcommittee chairmen made subject to Caucus approval
* Full committee chairmen barred from serving as chairman of other full, select or joint committees
* House-Senate conferences made public

1976

* Various Member office accounts adjusted, mileage allowance reduced, stamp allowance eliminated and stricter accounting procedures required
* Documented, signed and certified vouchers required for disbursements from Member's accounts and "cashouts" eliminated
* Members, committee and subcommittee chairmen and officers of the House required to provide monthly certification of salaries and duties of employees
* Authority of the Committee on House Administration to expand, change or create new categories of allowances rescinded and Floor vote required on such changes
* A bipartisan commission of House Members and public members approved to conduct a thorough study of House administrative services.

6/28/76

THE HOUSE RECORD IN THE 94th CONGRESS

No. 7 August 1, 1976

JOHN J. McFALL
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225-5604

* L A N D M A R K L A W *

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1976 (PL 94-369)

Congress continued its efforts to provide jobs and to improve the economy by enacting a $3.9-billion public works and anti-recession grants law over President Ford's veto.

The bill was vetoed July 6. The Senate overrode, 73-24, on July 21, and the House made the bill law, 310-96, on July 22.

It was the ninth time that Congress has overridden a Ford veto. Only two other Presidents in our history have been overridden more times.

JOBS

The bill is expected to create or preserve about 350,000 jobs, as follows:

(1) The public works feature would create about 200,000 jobs, most in private industry, about half in on-site construction jobs and half in construction materials industries;

(2) The anti-recession grants program would help maintain essential state and local government services and would preserve about 90,000 state and local government jobs; and

(3) The water pollution abatement funds should produce another 60,000 construction and related jobs.

BUDGET IMPACT

All funds authorized in the new law are included in the Congressional Budget Resolution for fiscal 1977.

THE PROGRAMS

PUBLIC WORKS: The law authorizes $2-billion through September 30, 1977, for 100 percent grants by the Secretary of Commerce to state and local governments for local public works that can be started within 90 days.

At least one half of one percent but not more than 12.5 percent of appropriated funds may be granted within any state. Local governments have priority, and 70 percent of the funds must go to state and local governments (including high unemployment neighborhoods) that exceed the national unemployment rate.

The jobs are not leaf-raking or make-work. They are accelerated construction of needed and approved public facilities in large and small cities which have been lying on the shelf awaiting funding. Projects include municipal offices, courthouses, libraries, water and sewer lines, streets and roads, sidewalks, detention facilities, recreational facilities, convention centers, civic centers, museums, schools, police and fire stations and health facilities.

Funds under Title I may also be used (1) to increase the federal matching share of any federally assisted project to 100 percent, when such federal assistance is immediately available, or (2) to pay all or part of the state or local share (but not both) of any public works project authorized by state or local law.

ANTI-RECESSION GRANTS: The law authorizes $1.25 billion during five calendar quarters beginning July 1, 1976, to assist state and local governments victimized by national economic difficulties. In each quarter, $125 million is authorized for the first six percent of national unemployment plus $62.5 million for each additional one half of one percent. One third of the funds goes to state governments, two thirds to local governments. Each jurisdiction's share is computed by multiplying the local unemployment rate in excess of 4.5 percent times the jurisdiction's fiscal 1976 revenue sharing entitlement.

WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT: The law authorizes an additional $700 million for grants to states for the construction of publicly owned wastewater treatment works.

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Number Two Hundred Seventy-Two June 25, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON AIRPORT AND AIRWAY DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1976 (H.R. 9771)

The House in the near future is scheduled to consider the conference report which revises and extends for 5 years the Federal Airport Development Program.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House Dec. 18, 1975 (368-16) (H. Rpt. 94-594)
-Passed Senate March 25, 1976 (voice) (S. 3015)
-Conference report filed June 23 (H. Conf. Rpt. 94-1292)
-Conference report passed Senate June 23 (voice)
Floor Manager: Congressman Anderson of California

BILL SUMMARY

The legislation would extend the Federal Airport Development Assistance Program through fiscal 1980, increase its authorization levels and expand the types of projects which are eligible. Main provisions include:

(1) Increases in authorization levels for the Airport Development Assistance Program (ADAP): $2.36 billion for air carrier airports and $375 million for general aviation airports over the five years.

(2) Expansion of the types of airport development projects eligible for federal assistance to include terminal facility development and acquisition of land adjoining airports for noise abatement purposes.

(3) Authorizations from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for maintenance of airway facilities owned and operated by the federal government, in annual increments totaling approximately $1 billion over the five years. Heretofore, such maintenance was paid from the general fund.

(4) Increases in the federal share of airport development project costs, which has been 75 percent except in the case of airports serving the 24 large hubs, for which the federal share has been 50 percent. The federal share would go to 90 percent for fiscal 1976, 1977 and 1978 except for airports serving the 67 large and medium hubs, for which the federal share will be 75 percent. In fiscal 1979, and 1980, the federal share would be 80 percent except for the large and medium hub airports, for which the federal share would remain at 75 percent.

(5) Creation of a new category of commuter service airports within the ADAP air carrier classification in recognition of the substantial growth of this sector during recent years. The commuter service category includes airports receiving replacement service whereby service provided by a certificated carrier is replaced by service provided by a commuter carrier. The 150 airports in this new category will be eligible to share in the $15 million per year set aside for their use, provided they enplane at least 2,500 passengers a year each. These airports are also eligible for funds fror from the air carrier airport discretionary fund. Another category, some 156 reliever airports which divert general aviation traffic from air carrier airports, will be eligible to share in $15 million per year set aside for their use in the general aviation airport classification, as well as funds from the general aviation airport discretionary fund.

Other provisions include: eligibility of terminal area development projects at air carrier airports for assistance utilizing a maximum of 60 percent of a sponsor's enplanement funds, with a federal share of 50 percent, for non-revenue, public-use areas and facilities for movement of passengers and baggage; revision and updating of National Airport System Plan to serve as the basis for future refinements of airport development legislation; transfer of a portion of required federal inspection services for over-time expenses resulting from international flights on Sundays and holidays from the airlines to the federal government; a four-state demonstration program to assess states ability to administer the general aviation airport program.

COST: Total authorizations through fiscal 1980 are $5,617,250,000 from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, which consists of taxes imposed on users of the nation's airway system. The total authorization includes $1,150,000 which formerly came from general funds.

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Number Two Hundred Seventy-One June 25, 1976

EXTENSION OF CERTAIN SSI AND AFDC PROVISIONS (H.R. 14484)

Legislation to extend certain SSI and AFDC provisions is expected to be called up in the near future under unanimous consent procedures. The legislation would make permanent the existing temporary authority for reimbursement of states for interim assistance payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act, to extend for one year the current methods used to determine the eligibility of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients for food stamps, and to extend for one year the period during which federal matching is available to states for child support collection services for nonwelfare recipients.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Committee on Ways and Means June 23 (voice)
-Reported June 24 (H. Rpt. 94-1296)
Floor Manager: Congressman Corman

BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 14484 would make permanent the existing authority for providing federal reimbursement to states under the Interim Assistance Reimbursement Program. Such payments are made to individuals awaiting final determination on their applications for benefits from the SSI program for the aged, blind, and disabled. This program was established to alleviate hardships on potential SSI recipients resulting from delays in determination of SSI eligibility. Federal reimbursement is made only for applicants who are subsequently determined to be eligible for SSI payments.

The second provision of H.R. 14484 would delay for one year, or until comprehensive food stamp reform legislation is enacted, a provision of PL 93-86 now scheduled to go into effect on July 1. Under this law, a complicated procedure would be required whereby each recipient would have his eligibility determination made on the basis of whether his current income is larger or smaller than that he received or would have received in December 1973 -- prior to the implementation of the SSI program.

The third provision in H.R. 14484 would continue for one year federal matching for state child support programs for nonwelfare recipients. Current law mandates states to make available child support collection and enforcement services to welfare recipients, and those not on welfare who request such services. It is intended that these programs for nonwelfare recipients will become self-supporting by way of the fees collected for the services, but the programs have not yet become fully implemented to that point. Thus, federal matching for these services would continue for one more year, as a part of the effort to reduce the number of families which may have to obtain AFDC because of the lack of child support provided by an absent father.

COST: The Congressional Budget Office has indicated that there will be no budgetary cost.

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Number Two Hundred Seventy-Five June 28, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 14237)

The House this Wednesday, June 30, is scheduled to consider the conference report on the Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal 1977.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Passed House June 16 (377-26) (H. Rpt. 94-1224)
-Passed Senate June 23 (90-5) (S. Rpt. 94-968)
-Conference reported June 25 (H. Rpt. 94-1303)
Floor Manager: Congressman Whitten

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference agreement of $12,581,998,000 total obligational authority is $1,905,780,000 less than fiscal 1976, $738,234,000 less than the Senate bill, $67,560,000 more than the House bill and $6,106,000 more than the budget request.

The conference agreement is $2,000,582,000 less than the Congressional budget target, which will be reserved for future supplemental budget requirements.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The conference report provides increases over the House amount as follows: in excess of $3 million for the Agricultural Research Service, $15 million for Agricultural Conservation Program, $105 million for Farmers Home Administration low and moderate income loans, and $2,525,000 for Child Nutrition State Administrative Expenses.

The conference agreement includes 700 additional positions for the Farmers Home Administration, 300 more than the House provided, $155 million for the Special Milk Program, $11 million more than the House bill, and a total of 996 additional positions for the Food and Drug Administration including 319 positions proposed in the Senate bill to implement the new medical devices legislation.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE ACTION

		--------Compared with-------	
	Conference	House	Senate
Title I - Agricultural Programs------	$ 1,585,530,000	$ +13,222,000	$-737,870,000
Title II - Rural Development and Assistance Programs----------	1,454,799,000	+6,107,000	+13,974,000
Title III - Domestic Food Programs---	7,036,598,000	-186,475,000	+97,475,000
Title IV - International Programs----	1,208,354,000	+500,000	-500,000
Title V - Related Agencies----------	257,717,000	+6,206,000	-11,313,000
Subtotal----------	11,542,998,000	-160,440,000	-638,234,000
Sec. 32 transfer----------	1,039,000,000	+228,000,000	-100,000,000
TOTAL----------	$12,581,998,000	$ +67,560,000	$-738,234,000

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Number Two Hundred Seventy-Six June 28, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON HOUSING AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1976 (S. 3295)

The House this Wednesday, June 30, is scheduled to consider the conference report on S. 3295 to extend and provide authorizations for housing and community development programs.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House May 26 (332-27) (H. Rpt. 1091)
-Passed Senate April 27 (55-24) (S. Rpt. 94-749)
-Conference report filed June 25 (H. Conf. Rpt. 94-1304)
Floor Manager: Chairman Reuss or Congressman Ashley

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference report generally follows the House-passed bill in extending and amending programs, but does not include the House provision establishing a new program of supplementary community development block grants in areas of high unemployment. Major provisions include:

Housing Assistance--Retains the House authorization of an additional $850 million in contract authority for fiscal 1977 for the public housing and section 8 programs. At least $140 million of the new authorization would be required to be used under the traditional public housing program with not less than $100 million available only for financing new or substantially rehabilitated projects. The bill also earmarks $60 million of the new contract authority for the modernization of public housing projects and provides that at least $17 million in authority be used solely for projects for Indians. The bill also authorizes $576 million for fiscal 1977 for operating subsidies for existing public housing projects.

Other fiscal 1977 authorizations: (1) $100 million for section 701 comprehensive planning grants; (2) $65 million for HUD research projects; (3) $100 million for studies and surveys under the flood insurance program; (4) $100 million for the 312 rehabilitation loan program. In addition, $500 million would be authorized to cover losses to the FHA General Insurance Fund; an increase from $800 million to $3.3 billion for use over the next three fiscal years would be authorized in the section 202 housing for the elderly program; and $11.25 million would be authorized for the urban homesteading program through fiscal 1978.

Other provisions: (1) A 15% increase in the mortgage limits and an increase in income limits from 80 to 95% of an area's median income under the section 235 homeownership program; (2) expansion of the 235 program to include mobile homes; (3) an increase of about 20% in FHA multi-family mortgage limits; (4) expansion of the section 518(b) program of payments for defective FHA insured existing homes to mortgages insured on or after January 1, 1973, but prior to date of enactment; (5) a revised FHA co-insurance program for state housing finance agencies and certain insured depository institutions; (6) changes to the section 8 program to make financing projects more accessible; (7) an amendment to the section 8 and conventional public housing programs directing the Secretary, in utilizing the additional authority, to enter into contracts for annual contributions to administer the programs, to the maximum extent practicable, to provide assistance for new, substantially rehabilitated and existing units in accordance with the goals of local governments as reflected in their housing assistance plans; (8) modification in the formula for determining the interest rate on a section 202 housing for the elderly or handicapped loan which effectively lowers that rate; (9) clarification providing that housing subsidies are not to be considered as unearned income in determining eligibility for, and amount of, supplemental security income payments; (10) clarification of the authority of the Farmers' Home Administration to make loans in non-metropolitan communities over 10,000 but under 20,000 population; (11) reallocation of $200 million in community development block grants funds for fiscal 1977 to assure adequate funding for smaller communities in metropolitan areas; (12) permanent exemption from the prohibition under the flood insurance program against federally-related loans being made in flood-prone communities which are not participating in the flood insurance program for certain loans; (13) a directive that the Secretary of HUD carry out a study on the feasibility of a HUD program for protecting homebuyers from hidden or undisclosed defects seriously affecting the use or livability of the home.

COST: $4,711,000,000 is authorized for fiscal 1977 and 1978.

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Number Two Hundred Seventy-Three June 28, 1976

PUBLIC WORKS - ERDA APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT (H.R. 14236)

The House this Tuesday, June 29, is scheduled to consider a conference report appropriating $9,703,713,000 for fiscal 1977 for Public Works for Water and Power Development and Energy Research. The bill also contains $200 million for fiscal 1976 for reimbursement for damages caused by failure of Teton Dam, Idaho.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House June 15 (378-20) (H. Rpt. 94-1223)
-Passed Senate June 23 (94-1) (S. Rpt. 94-960)
-Conference reported June 24 (H. Rpt. 94-1297)
Floor Manager: Congressman Joe Evins

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

For fiscal year 1977, the bill is $304,818,000 over the budget, $58,104,000 over the House figure, $15,172,000 under the Senate figure and $2,189,556,500 over the fiscal 1976 appropriation.

Energy Research and Development operating expenses include $258.5 million for solar energy, an increase of $116.7 million from the budget request; $53.2 million for geothermal energy development, an increase of $1.1 million; $195 million for magnetic fusion research, an increase of $27.5 million; $630.3 million for fission research, same as the budget request, mainly for the liquid metal fast breeder reactor; $253 million for environmental research and safety, an increase of $13.5 million; $27.4 million for nuclear materials security and safeguards, an increase of $1.7 million; $191.5 million for naval reactor development, same as the budget; $925.2 million for uranium enrichment, same as the budget request; $1.4 billion for national security including nuclear weapons, a decrease of $4.4 million from the budget request

Within funds for plant and capital equipment, a total of $31.9 million is included for solar energy.

Included are funds for the Corps of Engineers - Civil, the Bureau of Reclamation, power agencies of the Department of the Interior, the Appalachian Regional Development Programs, the Federal Power Commission, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Energy Research and Development Administration and related agencies and commissions.

(in $000's)	Conference	--------Compared with---------- Budget	House	Senate
Title I - Energy Research and Development Admin.	$5,749,973	$ -16,997	$+21,690	$ -8,698
Title II - Dept. of Defense, Civil, Corps of Engineers, Civil	2,467,002	+292,655	+24,648	-274
Title III - Dept. of the Interior	756,668	+21,663	+3,566	----
Title IV - Independent Offices	730,070	+7,497	+8,200	-6,200
TOTAL, New Budget (obligational) authority, FY 1977	$9,703,713	$+304,818	$+58,104	$-15,172

There are four amendments in technical disagreement only on which the House will offer motions to recede and concur.

June 28, 1976

John J. McFall
Majority Whip

FOURTH OF JULY CHECKLIST

The checklist covers the first eighteen months of the busy and productive Ninety-fourth Congress. It is complete through actions of Monday, June 28. Several major bills are expected to be undergoing action in the next few days. Watch the Congressional Record for late developments.

Action is pending in the Senate on four conference reports which have passed the House: S. 3295 Housing Authorization; H.R. 12438 Defense Authorization; H.R. 14261 Treasury-Postal-General Government Appropriations; and H.R. 14239 State-Justice-Commerce Appropriations.

The House on Thursday, July 1, was scheduled to consider H.R. 14235 Military Construction Appropriations Conference Report and two measures relating to House Members' accounts: H. Res. 1372 to limit the authority of the House Administration Committee to fix and adjust allowances and H. Res. 1368 to establish a Commission on Administrative Review in the House. Both were granted rules June 30. Also, HR 12455, Day Care Conference.

A number of bills mentioned in succeeding pages have since been cleared for the President, including:

H.R. 14114	Debt Limit
H.R. 12567	Fire Protection Authorization
S. J. Res. 203	Guaranteed Student Loans
H.R. 12384	Military Construction Authorization
S. 3201	Public Works Employment
H.R. 11804	Railroad Safety Authorization
S. 391	Coal Leasing Amendments
H.R. 12545	River Basin Authorization
H.R. 5621	Valley Forge National Park
S. 98	Klondike National Park
S. 811	Horse Protection Act Amendments
S. 2529	Veterans Housing Loans
H.R. 10051	Tax Cut Withholding Interim Extension
S. 3625	FEA Interim Extension
H.R. 7792	Alpine Lakes Wilderness
S. 3184	Alcoholism Prevention
S. 586	Coastal Zone Management
H.R. 13965	D.C. Appropriations, Fiscal 1976
H.R. 12203	Foreign Aid Appropriations, Fiscal 1976
H.R. 14236	Public Works Appropriations, Fiscal 1977
H.R. 14237	Agriculture Appropriations, Fiscal 1977
S. 3168	Foreign Relations Authorization, Fiscal 1977
S. 268	Eagles Nest Wilderness
H.R. 13501	Medicare Emergency Extension
H.R. 9771	Airport Development Amendments

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JOBS

* BUDGET RESOLUTION: Congress passed the First Budget Resolution for fiscal 1977 allowing $6.3 billion to create 1.1 million jobs. (S. Con. Res. 109)

* PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYMENT: President Ford vetoed a $6 billion measure which would have provided 600,000 jobs, mostly construction jobs in local public works, and established a countercyclical revenue sharing program to aid state and local governments. The House overrode, but the Senate fell three votes short of two-thirds. (H.R. 5247)

* REVISED PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYMENT: Congress cleared for the President a new version of the public works jobs bill which would create about 350,000 jobs by authorizing $3.95 billion to build needed local public works--municipal offices, courthouses, water and sewer lines and roads as well as wastewater treatment plants--and establishing an antirecession grant program for states and local governments (S. 3201).

* FLU-JOBS APPROPRIATIONS: A new law provides $1.2 billion for 310,000 public service jobs, $55.9 million for 12,400 older persons jobs, $23 million for summer youth recreation, $528.4 million for 888,000 summer youth jobs, as well as $300 million for water pollution works and $135 million for the nationwide flu immunization program. (PL 94-266)

* FEDERAL AID-HIGHWAY ACT: A new law authorizes $17.6-billion for interstate highways and other federal aid-highway projects over the next three years. The law would create or preserve some 760,000 jobs. (PL 94-280)

* LABOR-HEW APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL 1976: Congress overrode a veto to pass the $36 billion domestic programs bill which preserves or creates thousands of jobs in the health and social service fields. (PL 94-206)

* RAILROAD REVITALIZATION: A new $6.1 billion railroad revitalization law creates thousands of jobs for the ConRail, Northeast Corridor and other rail improvement projects. (PL 94-210)

* RAILROAD AID: $347 million in emergency railroad aid was passed in 1975 to prevent northeastern and midwestern railroads from ceasing operations and throwing thousands of persons out of work. (PL 94-5, PL 94-6)

* FULL EMPLOYMENT: The Hawkins-Humphrey Full Employment and Balanced Growth bill which would seek to reduce unemployment to three percent within four years has been reported in the House. It would also require the Federal Reserve Board, which controls interest rates, to work with the President and Congress toward providing productive employment for all adult Americans. (H.R. 50)

* PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS: Legislation to provide 600,000 public service jobs, including an extension of 320,000 existing jobs, has passed the House and is in the Senate (H.R. 11453) as is a stop-gap extension through the transition quarter (H.R. 1298).

* YOUNG ADULT CONSERVATION CORPS ACT: The House passed a bill to create a year-round program to provide some 1.2 million jobs for young adults working on projects on the public lands and waters. (H.R. 10138)

* JOBS PACKAGE: Congress came back from a veto of a $5.3 billion jobs bill in 1975 and passed a $2.9 billion jobs package which was the best obtainable in light of the Administration's opposition. (PL 94-41)

* HOUSING: After another presidential veto of a major housing bill, Congress came back with new legislation authorizing $10 billion worth of mortgage subsidies to spur construction and employment, creating about 90,000 jobs. (PL 94-50)

* UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: An emergency unemployment benefits law extended the 65-week maximum until March 31, 1977. Since January 1, 1976, state triggering mechanisms have determined jurisdictions where the maximum may be paid. The special benefits program for workers not covered by unemployment compensation was extended until December 31, 1976, and the maximum weeks of benefits increased to 39. (PL 94-45)

TAXES

* WITHHOLDING RATES INTERIM EXTENSION: Congress passed and sent to the President an extension of the tax cut to September 1, 1976, to give House and Senate time to resolve differences in the major tax reform-tax cut extension legislation. Without the interim extension, withholding rates would have gone up on June 30. The bill would also preserve SSI benefits for recipients affected by the break in the Grand Teton Dam in Idaho. (H.R. 10051)

* TAX REFORM: The Senate this week was hoping to complete floor action on the Tax Reform bill that it has been deliberating for the past two weeks. The bill, as passed by the House last December, is a major tax reform package that would limit tax shelters, strengthen the minimum tax on wealthy persons, and revise the rules on income earned abroad, long-term capital gains and other revisions. The Senate has made substantial changes in the bill. (H.R. 10612)

* TAX CUT: In March, 1975, Congress enacted a $22.8-billion tax cut which included cash rebates of up to $200 per taxpayer and reduced withholding. The tax cut has been the single most important factor in the nation's economic rebound. (PL 94-12)

* TAX CUT EXTENSION: In December, 1975, Congress re-passed a six-month extension of the tax cut (until June 30, 1976) after the President had vetoed an earlier extension on grounds that it did not contain a fiscal 1977 budget ceiling as he had requested. The new bill required that economic conditions be reviewed before any new tax cut is enacted. (PL 94-164)

* EXCHANGE FUNDS: A bill passed the House ending the use of partnership exchange funds and certain trusts and mergers as means of escaping capital gains income taxes. (H.R. 11920)

BUDGET

* BUDGET RESOLUTION, FISCAL 1977: A $413.3-billion First Budget Resolution, providing virtually all the defense funds asked by President Ford and enough economic stimulus to keep the economic rebound going has been adopted by Congress. Included is $6.3 billion to create 1.1 million jobs. (S. Con. Res. 109)

* BUDGET RESOLUTION, FISCAL 1976: Congress put the new budget procedure into effect last year by adopting for the first time ever a resolution which set comprehensive ceilings on spending, deficit and other budget totals. The resolution set national priorities and allowed for the $22.8-billion tax cut which launched the economic rebound. (H.Con.Res. 466)

* CBO BUDGET REPORT: The Congressional Budget Office for the first time presented Congress with a thorough analysis of the President's fiscal 1977 budget and possible alternatives which Congress is using in shaping the final budget.

* APPROPRIATIONS: In a coordinated 15-day appropriations sequence, the House passed 11 of the 13 regular fiscal 1977 appropriations bills. Conference reports on five bills were expected to be cleared for the President. This is the first time Congress has handled the appropriations bills in one concentrated series. The new procedure is a key element in making the new budget process work. The bills total $259.9 billion (including the five conference reports), which is $244.5 million more than the artificially low levels in the Administration's budget request. For fiscal 1976, the Congress approved $257.2 billion in appropriations, trimming $5.4 billion from the request. For fiscal 1977, Congress concentrated on three major objectives: providing a strong defense (allowing virtually the entire Administration request), sustaining economic recovery, and restoring disastrous and arbitrary cuts in vital domestic programs. (See listing of individual bills on page 17).

OTHER ECONOMIC ITEMS

* REVENUE SHARING: The House passed legislation extending the general revenue sharing program and entitling state and local governments to $24.9 billion over 3 3/4 years ($6.65 billion per year) (H.R. 13367)

* SMALL BUSINESS ACT AMENDMENTS: A new law assures that small business loans are available to small farmers and establishes a pollution control financing program. (PL 94-305)

* FEDERAL RESERVE REFORM: A bill requiring the Federal Reserve Board to pursue the goals of the Full Employment Act of 1946, converting into law the congressional oversight functions of H. Con. Res. 133 and providing for public participation on regional Federal Reserve Bank Boards has passed the House. (H.R. 12934)

* LOWER INTEREST RATES: Congress last year passed a resolution calling upon the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates, which it has done, and requiring the Federal Reserve Chairman for the first time to testify in public hearings about the Federal Reserve's long-range plans for credit and monetary policy. (H. Con. Res. 133)

* STOCK EXCHANGE: The Securities Acts Amendments law reforms the stock exchange operations. (PL 94-29)

* SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY RELIEF: A new law allows for modification or termination because of the effects of inflation of any fixed-price federal contract granted to a small business contractor. (PL 94-190)

* SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS ACT AMENDMENTS: A bill to increase the Small Business Administration's loan authorizations, broaden eligibility for SBA assistance, authorize loan repayment moratoria, and other changes passed the House. (H.R. 13567)

* NEW YORK AID: Congress helped avert the bankruptcy of New York City, the nation's largest bond market and financial center, by authorizing $2.3 billion in federal loans until June 30, 1978. (PL 94-143)

* BANKRUPTCY ACT AMENDMENTS: A law revised the Bankruptcy Act to provide a procedure for the adjustment of cities' debts. (PL 94-260)

* HOUSING: A conference report expected to be cleared for the President this week would authorize $4.7 billion in fiscal 1977 and 1978 for the nation's major housing and community development programs. (S. 3295)

AGRICULTURE

* GRAIN INSPECTION: A bill in conference would strengthen and improve the scandal-plagued grain inspection and weighing system and stiffen penalties against violations. (H.R. 12572)

* DISASTER FARM LOANS: A new law improves a program under which Farmers Home Administration provides five-percent loans to farmers and ranchers who have suffered severe production or property losses in disaster areas.(PL 94-68)

* AGRICULTURAL PESTS: A new law broadens and strengthens the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to control and eradicate agricultural pests. (PL 94-231)

* EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK LOANS: A new law increases federal guarantees for emergency livestock loans and the period for loan repayment from five to seven years. (PL 94-35)

* BEEF RESEARCH: A new law authorizes a national referendum of cattle producers to approve a program of research and promotion to improve beef marketing. (PL 94-295)

* RICE PRODUCTION: A two-year rice program for 1976 and 1977 crops suspends marketing quotas and removes production restrictions on new producers, sets up larger national acreage allotment as a base for determining the amount of loans and payments. (PL 94-214)

* RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A new law authorizes $65 million through fiscal 1979 for rural development programs and technical assistance to small farmers. The law also exempts hay harvesting operators and sheep shearers from the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act. (PL 94-259)

* FARM BILL: A bill to increase target prices on farm commodities and guard against any risk of food shortage was vetoed. (H.R. 4296)

* MILK PRICES: Legislation to require adjustments in the support price of milk on a quarterly basis to better reflect farmers' costs was vetoed. (S.J. Res. 121)

* RURAL ELECTRIFICATION: A bill passed the House providing for a more equitable allocation of the two-percent rate of financing insured loans from the Rural Electrification Administration. (H.R. 12207)

* PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS: A bill which has passed both Houses in different forms provides financial protection to livestock producers selling livestock to meat packers, by requiring that all packers purchasing more than an average $1 million of livestock annually be bonded under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture. (H.R. 8410)

* COTTON RESEARCH AND PROMOTION: A bill increasing the $1 per bale assessment and authorizing government financing to supplemental funds available for the Cotton Research and Promotion Act passed the House. (H.R. 10930)

* NATIONAL WOOL ACT AMENDMENTS: A new law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to amend retroactively regulations of the computation of price support payments to insure the equitable treatment of farmers and ranchers. (PL 94-312)

* ORIENTATION OF USDA DEPENDENTS STATIONED ABROAD: A bill authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to provide orientation and language training for spouses of officers and employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture who have foreign assignments passed both Houses in differing forms. (S3052).

* AFRICAN HONEYBEE: The Congress cleared for the President legislation establishing an eradication program to control the migration of African honeybees and other harmful honeybees into the United States and prohibiting the importation of such bees. (Signed June 25; PL 94-319)

ENERGY

* ENERGY POLICY: The Energy Policy and Conservation Act established a comprehensive national energy policy that brought down gasoline prices in the first half of 1976 and provides for oil price decontrol over 40 months. The act also authorizes a strategic petroleum reserve and provides for energy conservation, energy efficient cars and appliances, and aid to small coal mine operators. (PL 94-163)

* ELK HILLS: Congress enacted a new law which will convert the 33-billion barrel Alaska Naval Petroleum Reserve into a National Reserve, authorize exploration but not production in the reserve, and authorize production from Elk Hills, Buena Vista and Teapot Dome Reserves. (PL 94-258)

* ERDA AUTHORIZATION: Legislation authorizing $6.98 billion for nuclear and non-nuclear energy research in fiscal 1977 has passed the House (H.R. 13350). Last year's law authorizes $6.3 billion over 15 months ending in September 30, 1976 (PL 94-187). Another new law authorizes $57 million for nuclear weapons research in fiscal 1976 and the transition period (PL 94-269).

* COAL LEASING: Legislation to encourage coal production from leased federal lands has been passed by both Houses in differing forms. (S. 391)

* NATURAL GAS: Legislation to encourage natural gas production by re-regulating the price for major producers and deregulating it for independents has passed both Houses in different forms. (H.R. 9464)

* OIL PRICE DECONTROL: Congress twice in 1975, while it was working on the energy policy bill, disapproved Presidential proposals to decontrol the price of domestic old oil (H. Res. 605 and 641). Oil price controls were extended by Congress to December 15, 1975, pending enactment of the energy policy bill. (PL 94-133)

* ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDINGS: A bill now in conference would assist states in insulating homes of low-income persons and would encourage state and local adoption of energy conservation standards. (H.R. 8650)

* ELECTRIC VEHICLE RESEARCH: A bill now in conference would establish a five-year, $160 million Electric Vehicle Research, Development and Demonstration Project. (H.R. 8800)

* NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SAFETY: The House passed legislation specifically authorizing state rather than federal regulation of those pipelines carrying gas from interstate pipelines to a customer who buys gas directly. The bill also authorizes $7.6 million through fiscal 1977 for the Office of Pipeline Safety Operations, and allows states more time to comply with recent federal safety standards and still qualify for federal grants. (H.R. 12168)

* FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION: Legislation authorizing $43,968,000 for the transitional quarter and $212,371,000 for fiscal 1977 is in conference. (H.R. 12169)

* NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION: A new law authorizes $274.3 million for fiscal 1977 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (PL 94-291)

* FEA EMERGENCY EXTENSION: An emergency extension of the Federal Energy Administration through July 30, 1976, pending resolution of differences on H.R. 12169, was cleared for the President (S. 3625).

SCIENCE

* FIRE PREVENTION AUTHORIZATION: Legislation authorizing $20.5 million in fiscal 1977 and $26 million in fiscal 1978 for the National Fire Prevention Control Administration and the National Bureau of Standards Fire Research Center was cleared for the President. (H.R. 12567)

* NSF AUTHORIZATION: $801 million in fiscal 1977 would be authorized for the National Science Foundation by a bill in conference. (H.R. 12566) Last year's law authorized $787 million for NSF in fiscal 1976. (PL 94-86)

* NASA AUTHORIZATION: A new law authorizes $3.7 billion for the nation's space programs, including the space shuttle, in fiscal 1977. (PL 94-307) Last year's law authorized $4.5 billion for NASA in fiscal 1976. (PL 94-39)

* NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND ORGANIZATION ACT: A new law establishes a science and technology policy for the nation, re-establishes a White House science policy office and initiates a two-year science policy study. (PL 94-282)

* AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: A bill in conference would establish a five-year research and development program on advanced automotive propulsion systems to supplement current research in private industry and government agencies. (H.R. 13655)

HEALTH

* FLU IMMUNIZATION: A new law provides a $135-million appropriation for a nationwide A-swine flu immunization program. (PL 94-266)

* DISEASE PREVENTION: A new law authorizes $308.2 million over four years for health information and disease prevention programs, including a three-year, $136-million veneral disease control program, a $105-million, three-year program to control measles, polio, diabetes and other diseases, and a three-year extension of the Lead-based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (PL 94-317).

* HEALTH SERVICES--NURSE TRAINING: A $2-billion law passed over President's veto authorizes a number of health services programs, health revenue sharing and nurse training programs. (PL 94-63)

* HEALTH SERVICES: $318.25 million is authorized through fiscal 1979 for health services research and statistics and medical libraries by a bill passed the House (H.R. 12679).

* SCHOOL LUNCH: Law passed over President's veto mandates reduced-price lunches to qualifying children, makes permanent school breakfast program and extends Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children. (PL 94-105)

* APPROPRIATIONS: Labor-HEW appropriations bill passed over veto provides $36 billion for the nation's major health and social service programs, including National Cancer Institute, mental health, health manpower student loans, alcoholism prevention and treatment. (PL 94-206)

* DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED: New law improves programs for victims of developmental disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and neurological conditions originating in childhood. (PL 94-103)

* HEART RESEARCH: A law improves National Heart and Lung Institute research, to establish blood research centers, to provide research grants, to create a genetic disease research program (including sickle cell anemia), and to authorize $606 million and $618 million in fiscal 1976 and 1977 respectively. (PL 94-278)

* HEALTH MANPOWER: House passed three-year, $1.76-billion bill to extend health manpower programs and expand National Health Service Corps. (H.R.5546)

* BLACK LUNG: House passed bill establishing a coal industry trust fund for payment of benefits to coal miners disabled by black lung disease and their widows and expanding eligibility for benefits. (H.R. 10760)

* MEDICAL DEVICES: A new law authorizies federal regulation to protect patients of such medical devices as IUD's, heart pacemakers, heart valves, contact lenses, hearing aids and others (PL 94-295)

* DRUG ABUSE: A new law establishes an office of Drug Abuse Policy in the White House and authorizes $205 million annually through fiscal 1978 for assistance to states from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. (PL 94-232)

* ALCOHOL ABUSE: A conference report passed the House and in the Senate authorizes $600.5 million through fiscal 1979 for programs of the Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act. (S. 3184)

* HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION AMENDMENTS: A bill now in conference would authorize $250 million to extend the program for two years, to correct deficiencies of the initial law, to improve administration of the program and generally to make HMO's more competitive with traditional insurance programs and health delivery systems. (H.R. 9019)

SOCIAL SERVICES

* ASSISTANCE EXTENSION: The House passed a bill to make permanent interim assistance to aged, blind and disabled persons awaiting SSI eligibility determinations. The bill would also extend for one year (1) the method of determining an SSI recipient's eligibility for food stamps and (2) federal matching to states for child support collection services for non-welfare recipients (H.R. 14484).

* DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT: A new law authorizes necessary sums to extend volunteer anti-poverty programs and assistance to small businesses through fiscal 1978. Fiscal 1976 programs totaled $53.9 million, including $33.3 million for anti-poverty programs (PL 94-293).

* SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASE: Congress in 1975 rejected the President's proposed five-percent cap on the Social Security cost-of-living increase and assured that 35 million beneficiaries received the full eight percent. (H. Con. Res. 218)

* MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE: A new law authorized mortgage payments assistance to out-of-work homeowners who are facing foreclosure. (PL 94-50)

* CHILD DAY CARE SERVICES: Legislation postponing until April 1, 1976, the penalties on child day care centers which do not comply with certain staffing regulations and providing $125 million was vetoed. (H.R. 9803)

* TITLE XX GROUP ELIGIBILITY: A six-month extension of eligibility for senior citizens and others now being served by certain programs under Title XX of the Social Security Act is in conference. (H.R. 12455)

* SOCIAL SECURITY HEARINGS PROCEDURES: A law expedites the holding of hearings for social security claimants whose applications for benefits have been denied. (PL 94-202)

* MEDICARE AMENDMENTS: A law revises and extends certain provisions of the Social Security law dealing with physicians' fees, medicare premiums and other medicare provisions, and food stamps for welfare recipients. (PL 94-182)

* OLDER AMERICANS: A law authorizes more than $1.6 billion through fiscal 1978 to extend and strengthen older Americans programs. (PL 94-135)

* COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES: Legislation restoring the federal matching shares for community action agencies to the 80-percent level that prevailed before fiscal 1976 has passed the House. (H.R. 8578)

* CHILD SUPPORT: A new law facilitated the transition to the child support program under Title IV, Social Security Act, that began August 1, 1975. Families were protected against loss of benefits and states against loss of assistance. (PL 94-88)

* REPATRIATION ASSISTANCE: A law amends the Social Security Act to make permanent the provisions for temporary assistance to American citizens and their dependents who have returned to the U.S. because of extreme circumstances and are without available resources. (PL 94-44)

* FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY: A law extended the food stamp eligibility of Supplemental Security Income recipients for one year until June 30, 1976. (PL 94-44)

* EMERGENCY FOOD STAMP VENDOR ACCOUNTABILITY: Congress cleared for the President a bill to make food stamp vendors federal fiduciaries, to improve their accountability for stamps and funds and to prescribe penalties for violations (S. 2853). In 1975, Congress prohibited the Administration from raising food stamp costs to 20 million beneficiaries pending a detailed study of the program. (PL 94-4).

EDUCATION

* HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS: The House passed a bill extending higher education programs, which totaled $2.5 billion in fiscal 1976, with minor changes through fiscal 1977. Programs include student assistance, construction, and community colleges and occupational education aid. (H.R. 12851)

* ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS: The National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities would be extended through fiscal 1980, museum services would be improved and a challenge grant program established by a bill now in conference. Authorizations are $250 million for fiscal 1977, $297 million for fiscal 1978 and necessary sums the next two years. (H.R. 12838)

* VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENTS: Legislation authorizing $720 million in fiscal 1977 rising to $1.45 billion in fiscal 1982 and each year thereafter for the Vocational Education Act and $100 million in fiscal 1977 rising to $140 million in fiscal 1979 for the National Institute of Education passed the House. (H.R. 12835)

* EMERGENCY HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL PROVISIONS ACT: Congress cleared for the President a resolution to make sure that the guaranteed student loan program is not suspended or interrupted during the transitional quarter. (S.J. Res. 203)

* EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING FACILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEMONSTRATION: A new law authorizes $37.5 million over a 15 month period for the Educational Broadcasting Facilities Construction and $1.25 million for a demonstration project on telecommunications dissemination of health, education and public or social service information. (PL 94-309)

* VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION: A law extends the Rehabilitation Act, authorizing $822 million for fiscal 1977 and a contingent authorization for fiscal 1978 to assist states to meet the needs of handicapped individuals. (PL 94-230)

* INDOCHINA REFUGEE CHILDREN ASSISTANCE: Funds to reimburse state and local educational agencies for the costs of educating Indochinese refugee children would be authorized by a bill in conference. (S. 2145)

* LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT: Legislation extending the Library Services and Construction Act for five years through fiscal 1981 has passed the House. The bill would authorize $385 million for library services through fiscal 1979, necessary sums for construction, and necessary sums for services and construction in fiscal 1980 and 1981. (H.R. 11233)

* EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN: A law provides financial assistance to the states to insure the right to an education for all handicapped children. (PL 94-42)

* SCHOOL LUNCH: Congress overrode a Presidential veto of legislation extending and strengthening the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Act. (PL 94-105)

* NATIONAL READING IMPROVEMENT: A law authorizes certain national reading improvement projects, and provides more flexibility in the projects. (PL 94-194)

* EMERGENCY EDUCATION TECHNICAL PROVISIONS: A law permits the reallocation of college work-study funds among institutions within a state. (PL 94-43)

* EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS: Congress overrode a Presidential veto of legislation appropriating $7.9 billion for the Education Division of HEW in fiscal 1976, the transition period and fiscal 1977. (PL 94-94)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

* SECURITY ASSISTANCE: A new international security assistance authorization bill repeats the fiscal 1976 and transition quarter authorizations in the vetoed S. 2662 and adds $2.97 billion for fiscal 1977. The bill contains several human rights provisions, calls for a report on the feasibility of an arms sales ceiling and makes other policy changes but deletes or softens congressional veto provisions of S. 2662 to which the President objected. Conference report on the new bill has been cleared for the President. (H.R. 13680).

* VETOED SECURITY ASSISTANCE: President Ford vetoed legislation authorizing $3.2 billion for international security assistance in fiscal 1976. Included is $2.2 billion for Israel, $982 million for Egypt, Jordan and Syria, provisions for Greece and Turkey, and a $9-billion annual ceiling on arms sales abroad. (S. 2662)

* HUMAN RIGHTS: Measures cutting off aid to Chile and Uruguay as human rights violators are being approved by Congress. H.R. 13680, ending security assistance to Chile and limiting economic aid to $27.5 million, was cleared for the President. H.R. 14260 appropriations, as passed by the House this week, would prohibit military assistance to Uruguay.

* ECONOMIC AID: A new law authorizes $1.5 billion in each fiscal 1976 and 1977 for economic aid and food assistance in developing nations, concentrating the aid on the poor and prohibiting aid to countries which violate human rights. (PL 94-161)

* MIDDLE EAST APPROPRIATIONS: A conference report agreed to in the House and pending in the Senate would appropriate $5.17 billion for foreign assistance in fiscal 1976 and $759 million for the transition quarter. The latter figure includes $200 million in military aid and $75 million in economic aid for Israel in the transition quarter and economic aid of $100 million to Egypt, $60 million to Jordan and $15 million to Syria (H.R. 12203).

* GUATEMALA DISASTER RELIEF: A law authorizes $25 million to aid the victims of the February 4 Guatemala earthquake. (PL 94-276)

* ANGOLA: Congress amended the Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal 1976 to prohibit use of funds for any United States activity in Angola except intelligence gathering. (PL 94-212)

* INDOCHINA REFUGEE CHILDREN: A bill authorizing reimbursement to local educational agencies for any added cost of educating Indochinese refugee children is in conference. (S. 2145) Congress in 1975 appropriated $405 million to aid in the resettlement of Indochina refugees. (PL 94-24) The aid was authorized by PL 94-23. Another law makes refugees from Laos eligible for resettlement assistance. (PL 94-313)

* TURKISH AID: The arms embargo on Turkey was partially suspended by a new law permitting sales of $185 million in defense items already on order in an attempt to ease the Greek-Turkey-Cyprus impasse. (PL 94-104)

* SINAI: Congress approved plans for an early-warning system using United States technicians to keep watch on the peace in the Sinai. (PL 94-110)

* CIA: A Select Committee on Intelligence, established by the House to investigate misuse of United States intelligence gathering operations, has completed its task and filed a sealed report. (H. Res. 591)

* MIA's: The House established a Select Committee on Missing in Action servicemen in Southeast Asia chaired by Congressman Montgomery. (H. Res. 335)

* INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK: A new law authorizes $2.25 billion in U.S. contributions to the Inter-American Development Bank and an initial $25 million contribution to the African Development Fund. (PL 94-302)

* AUTHORIZATIONS: A conference report cleared for the President would authorize $1.05 billion for the State Department, $262.9 million for the U.S. Information Agency and $58.3 million for the Board for International Broadcasting, all in fiscal 1977. The bill also would direct that any new Panama Canal agreement must protect vital U.S. interests (S. 3168). Last year's laws authorized $870 million for the State Department (PL 94-141), $339 million for USIA (PL 94-272), and $65.6 million for International Broadcasting (PL 94-104), all for fiscal 1976, and consolidating Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which operate from Munich. Peace Corps authorization is $81 million for fiscal 1977 (PL 94-281) and $88.5 million for fiscal 1976. (PL 94-130)

* NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL: A resolution passed by the House would urge continued negotiations on the Vladivostok Accord and other nuclear arms reductions proposals, including an end to underground testing. The resolution calls for a halt to nuclear materials transfers to nations not accepting non-proliferation safeguards. (H. Con. Res. 570)

* COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE: A new law creates a 15-member commission on security and cooperation in Europe to monitor the implementation of the Helsinki agreement. (PL 94-304)

DEFENSE

* DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION: A conference report awaiting consideration would authorize $32.5 billion for fiscal 1977 for major weapons procurement and all military research and development. Included are a ship building program of 17 ships and funding for the B-1 bomber. This legislation would also set active duty military strength at 2,092,600, Selected Reserve strength at 889,400, and civilian strength at 1,031,000. (H.R. 12438)

* MILITARY CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE REPORT: Congress passed legislation authorizing $3.3 billion in fiscal 1977 for new military construction and related authority in support of the Military Departments, Reserve Components, and Defense Department. (H.R. 12384)

* RESERVE MOBILIZATION: A new law enables the President to authorize the involuntary order to active duty of Selected Reservists, for a limited period, whether or not a declaration of war or national emergency has been declared, in accord with the War Powers Act. (PL 94-286)

TRANSPORTATION

* AIRPORTS: A conference report awaiting action would authorize $5.6 billion in trust funds through fiscal 1980 to improve local airports and air navigation facilities and would increase the federal share of airport project costs to 75 percent (from 50 percent) for the 67 large and medium hub airports and to 90 percent declining in fiscal 1979 to 80 percent for the smaller airports which now get 75 percent funding (H.R. 9771).

* RAILROAD REVITALIZATION: Landmark law provides $6.1 billion to fund the ConRail reorganization of seven bankrupt railroads, to revitalize the nation's rail transportation system and to reform the regulatory framework to promote more competition. (PL 94-210)

* FEDERAL AID-HIGHWAYS: A law authorizes $17.6 billion in Highway Trust Funds through fiscal 1979, and funding until 1990 to continue the Interstate Highway system and to improve rural and urban highways. The legislation also would increase availability of funds for substitute projects, including construction or purchase of mass transit facilities. The act will create or preserve 760,000 jobs (PL 94-280).

* HIGHWAY MATCHING FUNDS: A new law permitted financially strapped states to borrow highway matching funds in 1975 so that they could proceed with backlogged federal aid-highway projects. (PL 94-30)

* UNITED STATES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION AUTHORIZATION: A bill authorizing $20 million for administrative expenses of the USRA from May 1, 1976, to September 30, 1977, passed the House. (H.R. 13325)

* AMTRAK IMPROVEMENTS: New law provides financial assistance through fiscal 1977 to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK), created to provide the public with an efficient alternative means of travel. (PL 94-25) The bill authorizing $878 million for Amtrak to cover deficits in operating and capital gains passed the House. (H.R. 13601)

* FEDERAL RAILROAD SAFETY AUTHORIZATION: Congress cleared for the President a bill authorizing $35 million for each of fiscal 1977 and 1978 for railroad safety inspection and enforcement. The bill would require railroads to furnish quiet crew quarters, and it would extend the Hours of Service Act to certain employees (H.R. 11804).

* NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY AUTHORIZATION: A bill authorizing $13 million in the transition period, $60 million in fiscal 1977 and $60 million for fiscal 1978 for traffic and motor vehicle safety has passed both Houses in differing forms (H.R. 9291).

* INDEPENDENT SAFETY BOARD: The House passed a bill authorizing $3.8 million for the transition quarter; $15.2 million in fiscal 1977, and $16.4 million in fiscal 1978 for the National Transportation Safety Board. (H.R. 12118)

THE CONSUMER

* EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: A law eliminates arbitrary credit rejections by prohibiting discrimination by any lender against a borrower based on race, color, religion, national origin or age. (PL 94-239)

* TRUTH IN LEASING: A new law is intended to protect consumers against misleading information on car leases and other personal property leases, to require meaningful disclosure of lease terms and to limit ultimate liability on car and other leases. (PL 94-240)

* MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION: Legislation extending the Motor Vehicle Information Act through fiscal 1977 and providing increased enforcement authority against motor vehicle odometer tampering has passed both Houses in differing forms. (S. 1518)

* MOBILE HOMES: Legislation increasing maximum loan limits under the Federal Housing Administration's mobile home insurance program is in conference. (H.R. 9852)

* CONSUMER PROTECTION: An agency for Consumer Protection would be created to represent and protect the interests of consumers by a bill passed by the House and Senate in differing forms. (S. 200)

* FAIR TRADE: The "fair trade" provisions of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act have been repealed in a move to end vertical price fixing. (PL 94-145)

* CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY: A law authorizes $193 million through fiscal 1978 for the Consumer Product Safety Commission and revises the Commission's authority (PL 94-284)

* FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION: A new law authorizes an additional $1 million for the Federal Trade Commission for fiscal 1976 and an additional $7.2 million for fiscal 1977, bringing total authorizations to $47 million and $57.2 million respectively. (PL 94-299)

* RIVER BASIN AUTHORIZATION: A bill making additional authorizations totaling $602 million for projects under 13 comprehensive river basin plans is cleared for the President. (H.R. 12545)

* ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AUTHORIZATION: $256,567,000 would be authorized for the research and development activities of EPA in fiscal 1977 by a bill passed by the House. (H.R. 12704)

* FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS: A bill authorizing $17 billion through fiscal 1979 for federal grants for the construction of municipal waste treatment works passed both Houses in differing forms. (S. 2710)

* SALINE WATER CONVERSION: A new law authorizes $7.5 million in fiscal 1977 for the saline water conversion research and development programs of the Department of Interior. (PL 94-317)

* INCREASED NATIONAL PARK AUTHORIZATIONS: Legislation authorizing $69.4 million for additional land acquisition and development of 23 units of the National Park System passed the House. (H.R. 13713)

* KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK: Congress cleared for the President a bill establishing the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in the States of Washington and Alaska. (S. 98)

* VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK: A bill establishing Valley Forge National Historical Park in Pennsylvania was cleared for the President. (H.R. 5621)

* OLD NINETY-SIX NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: Legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to acquire up to 1,120 acres for the establishment of the Old Ninety-Six National Historic Site in South Caroline has passed both Houses in differing forms. (S. 2642)

* ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS: Legislation establishing a 920,000-acre Alpine Lakes Area, including a 393,000-acre Alpine Lakes Wilderness, in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state, passed the House. (H.R. 7792)

* TINICUM NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER: A bill to expand the Tinicum National Environmental Center in southeastern Pennsylvania to further the preservation of the last true tidal marsh land in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed the House. (H.R. 5682)

GENERAL

* ELECTION REFORM: A new law reconstitutes the Federal Election Commission to meet Supreme Court objections, prohibits corporations from soliciting rank-and-file workers, closes certain loopholes left by the Supreme Court decision, requires congressional approval of FEC advisory opinions and makes other changes in FEC enforcement procedures. (PL 94-283)

* NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS: Revision of the Price-Anderson Act phases out government liability for losses caused by nuclear accidents and gradually shifts liability to electric utility industry. (PL 94-197)

* WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Congress authorized a National Women's Conference in 1976 to assess progress in women's rights and identify further barriers to equality in national life. (PL 94-167)

* MARIANA ISLANDS: A new law establishes the Northern Mariana Islands as a Commonwealth of the U.S. (PL 94-241)

* APPALACHIA: Congress extended and increased the authorization under the Appalachian Regional Development Act to deal with the long standing economic deterioration of the area. (PL 94-188)

* VOTING RIGHTS: Congress extended the Voting Rights Act for seven years to August, 1982, and extended coverage to language minorities. (PL 94-73)

* OVERSEAS VOTING: Law sets uniform procedures and assures rights of U.S. citizens residing abroad to vote in federal elections. (PL 94-203)

* CONSTRUCTION WORKERS: Legislation to permit unions in the construction industry to picket at common construction sites was vetoed. (H.R. 5900)

* PUBLIC BROADCASTING: A new law provides long-term financing for Corporation for Public Broadcasting and earmarks minimums for direct distribution to noncommercial education broadcasting stations. (PL 94-192)

* METRIC CONVERSION: Congress declared a national policy of voluntary conversion to the metric system in the U.S. and established board to plan conversion program. (PL 94-168)

* SPORTS BROADCASTING: A bill is in conference to make permanent the law permitting home-area television of sold-out prefessional sports (S.2554)

* RENEGOTIATION ACT: The House passed a bill reforming the Renegotiation Act by which federal government attempts to recapture excessive profits on defense, space and other government contracts. (H.R. 10680)

* NATIONAL EMERGENCIES: The House passed and sent to the Senate a bill to end four national emergencies (declared in 1933, 1950, 1970 and 1971) after two years and to provide ground rules for presidential declarations of national emergencies in the future. (H.R. 3884)

* VIRGIN ISLANDS LOAN FUNDS: $76 million is authorized in emergency loan funds to the Virgin Islands until June 30, 1980, by a bill passed by the House (H.R. 13359).

* FINANCIAL CONTROL FOR D.C. GOVERNMENT: A bill providing for an independent audit and a financial systems analysis, design and implementation for the Government of the District of Columbia passed the House. (H.R. 11009)

* LOBBYING BY PUBLIC CHARITIES: A bill placing expenditure limits on lobbying by tax-exempt public charities has passed the House (H.R. 13500).

* OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES AUTHORIZATION ACT: A bill authorizing $49 million for grants to assist in preparation of facilities for the 1980 Olympic Winter Games at Lake Placid, New York, was passed in differing forms by both Houses. (H.R. 13490)

* HORSE PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1976: Congress cleared for the President legislation increasing authorities of the Department of Agriculture to regulate the practice of "soring" a horse to alter its gait. (S. 811)

* POST OFFICE CLOSINGS MORATORIUM: A resolution calling on the Postal Service to declare a moratorium on post office closings and service cuts for one year passed the House. (H. Res. 1216)

* FAIR CREDIT BILLING: A new law prohibits surcharges on credit cards. (PL 94-222)

* MADISON LIBRARY: $33 million has been provided to complete construction of the Library of Congress James Madison Memorial Building. (PL 94-226)

* POSTAL REORGANIZATION: The House has passed a bill to authorize $2.6 billion in fiscal 1976 postal subsidies, to require annual postal authorizations, and to require that postal revenues be deposited in the U.S. Treasury to be made available upon appropriation. (H.R. 8603)

* MAGNA CARTA: Congress agreed to a resolution accepting the loan of Magna Carta from Britain for the bicentennial year and providing for its display in the Capitol. (S. Con. Res. 98)

VETERANS

* COMPENSATION: A $393-million bill providing an eight-percent cost-of-living increase in compensation to service-connected disabled veterans and survivors passed the House (H.R. 14299). In 1975, a $490-million veterans compensation law provided a 10 to 12 percent increase to disabled veterans and a 12-percent hike to survivors (PL 94-71).

* PENSION: A $414-million bill making permanent the interim eight-percent increase in veterans' and survivors' pensions through 1976, adding a seven-percent increase on January 1, 1977, establishing a 25-percent differential for veterans 80 years of age or older, and increasing income limits governing pension eligibility passed the House (H.R. 14298). The 1975 law provided the eight-percent interim increase at a cost of $150 million and adjusted income limits (PL 94-169).

* HOME LOANS: Congress cleared for the President a bill increasing the maximum direct housing loan for veterans to $33,000 (from $21,000), increasing the guarantee on mobile home loans to 50 percent (from 30 percent) and extending housing benefits eligibility to veterans who served between World War II and the Korean Conflict (S. 2529).

* PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS: Veterans Administration physicians and dentists were authorized $40.1 million in fiscal 1976 in special incentive pay. (PL 94-123)

* NATIONAL CEMETERY: The House passed a bill authorizing the establishment of a new 620-acre Washington-area national cemetery at the Quantico, Virginia, Marine Base. (H.R. 11140)

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

* HATCH ACT: The President vetoed legislation to permit federal civilian and postal employees to participate voluntarily and as private citizens in political activities and strengthen employee protections against political coercion. (H.R. 8617)

* RETIREMENT INCREASES: Congress in 1975 rejected President Ford proposed five-percent cap on increases in civil service and military retirement payments and assured that two million annuitants received a full 12.4 percent in 1975. (H. Con. Res. 218)

* PAY RAISE: The advisory committee on federal pay is scheduled to make recommendations to the President on August 1. Any pay raise would be effective October 1. The pay raise machinery set up by Congress in 1970 brought federal employees their fifth annual pay raise -- five percent effective October 1, 1975.

* FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULES: A three-year experimental program in flexible and compressed work schedules by federal agencies would be permitted by a bill passed by the House (H.R. 9043).

* COURT LEAVE: A new law grants paid court leave to federal employees. (PL 94-310)

JUSTICE

* ANTI-TRUST ENFORCEMENT: Legislation permitting state attorneys general to bring group actions on behalf of state residents injured by anti-trust violations has passed both Houses in differing forms. The Senate added other major anti-trust provisions (H.R. 8532).

* PAROLE REFORM: A new law establishes an independent and regionalized U.S. Parole Commission and provides for due process protections in federal parole procedures. (PL 94-233)

* DRUG ABUSE: A new law establishes an Office on Drug Abuse Policy in the White House and authorizes $205 million annually through fiscal 1978 for state aid from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. (PL 94-237)

* CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION: A new law authorizes $7.89 million for fiscal 1976, $1.99 million for the transition and $9.5 million in fiscal 1977 for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. (PL 94-292)

* INDIAN CRIMES ACT: A new law assures that Indians accused of committing certain enumerated offenses in Indian country will have the same right as non-Indians to be prosecuted under federal, rather than state, law. (PL94-297)

* RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE EFFECTIVE DATES: A bill delaying for one year the effective date of the recently promulgated amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure passed the House (H.R. 13899)

* FIREFIGHTER BENEFITS: A bill providing a $50,000 death benefit to the surviving dependents of state and local firefighters who die in the performance of duty after October 11, 1972 passed the House. (H.R. 365)

* PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS BENEFITS: A bill providing a $50,000 death benefit to survivors of certain state and local police and other public safety officers who die in the performance of duty after October 11, 1972, passed the House. (H.R. 366)

APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL 1977

(*Denotes Conference Reports)

	Approved by Congress	Compared with Budget Request
1. Agriculture (H.R. 14237)	$ 11,542,998,000 *	$ + 78,106,000 *
2. Defense (H.R. 14262)	105,397,343,000	-1,364,829,000
3. Foreign Aid (H.R. 14260)	4,833,498,000	- 663,722,000
4. HUD-NASA-VA (H.R. 14233)	42,982,730,000	-2,308,868,000
5. Interior (H.R. 14231)	5,680,897,000	+ 40,087,000
6. Labor-HEW (H.R. 14232)	56,205,212,000	+3,668,116,000
7. Military Construction (HR 14235)	3,338,759,000 *	- 128,241,000 *
8. Public Works (H.R. 14236)	9,703,688,000 *	+ 304,793,000 *
9. State-Justice-Commerce (HR 14239)	6,680,314,453 *	+ 367,063,000 *
10. Transportation (H.R. 14234)	5,296,077,357	- 56,215,000
11. Treasury-Postal (H.R. 14261)	8,313,119,000 *	+ 308,227,000 *
TOTAL	$ 259,974,635,810	$ + 244,517,000
PENDING		
Legislative (HR 14238) (Reported)	$ 780,266,350	$ - 13,917,650
District of Columbia (in hearings)	$ 396,894,000	$ ---

VETOES

Since he took office August 9, 1974, President Ford has vetoed 49 bills, 22 in the 94th Congress; 8 vetoes have been overridden, 4 during this Congress. Overrides in the 94th Congress are: Education Appropriations, Health Services and Nurse Training, School Lunch, and Labor-HEW Appropriations (indicated by asterisk in list).

Overrides in the 93rd Congress are: Railroad Retirement; Freedom of Information; Rehabilitation Act, and Veterans Education. The eight overrides make President Ford the most overridden Republican President in history. Following is a list of Ford vetoes in the 94th Congress:

1. H.R. 1767 Oil Tariff Deferral--March 4, 1975
   Passed House February 5 (309-114)
   Passed Senate February 19 (66-28)
   Referred to Ways and Means

2. H.R. 4296 Emergency Farm bill--May 1, 1975
   Passed House April 22 (248-166)
   Passed Senate April 17 (voice)
   Sustained by House May 13 (245-182)

3. H.R. 25 Strip Mining Control--May 20, 1975
   Passed House May 7 (241-166)
   Passed Senate May 5 (voice)
   Sustained by House June 10 (278-143)

4. H.R. 4481 Emergency Jobs Appropriations--May 28, 1975
   Passed House May 14 (293-109)
   Passed Senate May 16 (voice)
   Sustained by House June 4 (277-145)
   Repassed in modified form and signed

5. H.R. 5357 Tourist Travel Promotion--May 28, 1975
   Passed House May 13 (237-132)
   Passed Senate May 15 (voice)
   Enacted in modified form

6. H.R. 4485 Emergency Housing bill--June 24, 1975
   Passed House June 5 (253-155)
   Passed Senate June 11 (72-24)
   Sustained by House June 25 (268-157)
   Repassed in modified form and signed

7. H.R. 4035 Petroleum Pricing--July 21, 1975
   Passed House July 17 (239-172)
   Passed Senate July 16 (57-40)
   Referred to Commerce Committee July 24

* 8. H.R. 5901 Education Appropriations--July 25, 1975
   Passed House July 16 (370-42)
   Passed Senate July 17 (80-15)
   House overrode September 9 (379-41)
   Senate overrode September 10 (88-12)

* 9. S. 66 Health Services-Nurse Training--July 26, 1975
   Passed House July 16 (voice)
   Passed Senate July 14 (voice)
   Senate overrode July 26 (67-15)
   House overrode July 29 (384-43)

10. S. 1849 Petroleum Allocation Extension--September 9, 1975
   Passed Senate July 15 (62-29)
   Passed House July 31 (303-117)
   Sustained by Senate September 10 (61-39)
   Enacted in modified form

11. H.R. 9497 Tobacco Price Supports--September 30, 1975
   Passed House September 11 (voice)
   Passed Senate September 15 (voice)
   Referred to Agriculture Committee October 1

* 12. H.R. 4222 School Lunch--October 3, 1975
Passed House September 18 (380-7)
Passed Senate September 19 (voice)
House overrode October 7 (397-18)
Senate overrode October 7 (79-13)

13. H.R. 12 Executive Protective Service--November 29, 1975
Passed House May 19 (276-123)
Passed Senate October 28 (voice)
Enacted in modified form

14. H.R. 5559 Revenue Adjustment Act--December 17, 1975
Passed House December 17 (voice)
Passed Senate December 17 (voice)
Sustained by House December 18 (265-157)
Enacted in modified form

* 15. H.R. 8069 Labor-HEW Appropriations--December 19, 1975
Passed House December 4 (321-91)
Passed Senate December 8 (voice)
House overrode January 27 (310-113)
Senate overrode January 28 (70-24)

16. H.R. 5900 Situs Picketing--December 23, 1975
Passed House December 11 (229-189)
Passed Senate December 15 (52-43)
Referred to Committee January 19, 1976

17. S. 2350 National Security Council--December 31, 1975
Passed Senate October 9 (voice)
Passed House December 17 (voice)
Senate overrode January 22 (72-16)
Referred to Armed Services Committee January 26, 1976

18. S.J.Res. 121 Milk Price Supports--January 30, 1976
Passed House December 17 (307-111)
Passed Senate December 18 (voice)
Sustained by Senate February 4 (37-51)

19. H.R. 5247 Public Works Employment--February 13, 1976
Passed House January 29 (321-80)
Passed Senate December 17 (voice)
House overrode February 19 (319-98)
Sustained by Senate February 19 (63-35)

20. H.R. 9803 Child Day Care Services--April 6, 1976
Passed House March 23 (316-72)
Passed Senate March 24 (59-30)
House overrode May 4 (301-101)
Senate sustained May 5 (60-35)

21. H.R. 8617 Hatch Act Amendments--April 12, 1976
Passed House March 30 (241-164)
Passed Senate March 31 (54-36)
House sustained April 29 (243-160)

22. S. 2662 Foreign Aid Authorization--May 7, 1976
Passed House April 28 (215-185)
Passed Senate April 28 (51-35)
Referred to Foreign Relations Committee May 10

THINGS TO DO . . . when Congress returns

Following is a list of bills which have been granted rules and which await House action -- not necessarily in this order -- when Congress returns.

* OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF: The bill would establish policy for management of the nation's offshore oil and gas resources, taking into account national energy needs and environmental protection. (H.R. 6218) (Rule adopted, general debate concluded)

* NUCLEAR FUEL ASSURANCE: The legislation would authorize ERDA to negotiate contracts providing government cooperation and assurances that would encourage development of uranium enrichment plants by private industry. (H.R. 8401) (Open rule, two hours debate)

* UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: The bill would provide coverage under the permanent Federal-State Unemployment Compensation Program to 8.9 million of the nation's 10 million wage and salary earners not now covered (H.R. 10210) and it would improve financing by increasing the taxable wage base and, temporarily, the tax rate. (Modified open rule, two hours debate)

* LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE: The bill would extend LEAA with an authorization of $220 million for the transition quarter and $880 million for fiscal 1977, establish an Office of Community Anti-Crime Programs, require better program evaluation, and strengthen anti-discrimination provisions. (H.R. 13636) (Open rule, two hours debate)

* PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The bill would extend the Public Works and Economic Development Act and authorize $217 million for the transition quarter, $995 million for fiscal 1977 and $1.25 billion for each fiscal 1978 and 1979. Act provides Federal assistance to areas and regions suffering from high unemployment and underemployment. (H.R. 9398) (Open rule, one hour debate)

* GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE: The bill would provide that meetings of some 50 multi-member federal agencies such as the Federal Reserve Board, SEC, FCC and FPC be open to the public, except meetings on national defense and other narrowly defined areas. (H.R. 11656) (Open rule, two hours debate)

* INTERNATIONAL BANKING: The legislation would establish a statutory framework subjecting foreign banks in United States financial markets to the same rights, limitations, and restrictions as domestic banks. (H.R. 13876) (Open rule, one hour debate)

* AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH: The bill would establish a permanent National Agricultural Research Policy Advisory Board and authorize $620 million for various research programs in fiscal 1977. (H.R. 11743) (Rule adopted, general debate concluded)

* FIFRA: The bill would authorize $19.7 million for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act for a six-month period ending September 30, 1977. (H.R. 12944) (Rule adopted, one hour debate)

* USDA EXECUTIVES: The bill would upgrade top-level positions in the Department of Agriculture to make them more comparable to those of other federal departments. (H.R. 10133) (Rule adopted, one hour debate)

* INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION: The legislation would authorize $1.6 million for fiscal 1977 and extend to September 30, 1980, the Indian Claims Commission, which decides Indian tribal claims against the United States accruing before August 13, 1946. (H.R. 11909) (Open rule, one hour debate)

* INDIAN HEALTH CARE: Sequentially referred bill would establish program for improvement of Indian health care, including manpower, facilities and medicare/medicaid eligibility; $1.2 billion, seven-year program in parent Interior Committee bill, $466.6 million, three-year program as reported by Commerce Committee. (H.R. 2525) (Open rule, two hours debate)

* PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE DEVELOPMENT: Bill would authorize $43.4 million through fiscal 1978 to revitalize Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House as a significant historic thoroughfare. (H.R. 7743) (Open rule, one hour debate)

* PAYMENTS-IN-LIEU: The legislation would provide for a system of payments-in-lieu-of-taxes to local governments to partially compensate them for the tax immunity of certain public lands within their boundaries. Cost is estimated at $117 million in fiscal 1977. (H.R. 9719) (Open rule, one hour debate)

* ANNUITY PAYMENTS TO JUDGES: The bill would authorize discontinuance of Civil Service annuity payments to annuitants who are appointed federal justices or judges. (H.R. 12882) (Open rule, one hour debate)

* PUBLIC LANDS POLICY: The bill would set policy for the administration of 450 million acres of public lands in Alaska and 11 other western states and would require land inventories and development of land use plans by Interior and Agriculture Departments. (H.R. 13777) (Open rule, two hours debate)

* FIREFIGHTERS WORKWEEK: The bill would reduce federal firefighters' basic workweeks to 54 hours (from the present 72) but would continue firefighters' 25-percent premium pay. (H.R. 4634) (Open rule, one hour debate)

* DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT: The bill would seek to prohibit abusive practices by debt collectors and to protect consumers from unwarranted harassment. (H.R. 13720) (Open rule, one hour debate)

* BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENT: The bill would authorize the U.S. to accept amendments to the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund (Bretton Woods Agreement), including amendments to permit recognition of floating international exchange rates, to abolish the official price for gold, and to increase the U.S. quota in the IMF. (H.R. 13955) (Open rule, one hour debate)

* MINE SAFETY: The bill would strengthen mine safety laws, transfer enforcement to the Department of Labor, provide new rule-making procedures and mandate periodic inspections of underground and surface mines. (H.R. 13555) (Rule adopted, general debate concluded)

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Number Two Hundred Seventy-Four June 28, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FISCAL 1977 (H.R. 14261)

The House this Thursday, July 1, is scheduled to consider an $8.3 billion conference report on the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government appropriations.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House June 14 (261-99) (H. Rpt. 94-1229)
-Passed Senate June 24 (82-10) (S. Rpt. 94-953)
-Conference reported June 25 (H. Conf. Rpt. 94-1299)

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference agreement recommends $8,313,119,000 in new budget authority. This is $1,502,977,500 more than fiscal 1976, $308,227,000 more than the budget estimate, $11,649,000 more than the Senate, and $45,483,000 more than the House.

The increase over the House is due primarily to budget amendments totaling $22 million that were submitted to the Senate and not considered in the House and restoration of $22 million for the Executive Office of the President. The increase over the President's budget is due almost entirely to the Postal Service appropriation pursuant to P.L. 93-328 to stretch out the phase-in of higher second and fourth class rates.

Budget amendments not considered by the House include $20 million for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Fund; $1,300,000 for the National Commission on Electronic Transfers; and $350,000 for the National Study Commission on Records and Documents of Federal Officials.

Funds for the Executive Office stricken from the House bill on a point of order (because authorizing legislation has not been enacted) included $16,530,000 for the White House Office; $2,095,000 for the Executive Residence; $61,000 for the official residence of the Vice President; $1,246,000 for Special Assistance to the President; $1,700,000 for the Domestic Council and $1,000,000 for unanticipated needs, which have been regularly funded in prior years.

Conferees agreed to $793,400,000 for accounts, collections and taxpayer services function of the Internal Revenue Service, splitting a difference of $5,000,000. Conferees rejected cutbacks in taxpayer service, directed IRS to maintain service in fiscal 1977 at fiscal 1976 levels and provided 4,218 positions for the activity.

Conferees agreed on $2,750,000 for the National Center for Productivity and Quality of Working Life, splitting a $500,000 difference; and on $17,500,000 for Research, Shelter Survey and Marking function of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, splitting a $5,000,000 difference. Availability of revenues from GSA's Federal Buildings Fund was set at $1,130,755,000 which is $5,800,000 more than the House and $11,000,000 less than the Senate. These changes, in effect, set limits of $28,400,000 on construction of certain buildings. The conferees allowed $3.5 million for construction of the Honolulu federal office building, $1.5 million for the New York Customs Courthouse and $.8 million for the Detroit federal office building. Hearings will be conducted at a later date on the remainder of the funds needed to complete the projects.

House managers will offer a motion to recede and concur in two Senate amendments: (1) requiring that any exchange of private for federal property near Dulles International Airport be contingent upon review by the appropriate committees (the House bill had authorized GSA to negotiate and accept conveyance of 930 acres near the airport); and (2) restricting purchase of foreign stainless steel flatware (language had been stricken in the House on a point of order).

(in $000's)	Conference	---Compared with--- House	Senate
Treasury Department----------	$2,579,110	$ +3,650	$ +4,500
U.S. Postal Service----------	1,766,170	------	------
Executive Ofc. of Pres.------	66,000	+22,432	------
Independent Agencies---------	3,901,839	+19,401	+7,149
TOTAL----------	$8,313,119	$+45,483	$+11,649

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Number Two Hundred Seventy-Seven June 28, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION (H.R. 12438)

The House this week is scheduled to consider the conference report on the defense authorization bill for fiscal 1977.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House April 9 (298-52) (H. Rpt. 94-967)
-Passed Senate amended May 26 (76-2) (S. Rpt. 94-878)
-Conference report filed June 25 (H. Conf. Rpt. 94-1305)
Floor Manager: Chairman Price

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference report authorizes major weapons procurement and all military research and development and sets the strengths of the active and reserve forces and Defense Department civilian employment for fiscal 1977. The House bill authorized a total of $33.3 billion. The Senate amendment authorized $31.8 billion. The conference report contains a total of $32.5 billion.

In addition, the conferees took the following major actions:

--Deleted Senate language which would have prohibited obligation of funds authorized for the B-1 bomber until February, 1977.

--Agreed to authorize $65.8 million for the procurement of six A-6E aircraft and $104.1 million for procurement of six US-3A COD aircraft for the Navy. The House had originally authorized $120 million for twelve A-6E's and the Senate had originally authorized $169 million for twelve US-3A's. The A-6E authorization contemplates the use of $14.3 million of available fiscal 1976 funds, making a total of $80.1 million for A-6E's. The conferees further recommended either a reprogramming or supplemental request for necessary long-lead authorization for production of both aircraft in fiscal year 1978.

--Agreed to a shipbuilding program of 17 ships, deleting both the nuclear-powered cruiser contained in the House bill and the DDG-47 destroyer contained in the Senate amendment, but providing $371 million for the modernization of the cruiser Long Beach into an Aegis nuclear strike cruiser.

--Agreed to the elimination of the 1-percent kicker on military retired-pay increases subject to similar action on civil service retirement pay.

--Agreed to an active duty strength level of 2,092,600 and a Selected Reserve strength level of 889,400.

--Agreed to a civilian personnel strength for the Department of Defense of 1,031,000, an increase of 4,000 over the Senate bill and a decrease of 9,000 from the House bill.

--Deleted language contained in the Senate bill which would have required a 3-year phaseout of the subsidy for military commissaries and directed the Department of Defense to institute management improvements to reduce the requirement for subsidies.

--Deleted House provisions prohibiting the expenditure of funds for six E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft until a favorable decision by NATO Allies to procure the system.

COST: $32.5 billion would be authorized for fiscal 1977.

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Number Two Hundred Seventy-Eight June 29, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1976
(S. 586)

The House this week is scheduled to consider the conference report on legislation to amend the 1972 Coastal Zone Management Act.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed Senate July 16, 1975 (73-15) (S. Rpt. 94-277)
-Passed House March 11, 1976 (370-14) (H. Rpt. 94-878)
-Conference report filed June 24 (H. Rpt. 94-1298)
Floor Manager: Congressman John Murphy

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

Major provisions of the conference report are as follows:

(1) Establishment of a Coastal Energy Impact Program which authorizes a $1.2 billion package of assistance to coastal states and communities impacted by energy development. The program consists of (a) a total authorization of $800 million (for fiscal 1977 through 1986) for loans, bond guarantees, and planning, environmental and repayment grants; and (b) a total authorization of $400 million ($50 million a year for fiscal 1977 through 1984) in grants determined by a formula based on criteria tied to Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy activity. The formula, which follows the House amendment, is based on new leasings, production, first landings, and new employment as a result of new or expanded OCS energy activities and is designed to provide incentives for increased energy production.

(2) Authorization of $464 million for the basic coastal zone management program for fiscal 1977 through 1980 and the following changes in the basic program: (a) a renewal of the basic funding authority of the program; (b) an increase in the federal matching share to 80 percent (from 66 2/3 percent); (c) an additional fourth year for state coastal management program development; (d) a new interim period prior to completion of a state program and final federal approval; (e) a provision that OCS exploration, development and production plans must be found by the states to be consistent with approved coastal management programs; (f) matching funds (50-50) for states to provide access to public beaches and other public resources and for island preservation; (g) a new authorization to encourage interstate and regional coordination in coastal management policies with federal participation authorized when requested by interstate entities; (h) a new authorization to conduct both federally-administered and state-administered coastal research and training; (i) the establishment of three new requirements for state coastal zone management programs.

These amendments to the basic act generally conform to the House version which contained a lower authorization and a shorter time period.

(For details of House bill, see Whip Advisory 57, March 9, 1976.)

BACKGROUND

The Coastal Zone Management Act, first enacted in 1972, was passed before the full effect of the energy crisis was understood and before energy self-sufficiency became a recognized national objective. The development of the nation's outer Continental Shelf oil and gas resources and other energy-related pressures will have significant impacts on coastal areas. The Committee believes this legislation will greatly assist in expediting the production of OCS hydrocarbons and in siting other coastal-related energy facilities in an environmentally-safe manner by providing coastal states with a strengthened coastal management program and the necessary financial assistance to plan for and ameliorate any adverse impacts resulting from such coastal energy activity.

WHIP ADVISORIES

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-One June 29, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON STATE, JUSTICE, AND COMMERCE, THE JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 14239)

The House this Wednesday, June 30, is scheduled to consider a conference report appropriating $6,680,314,453 for the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, the Judiciary and Related Agencies for fiscal year 1977.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House June 18 (208-9) (H. Rpt. 94-1226)
-Passed Senate June 24 (82-10) (S. Rpt. 94-964)
-Conference reported June 28 (Conf. Rpt. 94-1309)

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference agreement recommends $6,680,314,453 in new budget authority. This is $190,664,453 more than 1976 appropriations, $367,063,000 more than the budget estimates, $139,186,453 more than the House total, and $199,833,000 less than the Senate total.

The conference agreement provides $753,000,000 for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, an increase of $15,000,000 above the House amount. The conference agreement also provides $360,000,000 for EDA, an increase of $60,000,000 more than the House bill; and $63,500,000 for the Regional Commissions, an increase of $21,300,000 above the House bill. For the Legal Services Corporation the agreement provides $125,000,000 which is $15,000,000 more than the amount in the House bill.

		---------Compared with----------		
Department or Agency	Conference	Budget	House	Senate
Department of State	$1,047,679,453	$ -7,000,000	$+5,545,453	---
Department of Justice	2,237,221,000	+84,912,000	+17,865,000	$-57,734,000
Department of Commerce	1,515,784,000	+172,242,000	+96,582,000	-133,626,000
The Judiciary	376,301,000	-17,230,000	+856,000	---
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency	12,000,000	-200,000	---	---
Board for International Broadcasting	53,385,000	---	---	---
Commission on Civil Rights	9,450,000	-90,000	---	---
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe	340,000	+340,000	+40,000	-35,000
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	67,850,000	-2,250,000	---	---
Federal Communications Commission	54,696,000	+3,248,000	+3,248,000	-3,249,000
Federal Maritime Commission	8,300,000	-9,000	---	---
Federal Trade Commission	52,700,000	-373,000	---	---
Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	650,000	-150,000	---	---
International Trade Commission	11,350,000	-189,000	+50,000	-189,000
Legal Services Corporation	125,000,000	-15,300,000	+15,000,000	-5,000,000
Marine Mammal Commission	1,000,000	---	---	---
Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations	2,250,000	-120,000	---	---
Privacy Protection Study Commission	750,000	---	---	---
Renegotiation Board	5,700,000	-670,000	---	---
Securities and Exchange Commission	53,000,000	-98,000	---	---
Small Business Administration	781,000,000	+150,000,000	---	---
U.S. Information Agency	263,908,000	---	---	---
TOTAL, new budget (obligational) authority	$6,680,314,453	$+367,063,000	$+139,186,453	$-199,833,000

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Number Two Hundred Seventy-Nine June 29, 1976

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEAR 1977 (S. 3168)

The House this week is scheduled to consider the Conference Report on S. 3168, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal 1977 which authorizes fiscal 1977 appropriations for the State Department, the U.S. Information Agency and the Board of International Broadcasting.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-H.R. 13179, State Department authorization passed House June 18 (327-22) (H. Rpt. 94-1083)
-H.R. 13589, U.S. Information Agency authorization passed House June 18 (313-25) (H. Rpt. 94-1116)
-H.R. 12262, Board for International Broadcasting authorization passed House March 29 (287-70) (H. Rpt. 94-881)
-S. 3168, authorizations for fiscal 1977 for State Department, U.S. Information Agency and Board for International Broadcasting, passed Senate March 29 (S. Rpt. 94-703)
-Conference Report on S. 3168 filed June 25 (H. Rpt. 94-1302)
Floor Manager: Chairman Morgan

BACKGROUND

The House passed separate fiscal 1977 authorizing bills for the State Department, the U.S. Information Agency and the Board for International Broadcasting. The Senate passed a bill, S. 3168, containing the fiscal 1977 authorizations for all three agencies. The House conferees, while maintaining the major features of the House bills and agreeing to some compromise on amounts, accepted the incorporation of the three authorizations in a single bill.

BILL SUMMARY

Title I authorizes $1,054,922,453 for the Department of State in fiscal 1977, including $552,455,000 for administration of foreign affairs, $342,460,453 for international organizations and conferences, $17,069,000 for international commissions, $68,500,000 for educational exchanges, $10,000,000 for migration and refugee assistance, $20,000,000 for Russian refugee assistance, $1,000,000 for U.S. Passport Office supplemental, $50,000 for the North Atlantic Assembly, $31,458,000 for foreign service buildings, and $12,000,000 for the Pan American games.

Other provisions in Title I include a directive that any new Panama Canal agreement must protect vital U.S. interests, a sense-of-Congress statement favoring appointment of a higher number of career diplomats to ambassadorships, an anti-discrimination provision and requirement of submission to Congress of a comprehensive plan for improvement and simplification of the State Department/USIA personnel system.

Title II authorizes $262,908,000 for the U.S. Information Agency in fiscal 1977, including $255,925,000 for salaries and expenses, $4,841,000 for special international exhibitions, and $2,142,000 for acquisition and construction of radio facilities.

Title III authorizes $58,385,000 for fiscal 1977 for the Board for International Broadcasting, for the operation of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

Title IV contains technical amendments to the Japan-United States Friendship Act.

Title V makes changes concerning Foreign Service retirement including placing future Foreign Service cost-of-living annuity increases on the same cycle as Civil Service annuity increases and making future annuity increases identical under both systems.

COST: S. 3168 authorizes appropriations of $1,376,285,453 for fiscal 1977.

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Number Two Hundred Eighty June 29, 1976

TAX CUT EXTENSION
(H.R. 10051)

The House this week is scheduled to consider legislation extending the tax withholding rates scheduled to expire on June 30 until September 1, 1976.

BILL SUMMARY

The legislation would extend the income tax withholding rates established in the Tax Reduction Act of 1975 (PL 94-12) until September 1, 1976, to allow time to complete action on comprehensive tax legislation.

The reduced withholding rates in the Act were effective through calendar 1975. They were extended through June 30, 1976 in H.R. 9968, the Revenue Adjustment Act of 1975, passed by the House (372-2) and by the Senate(73-7) December 19, 1975 (PL 94-164).

The Tax Reform Act of 1975 (H.R. 10612) would extend the tax cuts, with some changes, through calendar 1976 as well as restrict tax shelters and tighten or eliminate tax preferences to produce about $1.6 billion in additional revenues. The bill passed the House December 4, 1975 (257-168) and is being debated in the Senate this week.

The tax cut is credited by economists with being the major impetus behind the nation's current economic rebound.

BACKGROUND

The Senate on Monday, June 28 attached an extension of the tax cut until September 1, 1976 as an amendment to H.R. 10051 dealing with tax treatment of inadvertent distributions by life insurance companies. The Senate also added two other amendments relating to SSI benefits and passed the bill by voice vote. (Congressional Record, June 28, Page D917). H.R. 10051 was passed by the House June 22 under suspension of the rules (H. Rpt. 94-1263). The tax cut extension was separated from the tax reform bill because the Senate has not completed action on the latter and because of the difficulty in resolving differences in the House and Senate versions before the June 30 tax cut expiration date.

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-Two June 30, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 14235)

The House on Thursday, July 1, is scheduled to consider a conference report on military construction which recommends $3,338,759,000 for fiscal year 1977.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House June 16 (361-22)
-Passed Senate June 26 (64-0)
-Conference report filed in House June 29 (H. Rpt. 94-1314)
Floor Manager: Congressman Sikes

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

Conferees agreed on a military construction appropriation for fiscal 1977 of $3,338,759,000, which is $45,641,000 more than the House bill, $88,132,000 less than the Senate bill, and $128,241,000 less than the Administration request.

A summary of new budget authority contained in the conference report follows:

Military Construction	Conference	Compared with House	Compared with Senate
Army	$580,868,000	+$9,303,000	-$30,669,000
Navy	549,935,000	+23,683,000	- 28,366,000
Air Force	788,079,000	+10,179,000	- 21,097,000
Defense Agencies	41,396,000	+ 500,000	- 8,000,000
Reserve Forces	186,505,000	+ 300,000	.....
Family Housing	1,191,976,000	+ 1,676,000	.....
Total	$3,338,759,000	+$45,641,000	-$88,132,000

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-Three

June 30, 1976

LIMITING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION TO FIX AND ADJUST ALLOWANCES
(H. Res. 1372)

TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(H. Res. 1368)

The House on Thursday, July 1, will consider two resolutions: (1) to limit the authority of the Committee on House Administration to fix and adjust allowances; and (2) to establish a Commission to study the administrative services of the House of Representatives.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by Rules Committee June 30 (Voice)
-The Rules Committee adopted similar rules for both resolutions providing for general debate for one hour to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority members of the Committee on House Administration. Amendments will not be in order; one motion to recommit (with or without instructions) will be in order in each instance.

RESOLUTION SUMMARIES

Passage of H. Res. 1372 would rescind the authority of the House Administration Committee to expand, change the character, or create new categories of allowances for Members of the House without a direct vote on the House floor. Under H. Res. 1372, however, the Committee on House Administration may fix or adjust allowances made necessary by: (1) any change in the price of materials, services or office space; (2) any technological change or other improvement in electrical or mechanical equipment; or (3) any increase in the cost of living which results in action under the Federal Pay Comparability Act of 1971. (H. Res. 1372 would rescind the authority granted to House Administration by H. Res. 457 in 1971 and enacted into permanent law by the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1972. (Public Law 94-184; 85 Stat. 627))

H. Res. 1368 would establish a Commission on Administrative Review. The Commission would be composed of 15 members appointed by the Speaker as follows: (1) eight members of the House, five from the majority party and three from the minority party; (2) seven individuals from the general public. The Commission will make a complete study of the House with respect to administrative, accounting and purchasing procedures; office equipment and communication facilities; record-keeping; emoluments and allowances. The Commission will seek the advice of both the GAO and the business community. The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations no later than December 31, 1977 after which time it shall cease to exist.

In related action, the House Administration Committee on Monday, June 28, adopted Committee orders abolishing the postage stamp allowance, eliminating cash-outs, reducing the mileage reimbursement rate, requiring that disbursements be documented and certified by vouchers, reducing the telecommunications allowance if a Member elects to utilize WATS or similar services, and allowing transfers among allowances. (See the Dear Colleague letter, dated June 30, from Chairman Thompson for further details.)

On Thursday, July 1, the parliamentary situation will require a series of votes. Members desiring to support the position of the Democratic Caucus and the House Democratic Leadership will vote: (a) for ordering the previous question on both rules; (b) for adoption of the rules; (c) against the Republican motion to recommit on the resolutions; and (d) for approval of the resolutions.

NEWS SPECIAL

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July 1, 1976

APPROPRIATIONS SERIES MAKES THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET PROCESS WORK

It has been a rugged three-week appropriations bill sequence, but the House is making the new budget process work.

For the first time ever, the House considered the annual appropriation bills for the federal government in a coordinated series.

By July 4, both Houses passed and sent to the White House five regular appropriation bills;conferees reached agreement on a sixth; and the House passed and sent to the Senate five others, leaving only two pending.

Grueling as the sequence has been, it is the main street of the new budget process. It was the time when the fiscal and policy guidelines of the First Budget Resolution were translated into the substance of spending legislation.

By considering the appropriations measures in conjunction with each other, Congress was able to exercise a strong rein on spending and make well-considered choices among national priorities. The new budget process restores to Congress effective control of its Constitutional power of the purse. The system was enacted in 1974; it became fully effective this year, and the 94th Congress is achieving one of its major goals by making it work.

Here is the appropriation bills record of the last three weeks:

Sent to the White House
Agriculture
Public Works
Treasury-Postal Service
State-Justice Judiciary
Military Construction

Conference Agreement
Interior

Passed Both Houses in Differing Forms
HUD-Independent Agencies
Labor-HEW

Passed House
Defense
Foreign Assistance
Transportation

Pending
District of Columbia
Legislative Branch

Spending and revenue targets were set by the First Concurrent Budget Resolution adopted May 12. The completion of spending and taxing measures as scheduled would be a major step toward assuring adjournment of the Second Session by the goal of October 2.

The next deadline under the new budget process is Labor Day plus seven days (September 13 this year) when all appropriations and spending bills must be passed. By September 15, both Houses must have agreed on a Second Budget Resolution which may make adjustments in spending and revenue levels, if economic conditions or other reasons warrant. Any changes must be enacted in a reconciliation bill by September 25. The second resolution is binding, and thereafter any bill which would violate expenditure or revenue levels would be subject to a point of order. The shift to the October-through-September fiscal year occurs October 1, 1976, when fiscal 1977 begins. Meantime, beginning July 1, 1976, and lasting through September 30, the government will be operating in an interim fiscal period called the transition quarter.

The new congressional budget has taken the initiative away from the traditional presidential budget because Congress has done a better job of estimating budget needs and revenues and projecting realistic budget totals.

NEWS SPECIAL

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July 1, 1976

CONGRESS REACHES THREE QUARTER MARK WITH TAX CUT EXTENSION, JOBS, APPROPRIATIONS

The Ninety-fourth Congress reached the three quarter mark today with a flurry of legislative activity that included a critical extension of the tax cut, a major jobs bill, five fiscal 1977 appropriations bills and House reform measures.

Congress continued to advance its major priorities: sustaining the economic rebound, making the new budget process work and providing jobs in the public and private sectors.

For the first time ever, the House considered the appropriations bills for the federal government in a coordinated series. In the short period since June 14, when the first bill was considered in the House, Congress will have cleared five of the 13 regular annual appropriations bills for the President, an unprecedented achievement. A sixth conference report is filed; two other bills have passed both Houses in differing forms; three more have passed the House and are in the Senate; and the final two await House action when Congress returns.

The appropriations achievement is the acid test of the new budget process. This is the time when the fiscal and policy guidelines of the First Budget Resolution are translated into the substance of spending legislation. The new congressional budget has taken the initiative away from the traditional presidential budget because Congress has done a better job of estimating budget needs and revenues and projecting realistic budget totals.

The 11 House-passed bills (including six conference figures) total $259.9 billion, which is $97.7 million more than the artifically low levels in the Administration's budget request. For fiscal 1977, Congress concentrated on three major objectives: providing a strong national defense (allowing virtually the entire Administration request), sustaining economic recovery, and restoring disastrous and arbitrary cuts in vital domestic programs.

These policy decisions were outlined in the First Budget Resolution for fiscal 1977 (S.Con.Res. 109). The resolution allowed $6.3 billion for job creation in the public and private sectors, and Congress sent a major piece of that to the President in the form of a new Public Works Employment Act which would create or preserve some 360,000 jobs. The President has until July 7 to act on the bill. The resolution also called for an extension of the tax cut which Congress did this week on an interim basis (H.R. 10051) until the Senate finishes Floor consideration of the major Tax Reform bill (H.R. 10612) and differences in House and Senate versions can be resolved. Without the interim extension, withholding rates would have gone up today.

Congress also cleared a new bill (H.R. 12455) to aid day care centers which faced fund cutoffs because of the President's veto of earlier child care legislation (H.R. 9803).

Other major bills that Congress has cleared this week for the President include Navy Nuclear Career Incentives (H.R. 10451), Foreign Relations Authorization (S. 3168), Federal Energy Administration Interim Extension (S. 3625), Coastal Zone Management (S. 586), Alcoholism Prevention (S. 3184), Airport Development Amendments (H.R. 9771), Medicare Emergency Extension (H.R. 13501), Defense Authorization (H.R. 12438), and SSI Eligibility Extension (H.R. 14484).

The House today continued the series of institutional improvements it has made every year since 1973 by acting on two measures relating to House Members' accounts. H.Res. 1372 limits the authority of the House Administration Committee to adjust Members' allowances and requires a full House vote on any future major adjustments. H.Res. 1368 establishes a 15-member Commission on Administrative Review, including seven persons from the general public, to make a complete study and recommendations to the House by December 31, 1977, on administrative, accounting, purchasing and other housekeeping procedures. In a related action, the House Administration Committee last Monday adopted committee orders abolishing the postage stamp allowance, eliminating cash-outs, reducing mileage reimbursement, requiring that disbursements be certified by vouchers, allowing transfers among allowances and reducing the telecommunications allowance if a Member uses WATS or similar services.

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July 1, 1976

HOUSE SETS RECORD PACE IN ONE OF
BUSIEST AND MOST PRODUCTIVE PERIODS IN HISTORY

The House, in one of the busiest and most productive periods in its history, met for more than 115 hours, acted on 64 bills and took 106 roll call votes in the three legislative weeks prior to the July 4 break.

From June 14 to the end of the month, the House passed 15 appropriations bills and appropriations conference reports as it continued the successful implementation of the Congressional Budget Act and acted on 49 other measures.

Members were in session as long as 49 hours and 20 minutes a week (June 14-18).

There were 26 quorum calls during the 13-day period; floor action on 134 amendments; 253 committee, subcommittee and joint committee meetings, and 31 House-Senate conference meetings. Democratic Members also met a total of six hours in Caucus.

All of this was in addition to Members' normal office operations -- meetings with constituents and groups interested in legislation, answering constituent inquiries by phone and mail, casework, state and regional delegation meetings and a range of other official activity.

Most sessions during the period began at 10 a.m. and ranged into the night, with the average session lasting nearly nine hours. The longest was on June 24 when the House convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:48 p.m. after 11 hours and 48 minutes continuously in session.

Here are the highlights of what the House accomplished during the period:

--Passed and sent to the White House five appropriations bills--Agriculture, Military Construction, Public Works, Treasury-Postal Service and State-Justice, Judiciary.

--Passed and sent to the Senate six appropriations bills -- Defense, Foreign Assistance, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor-HEW and Transportation.

At the July 4 break, only two appropriations bills, District of Columbia and the Legislative branch, were pending.

--Passed 49 other bills including the Public Works Employment Act conference report, tax cut extension, Coastal Zone Management Act Amendments conference report, Defense authorization conference report, military construction authorization conference report, veterans housing amendments, House accounting reforms, housing authorization conference report and the Airport and Airway Development Act amendments conference report.

The intensive three week period added further to the record of the 94th Congress, which already has established itself as the hardest working in history.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 14-30*:

Hours in Session	115
Average Daily Length of Session	8 hours, 44 minutes
Bills Acted On	64
Appropriation Bills and Appropriation Conference Reports Passed	15
Amendments Acted On	134
Roll Call Votes	106
Quorum Calls	26
Committee, Subcommittee and Joint Committee Meetings	253
House-Senate Conference Meetings	31

* Statistics complete through close of business Wednesday, June 30. To complete three-week period beginning June 14, add figures from Congressional Record of Thursday, July 1.

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-Four July 1, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES AND CHILD DAY CARE STANDARDS (H.R. 12455)

A conference report on legislation to give states the option to extend services under Title XX on a group eligibility basis, to suspend staffing standards for child day care centers and to provide additional funds for day care is scheduled for House consideration Thursday, July 1, under a rule waiving all points of order.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Passed House March 16 (383-0) (H. Rpt. 94-903)
-Passed Senate amended May 20 (48-16) (S. Rpt. 94-857)
-Conference report filed June 30 (H. Rpt. 1317)
-Rules Committee June 30 granted rule waiving points of order.
-House action will precede Senate action
Floor Managers: Chairman Ullman and Congressman Corman

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The bill, H.R. 12455 as passed by the House contained a temporary solution to the problems associated with imposition of an individual means test on senior citizens to determine eligibility for senior citizen centers. The measure passed the House unanimously. The Senate Finance Committee added to the bill a number of amendments similar to the provisions contained in H.R. 9803 which passed the Congress, successfully survived a Presidential veto by a wide override margin in the House, but failed in the Senate, three votes short of overriding the veto.

MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT

(1) The bill would provide an additional $40 million for child day care during the transitional quarter with a matching requirement of 25 percent from the states. For fiscal 1977, $200 million would be provided with no matching requirement.

(2) The bill gives the states the option to provide services on a group eligibility basis if substantially all of the people served have incomes less than 90 percent of the median income of the state. Child day care could not be provided on a group eligibility basis, except day care for children of migrant workers which can be offered on a group eligibility basis. Family planning services are exempt from any means testing. These are the only provisions in the bill which would be permanent legislation.

(3) Federal staffing standards for child day care would be deferred until October 1, 1977.

(4) The bill provides for a waiver of staffing standards for certain day care services until September 30, 1977.

(5) States would be permitted to use social services funds to provide grants to day care providers as an incentive to employ welfare recipients, effective until October 1, 1977.

(6) The 20-percent tax credit for employers to hire welfare recipients to work in day care centers would be continued until September 30, 1977.

(7) The bill would continue until September 30, 1977, provisions relating to the use of social service funds for alcoholics and drug addicts dealing with confidentiality of records and use of social service funds for medical services during detoxification.

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-Five July 12, 1976

RESCHEDULED BILLS

The House next week is scheduled to consider seven previously scheduled bills.

H.R. 10210: UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS
(modified open rule, two hours of debate) The bill would provide coverage under the permanent Federal-State Unemployment Compensation Program to 8.9 million of the nation's 10 million wage and salary earners not now covered and improve financing by increasing the taxable wage base and, temporarily, the tax rate. (Whip Advisory 266).

Adoption of the rule and general debate are scheduled for Monday, July 19 and votes on amendments and the bill under the five-minute rule for Tuesday, July 20.

Scheduled for Tuesday, July 20 and the balance of the week:

H.R. 6218: OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF ACT AMENDMENTS
(rule adopted, general debate concluded) The bill would establish policy for management of the nation's offshore oil and gas resources, taking into account national energy needs and environmental protection. (Whip Advisory 170).

H.R. 13777: PUBLIC LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
(open rule, two hours of debate) The bill would set policy for the administration of 450 million acres of public lands in Alaska and 11 other western states and would require land inventories and development of land use plans by Interior and Agriculture Departments. (Whip Advisory 243).

H.R. 7743: PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE DEVELOPMENT
(open rule, one hour of debate) The bill would authorize $43.4 million through fiscal 1978 to revitalize Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House as a significant historic thoroughfare. (Whip Advisory 264).

H.R. 8401: NUCLEAR FUEL ASSURANCE
(open rule, two hours of debate) The bill would authorize ERDA to negotiate contracts providing government cooperation and assurances that would encourage development of uranium enrichment plants by private industry. (Whip Advisory 243). (Note: Advisories on this bill and H.R. 13777, Public Land Policy and Management, were inadvertently given the same number.)

H.R. 13876: INTERNATIONAL BANKING
(open rule, one hour of debate) The bill would establish a statutory framework subjecting foreign banks in U.S. financial markets to the same rights, limitations, and restrictions as domestic banks. (Whip Advisory 270).

H.R. 13955: BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENT
(open rule, one hour of debate) The bill would authorize the U.S. to accept amendments to the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund (Bretton Woods Agreement), including amendments to permit recognition of floating international exchange rates, to abolish the official price of gold, and to increase the U.S. quota in the IMF. (Whip Advisory 259).

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-Six July 12, 1976

DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT
(H.R. 13720)

Legislation to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to prohibit abusive practices by professional debt collectors is scheduled for House consideration next Monday, July 19 under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing May 25 (21-3)
-Reported June 1 (H. Rpt. 94-1202)
Floor Manager: Congressman Annunzio

BILL SUMMARY
The bill would prohibit professional debt collectors from harassing or intimidating any person in connection with the collection of a debt and from making false or misleading representations. The bill also would provide for:

- controls on communications with a consumer or his spouse or third parties
- controls on practices used to locate the home address, home phone number and place of work of a consumer
- the prohibition of the following conduct: (1) use of abusive or profane language; (2) use of violence or other criminal means to harm the physical person, reputation, or property of any person; (3) making harassing or threatening phone calls or visits to a consumer at home or at work; (4) false representation that a debt collector is acting for or on behalf of the United States government or any state government; (5) false representation that any individual is an attorney; (6) threatening to take any action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken; (7) false representation that nonpayment of any debt will result in the arrest or imprisonment of any consumer.
- validation of a debt by debt collectors if the consumer disputes it in writing
- enforcement by the Federal Trade Commission
- civil and criminal penalties consistent with those already in the Consumer Credit Protection Act. The civil remedy for an individual action would be a minimum of $100 and a maximum of $1,000 plus reasonable attorney fees and court costs; a class action would be limited to the lesser of $500,000 or 1 percent of the debt collector's net worth plus reasonable attorney fees and court costs. The criminal penalty for willful and knowing violation would be not more than $5,000 or not more than 1 year imprisonment or both.

BACKGROUND
The committee report states that debt collectors frequently abuse consumers through various forms of harassment and deception. Most state laws do not adequately protect consumers. Thirteen states have no laws regulating debt collection, and most states with laws do not have effective ones. Interstate debt collection abuses are a major problem, and state laws do not regulate interstate collection practices. The federal statutes that can be construed to relate to debt collection do not successfully regulate interstate debt collection practices.

COST: None

OTHER VIEWS AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS
Three Members filed dissenting views questioning whether federal legislation is needed or stating that the bill should also apply to those in institutions which collect their own debts rather than using professional collection agencies. Possible amendments: (1) to extend coverage to those who collect their own debts; (2) to permit more frequent communication by a debt collector with a consumer, his spouse or his employer.

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Number Two Hundred Ninety July 14, 1976

S.S. UNITED STATES
(H.R. 13218)

Legislation to authorize the sale of the S.S. United States for use as a floating hotel in or on the navigable waters of the United States is scheduled for House consideration next Monday, July 19, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee June 29 (voice)
-Reported July 13 (H. Rpt. 94-1339)
Floor Manager: Chairman Sullivan

BILL SUMMARY

The legislation would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or charter the steamship United States for use as a floating hotel in or on the navigable waters of the United States. Under existing law, the vessel may only be sold or chartered for operation under the American flag.

BACKGROUND

When Congress enacted P.L. 92-296 to authorize the transfer of several other U.S. flag passenger ships to foreign registry, the S.S. United States was excluded from the provisions of that law because of its special defense features. The vessel was acquired by the Secretary of Commerce in 1973 and has been in lay-up at Norfolk, Virginia since that time. The Maritime Administration in the Department of Commerce has offered the vessel for sale for operation under the American flag several times, but has never received a responsive bid. That agency testified that use as a floating hotel may be a viable alternative. However, this legislation would not prevent the Maritime Administration from also considering applications from parties who wish to operate the ship under the U.S. flag.

Cost: None.

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-Nine July 14, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION (H.R. 14231)

The House in the near future is expected to consider a conference report appropriating $5,641,379,057 for the Department of Interior and related agencies for fiscal 1977.

ACTION BY 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House June 25 (295-1) (H. Rpt. 94-1218)
-Passed Senate June 26 (61-4) (S. Rpt. 94-991)
-Conference reported July 1 (Conf. Rpt. 94-1330)

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference agreement recommends $5,641,379,057 in new budget authority. The bill is $792,061,057 more than fiscal year 1976 appropriations, $106,674,943 less than the budget estimate, and $156,586,000 less than the Senate allowance. The bill is $19,517,943 less than the House total. The decrease below the budget estimate and the House and Senate allowance is largely accounted for because the bill includes rescission of unobligated balances of contract authority of $172,722,943 provided by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973.

Also recommended are appropriations to liquidate contract authorizations totaling $271,699,000. This is $36,339,000 more than fiscal year 1976, $31,800,000 above the budget estimate, $6,305,000 more than the Senate allowance, and $5,300,000 less than the House.

A recapitulation of the new budget (obligational) authority contained in the conference agreement follows:

		-------- compared with ---------		
	Conference	Budget	House	Senate
Bureau of Land Management----------	$ 271,524,000	$ +3,865,000	$+10,180,000	$ +190,000
Office of Water Research and Tech.----	18,923,000	-3,350,000	-2,080,000	-2,630,000
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation----------	5,961,000	-226,000	---	---
Land and Water Conservation Fund-------	397,056,000	+97,056,000	+90,000,000	-33,405,000
Fish and Wildlife Service----------	150,072,000	+20,524,000	+280,000	+5,573,000
National Park Service----------	355,654,000	+18,018,000	+9,169,000	-6,592,000
Geological Survey----------	305,896,000	+8,038,000	+9,750,000	-620,000
Mining Enforcement & Safety Admin.----	93,740,000	+2,700,000	+2,642,000	---
Bureau of Mines----------	164,465,000	+7,295,000	+1,150,000	+6,428,000
Bureau of Indian Affairs----------	802,276,000	+40,911,000	+8,105,000	-15,035,000
Territorial Affairs----------	102,923,000	-3,444,000	-5,489,000	-2,200,000
Office of the Solicitor----------	12,371,000	-287,000	---	---
Office of the Secretary----------	34,453,000	-1,976,000	+1,304,000	-1,284,000
Forest Service----------	743,270,000	+25,982,000	+8,358,000	-7,775,000
Energy Research and Development Adm.--	583,995,000	+33,545,000	-28,850,000	-21,536,000
Federal Energy Administration---------	598,069,000	-152,772,000	+1,927,000	-34,835,000
Petroleum Reserves----------	406,116,000	-15,250,000	---	---
Indian Health----------	425,585,000	+30,789,000	+40,360,000	-327,000
Indian Education----------	44,933,000	+2,878,000	+4,000,000	-14,050,000
Indian Claims Commission----------	1,525,000	-5,000	---	---
Navajo/Hopi Relocation Commission-----	400,000	-100,000	---	---
Smithsonian Institution----------	110,446,000	-5,064,000	+702,000	+153,000
Arts and Humanities----------	180,500,000	-4,500,000	+500,000	---
Commission of Fine Arts----------	214,000	-1,000	---	---
National Capital Planning Comm.-------	1,904,000	---	---	---
American Revolution Bicentennial Adm.-	65,000	-1,900,000	---	---
FDR Memorial Commission----------=	29,000	---	---	---
Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska----------	737,000	+197,000	+197,000	---
Penn. Ave. Development Corp.----------	1,000,000	-36,875,000	+1,000,000	-35,768,000
Rescission of Road Contract Auth.-----	-172,722,943	-172,722,943	-172,722,943	+7,127,000
TOTAL ----------	$5,641,379,057	$-106,674,943	$-19,517,943	$-156,586,000

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-Seven July 14, 1976

COAST GUARD PERSONNEL
(H.R. 12939)

Legislation to amend title 14 of the United States Code to avoid unintended changes in Coast Guard officer personnel management procedures is scheduled for House consideration next Monday, July 19, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee June 29 (voice)
-Reported July 2 (H. Rpt. 94-1337)
Floor Manager: Chairman Sullivan

BILL SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND:

Under present law, Coast Guard officer personnel actions, including promotions and retirements, revolve around the date of June 30, which, until enactment of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, coincided with the fiscal year. Because of that coincidence, various provisions of chapter 11 of title 14 are expressed in terms of the fiscal year, although the actions involved are not directly controlled by it. H.R. 12939 would amend the present law and in various sections would change the term "fiscal year" to a new "promotion year", which would run from July 1 to June 30. Through this change, present personnel procedures, which have been found to be advantageous and completely workable, could continue in the present mode rather than having actions shifted with the shift of the fiscal year. The bill contains two other noncontroversial amendments, one of which would remove an unnecessary constraint on promotion opportunities for certain Lieutenant Commanders, the other of which would repeal statutory requirements on the coloring of aids to navigation, a provision enacted in the middle of the last century which now prevents the utilization of the best available technology in paints and color perception. There are numerous other technical changes in the title to reflect changes in laws enacted in the past several years with an indirect impact on the language of title 14.

COST
None.

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-Eight July 14, 1976

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS
(H. Res. 1350)

The House next week is scheduled to consider legislation to create a Select House Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Rules Committee June 30 (voice)
-Reported June 30 (H. Rpt. 94-1325)
Floor Manager: Congressman Morgan Murphy

BILL SUMMARY

The legislation would create an 18-member Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, without legislative authority, but authorized to conduct a continuing comprehensive study and review of narcotics abuse and control.

The Members and the Committee Chairman would be appointed by the Speaker. At least one member of the select committee would be chosen from the seven House standing committees now exercising legislative jurisdiction in the narcotics area--Armed Services, Government Operations, International Relations, Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Judiciary, Merchant Marine and Fisheries and Ways and Means.

The study and review authority of the select committee would include, but not be limited to, international trafficking, enforcement, prevention, narcotics-related violations of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, international treaties, organized crime, drug abuse in the Armed Forces, treatment and rehabilitation, and the approach of the criminal justice system with respect to narcotics law violations and crimes related to drug abuse. The select committee also would have authority to review recommendations made by the President or Executive Branch agencies.

The resolution would require annual reports to the House by the select committee and reports on the results of investigations.

The resolution would authorize the select committee to hire staff and conduct hearings and field investigations but contains no specific authorization of funds.

BACKGROUND

The Committee believes that the overlap in jurisdiction among seven House committees has seriously impeded review and consideration of the drug problem and that creation of the select committee would help end the fragmented approach.

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Number Two Hundred Ninety-Two July 15, 1976

PANAMA CANAL COMPANY ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (H.R. 14311)

Legislation to clarify and establish certain accounting standards relating to the Panama Canal Company are scheduled for House consideration next Tuesday, July 20, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee June 29 (voice)
-Reported July 14 (H. Rpt. 94-1342)
Floor Managers: Chairman Sullivan and Congressman Metcalfe

BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 14311 would require that the U.S. Treasury give interest credit to the Panama Canal Company's cash deposits with the Treasury as well as to the Company's accreditation for Canal tolls computed for Government vessels. The interest credit resulting from these two factors will be deducted from the annual interest payment made by the Company to the U.S. Treasury.

H.R. 14311 also classifies lands, titles, treaty rights, and excavations associated with the Panama Canal as non-depreciable assets.

The provisions of the bill would become effective in fiscal year 1977.

BACKGROUND

As a result of financial difficulties of the Panama Canal in recent years evidenced by large increases in tolls and other fees and the simultaneous severe reduction of services and benefits to Canal employees, the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and its Subcommittee on the Panama Canal undertook an intensive study of Canal finances. In April of this year, three days of hearings rounded out the study.

The Committee's investigation indicated that the basic financial mechanism under which the Canal operates is sound, but that several points at issue demanded a clear resolution, including the establishment of definitive accounting standards relating to the financial impact of these particular points.

Various statutes require that the Panama Canal Company maintain on deposit with the U.S. Treasury all cash assets which exceed the current requirements of operating the Canal. The Canal Company has no statutory authority to obtain an interest credit for these cash deposits used by the Government, even though the Company is required to make an annual interest payment to the Treasury for the U.S. Government funds which have been appropriated for and invested in the Canal. Section 1 of H.R. 14311 corrects this imbalance by in effect providing a credit for interest on Panama Canal cash deposits with the U.S. Treasury.

Despite varying interpretations of basic legislation governing Canal finances, the lands, titles, treaty rights, and excavations of the Panama Canal have not been depreciated historically. Section 2 of H.R. 14311 settles any question over depreciation of these assets through a clear statutory declaration that depreciation of them is prohibited. The financial history of the Canal indicates that there has been a return on these assets. The governing statutes have treated these items as capital assets of the United States.

COST

None.

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Number Two Hundred Ninety-One July 15, 1976

DELTA QUEEN
(H.R. 13326)

Legislation to extend until November 1, 1983, the exemption of the riverboat DELTA QUEEN from certain fire proofing standards is scheduled for House consideration next Monday, July 19, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee June 29 (voice)
-Reported July 13 (H. Rpt. 94-1340)
Floor Manager: Chairman Sullivan

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would extend for an additional five years the existing exemption of the riverboat DELTA QUEEN from the requirements of Public Law 89-777, as amended. The present exemption is until November 1, 1978.

BACKGROUND

Public Law 89-777 provides in part that after November 1, 1970, no passenger vessel of the United States of one hundred gross tons or over, having berth or stateroom accommodations for fifty or more passengers, shall be granted a certificate of inspection by the Coast Guard unless the vessel is constructed of fire retardant material. The DELTA QUEEN is the only riverboat affected by this provision of law.

In view of the fact that the DELTA QUEEN operates solely on our inland rivers, the special safety precautions taken by her owners, and the great historic value of this vessel, the Congress has traditionally exempted the DELTA QUEEN from the provisions of Public Law 89-777. On the basis of the record and the testimony at the hearings many members of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries felt that the vessel operates as safely in all the circumstances as can be expected. In this connection, the owners have fireproofed the wooden portions of the vessel and have installed fire protection sprinkler systems. In addition, these inland passenger vessels are never far from any shore, and are frequently operated in water no deeper than the middle of the ship. At great expense and effort, the owners of the DELTA QUEEN have taken every possible measure to assure that the vessel is as safe as possible.

COST

None.

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Number Two Hundred Ninety-Four July 19, 1976

COMMON CARRIER TARIFFS
(H.R. 13961)

Legislation to require a 90-day notice period before common carrier tariffs may be changed and to allow the FCC to suspend new or revised tariff schedules for up to 5 months is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, July 20 under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee May 26 (voice)
-Reported June 30 (H. Rpt. 94-1315)
-Similar legislation, S. 2054, passed Senate May 27 (voice)(S.Rpt. 94-918)
Floor Manager: Congressman Van Deerlin

BILL SUMMARY

Section 1 of the bill would extend from 30 days to 90 days the period of notice required before a tariff may be changed.

Section 2 would extend from 3 months to 5 months the period during which the FCC may suspend new or revised tariff schedules, and would enable the FCC to grant partial or temporary authorizations of tariff changes pending a hearing.

BACKGROUND

This bill is a clean bill from the Communications Subcommittee. The original bill considered by the Subcommittee was H.R. 7047 which was drafted and requested by the FCC.

Section 203(b) of the Communications Act provides that no change shall be made in tariff charges, classifications, regulations or practices which have been filed with the FCC except after 30 days notice to the FCC and the public. The FCC has found that this 30-day period is insufficient to allow for an adequate review of a tariff filing and possible opposition responses, in order to reach a decision on whether or not to suspend the filing and order a hearing.

The Communications Act provides generally that tariff changes go into effect automatically at the end of the notice period unless the FCC takes action to the contrary. Section 204 of the Act authorizes the FCC to designate a tariff filing for hearing and, pending completion of such hearing, to suspend the operation of the tariff for a period not longer than 3 months beyond the time when it would otherwise take effect. If the hearing process is incomplete at the end of the suspension period, the tariff becomes effective. The FCC has found that some filings require more than 3 months to handle because of their complexity.

COST

None.

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Number Two Hundred Ninety-Three July 19, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON INDOCHINA REFUGEE CHILDREN ASSISTANCE (S. 2145)

The House in the near future is expected to consider a conference report authorizing assistance to local educational agencies for the education of Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Passed Senate October 29, 1975 (voice) (S. Rpt. 94-432)
-Passed House January 19 as H.R. 7897 (311-75) (H. Rpt. 94-719)
-Conference reported July 1 (H. Conf. Rpt. 94-1333)

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The legislation would provide grants to states to assist in the education of Indochina refugee children in public and private schools for a 15-month period - from July 1, 1976 to September 30, 1977.

These grants would be determined according to the following formula: $300 for every child up to and including 100 such children in a school district or up to and including 1 percent of the enrollment of a school district, and $600 a child for every child in excess of those figures.

These grants would be provided to local school districts through state educational agencies by means of a simple application procedure verifying the fact that such children are being educated in the school district and that these funds will be used for their education

The bill also would permit appropriations to be provided under the Adult Education Act for programs for adult Indochinese refugees.

The Senate bill provided for grants for fiscal 1976 which averaged approximately $1,447 a child and grants for the transition quarter and for fiscal 1977 which averaged approximately $778 a child. The bill also permitted funds to be used under the Adult Education Act for programs for adult refugees.

The House bill provided grants only for fiscal 1976 and limited these grants to the excess costs involved in educating these children. The maximum allowable grant per child under the House bill was approximately $879 a child.

Under authority of the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975, the Administration provided grants to local school districts during fiscal 1976 in amounts of $300 a child for the first 100 children or for the first 1 percent of the enrollment and grants for $600 a child in excess of those figures.

In essence, the conference report simply continues the Administration's program through fiscal 1977. (Although the bill contains an authorization for fiscal 1976, this provision will not go into effect because that fiscal year has already terminated.)

COST

The conference report authorizes such sums as may be necessary. The estimated cost for the 15-month period is approximately $15 million.

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225-5604

Number Two Hundred Ninety-Six July 19, 1976

ELECTIVE GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA
(H.R. 14291)

Legislation to provide for an elective governor and lieutenant governor of American Samoa is scheduled for House consideration this Tuesday, July 20 under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Interior and Insular Affairs Committee June 30 (voice)
-Reported July 2 (H. Rpt. 94-1336)
Floor Manager: Congressman Phillip Burton

BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 14291 would provide for an elective governor and lieutenant governor of the Territory of American Samoa.

Section 1 cites the statute which is amended by this bill, namely, subsection (c) of the Joint Resolution approved by the Congress on February 20, 1929 (45 Stat. 1253; 48 U.S.C. 1661). The amendatory procedure does not change the basic delegation of authority to the President of the United States by the Congress in the administration of the territory.

Section 2 provides for the appointment of an election commissioner to conduct and plan for a plebiscite which shall determine whether the Samoan electorate want to elect their own governor. Rules regarding nominations, terms of office, qualifications and removal of the governor and lieutenant governor shall be determined by the Administration and the territorial government.

BACKGROUND

The Committee believes H.R. 14291 represents a significant step forward in the development of greater participation by the local leadership in the affairs of the territorial government of American Samoa and toward the fulfillment of the political aspirations of its people.

Since the passage of the Joint Resolution on February 20, 1929, Congress has not enacted any significant legislation designed to grant to the people of American Samoa a greater measure of local self-government.

COST: None

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225-5604

Number Two Hundred Ninety-Five July 19, 1976

TAX TREATMENT OF GRANTOR OF CERTAIN OPTIONS (H.R. 12224)

Legislation dealing with the tax treatment of certain options ("puts and calls") is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, July 20, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Committee on Ways and Means May 4 (voice)
-Reported May 26 (H. Rpt. 94-1192)
Floor Manager: Chairman Ullman

BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 12224 deals with the tax treatment of closing transactions in options and with the treatment of income from the lapse of an option.

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that where the writer of an option enters into a closing transaction he realizes ordinary income or loss based upon the difference between the amount of the premium which he received from the option he wrote, and the premium he paid for the option which he purchased. The Service has also ruled that income from the lapse of an option is to be treated as ordinary income. Since the decision of whether or not to enter a closing transaction is usually within the discretion of the taxpayer, the revenue ruling described above has resulted in an opportunity for some taxpayers to plan tax strategies under which they realize ordinary loss on one part of a transaction, while realizing long or short term capital gain on another related transaction involving the same stock or securities.

H.R. 12224 provides that gain or loss from a closing transaction would be taxed as short term capital gain or loss rather than as ordinary income. The effect of this change would eliminate the feature of existing law which permits conversion of ordinary income into capital gain. The bill would, in effect, reverse the private ruling with respect to closing transactions. The bill also provides that income from the lapse of an option is to be treated as short-term capital gain. However, these rules will not apply in the case of a broker-dealer in options to the extent he writes options in the ordinary course of his trade or business. (Gain or loss for the broker-dealer would continue to be treated as ordinary income or loss.)

Under the bill, in the case of a regulated investment company, income from the lapse of an option, or from a closing transaction, is to be treated as income from the sale of stock or securities within the meaning of Section 851(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. This type of income will, therefore, be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the income source text that regulated investment companies are required to meet.

Also, since income from the lapse of an option or from a closing transaction would be treated as capital gain, then under the usual rules which apply for purposes of the 30 percent withholding tax imposed on foreign investors, transactions in options by foreign investors generally would not be subject to withholding.

The rules of H.R. 12224 would apply in the case of options written after June 30, 1976.

The committee estimates a $10-million annual revenue gain from enactment of the legislation.

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225-5604

Number Two Hundred Ninety-Eight July 19, 1976

OVERRIDE OF VETO ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION (H.R. 12384)

The House this Thursday, July 22, is scheduled to vote on the override of the veto of the military construction authorization bill.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Conference report passed House June 16 (375-20) (H.Conf.Rpt. 94-1243)
-Conference report passed Senate June 17 (voice)
-Vetoed July 2
Floor Manager: Congressman Ichord

BILL SUMMARY

The legislation totals $3,323,989,000 in new military construction authorization and related authority in support of the Military Departments, Reserve Components and the Defense Department during fiscal 1977. Section 612--the section in dispute--would prohibit base closures or certain reductions of civilian personnel at military installations, unless the proposed action is reported to Congress and a period of nine months elapses during which time the military department concerned would be required to identify the full impact of the proposed action.

The final decision to close or significantly reduce an installation covered by the bill would have to be reported to the Armed Services Committees of the Congress together with a detailed justification for such decision. No action could be taken to implement the decision until the expiration of at least ninety days following submission of the detailed justification to the appropriate committees. The bill provides a limited Presidential waiver of the requirements of section 612 for reasons of military emergency or national security.

VETO MESSAGE

The President in his veto message called the bill generally acceptable except for section 612, which he said would impose unnecessary delays in base closures or personnel reductions and "raises serious questions by its attempt to limit" presidential powers over military bases.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

The veto should be overridden by the Congress. Section 612 does not intrude in any way on the constitutional powers of the President. It establishes a much needed one-year procedural schedule for the Department of Defense to follow in accomplishing major base realignments. This schedule will provide Congress time to evaluate the Department of Defense's justification for such realignments before they are implemented. Congress has the responsibility to make certain that the economies projected by the Administration through base realignments will occur and without damaging our defense capabilities. Section 612 will provide Congress with the means to carry out this responsibility. It will also provide the local communities with notice and information to help them adjust to closures or substantial reductions in operations.

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225-5604

Number Two Hundred Ninety-Nine

July 20, 1976

CONGRESSIONAL TAX LIABILITY
(S. 2447)

Legislation providing that income taxes shall not be levied against Members of Congress by the states or jurisdictions in which they maintain an abode while attending sessions of Congress is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, July 20, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by Judiciary Committee June 16 (voice)
-Reported June 16 (H. Rpt. 94-1271)
-Passed Senate February 18 (voice)
Floor Manager: Congressman Flowers

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would provide that no state or its political subdivision in which a Member of Congress lives for purposes of attending sessions of Congress may treat the Member as a resident for income tax purposes unless the Member represents such state or political subdivision.

The bill also would provide equal treatment for delegates from the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico. The bill provides that the term "state" includes the District of Columbia. The tax obligations of Members in their home states and districts would not be affected by the bill.

BACKGROUND

Virginia and District of Columbia law now exempt Members of Congress from State or District income taxes. Maryland law contains no such exemption and provides for an income tax on substantially all income of "residents" of Maryland. Maryland's income tax law defines resident as "an individual domiciled in this State on the last day of the taxable year, and every other individual, who, for more than six months of the taxable year, maintained a place of abode within this State..."

The Committee believes enactment of the bill would provide for uniform tax treatment of Members of Congress who must maintain a place of abode in the Washington, D. C., area while representing their home state in the Congress.

The effect of the provisions would be similar to those in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, which provides that members of the military services shall not be deemed residents for tax purposes while serving in a state in compliance with military orders.

COST

None.

OTHER VIEWS

One Member filed dissenting views stating that Members of Congress should pay income taxes where they receive State government services and that Maryland and its counties would lose tax revenues if the bill is enacted.

NEWS SPECIAL

JOHN J. McFALL
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225-5601

July 23, 1976

HOUSE ESTABLISHES VETO OVERRIDE RECORD

The House today overrode two Ford vetoes, making it five for six in House override attempts this year and adding further to Ford's dubious distinction of being the most overridden Republican President in history.

The House override of the Public Works Employment bill (S. 3201) (overridden by the Senate yesterday) makes 9 successful Congressional overrides against Ford in his less than two years in office. That's nearly double the number of the previous Republican record-holder, former President Nixon, who was overridden five times in more than five-and-a-half years in office. Ford has now vetoed a total of 53 bills. The second of today's House overrides, on the Military Construction Authorization bill, was sustained by the Senate today.

House Democratic Leaders had these comments:

Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. -- "Over the past two years, you name it, and if its needed progressive legislation for the people, the President has vetoed it--jobs, housing, health services, school lunch, tax cuts, public works, stabilized fuel prices and on and on. But Congress has come back with overrides or with modified legislation to meet people's needs. And we're going to keep on doing just that until we have a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress working constructively together beginning next January."

Majority Whip John J. McFall -- "The meaning of the House action today should be very clear: The President said "no" to jobs for thousands of Americans and needed public facilities for communities across the country. The Congress answered with a resounding "yes." The override of the Public Works Employment Act veto will mean a continuation of our economic rebound and adds to the effective record of the Democratic Congress in pulling the nation out of its deep recession."

The 1976 House override record:

S. 3201 Public Works Employment
July 22 House overrode 310 to 96
July 21 Senate overrode 73 to 24

H.R. 12384 Military Construction Authorization
July 22 House overrode 270 to 131
July 22 Senate sustained 51 to 42

H.R. 8069 Labor-HEW Appropriations
January 27 House overrode 310 to 113
January 28 Senate overrode 70 to 24

H.R. 5247 Public Works Employment
February 19 House overrode 319 to 98
February 19 Senate sustained 63 to 35

H.R. 9803 Child Day Care
May 4 House overrode 301 to 101
May 5 Senate sustained 60 to 35

H.R. 8617 Hatch Act
April 29 House sustained 243 to 160

Thus of the six vetoed bills brought to the House Floor in 1976, the House overturned five. The Senate also overturned two of the vetoes, making the public works-jobs and Labor-HEW appropriations bills public laws.

Ford veto pending: S. 391, coal leasing, is awaiting Senate action.

These are the nine Ford vetoes overridden by Congress:

93rd Congress--Railroad retirement, freedom of information, rehabilitation act, veterans education.

94th Congress--Education appropriations, health services and nurse training, school lunch, Labor-HEW appropriations, public works-jobs.

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Number Two Hundred Eighty-Nine July 22, 1976

DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT
(H.R. 13720)

The House next Monday, July 26, is scheduled to consider legislation to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to prohibit abusive practices by professional debt collectors.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing May 25 (21-3)
-Reported June 1 (H. Rpt. 94-1202)
-Rules Committee June 9 granted open rule, one hour of debate
-House failed to suspend the rules July 19 (201-175) to pass bill by two-thirds
Floor Manager: Congressman Annunzio

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would prohibit professional debt collectors from harassing or intimidating any person in connection with the collection of a debt and from making false or misleading misrepresentations.

The bill also provides for enforcement by the Federal Trade Commission and civil and criminal penalties consistent with those already in the Consumer Protection Act.

The bill would apply only to those whose principal business is debt collection, not to banks, stores or other institutions which collect their own debts rather than using professional collection agencies.

BACKGROUND

Chairman Annunzio of the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs said in a colleague letter July 21 that the measure failed under suspension becuase many Members felt the legislation was an intrusion upon the rights of individual states in regulating debt collection. He plans to offer an amendment to limit coverage under the bill to debt collectors who are involved in interstate activities.

See Whip Advisory 286, July 13, for additional details.

WHIP ADVISORIES

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MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred July 22, 1976

DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT
(H.R. 13720)

The House next Monday, July 26, is scheduled to consider legislation to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to prohibit abusive practices by professional debt collectors.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing May 25 (21-3)
-Reported June 1 (H. Rpt. 94-1202)
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See Whip Advisory 286, July 13, for additional details.

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Number Three Hundred Two July 23, 1976

RESCHEDULED BILLS

A number of measures scheduled earlier but not acted on due to lack of time have been re-scheduled for House consideration next week as follows:

H.R. 11743: NATIONAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH
Rule adopted and general debate concluded
(Whip Advisory 225)

H.R. 10133: USDA EXECUTIVE ADJUSTMENTS
Rule adopted, one hour debate
(Whip Advisory 226)

H.R. 7743: PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE DEVELOPMENT
Open rule, one hour debate
(Whip Advisory 264)

H.R. 13955: BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENT
Open rule, one hour debate
(Whip Advisory 259)

H.R. 13555: MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule adopted and general debate concluded
(Whip Advisory 267)

H.R. 13876: INTERNATIONAL BANKING
Open rule, one hour debate
(Whip Advisory 220)

H.R. 11656: GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE
Open rule, two hours debate
(Whip Advisory 182)

H. Res. 1350: SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS
(Whip Advisory 288)

H.R. 8401: NUCLEAR FUEL ASSURANCE
Open rule, two hours debate
(Whip Advisory 243)

H.R. 2525: INDIAN HEALTH CARE
Open rule, one hour debate
(Whip Advisory 250)

H.R. 11909: INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION
Open rule, one hour debate
(Whip Advisory 249)

H.R. 12944: FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE AND RODENTICIDE ACT
Rule adopted, one hour debate
(Whip Advisory 223)

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Number Three Hundred One

July 23, 1976

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES ACT
(H.R. 9719)

The House next week is scheduled to consider legislation to provide for a system of payments-in-lieu-of-taxes to local governments to partially compensate them for the tax immunity of certain public lands within their boundaries.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Interior and Insular Affairs Committee March 17 (voice)
-Reported May 7 (H. Rpt. 94-1106)
-Rules Committee June 3 granted open rule, one hour debate
Floor Manager: Congressman Weaver

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would establish a formula under which the Secretary of Interior would provide annual payments to units of local government for certain federal lands: National Forests, National Parks, National Forest Wildersnes Areas, Bureau of Land Management lands, and Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation water resources projects. Under the formula, a local government would receive the greater amount of either (a) 75 cents per acre of such lands minus current payments under existing programs for timber, grazing and mineral leases; or (b) 10 cents per acre in addition to current payments. The formula is designed to provide local governments more compensation than is provided under existing programs. A per capita limitation is also included in order to limit payments to sparsely populated jurisdictions. It would set a sliding scale from $50 per capita for counties of 5,000 or less in population to $20 per capita for counties of 50,000 or more. The per capita limitation thus sets a maximum payment of $1 million. Payments under this Act may be used for any general governmental purpose.

The bill also provides for a payment of one percent of the fair market value of lands acquired for national parks and national forest wilderness areas (not to exceed the amount of real property taxes assessed and levied during the last fiscal year before such lands were acquired) to compensate for incurred losses of real property taxes to these jurisdictions. The additional payment would apply to those lands added to the National Park and wilderness areas after December 31, 1970, and to the Redwoods National Park (acquired by the federal government in 1968). It would apply only for the first five years following acquisition or five years after enactment of H.R. 9719 for lands acquired prior to enactment but after December 31, 1970. The Redwoods National Park is included in this section because it was acquired by legislation with the title passing to the federal government on the date of enactment October 2, 1968. Had the park been acquired by conventional authority, title would have passed to the government after the acquisition date set in H.R. 9719.

BACKGROUND

Approximately 1000 units of local government in 48 states are affected by the tax immunity of federal lands. The federal government owns more than one third of the nation's land--over 760 million acres. In many counties, well over 50% of the land is federally owned and thus exempt from state and local taxation. The situation has, over the years, placed an increasing and inequitable burden on the taxpayers within the states and counties where the lands are located. In 1970, the Public Land Law Review Commission recommended that the federal government should make payments to compensate state and local governments for the tax immunity of federal lands. Since the PLLRC report, numerous bills to carry out this recommendation have been introduced in the Congress.

COST: The Committee and the Congressional Budget Office estimate the costs of the bill at approximately $117 million for fiscal 1977. The bill provides an authorization for appropriation of such sums as may be necessary.

OTHER VIEWS AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS: One Member filed a separate view objecting to including national parks lands as "entitlement lands" eligible for payments and one Member to that provision and to Section 3 which provides a one percent payment for newly acquired park and wilderness lands. Floor amendments are expected on these two issues.

WHIP ADVISORIES

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Number Three Hundred Three July 23, 1976

STATE CASH-OUT STATUS UNDER SSI PROGRAM (H.R. 14514)

The House next Tuesday, July 27, is scheduled to consider legislation authorizing states which no longer qualify for hold harmless treatment under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program to elect to retain food stamp "cash out" status if certain conditions are met.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Ways and Means Committee June 23 (15-13)
-Reported June 28 (H. Rpt. 94-1310)
-Rules Committee July 21 granted closed rule, one hour of debate, providing that no amendments shall be in order except Ways and Means Committee amendments and a substitute amendment.
Floor Manager: Congressman Corman

BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 14514 would authorize states which formerly received Federal participation in their supplementary payments (hold-harmless states) and which had been providing Federal funds in lieu of food stamps for SSI beneficiaries to continue to withhold food stamps from SSI beneficiaries even though the states are no longer eligible for Federal funds, if certain conditions are met.

These conditions are: (1) that SSI beneficiaries shall receive any increase in payment to which they were entitled under state law in effect June 1, 1976 ($14 in California); and (2) that they receive an additional increase in total income of $3.00 during the year beginning July 1, 1976, and the full Federal cost-of-living increase in benefits in future years.

BACKGROUND

On July 1, when the SSI cost-of-living increase takes affect, three states--California, New York, and Nevada-- will lose their hold harmless designation and SSI recipients will be allowed to purchase food stamps.

New York and Nevada have decided to provide food stamps to SSI recipients. The Governor and the California Legislature prefer to retain cash-out status for food stamps. They believe that only one-third of the SSI recipients are expected to participate in the food stamp program and that where the bonus value of food stamps is low, the total value of the benefit would not be as high as the administrative cost.

COST: None

OTHER VIEWS AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS

Twelve Members filed minority views stating there is no compelling national justification for the bill and that it would undermine consistent Federal policy toward all states.

The Ways and Means Committee will offer an amendment limiting the application of the bill to California and making clarifying and technical changes in language. Except for the limitation to California, it makes no change in policy.

The Minority substitute also would apply only to California, but contains no conditions if the state elects to retain "cash out" status.

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Number Three Hundred Twenty-Three July 30, 1976

NATIONAL ENERGY EXTENSION SERVICE ACT OF 1976
(H.R. 13676)

Legislation to authorize a national energy extension service program using existing extension capabilities and placing primary responsibility for program planning and implementation on each individual state is scheduled for House consideration next Monday, August 2, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by the Science and Technology Committee May 11 (unanimous voice).
-Reported July 19 (H. Rpt. 94-1348)
Floor Manager: Chairman Teague

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would establish a national Energy Extension Service program in the Energy Research and Development Administration. The goal of the program is to support the successful implementation of energy conservation and new energy technologies, such as solar heating and cooling, with a technically-based public awareness and individual citizen capability to act. The required awareness and capability will be achieved on a national basis by an active outreach effort, making optimum use of extension capabilities. The active outreach effort will be focused primarily on consumer, agricultural, commercial and small business operations and facilities. Currently, forty-one percent of the Nation's energy consumption is by those sectors and the program will provide the technically-based assistance not now available to reduce that consumption through conservation and new supply technologies.

The bill adopts a unique Federal-state scheme for the Energy Extension Service which places primary program planning and implementation responsibility on each individual state. ERDA will invite each state to submit a plan for implementing the program in the State, using to an optimum extent existing outreach capabilities. The State plans must be responsive to ERDA guidelines which will reflect a series of specific requirements in the bill. If a State does not submit a plan or if later implementation is not in conformance with the guidelines, ERDA will directly set up a program under the same guidelines. An Energy Extension Service office is established in ERDA to administer the program.

The bill includes a series of requirements for coordination of the program at the Federal, state and local levels with other ongoing energy activities. The bill also establishes a national advisory board to ensure that the program is responsive to both the needs of the recipients of the outreach assistance and the problems of the participating state and local institutions providing the assistance. Comprehensive planning requirements and appropriate amendments to ERDA's organic authority are also included in the bill.

COST

No funds are included in the bill. Authorizations for the program for Fiscal Year 1977 and subsequent years will be included in the annual ERDA authorization. [The Congressional Budget Office estimates cost of the program at $10 million in Fiscal 1977 and $30 million annually in subsequent years.]

WHIP ADVISORIES

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Number Three Twenty-Four July 31, 1976

THREE-JUDGE COURTS
(H.R. 6150)

Legislation to eliminate the requirement for three-judge courts in cases seeking to enjoin the enforcement of State or Federal laws on grounds that they are unconstitutional is scheduled for House consideration next Monday, August 2, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Judiciary Committee July 27 (unanimous voice)
-Reported July 30 (H. Rpt. 94-1379)
-Passed Senate as S. 537 June 20, 1975 (voice) (S. Rpt. 94-204)
Floor Manager: Congressman Kastenmeier

BILL SUMMARY
H.R. 6150, as amended, would remove the requirement for a three-judge court in cases seeking to enjoin the enforcement of State or Federal Laws on the ground of unconstitutionality. However, three-judge courts would be retained when specifically required by Act of Congress, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as extended in 1975. The three-judge courts would also be retained in any case involving congressional reapportionment or the reapportionment of any Statewide legislative body. The bill would clarify the composition and procedure of three-judge courts in cases where they are required. It would insure notice to a State of cases seeking to enjoin State laws on the ground of unconstitutionality, and insures a State the right to intervene, as the United States does in cases challenging Federal statutes.

BACKGROUND
Under current law, a Federal district court may not grant an injunction restraining the enforcement of a State or Federal statute on the ground of its unconstitutionality unless the application for injunction has been heard and determined by three judges instead of the usual single district judge. The provision dates from the early part of the century at a time of vigorous expansion of big business and the railroads when states sought to exert control over these enterprises through regulatory statutes. Congress enacted the Three-Judge Court Act in 1910 on the basis that three judges would be less likely than one to exercise the Federal injunctive power imprudently.

The bill is the product of hearings over the past three years on the need to unburden the Federal judicial system. The Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice held four days of hearings and heard from representatives of the Judiciary, the ABA, the ACLU, the NAACP, and legal scholars. The bill is supported by the Judicial Conference, the Justice Department, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and the American Bar Association. The NAACP has noted its opposition.

OTHER VIEWS
See the report for additional views of Congressman Drinan.

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Number Three Hundred Twenty-Five August 2, 1976

CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1976
(H.R. 10498)

The House next Wednesday, August 4, is scheduled to consider legislation authorizing $200 million for the Clean Air Act in each fiscal 1977, 1978 and 1979; extending pollution compliance deadlines for automobiles, plants and other emission sources; and enlarging state authority to deal with significant deterioration of clean-air areas.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Commerce Committee March 18 (22-13)
-Reported May 15 (H. Rpt. 94-1175, Pts. I and II)
-Rules Committee July 27 granted open rule, three hours of debate
-S. 3219 now undergoing Senate consideration
Floor Manager: Congressman Rogers

BILL SUMMARY

Key sections of the bill concerning stationary emission sources, such as power plants, steel mills and paper mills, are as follows:

-Section 103 would authorize compliance delays of up to five years.

-Section 105 would require an excess emission fee, not to exceed $5,000 a day, from certain non-complying sources receiving compliance extensions.

-Section 106 would authorize further compliance delays to assist coal conversion under the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act.

-Section 108 deals with prevention of significant deterioration of air quality in clean-air areas. It would revise EPA regulations to remove the federal land manager's control of the air quality classification of federal lands, to eliminate EPA's authority to override state classifications and to permit states to make air quality decisions and reclassify areas. The only mandatory Class I (cleanest air) areas would be national parks and wildernesses larger than 25,000 acres. Existing stationary sources would not be affected, but new sources in any Class I, II or III area would be limited in the amount of pollution they could generate. New or modified major sources, designed to emit 100 tons of pollutants or more per year, would be required to obtain state permits prior to construction.

-Section 110 would require review and revision of technical criteria and national ambient air quality standards every two years.

-Section 111 would require major new sources to use the best technological systems of continuous emission reduction.

-Section 115 would authorize state variances to permit continued industrial development in presently polluted areas.

Key sections concerning mobile emission sources are as follows:

-Section 201 would restrict EPA authority to regulate indirect sources, such as shopping centers or parking lots.

-Section 202 would authorize delays until as late as 1985 on transportation Control Plans designed to reduce automotive related pollutants.

-Section 203 would continue the present automobile exhaust standards until 1980 for hydrocarbons (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO), a three-year delay, and for oxides of nitrogen (NOx) until 1981, a four-year delay. Delays on NOx until as late as 1985 would be authorized if technological difficulties or significant fuel economy problems develop.

-Section 204 would require emission standards based on use of the best demonstrated technology for model years 1978-1984 for new heavy-duty trucks, buses, and motorcycles. For 1985 and beyond, standards must require a 90-percent reduction of HC and CO, and a 65-percent reduction of NOx emissions.

OTHER VIEWS: The report contains 99 pages of other views.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS: to Section 108 (1) Maguire and Moss: to restore EPA and other federal agencies' supervision over state decisions over presently clear air, and to reduce the amount of new pollution that will be allowed; (2) Chappell: to strike Section 108 and substitute a study of the issue.

To Section 203 (1) Dingell: to delay auto emission standards an additional five years and to abolish the Congressionally-established standard for nitrogen oxides in favor of an EPA standard; (2) Waxman: to delay the final standards until 1981, but establish interim sets of standards for 1978 and 1979-80. These interim standards have been or will be met in cars sold in California from 1975 to 1977.

WHIP ADVISORIES

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225-5604

Number Three Hundred Twenty-Six August 3, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION (H.R. 11481)

The House in the near future is expected to consider a conference report authorizing $448,041,000 for the Maritime Administration within the Department of Commerce for fiscal 1977.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Passed House March 11 (315-42) (H. Rpt. 94-871)
-Passed Senate June 15 (voice) (S. Rpt. 94-833)
-Conference report filed July 29 (H. Conf. Rpt. 94-1375)
Floor Manager: Chairman Sullivan

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference report would authorize $448,041,000 for the Maritime Administration for fiscal 1977. This is $3 million less than the House passed bill and $1,200,000 less than the Senate passed bill.

Conferees agreed to the authorization levels in the House bills for the following programs: 1) payment of obligations incurred for operating-differential subsidy, $403,721,000; 2) reserve fleet expenses, $4,560,000; 3) maritime training at the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y., $13,260,000, and 4) financial assistance to State Marine Schools, $4,000,000.

Conferees on the part of the House agreed to the Senate amendment that would increase the amount authorized for Research and Development activities from $19.5 million to $22.5 million. This increase is intended to accelerate an ongoing Maritime Administration R & D Project to fund ocean testing of industrial plant ships and to conduct the necessary studies regarding the long-term prospects for commercialization of ocean thermal energy. No hearings were held on this provision in the House, and the subject matter will be examined during the hearings on the fiscal 1978 maritime authorization bill.

The Conferees on the part of the Senate receded from their amendments that would increase the annual subsistence payable to students at the State Marine Schools from $600 to $900, and increase the amount authorized for the State Marine School from $4 million to $5.2 million in order to fund this increase, as the question of subsistence to the students is the subject of an ongoing study by the General Accounting Office.

COST

The conference report authorizes $448,041,000 for fiscal 1977.

NEWS SPECIAL

JOHN J. McFALL
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August 4, 1976

COAL LEASING IS SIXTH OVERRIDE FOR 94TH CONGRESS

The 94th Congress today became the first in 28 years and only the second Congress in this century to override as many as six presidential vetoes.

The 316-85 vote on the Coal Leasing Act veto was the sixth time in seven attempts this year that the House has accomplished the difficult feat of mustering a two thirds vote in the face of presidential objections.

The House this year has also turned out two thirds majority on public works employment, military construction, Labor-HEW appropriations, an earlier public works employment bill and child day care. Overrides succeeded on all but the last two when the Senate failed to achieve the necessary two thirds.

Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., said: "This is the most aggressive Congress we have ever had that is acting on behalf of the people. The Republican Eightieth Congress, which overrode six of President Truman's vetoes, including the Taft-Hartley Act, was working against the people and for the special interests. Today, the story is different. Our Congressional leadership continues to win against the negativism and do-nothing policies of the Administration. The people are counting on us, and we are not letting them down."

"The vote today reaffirms the congressional commitment to meet the needs of the people and to establish a sound energy policy for this nation," Majority Whip John J. McFall said. "The Coal Leasing Act provides for orderly development of coal resources on federal lands; it encourages production and it lets the coal operators know where they stand."

The Senate voted 76-17 yesterday to override the coal leasing veto. It was the tenth time in two years that President Ford--the most overridden Republican President in our history--has had a veto overturned by the Congress. No other President in this century has been overridden that many times in such a short period.

The new Coal Leasing Act will prevent speculation in coal leases on federal lands by requiring prompt and orderly production from such leases. It requires appropriate land use planning prior to the selection of lease tracts on federal lands, and it increases the state share of coal leasing revenues to 50 percent from the previous 37.5 percent.

It was the 26th time that Congress has voted on overriding a Ford veto, more floor challenges than for any other President in this century. Congress has contested almost half of the Ford vetoes and succeeded in overriding almost 19 percent of them, by far the largest override percentage in this century.

THE RECORD OVER THE CENTURY

PRESIDENT	YEARS IN OFFICE	VETOES	OVERRIDE VOTES	OVERRIDES
Ford	2	54	26	10
Nixon	5 1/2	43	21	5
Johnson	5	30	0	0
Kennedy	3	21	0	0
Eisenhower	8	181	11	2
Truman	8	250	24	12
Roosevelt	12	635	18	9
Hoover	4	37	9	3
Coolidge	5 1/2	50	7	4
Harding	2 1/2	6	1	0
Wilson	8	44	16	6
Taft	4	39	10	1
Roosevelt	7 1/2	82	2	1
McKinley	4 1/2	42	1	0

Source: Library of Congress

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225-5604

Number Three Hundred Twenty-Seven August 5, 1976

TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT
(H.R. 14032)

The House next week is scheduled to consider legislation authorizing the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to require testing of potentially harmful chemical substances and mixtures.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee June 9(voice)
-Reported July 14 (H. Rpt. 94-1341)
-Similar bill, S. 3149, passed Senate March 26 (60-13)
-Rules Committee August 3 granted open rule, one hour debate
Floor Manager: Congressman John Murphy

BILL SUMMARY
The bill would provide the EPA Administrator with authority to protect health and the environment from harmful chemicals and mixtures. Major provisions would:

--require manufacturers and processors of potentially harmful chemical substances and mixtures to conduct tests as required by rules issued by the Administrator so that health and environmental effects may be evaluated.

--require manufacturers of new chemical substances and existing substances for significant new uses to notify the Administrator 90 days in advance of commercial production and authorize delays or restrictions on the manufacture of a new chemical substance if there is inadequate information to evaluate its health or environmental effects.

--authorize the Administrator to adopt rules to prohibit the manufacture, processing, or distribution of a chemical substance or mixture, to require labeling, or to regulate the manner of disposal of a substance or mixture for which there is a reasonable basis to conclude that it is an unreasonable risk to health or environment.

--authorize the Administrator to obtain injunctive court relief to protect the public and the environment and to require manufacturers and processors to submit reports and maintain records on their commercially produced chemical substances and mixtures.

--require manufacturers and processors to immediately notify the Administrator of information indicating one of their substances or mixtures constitutes a substantial risk to health or environment.

The bill also would permit administrative inspections, authorize court actions for seizures of substances manufactured or distributed in violation of the bill, and permit citizens to bring suits to obtain compliance with the bill. The bill would become effective October 1, 1977.

BACKGROUND
The Committee believes that the growing number of synthetic chemicals increases the risk of environmental and health damage and that present controls are inadequate. Toxic substances control legislation passed the House in the 92nd Congress (240-61) and the 93rd Congress (324-73), but time did not permit the differences between House and Senate passed bills to be worked out in conference.

COST: The bill would authorize $11.1 million for fiscal 1978, $10.1 million for fiscal 1979, and $11.1 million for fiscal 1980.

OTHER VIEWS AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS: One Member filed supplemental views stating that the bill should require prompt EPA measures to deal with PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls). Six Members filed supplemental views stating that EPA should be given a stronger mandate and more funding. Two Members filed minority views stating that the bill would be costly to industry and could prove ruinous for small companies. Amendments are expected (1) to include coverage of PCB's and (2) to provide funding for State programs to protect against hazardous chemicals.

WHIP ADVISORIES

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Number Three Hundred Twenty-Eight August 6, 1976

LABOR-HEW APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT
(H.R. 14232)

The House next Monday, August 9, is scheduled to consider the conference report on the Labor-HEW appropriations bill for fiscal 1977.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House June 24 (voice) (H. Rpt. 94-1219)
-Passed Senate June 30 (75-17) (S. Rpt. 94-997)
-Conference reported August 3 (H. Rpt. 94-1384)
Floor Manager: Congressman Flood

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference agreement recommends $56,618,207,575 in new budget authority. This is $3,193,727,305 more than fiscal 1976 appropriations; $3,999,999,575 more than the budget estimates; $412,995,575 more than the House bill; and $548,909,000 less than the Senate bill.

The major increases over the House bill include $11,000,000 for maternal and child health, $13,000,000 for family planning, $41,588,000 for the National Cancer Institute, $16,000,000 for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, $35,000,000 for title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, $25,000,000 for emergency school aid for school districts that are desegregating, $41,250,000 for education for the handicapped, and $12,500,000 for the community food and nutrition program. The House conferees also agreed to increases over the House bill totaling $118,900,000 for programs not considered by the House for lack of authorization, namely disease prevention programs, educational broadcasting facilities, and Action volunteer programs.

The Conferees retained the House language exempting farms employing 10 or fewer persons from the Occupational Safety and Health Act and modified the Senate language pertaining to fines for first-instance violations. The modified language prohibits OSHA from fining employers for non-serious first-instance violations of the Act, unless 10 or more violations are found during an inspection.

The Conferees were unable to reach agreement on the House provision (so-called Hyde amendment) prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to pay for abortions or to promote or encourage abortions.

A recapitulation of the new budget (obligational) authority contained in the conference agreement follows:

		Compared with		
(in $000's)	Conference	Budget	House	Senate
Department of Labor--------	$10,132,996	$ +613,900	$ +1,191	$ -63,433
Department of Health, Education and Welfare-----	45,121,636	+3,104,734	+339,009	-389,068
(Health Agencies)---------	(5,015,808)	(+1,120,752)	(+187,212)	(-210,488)
(Education Division)------	(5,935,007)	(+1,610,548)	(+143,138)	(-171,855)
(Social and Rehabilitation Service)----------	(18,473,745)	(+73,450)	(+4,500)	(-4,250)
(Social Security Administration)----------	(13,522,921)	(-15,000)	(-----)	(-----)
(Special Institutions)----	(138,936)	(+750)	(-250)	(+500)
(Assistant Secretary for Human Development)-------	(1,896,023)	(+323,334)	(+12,509)	(-10,500)
(Departmental Management)-	(139,196)	(-9,100)	(-8,100)	(+7,525)
Related Agencies----------	1,363,575	+281,365	+72,795	-96,408
TOTAL----------	56,618,207	+3,999,999	+412,995	-548,909

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Number Three Hundred Thirty August 6, 1976

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT AMENDMENT
(H.R. 13372)

The House next Monday, August 9, is scheduled to consider a bill to give to the North Carolina segment of the New River, which has been designated a part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, specific statutory protection from any project authorized by the Federal Power Commission.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported from Interior and Insular Affairs Committee May 19 (voice)
-Reported June 14 (H. Rpt. 94-1264)
-Rules Committee August 4 granted open rule, two hours debate (10-6)
Floor Manager: Chairman Roy A. Taylor

BILL SUMMARY
The bill would insert into the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act a reference to the 26.5-mile North Carolina section of the New River, sanctioning its designation by the Secretary of the Interior as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

The bill would also amend the act to preclude the inundation of this segment of the river by any project now or hereafter licensed by the Federal Power Commission.

BACKGROUND
The New River channel is recognized by geologists as the most ancient in the western hemisphere. The river is part of the North Carolina state natural and scenic rivers system, and at the request of the state it was designated a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Secretary of the Interior Kleppe on April 13, 1976.

However, on June 14, 1974, the Federal Power Commission granted the Appalachian Power Company a license to construct a two-dam, pumped storage hydroelectric project on the river. H.R. 13372, if enacted, would resolve the conflict between the FPC and the Interior actions in favor of the Interior position.

The Blue Ridge project, as it is known, would include a lower reservoir of 11,000 acres behind a dam 250 feet high and an upper reservoir of 26,000 acres behind a dam 300 feet high. The Committee estimates that some 44 miles of the main stem of the New River, 27 miles of the South Fork and 23 miles of the North Fork, would be flooded. Total area committed to the project would be about 44,000 acres.

The project would provide power for peak load demands on the American Electric Power Service Corporation. In periods of low demand, other generating facilities would be used to pump water uphill from the lower reservoir to the upper lake. During high demand, the downhill flow from the lake would be used to generate additional electrical power.

Proponents of the bill (who oppose the Blue Ridge project) say that the project would consume four units of energy for every three it produces and that it would mar the natural beauty of the area, disrupt wildlife habitat, recreational uses, homes and jobs. The Interior Department and the Administration recommended that the best use of the river is to retain its natural, free-flowing condition.

Opponents of the bill (who favor the Blue Ridge project) say that the project would help meet the nation's critical energy needs, would provide clean and non-polluting electrical energy and would create jobs, economic development and recreational assets. They say that the alternative to the project is a more expensive, coal-fired plant to be built elsewhere. (See additional and dissenting views in report pp. 15-23).

COST: No cost would accrue to the federal government. North Carolina would continue to bear all costs of managing the river in its natural state.

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Number Three Hundred Thirty-One August 6, 1976

THREE ANTI-TRUST MEASURES
(H.R. 8532, H.R. 13489, H.R. 14580)

The House in the near future is scheduled to consider a resolution which would consolidate three House-passed anti-trust measures for the purposes of going to conference with a Senate-passed omnibus bill.

The Rules Committee August 4 granted a rule (H. Res. 1462) which provides for agreeing to the Senate amendment to H.R. 8532, to amend the Clayton Act to permit State Attorneys General to bring certain antitrust actions (H. Rpt. 94-1389). House language is substituted for the Senate version.

BACKGROUND

This resolution provides that the Senate amendment to H.R. 8532 (Antitrust Parens Patriae Bill) will be agreed to with an amendment striking the Senate version thereof, and substituting the House versions of these three bills.

The purpose is to give the House a three-title package, similar to the Senate version of H.R. 8532, to facilitate a conference.

The resolution also provides that the House will agree to the Senate's amendment to the title so that the bill will be called the Hart-Scott Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976.

H.R. 8532 - ANTI-TRUST PARENS PATRIAE ACT
Passed House March 18, 1976 (voice)
See Whip Advisory Number 51

H.R. 13489 - ANTITRUST CIVIL PROCESS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1976
Passed House August 2, 1976 (254-127)
See Whip Advisory Number 310

H.R. 14580 - PREMERGER NOTIFICATION AND WAITING REQUIREMENTS
Passed House August 2, 1976 (278-103)
See Whip Advisory Number 319

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Number Three Hundred Thirty-Two August 6, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND AUDIT (H.R. 11009)

The House in the near future is expected to consider a conference report on legislation designed to improve the District of Columbia financial systems and providing for independent financial audits.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House May 24 (308-2) (H. Rpt. 94-1094)
-Passed Senate July 1 (voice) (S. Rpt. 94-1015)
-Conference reported August 3 (H. Rpt. 94-1381)
Floor Manager: Chairman Diggs

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The legislation would establish an eight-member Temporary Commission on Financial Oversight of the District, consisting of the Mayor, City Council Chairman and three Members from each the House and Senate. Commissioners would elect their own chairman and vice chairman. The commission would have authority to let contracts for the design, development and implementation of financial planning, reporting and control systems for the District of Columbia government.

The House bill required the Comptroller General to undertake the contracting, and the Senate bill had established a four-member joint congressional committee.

Conferees adopted modified Senate provisions authorizing the commission to negotiate the scope of the contract, the schedule for completion and a fixed price. Contractors would also be required to establish an ongoing training program for affected D.C. government personnel.

Conferees adopted modified Senate provisions which would give the Comptroller General 60 days in which to approve, disapprove or modify financial system plans submitted by contractors. Such modifications or disapprovals would be submitted to Congress which could reject the Comptroller General's action by adopting a concurrent resolution within 45 days.

The conference agreement provides that the D.C. Mayor, assisted by the contractor, would implement each part of a financial plan; that the contractor shall have access to all D.C. books and records; and that the Comptroller General shall have access to all documents produced under the contract. This is a blending of similar House and Senate provisions.

The conference agreement authorizes the commission to contract for a balance sheet audit as of September 30, 1977, (or other date recommended by the Comptroller General) and annual audits for fiscal 1978 and 1979. Thereafter, the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council is to select an auditor to make annual audits for the four years beginning with fiscal 1980. If Mayor and Council are unable to agree, the selection would be made by the Chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. This was a Senate provision.

The conference agreement would authorize $8 million in federal funds and $8 million in District funds to pay for the contracts, three audits, the costs of the Comptroller General and the commission. All costs are to be shared equally. The Senate bill had authorized $20 million in federal funds; the House bill had authorized $2.5 million in federal funds and required 50-50 cost sharing with the District.

Conferees adopted a Senate provision that would terminate the Temporary Commission 30 days after the Comptroller General determines that all financial plans for the District have been implemented, or all contractors have been paid, whichever occurs last.

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Number Three Hundred Thirty-Three

August 9, 1976

GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN AMENDMENTS OF 1976
(H.R. 14070)

The House next Tuesday, August 10, is scheduled to consider legislation revising the guaranteed student loan program and extending it three years through fiscal 1980.

ACTION BY 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Education and Labor Committee June 2 (voice)
-Reported June 8 (H. Rpt. 94-1232)
-Rules Committee July 27 granted open rule, one hour debate
Floor Manager: Congressman O'Hara

BILL SUMMARY
This bill would continue the Guaranteed Student Loan Program through fiscal 1980 and make changes to reduce losses to the federal government from defaults.

The bill would give incentives to states to establish guarantee agencies. Currently 26 states have such agencies; the default rate for their loan guarantees is less than half that for the federal government. States having such agencies would receive up to 100 percent reinsurance rather than 80 percent as at present. If a state's defaults go above seven percent in any year, federal reinsurance would drop to 90 percent. States making guarantees would be permitted to retain up to 30 percent of the sums they collect if they use retained funds for services aimed at reducing future defaults. State guarantee agencies would also receive a one-percent administrative allowance, and they could qualify for advances to cover expected insurance obligations.

Banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, pension plans, states and educational institutions would continue to be lenders. However, states and educational institutions would be limited to making loans to not more than 50 percent of the undergraduates in the state or institution. A student borrowing from a school must first obtain written refusal from a commercial lender. Annual loan limit for any student remains at $2,500. However, a student borrowing from a school for the first time must receive a loan of more than $1,500 in at least two installments. Multiple disbursements are also encouraged for loans from all lenders. Aggregate loan limit for undergraduates remain at $7,500, but for graduate students is raised from $10,000 to $15,000.

The bill would also increase the family income level below which a student automatically qualifies for seven-percent annual interest subsidies to $20,000 in fiscal 1977 and to $25,000 in fiscal 1978. The present $15,000 income level was set in 1965.

To attract lending institutions, the bill ties the special allowance rate to the rate paid on 91-day Treasury bills. Lenders would receive from one to five percent computed by subtracting 3.5 from the average rate for 91-day Treasury bills during a quarter. Currently, the rate varies from nothing to three percent and is established after a quarter by regulation.

The bill would prohibit the discharge in bankruptcy of a guaranteed loan debt for five years after the first payment becomes due, unless failure to discharge would create a hardship on the debtor or his family.

Other reforms aimed at protecting borrowers and cutting defaults include payment of loan proceeds by check, which must be endorsed by the student and permitting borrowers and lenders to agree to a one-year moratorium on repayment during the borrower's unemployment.

COST: The bill would authorize necessary sums. Congressional Budget Office estimates that outlays will increase from $400 million in fiscal 1977 to $1.193 billion in fiscal 1980. This substantial increase will result from an increase in loans as well as changes made by this bill. These estimates are based on assumptions about the number of new participants and the level of interest rates that the Committee has concluded are higher than are likely to prevail. (See H. Rpt. 94-1232, p. 15-20.)

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS: (1) Dodd--To strike the five-year prohibition on discharges in bankruptcy; (2) Erlenborn--To strike the increase in income level under which a student automatically qualifies for interest subsidy benefits; (3) Quie--To require a three-percent state default rate to qualify for 100 percent federal reinsurance; (4) Quie--To strike the requirement for a written first refusal from a commercial lender.

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Number Three Hundred Thirty-Five August 9, 1976

FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION AND OIL PRICING
(H.R. 12169)

The House this week is scheduled to consider a conference report on legislation extending the Federal Energy Administration, revising certain oil pricing provisions and authorizing major energy conservation programs.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed House June 1 (270-94) (H. Rpt. 94-1113)
-Passed Senate amended June 16 (81-12) (S. Rpt. 94-874)
-Conference report filed August 4 (H. Rpt. 94-1392)
-Rules Committee August 9 granted rule waiving clauses 3 and 4 of rule XXVIII (scope and germaneness)
Floor Managers: Chairmen Staggers and Reuss(for Commerce and Banking Committees respectively)

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The House bill was a simple extension and authorization for the Federal Energy Administration with amendments to improve congressional oversight and to make FEA more responsive to public needs. The Senate added and the conferees modified provisions to revise the pricing of certain domestic crude oil production, to strengthen energy information gathering and analysis, to facilitate electric utility rate reform, and to authorize a wide range of energy conservation programs.

The bill would authorize $40.7 million for FEA in the transition quarter and $186.3 million in fiscal 1977; the figures are close to the House and Senate bills. FEA itself would be extended to December 31, 1977 (three months into fiscal 1978) as proposed by the House, instead of September 30, 1977, as in the Senate bill.

The conference report also includes these modified Senate amendments:

-- a $5-million, three-year program for HUD and FEA to develop federal energy conservation standards for new residential and commercial buildings; such standards would be submitted to the Congress for review and may take effect only if approved by affirmative resolution of both the House and Senate;
-- a $200-million, three-year grant program to permit low-income persons to weatherize existing homes;
-- a $105-million program at the state level to provide homeowners and owners of public and commercial buildings with information on cost, savings and benefits of energy conservation investments;
-- a $2-billion loan guarantee program to encourage investment to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings and industrial facilities;
-- a $200 million, two-year demonstration program to encourage homeowners to make energy conservation investments in their homes;
-- a $13 million program to design a model utility rate structure and $2 million for consumer services.

OIL PRICING: The bill would exempt stripper wells (those under 10 barrels a day, which produce 12 to 15 percent of all domestic crude oil) from federal price controls. The bill would also eliminate the three-percent ceiling on production incentive which the President may include in any proposal to raise oil prices, but retains the ten-percent overall limitation on such increases. The President would be directed to use the greater flexibility (afforded by these amendments) to increase price incentives for the use of enhanced recovery techniques and to alleviate the gravity differential penalty applying to certain California and Alaska heavy crude oil.

DATA ANALYSIS: An office of Energy Information and Analysis would be established within FEA to coordinate the gathering and analysis of energy information.

FEA PROCEDURES: The bill would improve FEA procedures with respect to standards of hardship for exception and exemption requests, appeals from adverse decisions, holding of local hearings, improving public access to Project Independence Evaluation System model and alleviating unnecessary burdens in the gathering of energy information from small businesses.

COST: Authorizations for three years (including the authorizations for the FEA) total $752 million plus $2 billion for loan guarantees.

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Number Three Hundred Thirty-Four August 9, 1976

ESTATE AND GIFT TAX REFORM ACT OF 1976
(H.R. 14844)

A third special caucus has been called for 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 10, to discuss the rule and three possible amendments to H.R. 14844, the Estate and Gift Tax Reform Act of 1976.

Speaker Albert and Majority Leader O'Neill urge all Democratic Members to attend. Two previous caucuses have failed to achieve quorums. UNDER CAUCUS RULES, the caucus must act before the bill can come to the Floor.

The Ways and Means Committee is requesting a closed rule. Congressman Mikva and 51 others are seeking consideration of two amendments, and Congressman Vanik and 52 others of one. Caucus Rule M IX (b) provides that if, after a closed-rule request, 50 or more Members support a germane amendment, "the Democratic Members of the Rules Committee shall not support any rule or order relating to the bill...until the Democratic Caucus has met and decided whether the proposed amendment should be allowed to be considered by the House."

The Ways and Means Committee ordered the bill reported 31-4 on July 27; the report was filed August 2 (H. Rpt. 94-1380). Under the bill:

REVENUES: Estate taxes would be reduced by $15 million in fiscal 1977, $615 million in 1978, rising to $917 million in 1981. However, in 18 to 20 years, the bill is expected to increase revenues by $273 million per year.

1) A unified rate schedule for estate and gift taxes would be provided so that taxes will be substantially the same whether the property is transferred before or after death.

2) Tax-free portions of gifts and estates would be increased by replacing the present exemptions of $60,000 for estates and $30,000 for gifts with a unified tax credit of $30,000 (equivalent to a $120,667 exemption) in 1977, rising to $35,000 in 1978 ($137,333 exemption) and to $40,000 in 1979 and thereafter ($153,750 exemption).

3) The estate tax marital deduction for a surviving spouse would be increased to the greater of $250,000 or one-half of decedent's adjusted gross estate. The gift tax marital deduction would also be increased.

4) Farms or other closely held businesses could be valued for estate tax purposes on the basis of such usage, rather than the higher fair market value. But the gross estate could not be reduced by more than $500,000. Such tax relief could be recaptured if within 15 years the property were disposed of to non-family members or its specified usage ceased.

5) Requirements for extension of time to pay estate taxes would be liberalized and interest for farms and closely-held businesses reduced.

6) Under present law, in the case of appreciated property passing from a decedent, heirs receive a "stepped-up" basis in the property equal to the property's fair market value at the date of death (or the alternate valuation date). This stepped-up basis permits approximately $15 billion of appreciation to escape Federal taxation annually. Many economists and tax specialists claim that this is the most inequitable provision of current law. The bill provides a "carryover basis" after December 31, 1976, so that the cost or other basis of appreciated property will be the same as the decedent's basis immediately before his death, increased by any death taxes attributable to appreciation. In addition, the assets of an estate could be stepped up to an aggregate basis of $60,000 so that this provision would not apply to small estates. Thus, any appreciation would be subject to tax whenever the property is sold.

7) The bill imposes a tax in the case of generation-skipping transfers under a trust or similar arrangement. The tax is to be substantially equivalent to the tax which would have been imposed if the property has been transferred outright to each successive generation. A limited exception allows one generation to be skipped in the case of a transfer up to $1 million to a grandchild. The $1 million exception would apply to each child of the grantor.

Proposed amendments to be discussed by the Caucus:

MIKVA: (1) to nullify the $1 million, one-generation exception to the tax on generation-skipping transfers; (2) to substitute for the $40,000 unified tax credit a "split credit" of $29,800 (equivalent to a $120,000 exemption) for all estates plus an additional credit of $25,000 ($80,000 exemption) for family farms and small businesses.

VANIK: to raise the tax rates progressively on estates remaining subject to taxation (generally, those with a gross of more than $404,000) so that no revenue loss results from enactment.

WHIP ISSUE PAPER

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August 10, 1976

A REPLY TO REPUBLICAN RHETORIC

(Republican Congressional Committee Newsletter, July 1976: "The reason for the growth of big government and quagmire bureaucracy is due to the short-sighted nature of the Democrat majority in Congress and their tyranny by neglect in failing to halt the growth of the tarpit of federal regulation and interference and their failure to heed Republican efforts to correct the situation.")

This charge, varying only in the degree of luridness of the accompanying rhetoric, is trotted out periodically by the Republicans and can be expected to be heard over and over this election year.

Like much Republican rhetoric, it is a myth, an attempt to paper over the ineptness, shortcomings and bureaucratic bungling by the Republicans who have been running the bureaucracy since 1969 and for 16 of the last 24 years.

Those who try to put the big government monkey on the back of the Democratic Congress usually talk about over regulation, burdensome reporting requirements in federal programs, the proliferation of programs, and the growth of federal personnel.

What are the facts?

Regulation: Charges that the federal government regulates private activities and interferes with individual freedoms are usually made by those still trying to repeal the New Deal, the New Frontier and the Great Society.

Some still haven't accepted such landmark Democratic achievements as Social Security, child labor laws, anti-trust regulation, environmental protection laws and other measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people.

It is true that Democratic Congresses have enacted laws -- often in the face of Republican opposition -- to regulate a range of activities not in the public interest.

Democratic Congresses have acted on behalf of the people to stop big business price fixing, end consumer rip-offs, stem the waste of public resources, protect the environment and provide equal opportunity for all Americans. And we will continue to regulate unbridled private interest in the interest of the whole American public.

Congress wants to help people; the Republican Administration does not. The Republicans deliberately maladminister the law to thwart the will of Congress. The Republicans will find every excuse, use every technicality to do as little as possible for the people. Congress responds by passing more detailed laws to tell the Administrators to carry out the law the way they should have been doing in the first place. The Republicans impose burdensome requirements, invent red tape and otherwise intentionally mismanage a law or program to arouse the outrage and opposition of the persons or industries affected.

The Republicans apparently want to return to the days of McKinley, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover before the Democrats put the public good above private greed.

As the Speaker's Task Force on the Democratic Platform said, the last two Republican administrations have tried to turn back the clock on needed federal regulation:

"No previous administration of any political persuasion has done worse on appointments or the management and operation," the task force said. "The Nixon-Ford appointees to the federal regulatory agencies have simply burdened these agencies with special interest lawyers and unknown mediocrities.

"There has been a consistent pattern of appointing men from industry to regulate the very industries from which they came and to which many wish to return."

Reporting requirements: It is true again that many programs of Democratic Congress require reports from state and local governments and from private institutions. Good information is essential to good government.

As President Ford himself said, "it is needed to make fair, rational, efficient and just decisions."

It is essential also, in the view of the Democratic Congress, to protect the taxpayer, to assure that every penny of the taxpayer's dollar is being spent for the purpose Congress intended, not tied-up or diverted by the bureaucracy of the Republican administration.

But if the reporting procedures are burdensome, it is because Republican bureaucrats designed them that way. Reporting forms for some agencies administered by the Nixon and Ford bureaucrats -- in all their complexity, duplication and triplication -- were designed by Republican administrations whom the Speaker's Task Force said were guilty of "a veritable catalogue of malfeasance in office, bad policies and poor administration."

The Carter-Mondale Administration, working with the Democratic Congress, will restore sanity and efficiency to reporting procedures and the administration of programs generally.

Proliferation of programs: It is true once again that Democratic Congresses have instituted a range of new programs to meet changing needs in an increasingly complex society.

President Washington started with just three federal departments--State, War and Justice. The number of departments grew as needs dictated over the decades that followed. And in more recent years, Democratic Presidents and Democratic Congresses have added still more programs, primarily to create a safety net of economic security beneath the average citizen, to promote equal opportunity and to construct a more just social and economic order.

We're proud of those accomplishments. They have helped the American people toward lives of greater opportunity and economic well-being than the citizens of any other nation in the world.

And what the Republican propagandists don't tell you is which programs they would eliminate. Social Security? minimum wage? pure food and drugs? the energy program? veterans benefits? civil rights?

Growth of personnel: This one is 100 percent Republican myth. The fact is that the federal workforce has increased only slightly -- from 2.4 million civilian employees in 1946 to 2.9 million last year. That's an increase of just 20.8 percent. At the same time, the nation's population increased by 50 percent and the problems of our fast growing society have, of course, multiplied in numbers and complexity. Total government spending has remained roughly constant as a fraction of Gross National Product over the last 20 years.

As newsman John Chancellor of NBC put it in a recent radio commentary:

"The growth in government has been in our states and cities, not in the federal government, which is something to keep in mind this year as we listen to the politicians fulminate against Washington."

The most conspicuous example of bloated bureaucracy in Washington is in the Republican White House itself. The number of White House civilian employees jumped from 273 to 586, or 114 percent, between 1968, the last Democratic administration year, and 1976. During the same period, the budget outlay figure for the Executive Office of the President increased by 289 percent.

The Republicans have had nearly eight years to straighten out what they call the "quagmire bureaucracy." The fact that they seek to blame the Democratic Congress for their ineptitude is just further evidence of their failure.

Governor Carter has pledged that repairing the mess of Republican mismanagement will be one of his top priorities as President. He will have the full cooperation of the Democratic Congress in that task.

NEWS SPECIAL

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August 10, 1976

CONGRESS ADDS TO AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD

In a strong finishing kick before recessing for the Republican convention, the House this week passed the Post Card Registration bill, adopted the Federal Energy Administration Conference Report, passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Amendments, the Labor-HEW Appropriations Conference Report, and the Swine Flu emergency legislation.

This was typical of the pattern for the year as the 94th Congress established its record as one of the most productive and effective in history.

Highlights:

--One of the hardest working Congresses in history in terms of bills passed, hours in session, votes taken.

--Implemented the historic Budget Control Act, restoring powers of purse and initiative in setting spending priorities to legislative branch.

--Enacted and extended biggest tax cut in history, triggering sustained economic rebound from Nixon-Ford recession.

--Sent the President a bill to encourage oil production from marginal wells; overrode a veto on a bill to encourage coal production of federal lands; and sent to the Senate a bill to facilitate oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf.

--Set record for overriding vetoes--10 of 54--making Ford most overridden Republican president in history. The House was successful this year in 6 of 7 override attempts.

At the outset of the 94th Congress 19 months ago, the Democratic Leadership put squarely at the top of the legislative priority list jobs and economic recovery from the longest and deepest recession since the 1930's.

It has been a long struggle, often in the face of strong opposition from the Republican Administration, but Congress has succeeded in restoring a measure of confidence to the economy and putting a brake on inflation. The President has twice vetoed jobs bills, but Congress overrode the second in July. Congressional foresight and determination to provide jobs was justified when an increase in July unemployment showed that additional jobs are needed. A $3.4 billion appropriation bill to fund the authorization in the Public Works Employment Act was reported by the Appropriations Committee today and is scheduled for full House action when Congress returns. The funding was provided for in the Budget resolution.

"The jobs override was one of the most important achievements of the Congress," Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., said. "Our projections showed that we needed jobs to maintain the recovery, and we are providing those jobs, in spite of the Administration's obstructionism."

"The worker is not going to be left out of the economic recovery," Majority Whip John J. McFall said. "People remain our priority."

Congress continued to move the appropriations bills, sending three more to the President ((a) HUD, on which the President had until midnight of August 10 to act; (b) Labor-HEW, and (c) Transportation). Only two other regular fiscal 1977 bills (D.C. and Legislative) await House consideration and they will be scheduled later in August; the Foreign Aid bill has passed the House and is in the Senate and the Defense bill has passed both House and Senate and is in conference.

Other major achievements for the House include the unemployment compensation expansion and financing bill, outer continental shelf, government in the sunshine, mine safety, payment in lieu of taxes, Indian health care, and nuclear fuel assurance. The Senate finished work on the tax bill (H.R. 10612), and the House will go to conference after Congress returns.

We return Monday, August 23, with an agenda for action that will keep us busy until the projected October 2 adjournment. Highest priority is the 2nd Budget Resolution which must be enacted by September 15 and final action on the remaining appropriation bills.

HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1976

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HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER THOMAS P. O'NEILL

CALLS FORD 'APOSTLE OF OPPOSITION'

ON ANNIVERSARY OF TAKING OFFICE

WASHINGTON -- Calling Gerald R. Ford an "apostle of opposition," House Majority Leader Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. said today that Ford has conducted "a presidency that opposes, a presidency that denies, a presidency that is built around the word 'no'."

In a statement issued in connection with the second anniversary of Ford's succession to the presidency on [redacted] AUGUST 9, 1974, O'Neill described Ford as "a negative President" and listed a "litany" of policies and programs that Ford has opposed ranging from ending the war in Vietnam, to tax cuts, jobs and other assistance for the unemployed, to housing, health and aid for the old-aged, the handicapped and the migrant worker.

O'Neill said Ford preferred paying $18 billion a year in unemployment compensation to spending money for productive jobs and credited Congressional Democrats with raising the economy from the depths of last year's recession over Ford's opposition.

He warned, however, that Ford's attempts to nullify policies designed to keep the economy moving threatened the nation with continued high unemployment and a renewed recession.

O'Neill said that while the accomplishments of Ford as President "are miniscule, his place in history is secure as Richard Nixon's hand-picked successor and the last Republican President."

The text of the O'Neill statement follows:

TEXT OF STATEMENT

Two years ago Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as President of the United States. On this second anniversary -- which also marks his final anniversary as President -- it is appropriate to assess the kind of Chief Executive he has been.

While he can be commended for his integrity -- a quality he shares with most Americans and virtually all but one of his predecessors -- there is little else praiseworthy to be said of his brief tenure.

He is a negative President and his is a negative presidency, one that is not significantly different in political philosophy from that of his predecessor.

-- more --

It is a presidency rooted in the traditions of William McKinley, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Richard Nixon.

It is a presidency that opposes, a presidency that denies, a presidency that is built around the word "no."

It is a presidency of veto, of impoundment and of rescission.

An evaluation of the two years of Mr. Ford's tenure shows just how all-encompassing his philosophy of negativism has been:

-- He opposed ending the war in Southeast Asia.

-- He opposed the tax cut that stemmed the recession.

-- He opposed employment and assistance for near-record numbers of jobless Americans.

-- He opposed the Freedom of Information Act.

-- He opposed the food stamp program.

-- He opposed health services and nurse training.

-- He opposed the control of strip mining.

-- He opposed cost of living increases for people receiving social security and other government distributed retirement benefits.

-- He opposed limiting the rise in petroleum costs.

-- He opposed housing legislation.

-- He opposed adequate funding for a host of social and medical programs including Head Start, nutrition for the aging, rehabilitation of the handicapped, maternal and child health care, drug abuse, alcoholism, mental illness and cancer research.

-- He opposed assistance to unemployed home owners to meet their mortgage payments.

-- He opposed the expansion of the school lunch and child nutrition programs.

-- He opposed adequate funding for educational programs.

-- He opposed strengthening protections for migrant farm workers.

-- He opposed programs for expanded community mental health centers, migrant worker health centers and family planning assistance.

-- He opposed increasing services for the handicapped.

-- He opposed expanded educational benefits and on-the-job training for veterans of the Korean and Vietnamese Wars.

-- He opposed spending funds for sewage treatment plants that would have expanded job opportunities and eliminated the pollution of streams, rivers and harbors.

-- more --

-- He opposed assistance to New York City.

-- He opposed rural electrification loans.

This litany of negativism -- by no means complete -- illustrates the degree to which this President has become an apostle of opposition and an advocate of obstruction.

Perhaps the clearest picture of these policies of negativism emerges from Mr. Ford's prescription for the economy.

When Mr. Ford took office, the unemployment rate was 5.5 percent and growing, a high figure for which the policies of his predecessor, not his own, were to blame. But Mr. Ford sought to continue those same policies and in May 1975 unemployment reached 8.9 percent. His economic prescription, proclaimed proudly by him last January, was aimed at bringing an unemployment rate of 7.7 percent this year, 6.9 percent next year and 6.4 percent in 1978.

But Congressional Democrats, despite his obstructive tactics, enacted legislation that already has lowered the jobless rate to 7.5 percent and will bring it to 6 percent -- or less -- by the end of next year, not two years from now.

Mr. Ford, as his policies so clearly state, preferred to have the Treasury pay $20 billion for unemployment compensation last year and $18 billion for compensation this year rather than spending a portion of that money for useful public works and public service jobs.

Instead of providing productive employment, he preferred a dole. Instead of salaries for the unemployed from which they can pay taxes, he preferred payments that come from tax money and increase the public debt and the deficit. In 1975 alone, about $50 billion was lost in government tax revenues because of the atrociously high unemployment rate preferred by Mr. Ford.

If Congress followed the economic remedies proposed by Mr. Ford, the nation would find itself in another recession in 1978.

This President, who sounds as though his bedside reading is composed of the speeches and veto messages of Herbert Hoover, continues to predict the most dire consequences from Congressional policies that he opposed.

But what do we find when we compare his prescriptions with the remedies Congress has provided over his opposition?

The inflation rate in 1972, when his predecessor sought reelection, was 3 percent. It jumped to 9 percent in 1973 and reached 12 percent in 1974 at the very time the economy dropped deep in recession and appeared headed for depression.

-- more --

Over the intense opposition of Mr. Ford, the Congressional programs adopted by the Democratic majority in 1975 have reduced the rate of inflation to about 5 percent, at the same time that unemployment has declined and economic expansion has resumed.

The Ford prediction of a shortage of capital never materialized, and the fiscal 1976 budget deficit was $10.4 billion below what Mr. Ford and his economists said it would be.

President Ford continues to oppose an economic program that would restore the economy to full health; he continues to want to stem inflation by keeping unemployment high -- the same policies implemented so disastrously by Herbert Hoover some 45 years ago. In his refusal to learn the lessons of the past, Mr. Ford refuses to recognize that jobs are the key to a healthy economy. He refuses to recognize that recent deficits do not result from unnecessary spending; they are the direct result of high unemployment.

If unemployment were now 6 percent -- instead of 7.5 percent -- the deficit would drop to $28 billion. At 5 percent unemployment, the deficit would fall to $12 billion. If unemployment were 4 percent, there would be a surplus of $4 billion.

The "do-nothing" Congress that Mr. Ford also labels as "reckless" and fiscally "irresponsible" reduced his own budget requests in 1975 by $7 billion. It will reduce them again this year, but it also will provide -- as it did in 1975 -- for programs and policies that mean progress for all of us, compassion for the unfortunate among us and the expectation of a bright future for our children and our children's children.

The 94th Congress has preserved that future despite the negativism of Gerald Ford.

President Ford is remembered fondly by many in Congress, where he spent so many years opposing virtually every positive program put into effect by a Congress and a President working together. While we will personally miss him when he leaves office next year, the record of his two years shows the nation will be better served by his departure.

Although his accomplishments are miniscule, his place in history is secure as Richard Nixon's hand-picked successor and the last Republican President.

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Number Two Hundred Ninety-Seven July 19, 1976

OVERRIDE OF VETO OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1976 (S. 3201)

The House this Thursday, July 22, is expected to vote on the override of the veto of the Public Works Employment Act. (The Senate is scheduled to vote on the override Wednesday afternoon and the House vote will come only if the Senate achieves the necessary two-thirds.)

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Conference report passed Senate July 16 (70-25)
-Conference report passed House June 23 (328-83) (H. Conf. Rpt. 94-1260)
-Vetoed July 6
Floor Manager: Congressman Wright

BACKGROUND

This legislation was initiated by the House democratic Leadership to combat unemployment, especially in the construction and related industries, and to stimulate national economic activity by assisting state and local governments in the construction, renovation and repair of badly needed local public facilities and to provide antirecessionary assistance to state and local governments.

Both Houses previously have given overwhelming approval to jobs measures repeatedly. The House votes: first bill, 321-86; first conference report, 321-80; first veto override, 319-98; second bill, 339-57; conference report on second bill, 328-83. The Senate also approved both bills by large margins, but failed to override the veto of the first bill by 3 votes.

BILL SUMMARY

The present bill is similar to the first, but reduces the total cost from $6.2 billion to $3.95 billion. Major provisions:

PUBLIC WORKS: $2 billion authorization through Sept. 30, 1977 for 100 percent grants by the Secretary of Commerce to state and local governments for local public works that can be started within 90 days. Local governments are given priority and 70 percent of the funds must go to state and local governments (including high unemployment neighborhoods) that exceed the national unemployment rate. This section is expected to create about 200,000 jobs, most in private industry, about half in on-site construction jobs and half in construction materials industries.

ANTIRECESSION GRANTS: $1.25 billion authorized for five calendar quarters beginning July 1. In each quarter, $125 million is authorized for the first six percent of unemployment, plus $62.5 million for each additional one half of one percent (latest national unemployment rate is 7.5 percent). The section is expected to preserve about 90,000 state and local government jobs.

WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT: $700 million authorized for grants to states for construction of publicly owned wastewater treatment works. The program is expected to produce another 60,000 construction jobs.

VETO MESSAGE

The veto message says the bill would create about 160,000 "work-years of employment," rather than the 350,000 jobs estimated by the House and Senate Committees; that it would create few new jobs in the immediate future; that the cost of the jobs would be high, and that the bill would be inflationary.

COMMITTEE RESPONSE

The 350,000 direct jobs figure is a sound projection and does not include new jobs indirectly created through additional purchasing power and demand. With more than 7 million unemployed and with the construction industry unemployment rate consistently running at double or more the overall rate, the jobs are needed not only to reduce unemployment but to cut the high cost of joblessness to government in unemployment benefits, welfare, food stamps and other income support programs. The Joint Economic Committee says the cost of unemployment benefits alone was $20 billion in 1975 and will be at least $15 billion in 1976.

The cost of the bill falls within the first budget resolution adopted by Congress for fiscal 1977.

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Number Three Hundred Thirty-Six August 10, 1976

CONFERENCE REPORT ON PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS AMENDMENTS OF 1976 (H.R. 8410)

The House in the near future is scheduled to consider the conference report on legislation to strengthen the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial protection to livestock producers selling livestock to meat packers.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Passed House May 6 (voice) (H. Rpt. 94-1043)
-Passed Senate June 17 (voice) (S. Rpt. 94-932)
-Conference report filed August 4 (H. Rpt. 94-1391)
Floor Manager: Congressman Poage

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference report would empower the Secretary of Agriculture to require that all packers purchasing more than an average of $500,000 of livestock annually be bonded under regulations prescribed by the Secretary. All packers purchasing slaughter livestock would be required to deliver full payment to the seller or his representative by check or wire transfer of possession by the close of business on the next business day except where prior agreement in writing is made between the seller and buyer. Both the prompt payment and bonding provisions preempt existing state laws. However, the legislation does not preclude a state from enforcing a requirement with respect to payment for livestock at a stockyard subject to this Act, which is not in conflict with the Packers and Stockyards Act. The conference report also allows a state to enforce its own prompt payment and bonding provisions on any packer not subject to the appropriate provisions of this legislation.

The legislation would authorize the Secretary to order packers to cease and desist from purchasing livestock while insolvent and allows him to ask the Attorney General to enjoin any packer from purchasing livestock while insolvent except under such conditions as the court may prescribe. It also would require any packer with annual purchases over $500,000 to hold all livestock purchased in cash sales and all meats and proceeds therefrom in trust until all producers who had sold livestock to the packer on a cash basis had received payment.

The Secretary would be granted authority after notice and hearing to assess a civil penalty of not more than $10,000 for any violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act by a packer, market agency, or dealer. Currently, the Secretary can only issue a cease and desist order or close down the firm thereby eliminating markets for livestock producers.

The legislation would clearly bring wholesale brokers, dealers and distributors marketing meats, meat food products, or livestock products under regulation as packers, and bring under the jurisdiction of the Secretary all transactions of packers who operate in commerce.

The legislation would also require the Secretary to testify before the House and Senate Agriculture Committees prior to February 15 of each year to justify his budget request for the upcoming fiscal year to carry out the Packers and Stockyards Act.

BACKGROUND

In January of 1975, American Beef Packers, Inc., filed for bankruptcy and livestock producers were left unpaid for over $22 million worth of livestock. Between 1958 and 1975, 167 packer failures occurred in the United States which left livestock sellers unpaid for over $43 million in livestock.

COST: Cost is estimated at $278,000 for the transition quarter, $1.1 million in fiscal 1977, rising to $1.4 million by 1981.

August, 1976

UP WITH JOBS, DOWN WITH PRICES

Remarks by

HON. HENRY S. REUSS

Chairman

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, CURRENCY AND HOUSING

Since the Employment Act of 1946, the Government of the United States has been under a legal commitment, mandated by Congress, to foster and promote "maximum employment, maximum production and maximum purchasing power".

How sadly that commitment has been ignored in recent years!

From 1948 to 1969, unemployment averaged only 4.7 percent of the American labor force at any one time. Under Nixon and Ford, we have had unemployment of 8.5 percent in 1975, and more than 7.5 percent so far this year, the worst in over 35 years. Today, 7.8 percent are out of work.

From 1948 to 1969, the purchasing power of the dollar remained virtually stable from year to year. Average annual inflation was only 2.3 percent. Today, the dollar's value is eroding over twice as quickly. Under Nixon and Ford, we have had inflation rates of 9.7 percent in 1974 and 8.7 percent in 1975, the worst in 27 years.

From 1948 to 1969, a period of only 21 years, real production of goods and services in this country more than doubled. At the average growth rates of the Nixon-Ford years, output would not double for 51 years.

From 1948 to 1969, real output of goods and services declined only twice -- in 1954 and 1958. Under Nixon and Ford, real output has declined three times in seven years.

What brought on this run of miserable economic performance? Was it, as we have been told, the necessary consequence of mistakes made in the previous Administration? Was it, as we have been told, the unavoidable side effect of international events beyond our control?

The answer to both questions is, partly, yes. The Vietnam War, and the Johnson Administration's failure to pass adequate taxes to pay for it, contributed to the rising inflation of 1968, 1969, and 1970. The Arab oil embargo, the disappearance of the Peruvian anchovies, and the failure of the Russian wheat crop in 1972, all contributed to the disasters of 1974 and 1975.

But were these mistakes and misfortunes the only reason for the economic failures of the Nixon-Ford years? Were they the dominant reasons? They were not.

The principal cause of each economic disaster of the past seven years has been a bad economic policy decision of the Nixon-Ford Administration -- to disregard the unemployed, to carry out the wishes of big business, and, above all, to follow the course of political expedience instead of economic wisdom.

In 1969, Richard Nixon's economic advisers reacted to rising inflation by deliberately engineering the first recession in nine years. It didn't work. Real Gross National Product fell for the year for the first time since 1958. Inflation continued to rise, from 4.5 percent in 1968, to 5.0 percent in 1969, to 5.4 percent in 1970. Unemployment surged, from 3.5 percent in 1969 to 4.9 percent in 1970 -- and continued upward in 1971.

By mid-1970, Nixon was reaping the political consequences of this policy. He trailed Senator Muskie, then the leading Democratic Presidential contender, in the opinion polls. In desperation, his advisers decided to pump up the economy for the election -- and off on a binge they went. In August 1971, they slapped on price controls. They pumped $28 billion of additional stimulus into the economy in the first half of 1972. The Federal Reserve accommodated this policy with incredibly rapid money growth. By late 1972, the economy was booming, inflation had declined, employment was up, and Nixon was re-elected.

What happened next is well known. Inflation rebounded with a vengeance, and this time the Administration refused to respond with renewed controls. Instead, in late 1974 the Federal Reserve took action to repress the economy, as a whole, slamming on the monetary brakes. Interest rates went through the roof. At first inflation rose still further under the cost-pressure, and then the economy collapsed, into the deepest recession of a generation. Inflation and interest rates fell, at a fearsome price in unemployment and production. Now, a slow recovery of over a year's duration has not yet brought real per capita incomes back to the levels of before the recession.

What is likely to happen if the current Administration continues in office? There is no indication that the future will be better than the recent past. Indeed, it may be worse. In the past seven years we have suffered real losses in our ability to produce, as higher energy prices and tougher environmental standards have cut into our stock of usable plants and equipment. Inflation has been greater in capital goods industries than elsewhere. For these reasons, we may hit capacity snags, particularly in bottleneck industries like paper, steel and aluminum, sooner than most believe -- perhaps by the middle or end of 1977, while unemployment remains perhaps higher than 6 percent.

When these bottlenecks do appear, the reaction of the Administration and the Federal Reserve will not be to bust the bottleneck with an open-door import policy, or an investment subsidy policy, or a sensible conservation policy. It will be to relieve pressure on the bottleneck by repressing the economy as a whole. Money will tighten. Interest rates will rise. Expenditure programs will face vetoes. And the economy will be tipped over once again into recession, at ever higher levels of unemployment and inflation.

There is an easy way out. And that is to elect a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress in 1976.

30 years after the Employment Act, we can have full employment, maximum production, and stable prices in this country. It will take an Administration that is willing to act firmly, decisively, and wisely in the public interest. It will take an Administration wedded neither to private interests nor to the bankrupt economic notions of the past seven years. It will take an Administration that has the full cooperation of the Congress, and the full support and confidence of the people. Jimmy Carter can provide that Administration. You the people can provide that Congress.

How do we attain full employment without inflation? Here are some ways that a Carter Administration might pursue:

1. Monetary policy should look to steady long-term growth in the money supply, to the extent consistent with low interest rates and orderly foreign exchange markets. Fiscal policy, not tight money, should be used to restrain excessive demand. If a steady monetary policy results in interest rates that average lower than those in other industrial countries, the happy effect would be to promote real investment in this country, thereby stimulating our own employment and production, while discouraging massive and shock-producing inflows of short-term foreign capital.

2. To achieve monetary stability, the Federal Reserve must be at least partly reclaimed from the influence of the banks and of big business. The five banker-selected members of the 12 man Federal Open Market Committee, the body that sets monetary policy, should be denied the right to vote in that body. The Fed should be required to come before Congress and state, in addition to its targets for growth of the money supply, targets for interest rates and annual objectives for production, employment and inflation. The Fed should be required to issue an independent annual report, setting forth and explaining the monetary policy it plans to pursue in the forthcoming year.

3. A full employment fiscal policy can be consistent with price stability. But you musn't move so fast as to generate an inflationary psychology, and you musn't attempt to create over-full employment. The new Congressional budget procedure, off to a good trial run in 1976, offers hope that future spending and taxing policies will provide stimulus that is neither too little nor too much.

4. Above all, we must avoid the disastrous policy of panicking into contraction at the first sighting of inflationary islands in a sea of stagnation. To insure against this, an early-warning system to eliminate these inflationary islands is needed.

For example, in the summer of 1976 the Administration formally side-tracked the battle against unemployment in order to conduct the battle against inflation. This was at a time when overall production was at only 70 percent of capacity, and industrial materials production at only 78 percent of capacity (up 8 points from the 70 percent of capacity in the recession of second quarter, 1975, but still 15 points below the peak of 93 percentage points in inflationary 1973).

But paper materials were operating at 90 percent of capacity (down only 8 points from inflationary 1973-74). Such potential bottlenecks loomed large in the talk in Washington last spring about the need to choke off recovery in order to avoid rekindling inflation.

How sad -- for want of paper, the recovery should be lost! No one, apparently, was worrying about how to unstop the paper bottleneck. The Federal Reserve was raising interest rates, thus making new investment in paper production more difficult. The tariff authorities apparently never contemplated asking for power to flex downward tariffs on imported paper so as to increase imports. The conservation authorities continued to contemplate a food market-basket largely composed of paper rather than food, and garbage-dumps that look like paper rather than garbage.

Here stood the greatest industrial power in the world, afraid to plan or to act, when investment policy and import policy and waste-avoiding conservation policy could have largely alleviated the paper crisis and made unnecessary the proposed repressing of the economy as a whole.

5. For those for whom prudently expansionary monetary and fiscal policies cannot provide a job, better job training and job banks, coupled with public service employment, should be used. Such programs are particularly needed for those who suffer the worst unemployment -- youth, females, minorities.

6. Adequate utilization of existing capacity is more than a great way to fight unemployment. It is also a splendid way to fight inflation. Business, particularly in concentrated industries where competition is not vibrant, often seeks price rises in bad times simply to keep up profits. If we but go for a healthier level of economic operations, then fixed costs -- for management, plant and equipment -- are spread over more units and profits per unit rise, thereby lessening the incentive for price increases.

7. Many of our export subsidies are foolish, and contribute in subtle or not-so-subtle ways to inflation. It was wasteful three years ago for the government to spend $132 billion in subsidies to make that Russian wheat deal. The Russians would have bought part of the wheat at market prices, and there was no reason to sweeten the pot. We oversold the wheat and sparked inflation in U.S. domestic food prices.

Nor did it make sense for the Exim Bank to subsidize oil equipment for Iran, with Texas and Oklahoma experiencing shortages of that very equipment at home.

8. Some import policies are equally counter-productive. When we imposed import quotas on steel, we gave an uneconomic iron lung to the steel industry, enabling them to raise prices without fear of being undercut by lower-priced imports. When Big Steel took advantage of the situation and raised its prices, the Administration lackadaisically looked the other way.

9. Our regulatory agencies, by default or design, contribute to the problem of inflation-generating oligopoly power. The ICC, with its absurd transportation rules, and the CAB, under whose auspices you can ride for a song intrastate but the minute you ride the same number of miles over a state border up goes the price, both bring out higher prices than would the free market. These agencies ought to be faced with a self-destruct order every few years, and made to justify their policies or to change their ways.

10. To restrain the wage-price spiral that a concentrated industrial structure tends to provoke, we need a system of selective, stand-by controls on administered prices. Steel is the exemplar of an industry which too often raises prices for the wrong reasons or at the wrong time.

11. With provision for stand-by price controls in place, we should examine the experience of Austria, Germany and, most recently, Britain, in working out a social contract for labor involving wage targets that do not exceed productivity gains. The quid pro quo for labor could be a stable dollar, full employment, and equality of burden-sharing.

What an agenda! How could a Carter Administration and a Democratic Congress possibly succeed with such a program? All told, prospects look about as poor as those of an obscure peanut processor from Plains, Georgia, getting the Democratic nomination!

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Number Three Hundred Thirty-Eight August 10, 1976

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION
(H.R. 14846)

Legislation authorizing $3,323,989,000 in new military construction for fiscal 1977 is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules. The bill omits the section of the vetoed legislation (H.R. 12384) which the President cited in his veto message.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Armed Services Committee July 27 (28-1)
-Reported July 27 (H. Rpt. 94-1371)
Floor Manager: Congressman Ichord

BILL SUMMARY
The legislation totals $3,323,989,000 in new military construction authorization and related authority in support of the Military Departments, Reserve Components and the Defense Department during fiscal 1977. The Department of Defense and the respective military departments had requested a total of $3,368,215,000 for new construction authorization for fiscal 1977. The bill therefore reduces the Department's request by $44,226,000 in new authorization.

H.R. 14846 is a substitute measure for H.R. 12384 which was vetoed by the President July 2 because of his objection to a provision which would have established a time-phased procedure to be followed by the Department of Defense in implementing base closures and reductions. The veto was overridden by the House July 22 (270-131), but sustained in the Senate (51-42).

H.R. 14846 is identical to H.R. 12384 except that the provision dealing with base closures (section 612 in H.R. 12384) has been deleted.

BACKGROUND
In reporting H.R. 14846 the Committee stated that its concern over proposed base realignments has not diminished and that it will expect to be informed fully by the Department of Defense of its justifications to implement any of the proposed base closures or reductions recently identified by the Armed Services. However, the Committee feels that it has an overriding responsibility to move expeditiously to put into law a bill authorizing military construction and family housing operations and maintenance for fiscal 1977 so that corresponding appropriations already signed into law can be used.

The basic reason for the base realignment provision in H.R.12384 was to establish a procedure for the reasonable and orderly realignment of military facilities. It is the intention of the Military Installations and Facilities Subcommittee to hold hearings on this issue during consideration of the Military Construction Authorization Bill for fiscal 1978.

OTHER VIEWS
One Member filed dissenting views on the basis that the substitute bill does not include the base closures provision.

(For further details see Whip Advisories 89, 241, and 298).

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Number Three Hundred Thirty-Nine August 11, 1976

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1976 (H.R. 12664)

Legislation to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to emergency medical services systems and burn injuries is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce March 24 (voice)
-Reported May 5 (H. Rpt. 94-1089)
Floor Manager: Congressman Paul Rogers

BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 12664 would revise and extend for three years the authorities of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to support programs of assistance for feasibility studies and planning, establishment and initial operation and expansion and improvement of Emergency Medical Services Systems.

The Act imposes specific requirements for such systems which applicants must meet to qualify for grants and contracts and to help assure that comprehensive and integrated emergency medical service systems will be planned and established in the applicants' community. It authorizes grants and contracts for research and training and emergency medical services. The bill eliminates the requirement under existing law that recipients of assistance apply for training assistance under titles VII or VIII of the Public Health Service Act (which authorize health manpower programs) before they use funds for training and their EMS systems. It also adds a new requirement that EMS systems, which receive assistance for initial operation and improvement, have the capability to communicate in the language of the predominant population in the systems' service area which have limited English-speaking ability. The bill also includes provisions to require better coordination of all Federal EMS systems programs. In addition, H.R. 12264 would revise and extend, for three years through fiscal 1979, the Federal programs of assistance for the establishment, operation, and improvement of treatment, rehabilitation, research, and training programs relating to burn injuries.

BACKGROUND

The present emergency medical service systems program began with the enactment of the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act of 1973 (PL 93-154, November 16, 1973).

The present Federal program relating to burn injuries is conducted under general Public Health Service Act authority by the National Institutes of Health. In addition to intramural research, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences supports extramural burn research and the post graduate training of individuals involved in burn research.

COST: H.R. 12664 would authorize $5 million for the transition quarter, $50 million for fiscal year 1977, $65 million for fiscal year 1978, and $80 million for fiscal year 1979. The comparable authorization for fiscal year 1976 was $83 million; the fiscal year 1976 appropriation was $25.1 million.

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Number Three Hundred Twenty-Nine

August 11, 1976

ESTABLISHMENT OF RETIREMENT FUNDS FOR D.C. POLICE AND FIREMEN, TEACHERS, AND JUDGES (H.R. 14960)

The House in the near future is expected to consider legislation to establish actuarially sound retirement funds for D.C. police and firemen, teachers, and judges and to make certain changes in those benefits.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by Committee on District of Columbia June 28 (voice)
-Rule not yet requested
Floor Manager: Congressman Mazzoli and Congressman Rees

BILL SUMMARY

The legislation would establish three separate retirement Funds for D.C. police and firemen, teachers, and judges to be managed by a 10-member Retirement Board composed of eight employee and two city representatives. The Board, not the city, would control, oversee, and manage the Funds according to standards modeled after the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. An independent accountant and an enrolled actuary would review the Funds and make annual reports to Congress.

The Funds would be financed by the D.C. government, the Federal government, and employee contributions. Over the 25 years that the Federal government would contribute to the Funds, the Federal contribution would be approximately $1 for every $4 from D.C.

For present retirees, pension adjustments would be based on the Consumer Price Index, as in Civil Service, but without the one percent add-on or "kicker." This would replace the present so-called "escalator clause" for police and firemen.

Benefit changes applicable to police and firemen hired after the bill's passage include a minimum normal retirement eligibility of 25 years service/age 55 (current law is 20 years' service/no age requirement) and pensions based on 3 years' average pay (current law is final year's average pay). To reduce abuses in disability retirements, disability would be determined on a sliding scale of impairment. The bill would limit the amount or income a disability retiree may earn in addition to his annuity and would require yearly medical reports of proof that the retiree remains disabled. Willful failure to comply with both provisions would result in loss of annuity. The benefit changes for police and firemen would result in a cost saving of 18 percent over present law.

BACKGROUND

Before Home Rule, Congress established pensions plans for police and firemen, teachers, and judges and granted generous benefits, but failed to provide for adequate funding. The police and firemen's pensions are now paid out of D.C. general revenues on a pay-as-you-go basis. The Committee believes the teachers' fund (Congressionally mandated to be maintained at $61.5 million) is so inadequate as to be considered unfunded. The same can be said of the judges' $1.3 million fund. By October of 1976 the unfunded liability of the three retirement plans, as estimated by the U.S. Treasury, will be $1.8 billion. Pension payments for police and firemen are currently 43 percent of payroll and are estimated to be 110 percent of payroll by the year 2010. Under H.R. 14960, if funding commences in fiscal 1978, net costs for police and firemen can be held at 69 percent of payroll in perpetuity. The level percentage required to fund the teachers' pension plan is 25 percent, and judges' 50 percent of payroll.

COST: The bill would authorize Federal contributions to the three Funds of $42 million in fiscal 1978 and Federal contributions of $829.5 million for the fiscal years 1978 through 2003.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS

The Committee is considering two possible amendments: 1) to cut the first year's Federal contribution to $25 million, or 2) to cut the first year's contribution to $12.5 million. The differences would be amortized over the remaining 24 years, raising the total Federal payments to $844 million under the first amendment and $866 million under the second. The actuarial soundness of the funds in either case would be preserved.

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Three Hundred and Forty-Two

August 11, 1976

SWINE FLU LIABILITY
(S. 3735)

Congress yesterday cleared and sent to the President legislation under which the United States would accept legal responsibility for injury or death resulting from the swine flu immunization program.

Acting upon a personal appeal from President Ford to Speaker Albert, the Democratic leadership scheduled the legislation for House floor action late Tuesday on an emergency basis. The Rules Committee Tuesday afternoon by voice vote granted a rule making the Senate bill in order. The House passed the bill 250-83.

The bill, S. 3735, was passed earlier Tuesday by Senate voice vote.

The bill provides that the United States may be sued by any persons alleging injury or death as a result of the swine flu immunization program. If the government pays any such claim, and if the government determines that the injury or death was the fault of any participant in the immunization program, the government could sue that participant to recoup the damages.

In effect, the bill would afford protection to all vaccine manufacturers, distributors, participating public or private agencies or organizations, medical or other health personnel or other participant from all claims except those caused by their own negligence, as determined under the processes of the bill.

The legislation would also require development of a written consent form and procedures for assuring that the risks and benefits from the swine flu vaccine are fully explained to each individual to whom the vaccine is to be administered.

The bill would permit the United States to renegotiate any contract for the purchase of swine flu vaccine to eliminate any profit to the manufacturer.

Public and private organizations and medical and other health personnel that provide the innoculations must do so without charge for the vaccine or its administration in order to be covered by this bill.

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Number Three Hundred Thirty-Seven August 11, 1976

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATION BILL, 1977
(H.R. 15193)

The House on Tuesday, August 24, is scheduled to consider the District of Columbia Appropriation Bill for 1977.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Appropriations Committee August 10 (voice)
-Reported August 10 (H. Rpt. 94-1415)
-Two hours of general debate will be requested
Floor Manager: Congressman Natcher

BILL SUMMARY

Federal Funds - the total new budget (obligational) authority in federal funds recommended in the bill is $372,707,000. The Committee has recommended a reduction of $24,187,000. This allowance is composed of a federal payment of $270,000,000, the sum of $2,707,000 in lieu of reimbursements for water and sewer services provided the federal government, and a loan appropriation of $100,000,000 to finance the capital improvements program recommended in this and prior year bills.

District of Columbia Funds - The bill also includes $1,118,859,800 in District of Columbia funds appropriations. Reductions recommended total $9,215,800.

The following summarizes the requests and recommendations:

	Budget	Bill	Decrease
Federal funds: (in $000's)			
Federal payment	$ 280,000.0	$ 270,000.0	$-10,000.0
Payment for federal water and sewer services	2,707.0	2,707.0	----
Federal loans for capital outlay	114,187.0	100,000.0	-14,187.0
TOTAL, Federal funds	396,894.0	372,707.0	-24,187.0
District of Columbia funds:			
Operating expenses	1,092,280.9	1,083,065.1	- 9,215.8
Capital outlay	35,794.7	35,794.7	----
TOTAL, D.C. funds	$1,128,075.6	$1,118,859.8	$- 9,215.8

The bill provides for a continuation of most District of Columbia Government activities at the current level and does not allow the beginning of any new programs or agencies. Increases requested for the annualization of pay and other prior year increases, within grade increases and inflation increases have been reduced 5 percent across the board. The Committee has restored to the budget 105 police positions, which the city had eliminated, in order to prevent the compulsory separation of incumbents in those jobs and a further reduction in the strength of the Police Department. The bill also provides for the redirection of $1,000,000 to provide additional resources to help correct deficiencies in Forest Haven's medicaid program for the care of the mentally retarded. The Committee has also allowed $583,400 over the budget request to enable the reopening of three drug treatment centers with instructions that they be operated in strict compliance with federal standards.

The bill contains an employment ceiling of 35,250 which is 4,369 below the 1976 level.

WHIP ADVISORIES

JOHN J. McFALL
MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred Forty-One

August 11, 1976

FEDERAL RECLAMATION PROJECTS
(H.R. 14578)

The House the week of August 23 is scheduled to consider legislation authorizing seven water resource development projects or subdivisions of projects to be undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Interior and Insular Affairs Committee July 29 (voice)
-Reported August 3 (H. Rpt. 94-1382)
-Rules Committee meets August 24; open rule, one hour debate requested
Floor Manager: Congressman Johnson of California

BILL SUMMARY
The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate and maintain the following projects and programs to be implemented by the Bureau of Reclamation:

(1) KANOPOLIS UNIT, KANSAS-canal and lateral system for irrigating 20,000 acres from existing reservoir. Cost $30,900,000.
(2) OROVILLE-TONASKET UNIT, WASHINGTON-pressure distribution system for irrigating 10,000 acres of existing apple orchards. Cost $39,370,000.
(3) UINTAH UNIT, CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT, UTAH-for irrigation of predominantly Indian-owned lands. Cost $90,247,000. The Uintah unit was conditionally authorized as a participating project of the Upper Colorado Storage project by section 501 (a) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act (82 Stat. 897).
(4) AMERICAN CANAL EXTENSION, RIO GRANDE PROJECT, TEXAS-relocation and enlargement of existing irrigation canal for water salvage and elimination of safety hazards. Cost $21,714,000.
(5) ALLEN CAMP UNIT, CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT, CALIFORNIA-multiple purpose dam and reservoir to accomplish flood control, water supply for migratory wildlife refuge and irrigation of 11,300 acres of land together with irrigation conveyance and distribution works. Cost $64,220,000.
(6) MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL, COLORADO-emergency rehabilitation of tunnel constructed by Department of Interior in the interest of eliminating safety hazards. Cost $2,750,000.
(7) MCGEE CREEK PROJECT, OKLAHOMA-multiple purpose dam and reservoir for municipal water supply, flood control, fish and wildlife and recreation, together with pipelines and pumping plants; acquisition of lands for preservation of their scenic character and for wildlife management. Cost $83,239,000.

BACKGROUND
The Reclamation program is a continuing activity whereby projects are authorized and developed for utilization and management of the water and land resources of the 17 western contiguous States. Projects are individually authorized by specific Act of Congress after detailed investigation, study and justification.

COST
The bill would authorize an aggregate sum of $332,440,000 for appropriation for fiscal 1978 and subsequent years which represents the total estimated cost of the seven projects. The total amount represents about 30 percent of the current level of annual appropriations for construction by the Bureau of Reclamation.

WHIP ADVISORIES

JOHN J. McFALL
MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred Forty August 11, 1976

RESCHEDULED BILLS

A number of measures scheduled earlier but not acted on due to lack of time have been re-scheduled for House consideration the week of August 23, as follows:

H.R. 11009: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUDIT CONFERENCE REPORT
(See Whip Advisory 332)

H.R. 14032: TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT
Open rule, one hour debate
(See Whip Advisory 327)

H.R. 14070: GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN AMENDMENTS
Open rule, one hour debate
(See Whip Advisory 333)

NINE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE BILLS
To be called up under suspension of the rules
(See Whip Advisory 315)

H. Res. 1462: ANTI-TRUST PARENS PATRIAE
Motion to consolidate three anti-trust measures
(See Whip Advisory 331)

H.R. 13636: LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Open rule, two hours debate
(See Whip Advisory 242)

H.R. 12882: JUDGES AND JUSTICES ANNUITIES
Failed passage under suspension of the rules August 2 (238 to 143)
Open rule, one hour debate
(See Whip Advisory 320)

H.R. 9398: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
Open rule, one hour debate
(See Whip Advisory 240)

RULES COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

The Rules Committee has scheduled a meeting for 10:30 a.m. August 24 on three bills as follows:

H.R. 14578 - Federal Reclamation Projects
H.R. 15194 - Public Works Employment Appropriations
H.R. 14844 - Estate and Gift Tax Reform Act

The Rules Committee August 9 adopted a motion to the effect that after September 10, it will consider only procedural matters and matters determined by the Speaker to be of an emergency nature.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

A number of conference reports have been filed and are eligible for consideration at any time:

H.R. 8410: PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS AMENDMENTS
(See Whip Advisory 336)
H.R. 13655: AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORT RESEARCH
(See Whip Advisory 306)
S. 2145: INDOCHINA REFUGEE CHILDREN ASSISTANCE
(See Whip Advisory 293)
H.R. 8800: ELECTRIC VEHICLE RESEARCH
(See Whip Advisory 305)
H.R. 11670: COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
(See Whip Advisory 321)
H.R. 11481: MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION
(See Whip Advisory 326)

WHIP ADVISORIES

JOHN J. McFALL
MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred Forty-Five August 19, 1976

EXTENSION OF PROHIBITION ON CITY COUNCIL REVISION OF D.C. CRIMINAL LAWS (H.R. 12261)

The House next Monday, August 23, is scheduled to consider legislation to extend for two years the period in which the City Council of the District of Columbia is prohibited from revising the D.C. criminal laws.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by District of Columbia Committee August 9 (voice)
-Reported August 10 (H. Rpt. 94-1418)
-District day procedured
Floor Manager: Chairman Diggs

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would extend for two years, until January 3, 1979, the prohibition on criminal code revisions by the D.C. City Council.

BACKGROUND

Enactment of the bill is necessary because the condition which was to be a prerequisite to the prohibition being lifted, namely, the completion of the revision and recodification of the District's Criminal Code by the Congress, based upon recommendations of the Congressionally-established Law Revision Commission, will not occur by the original target date, January 3, 1977.

The Commission was established by PL 93-379, approved August 21, 1974. However, the D.C. Committee says that delays in appointment of members, in meeting to organize and in funding have severely handicapped the commission's work. The committee cited a law commission letter saying that "it is impossible to predict when a final proposed draft of a new substantive criminal code can be completed."

When a draft is ready, it must be submitted to Congress for final review and enactment. Congress would then turn over to the D.C. City Council a complete, newly revised code and the authority to maintain it and amend it.

As stated, H.R. 12261 will give the Law Revision Commission a chance to complete its work on the criminal law, and will carry out the clear intention of the conferees expressed in the following words in the conference report to the Home Rule Act:

> "It is the intention of the conferees that their respective Committees will seek to revise the District of Columbia Criminal Code prior to the effective date of the transfer of authority referred to."

WHIP ADVISORIES

JOHN J. McFALL
MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred Forty-Six August 19, 1976

BORROWING AUTHORITY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (H.R. 14971)

The House next Monday, August 23 is scheduled to consider legislation to extend until October 1, 1979, the authority of the District of Columbia to borrow capital improvement funds from the federal Treasury.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by the District of Columbia Committee August 9 (voice)
-Reported August 10 (H. Rpt. 94-1420)
-District day procedures
Floor Manager: Chairman Diggs

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would make three amendments to the Home Rule Act (PL 93-198):

(1) The bill would extend until October 1, 1979, the District's interim authority to borrow from the U.S. Treasury to finance the District's capital improvement projects. Loans would be limited by amounts in appropriation bills.

(2) The bill would change to February 1 (from November 1) the date by which the Mayor must submit to the City Council a complete financial statement and report for the preceding fiscal year. This is to conform with the new October to September fiscal year.

(3) The bill would make technical and procedural changes in the Title IV provisions dealing with qualifications for appointment to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure and to the Judicial Nomination Commission.

BACKGROUND

The District's authority to borrow from the U.S. Treasury expired on January 2, 1975, when the charter provision of the Home Rule Act became effective. The act authorized the District to finance capital projects through its own general obligation bonds. However, the financial problems of New York City had negative implications for many urban areas, including the District of Columbia which had recently emerged from federal control. The City Council had hoped to inaugurate bond issues by passing the Refunding Bond Authorization Act (Council Act 1-57); however, the Senate on December 6, 1975 disapproved the act.

The D.C. Committee says that the District may not be in a position to issue bonds before October 1978, the earliest date at which an audit of the city's financial records can be undertaken. The extension of Treasury borrowing authority in H.R. 14971 is intended to allow time to complete the audit and other prerequisites for the issuance of city bonds.

The committee says it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the city to continue its capital projects if the Treasury borrowing authority is not extended.

COST: There is no estimate on the amounts the District may seek to borrow. Loans would be repaid with interest.

WHIP ADVISORIES

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225-5604

Number Three Hundred Forty-Four August 19, 1976

PRETRIAL RELEASE OR DETENTION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
(H.R. 14957)

The House on Monday, August 23, is scheduled to consider legislation to improve the pre-trial release or detention procedures for persons charged with certain violent crimes in the District of Columbia.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by District of Columbia Committee August 9 (voice)
-Reported August 10 (H. Rpt. 94-1419)
-District day procedures
Floor Manager: Chairman Diggs and Congressman Mann

BILL SUMMARY

Section 1 of the bill changes the term "capital offenses" in the existing pretrial detention section of the D.C. Code (Title 23, Section 1325) to "first degree murder or forcible rape". Persons charged with such offenses would not be eligible for pre-trial release.

Section 2 of the bill authorizes the judge to hold a pretrial detention hearing on his own motion. Existing law provides for such hearing only upon a motion of the U.S. Attorney. The U.S. Attorney's authority to call for a pretrial detention hearing would continue.

Section 3 of the bill would amend the existing 5-day "hold" procedure for defendants who are on probation or parole when rearrested for a new offense. The bill would authorize a judicial officer to detain such a defendant for 10 court days, instead of the present five calendar days. In addition, the procedure would be extended to defendants rearrested for a subsequent offense while on any form of pretrial release. Within the 10-court-day period, the judge holding the preliminary hearing would be required to determine whether there is sufficient basis to detain the defendant without bail pending trial.

Section 4 of the bill amends the existing main pretrial detention section of the D.C. Code to extend the maximum time a defendant can be detained from 60 to 90 days. Thereafter, if trial is not in progress, a defendant detained under this section would be given the opportunity of release under the conditions of 23 D.C. Code, Sec. 1321 (the Bail Reform Act).

BACKGROUND

Testimony before the D.C. Committee shows that a substantial amount of crime is committed by repeat offenders who may commit a new crime while free on bail awaiting trial for an earlier offense.

The bill seeks to strike a balance between the competing concerns of protecting citizens from the criminal acts of lawbreakers who are already awaiting trial on prior charges, and of guaranteeing to those alleged lawbreakers all the legal safeguards to which they are entitled under the Constitution. The bill is aimed at a small group of hard-core repeat offenders.

COST

The enactment of this proposed legislation will involve no added costs to the District of Columbia Government nor to the Federal Governemnt.

WHIP ADVISORIES

JOHN J. McFALL
MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred Forty-Nine August 20, 1976

FEDERAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT AMENDMENTS OF 1976
(H.R. 13828)

Legislation to revise federal records management policies is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Government Operations Committee August 3 (voice)
-Reported August 13 (H. Rpt. 94-1426)
Floor Manager: Congressman Randall

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would update, consolidate and supplement the Authority of the Administrator of General Services for coordination of federal records management.

The bill would make changes in three areas:

(1) Definitions - Clarification of new words of art and refinement of the concepts of the program would be made. The bill would define several phrases of which three are of special importance: records creation -- production or reproduction of any record; records maintenance and use -- any activity involving location of records; storage, retrieval and handling of records filed in offices; processing of mail; and selection and utilization of equipment and supplies associated with records and copying; records disposition -- any activity involving disposal of temporary records by destruction or donation; transfer of records to records centers, to the National Archives or to other federal agencies.

(2) Objectives of Records Management - The bill would set forth seven specific goals of federal records policy: Accurate and complete documentation of the policies and transactions of the federal government; control of quantity and quality of records; control with respect to records creation; simplification of records creation, maintenance and use activities, systems, and processes; judicious preservation and disposal of records; direction of attention to records from initial creation to final disposition; and establishment of other systems as required.

(3) General Responsibilities of the Administrator - The bill clarifies and consolidates within the law the records management responsibilities of the Administrator. It directs the Administrator to provide guidance and assistance to federal agencies with respect to records creation, records maintenance and use, and records disposition. Sepcific responsibilities include promoting economy and efficiency in the selection and utilization of space, staff, equipment, and supplies for records management; promulgating standards, procedures, and guidelines; conducting research to improve records management practices and programs; serving as a clearinghouse for records management information; establishing interagency committees as may be necessary; and disseminating information with respect to technological developments.

The Administrator would be required to direct his continuing attention to the reduction of unnecessary federal paperwork. He would be responsible for conducting records management studies and for designating agency heads to do so. GSA would have authority to make records inspections or to conduct records management studies of more than one agency to review the interaction of government-wide programs.

The Administrator would be given authority to inspect the records and records management practices of any federal agency. If records are restricted by law for national security or public interest reasons, GSA inspection is subject to approval by the agency head or the President.

The administrator must report annually to Congress and the OMB, and include federal agency responses to the Administrator's recommendations from his studies and inspections.

COST: None.

WHIP ADVISORIES

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MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred Forty-Eight August 20, 1976

FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY DONATION
(H.R. 14451)

Legislation improving federal personal property donation programs is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Government Operations Committee August 3 (voice)
-Reported August 13 (H. Rpt. 94-1429)
Floor Manager: Chairman Brooks

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would consolidate under the General Services Administration many separate federal programs for the transfer of surplus personal (equipment and supplies) property to state and local users for public purposes. (The bill does not deal with real property.)

The bill would:

1. Put almost all property programs into one donation system.

2. Preserve benefits enjoyed under existing programs and also broaden the purpose to be served and the categories of eligible recipients. Eligibility under the Federal Property Act, now limited to public health, educational and civil defense activities of public agencies, would be expanded to any state or local public agency for use for one or more public purposes, such as conservation, economic development, education, parks and recreation, public health and public safety. Existing eligibility of non-profit educational or public health institutions is preserved and expanded to include day care centers; however, these recipients must still use donated property for education or public health purposes.

3. Give GSA general operational and guidance responsibility at the federal level. Authority to donate personal property would be transferred from various other federal agencies, including specifically the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. Property disposal functions of HEW would be transferred to GSA. The property assistance program for economic development purposes under the Public Works and Economic Development Act would also be abolished in favor of the consolidated program under GSA. The Secretary of Defense would continue to have authority to donate personal property to certain educational authorities (military preparatory schools). GSA would allocate surplus personal property among the states after working out criteria of need and utilization in consultation with the states.

4. Give states and their governors more active roles, and provide for distribution through special state surplus property agencies at the local operating level. States would be required to submit to the General Services Administration a detailed plan of operation showing that the state has the necessary organization, staff, financing, method of determining eligibility and means of equitable distribution to participate in the surplus property program. States must allow public comment before such a plan may be submitted to GSA. The plan must include a management control system and accounting system and it must show how any service charges are to be assessed and collected. If donated property is not used within one year, it must be returned by the recipient to the state for redistribution.

5. Provide means for local interests to be heard at the federal and state levels of the process.

6. Require GSA to keep track of the new program and report yearly to Congress.

COST: None. GSA estimates $105,000 in annual budget savings from the elimination of duplicate operations.

BACKGROUND
The federal government presently provides property assistance to state and local entities at the rate of about $600 million a year (original government acquisition cost).

WHIP ADVISORIES

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225-5604

Number Three Hundred Fifty

August 20, 1976

TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT
(H.R. 14973)

Legislation implementing an agreement between the United States and Mexico for the joint construction of an international flood control project for the Tijuana River is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by International Relations Committee August 4 (voice)
-Reported August 9 (H. Rpt. 94-1399, Pt. I)
Floor Manager: Congressman Fascell
(The bill was jointly referred to Public Works and Transportation. Chairman Bob Jones in a letter to the Speaker said that his committee has no objection to the bill being considered by the House in the form reported by the International Relations Committee.)

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would amend the Tijuana River Flood Control Project Authorization Act (PL 89-640) to:

--Reduce the original authorization for construction from $12.6 million to $10.8 million (plus or minus such amounts as may be justified by price index justifications);
--Restate the existing authorization of such sums as may be necessary for operation and maintenance of the project;
--Authorize Federal financial participation in the acquisition of required land with the State of California and the City of San Diego; and
--Provides that none of the funds authorized under the act may be appropriated until fiscal 1978.

COST

The cost to the federal government of the project is estimated as follows: construction: $10.8 million; land acquisition: $1.6 million; and operation and maintenance: $45,000 per year

BACKGROUND

In 1944, the United States and Mexico signed the Treaty for the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande. Introduced at the request of the City of San Diego, Public Law 89-640 was enacted on October 10, 1966 to authorize an agreement with Mexico for the joint construction, operation, and maintenance of an international flood control project for the Tijuana River.

PL 89-640 provides that if an agreement were concluded with Mexico, the U.S. Government was authorized to construct, operate, and maintain the portion of the project in the United Saates, and it authorized $12.6 million for construction and necessary sums for maintenance and operation, provided that no appropriated funds be expended for construction on any land acquired by donation. This latter provision is a condition imposed on domestic federal flood control projects.

The agreement, concluded with Mexico on June 19, 1967, provided for a concrete-lined channel in Mexico, 2.7 miles in length, to be constructed at Mexico's expense; and a connecting concrete-lined channel in the United States, 5.5 miles in length, to be constructed at U.S. expense. Design and plans were to be coordinated. Mexico began construction in August 1972, and has completed all work which can be completed prior to initiation of construction in the United States. The United States has not begun its part because findings in a Corps of Engineers draft environmental impact statement led to concerns among local authorities for park and wet lands in the Tijuana River Valley. The City of San Diego asked for time to review its land use plans for the Valley.

Subsequently, the U.S. section of the International Boundary and Water Commission devised an alternate project which would satisfy San Diego's land use plans and provide the same degree of flood control. The new proposal is acceptable to the Mexican Government.

WHIP ADVISORIES

JOHN J. McFALL
MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred Forty-Seven August 20, 1976

PRIVACY PROTECTION STUDY COMMISSION AMENDMENT
(S. 3435)

Legislation to increase the authorization for the Privacy Protection Study Commission and to remove the fiscal year expenditure limitation is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported from Committee on Government Operations August 3 (voice)
-Reported August 10 (H. Rpt. 94-1417)
-Passed Senate May 19, 1976 (voice)
Floor Manager: Chairman Brooks

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would increase the authorization for the Privacy Protection Study Commission from $1,500,000 to $2,000,000 and remove the provision of its enabling legislation (the Privacy Act of 1974) which prohibits it from spending more than $750,000 in a single fiscal year. The bill is identical to the form in which it passed the Senate.

BACKGROUND

The Privacy Protection Study Commission was created by Section 5 of the Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579). The life of the Commission began officially on June 10, 1975. Its final report is due on June 10, 1977; and 30 days thereafter the Commission will cease to exist. It has two principal tasks: (1) to make a study of the data banks and information systems of governmental, regional and private organizations, in order to determine the standards and procedures now in force for the protection of personal information; and (2) to make recommendations to the President and the Congress to the extent, if any, to which the principles and requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974 should be applied to such organizations -- through legislation, administrative action, or voluntary adoption.

The Privacy Act authorizes $1,500,000 for the Commission. It also places a limit of $750,000 upon the amount the Commission may expend in any one fiscal year. The Office of Management and Budget has ruled that fiscal 1976 and the transition quarter constitute a single fiscal year, thus limiting expenditures by the Commission to $750,000 for this 15-month period.

On March 23, a request for a supplemental appropriation in the amount of $250,000 for the Commission was submitted by the President. It was enacted on June 1, 1976, as part of PL 94-303, Second Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1976, with a provision that the Commission's appropriation shall be available only upon the enactment of authorizing legislation.

S. 3435 would authorize the $250,000 in the Second Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1976, and leave an additional $250,000 available for future appropriation.

WHIP ADVISORIES

JOHN J. McFALL
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225-5604

Number Three Hundred Fifty-One August 20, 1976

EMERGENCY TOBACCO LEASE AND TRANSFER FOR 1976
(H.R. 15068)

Legislation authorizing the lease and transfer of tobacco allotments or quotas across county lines in specified counties in Georgia and South Carolina because of crop disaster in 1976 is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS

-Ordered reported by the Agriculture Committee August 10 (voice)
-Report to be filed August 24
Floor Manager: Congressman Walter B. Jones

BILL SUMMARY

The legislation would provide for an emergency lease and transfer of tobacco allotments or quotas across county lines within the same state. It provides that in any of the listed counties in Georgia and South Carolina where tobacco producers suffered a ten percent or more loss in acres of tobacco planted, they would be allowed to lease all or any part of the allotment to any other owners or operators in the same county or other counties within the state.

The legislation does not cost anything and it is a one-time provision for the 1976 crop year only.

BACKGROUND

The present tobacco program allows lease and transfer of quota or allotment, but only to producers within the same county. In years when there is a natural disaster, weather or other wise, in the affected areas, it is not possible to lease the quota because of the county restriction.

COST

None.

WHIP ADVISORIES

JOHN J. McFALL
MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred Forty-Three

August 23, 1976

DEFENSE OFFICER PERSONNEL
(H.R. 13958)

The House the week of August 23 is scheduled to consider legislation revising the laws governing the management of the commissioned-officer active-duty force of the Armed Forces.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Armed Services Committee June 10 (voice)
-Reported June 24 (H. Rpt. 94-1295)
-Rules Committee July 27 granted open rule, one hour debate
Floor Manager: Congressman Stratton

BILL SUMMARY
The bill would establish new statutory limitations on the number of officers who may serve in the senior grades below flag rank; that is, 0-4 (major or Navy lieutenant commander), 0-5 (lieutenant colonel or Navy commander) and 0-6 (colonel or Navy captain). The committee bill reduces the authorized numbers in the grades of 0-5 and 0-6 by 3 percent from the allowances requested in the Defense Department proposal. The committee approved the allowances for the grade of 0-4 at the level requested by the Department.

The limitations are based on the total number of commissioned officers on active duty (see page 124 of report for limitations at various commissioned officers force levels for Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force).

The bill also provides common provisions of law to apply to all the Armed Forces governing the appointment of Regular officers and the active-duty service of Reserve officers, provides uniform promotion procedures for officers in the separate services, and establishes common provisions governing career expectation and mandatory separation and retirement points.

The bill also:

--Establishes a new grade of commodore admiral in the Navy (0-7 pay grade equivalent to brigadier general) and eliminates the automatic promotion to rear admiral in the Navy.

--Provides uniform procedures for providing constructive credit for professional personnel when their professional status is a prerequisite for appointment as a commissioned officer. A mechanism is provided to allow additional credit for health professionals (physicians, dentists, veterinarians, optometrists and podiatrists) where appropriate to recognize the de facto requirement for additional schooling in those professions.

--Provides for equalization of treatment of female officers in the Armed Forces and eliminates the Women's Army Corps as being inconsistent with the philosophy of equal treatment. Female officers will be members of the same functional corps as male officers.

--Provides for a single-promotion system in each service and eliminates the cumbersome dual temporary and permanent promotion systems now in effect in the Army and Air Force and the complex running-mate system now in effect in the Navy.

--Provides a new formula for paying separation pay for involuntarily separated officers and raises the ceiling on such separation pay from $15,000 to $30,000.

BACKGROUND
The bill is designed to correct shortcomings in existing provisions many of which were enacted in the Officer Personnel Act of 1947 after World War II demobilization when the need for large, ready forces on a sustained basis was not foreseen.

COST: The Congressional Budget Office estimates increased costs of $23 million in fiscal 1977 increasing to $44 million in fiscal 1981.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS: a) to permit an officer to remove himself from consideration for promotion once to avoid being twice passed over; b) to allow a recalled officer in the Navy to exercise command authority.

WHIP ADVISORIES

JOHN J. McFALL
MAJORITY WHIP
H-107 — U.S. Capitol
225-5604

Number Three Hundred Fifty-Three August 23, 1976

RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING DEFERRAL OF BUDGET AUTHORITY
(DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR)
(H. RES. 1428)

The House in the near future is scheduled to consider a resolution disapproving a deferral of funds for the design of a new Salt Lake City Metallurgy Research Center.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Appropriations Committee August 10 (voice)
-Reported August 10 (H. Rpt. 94-1414)
Floor Manager: Congressman Yates

BILL SUMMARY

The resolution disapproves the deferral of $688,430 for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, for designing a replacement facility for the Salt Lake City (Utah) Metallurgy Research Center. The deferral (D76-110) was proposed by the President in his message of May 13, 1976 (H. Doc. 94-494), and transmitted pursuant to section 1013 of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. Under the act, a disapproval by either House of Congress requires the President to use the money for the purpose for which it was appropriated.

BACKGROUND

The message from the President transmitting the proposed deferral gave the following justification:

> The estimated cost for architectural designs and construction of this facility is significantly greater than the authorization ceiling.
>
> The Department will try to find an alternative way to replace the current facility that will result in lower overall costs for Fiscal Years 1978 and 1979, since there are uncertainties about the level of budgetary resources that will be made available to the Department for these fiscal years.
>
> Some local groups argued in preliminary "environmental impact" hearings that the height of the proposed facility will obstruct the scenic view from the "This Is the Place" Monument where Brigham Young first viewed the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

On July 20, 1976, the Committee conducted a hearing on this proposed deferral. The hearing revealed that the environmental objections to the proposed replacement facility have been resolved. The hearing also revealed that the current estimated cost for replacing the present 90,000 square foot facility with a comparable 90,000 square foot facility would be less than the estimate contained in the deferral message. In addition, the hearing revealed the Administration's proposal to "find an alternative way to replace the current facility" is contrary to the will of Congress as expressed in PL 92-287. The language of that Act is quite clear: "The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to establish, equip, operate, and maintain a metallurgy research center on approximately 35 acres of land located on the Fort Douglas Military Reservation, Utah, which facility will serve as a replacement facility for that now located on the campus of the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah."

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Number Three Hundred Fifty-Five

August 23, 1976

FEDERAL HIGHWAY OBLIGATION LIMITATION
(H.R. 15116)

Legislation authorizing and imposing a $7.2 billion ceiling on most federal-aid highway and safety construction programs in fiscal 1977 is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Public Works Committee August 23 (voice)
-Report to be filed tonight
Floor Manager: Congressman Howard

BILL SUMMARY

Section 317 of the Department of Transportation appropriations bill for fiscal 1977 (PL 94-387) imposes an obligation of $7.2 billion on all Federal-Aid Highway and Highway Safety Construction Programs with the exception of Section 125 Emergency Relief Programs, the special urban high density traffic program, and the special bridge replacement program; it also contains a proviso in Section 317 that the limitation will not become effective if subsequent legislation is proposed by the legislative committee and enacted into law by September 30, 1976, setting an appropriate and reasonable ceiling.

This bill (H.R. 15116), introduced in response to Section 317 proviso, would amend the Federal-Aid Highway Act to set an obligation ceiling for fiscal 1977 of $7.2 billion on all Federal-Aid Highway and Highway Safety Construction Programs with the exception of Section 125 Emergency Relief Programs, the special urban high density traffic program, and the special bridge replacement program, which is exactly as it appears in PL 94-387. The primary purpose of the bill is to provide program direction to the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that program function and projects be approved in accordance with existing law. This program direction is in conformance with Floor positions of both the Budget and Appropriations committees. The bill also requires monthly reports to the Congress on the amount of obligations by states for Federal-Aid Highways and Highway Safety Construction programs.

COST

None.

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Number Three Hundred Fifty-Four August 23, 1976

TERMINATION OF OPIC INSURANCE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES (H.R. 14681)

Legislation to require the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to cancel the insurance contract of any OPIC-insured investor making a payment to an official of a foreign government for the purpose of influencing the actions of the government is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by International Relations Committee Aug. 8 (voice)
-Reported Aug. 10 (H. Rpt. 94-1416)
Floor Manager: Congressman Nix

BILL SUMMARY

Section (a) requires OPIC to issue regulations to terminate the insurance of any investor who (1) has offered, or paid, an official of a foreign government for the purpose of influencing a decision of that government; (2) has paid any person knowing that such is the purpose of such a payment; or (3) has paid any foreign political party or candidate for such a purpose. It requires OPIC to initiate proceedings to investigate indications that such action has taken place, and, if such action has occurred, to terminate the investor's insurance.

It further directs that all regulations shall be issued pursuant to section 533 of title 5 of the U.S. code (regarding rule making), that all determinations shall be pursuant to section 544 (regarding adjudication), and that appeals may be made to the U.S. Court of Appeals and to circuit courts.

Section (b) provides that the above provisions shall not be applicable to actions occuring before the issuance of such regulations.

BACKGROUND

The underlying principle behind H.R. 14681 is that OPIC should not continue to provide insurance coverage for an investor who gives or offers to give gifts or payments to foreign officials in order to induce the officials to use their influence to affect a decision in relation to an interested project. Such payments, if they become known, can produce a strain in our diplomatic relations, or can be used as a reason for expropriation by a foreign government, which can result in costs to U.S. foreign policy and to U.S. economic interests.

COST: None

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Number Three Hundred Fifty-Nine August 24, 1976

COMMITTEE FUNDING RESOLUTIONS

The House in the near future is scheduled to consider several funding resolutions from the Committee on House Administration.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Reported by Committee on House Administration:
H. Res. 1408, August 9 (voice)
H. Res. 1414, August 9 (voice)
H. Res. 1420, August 10 (13-9)
-Privileged resolutions--one hour of debate on each
Floor Manager: Chairman Thompson

BILL SUMMARIES

H. Res. 1408 - Provides $30,000 for the investigations and studies to be conducted by the Select Committee on Professional Sports (H. Rpt. 94-1397).

H. Res. 1414 - Provides $89,000 in additional funds for the ad hoc Select Committee on the Outer Continental Shelf for the expenses associated with the completion of the legislative process on H.R. 6218, a bill to establish a policy for the management of oil and natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and for other purposes (H. Rpt. 94-1398).

H. Res. 1420 - Authorizes not more than $50,000 for participation by counsel on behalf of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce in any judicial proceedings concerning certain subpoenas (H. Rpt. 94-1422).

BACKGROUND

The Select Committee on Professional Sports and the Select Committee on the Outer Continental Shelf were established by H. Res. 1186 and H. Res. 427 respectively. H. Res. 1408 and H. Res. 1414 are routine funding resolutions that provide for the expenses of these two select committees for the continued study of their mandated areas of jurisdiction.

House Resolution 1420 provides for not more than $50,000 for the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce to pay the legal expenses of intervention by the Congress in Civil Action NO. 76-1372 entitled United States v. American Telephone and Telegraph Company, et al. Congressman Moss, chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, intervened in the case in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in order that he might argue for the Congress' constitutional right of access to the information in question. The Committee issued the subpoena in order to secure information in the possession of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company relating to warrantless wiretaps of private telephone communications. Jurisdiction is based squarely on Section 605 of the Federal Communications Commission Act.

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Number Three Hundred Fifty-Six August 24, 1976

APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AS GENERAL OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES (H. J. Res. 519)

Legislation providing for the appointment of George Washington to the grade of General of the Armies of the United States is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Armed Services Committee August 3 (voice)
-Reported August 4 (H. Rpt. 94-1388)
Floor Manager: Congressman Hebert

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The resolution would establish the grade of General of the Armies of the United States and provide that it would "have rank and precedence over all other grades of the Army, past or present."

The resolution would authorize and request the President to appoint George Washington posthumously to that grade, effective July 4, 1976.

The resolution makes the finding that it is "fitting and proper that no officer of the United States Army should outrank Lieutenant General George Washington on the Army list." The resolution refers to Washington's service as commander of the armies during the war of independence, as the presiding officer of the Constitutional Convention and as President of the United States.

BACKGROUND

The Armed Services Committee says that the legislation would recognize General Washington's unique contribution in the formation and leadership of the Army and the nation by completing an action initiated by the Congress during his lifetime. It would place him in the pre-eminent position on the rolls of the Army.

Congress created the grade of General of the Armies of the United States on March 3, 1799. Its holder was to be commander of the Army. However, a threat of war with France abated, and President John Adams never submitted George Washington's name to the Senate for confirmation. The grade lapsed in 1802 with the passage of a new Army organization act.

Former President Washington was commissioned Lieutenant General and commander of the Armies of the United States on July 13, 1798, a grade he held until his death in December, 1799. During the war of independence, he had held the grade of General of the Army under the Continental Congress from June 15, 1775, until December 23, 1783.

The grade of General of the Armies of the United States has been held by one person: George J. Pershing, for whom Congress revived the grade in 1919. He held it until his death.

Three officers successively held the grade of General of the Army of the United States after Congress created it in 1866: U.S. Grant, W.T. Sherman and then P.H. Sheridan.

The new grade of General of the Army was established in 1944 and conferred on four men: George C. Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Henry H. Arnold. Omar Bradley was appointed to that grade in 1950.

Since World War II, many officers have held the grade of General.

All of the foregoing officers outrank George Washington on the Army's all-time rolls.

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Number Three Hundred Fifty-Seven August 24, 1976

TETON DAM DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1976
(S. 3542)

Legislation to grant claims settlement authority to the Secretary of the Interior for claims arising as the result of the failure of Teton Dam is scheduled for House consideration Tuesday, August 24, under suspension of the rules.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported by Judiciary Committee August 3 (voice)
-Reported August 10 (H. Rpt. 94-1423)
-Passed Senate June 17 (voice) (S. Rpt. 94-963)
Floor Manager: Congressman Flowers

BILL SUMMARY
The bill provides for the payment of compensation for deaths, personal injuries and property damage resulting from the failure of the Teton Dam on the basis of claims filed within two years of the publication of Interior Department regulations governing the filing and consideration of claims. The Secretary of the Interior would be required to administer the settlement of claims. Awards under the authority of the Act would be reduced by the amount of any insurance or other payments based upon the same loss or damage and the acceptance of any award or settlement is to be final and conclusive as to a claim. The Secretary of the Interior would be required to fix the amount of any award within one year of filing. In cases of substantial hardship, the Secretary would be authorized to make partial payments or payments on portions of a claim which are logically severable. As an alternative to claims payment, the bill would grant authority to the Secretary to finance the repair or reconstruction of irrigation facilities to the extent the cost of repairs or reconstruction are not covered by insurance. Compensation would be authorized for direct investments in farm structural facilities made in anticipation of service from the Teton Reservoir to the extent that the failure of the dam makes the facilities unuseable or diminishes them in value.

BACKGROUND
The bill provides for comprehensive legislatively defined authority for the settlement of claims arising as the direct result of the failure of the Teton Dam on June 5, 1976. It is consistent with the emergency authority provided in the Public Works bill, H.R. 14236 which was approved on July 12, 1976 as Public Law 94-355. Teton Dam was located near the confluence of Henrys Fork and Teton Rivers in Southeastern Idaho, 44 miles northeast of Idaho Falls. The dam was designed by the Bureau of Reclamation and constructed under its supervision. It was authorized by PL 88-583 of September 7, 1964. The dam's collapse inflicted damages on Madison, Bonneville, Fremont, Jefferson and Bingham Counties in Idaho, claimed at least 11 lives and did millions of dollars worth of property damage.

COST: The bill in Section 12 would authorize the funds necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act. Estimates on cost of the bill have been difficult to obtain. The Congressional Budget Office estimates $331.5 million from fiscal 1977 through 1979; however, the Judiciary Committee points out that this estimate includes claims already paid as well as future claims.

AMENDMENTS
An amendment will be offered to Section 7, Line 17 of the reported bill, at the suggestion of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs that the authority for the repair and restoration facilities be clarified by the addition of the language that such repair or reconstruction would be "to the standards and conditions existing immediately prior to the failure of Teton Dam."

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Number Three Hundred Fifty-Eight August 24, 1976

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYMENT APPROPRIATION ACT
(H.R. 15194)

The House this Wednesday is scheduled to consider the Public Works Employment Appropriation Act.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Ordered reported August 10 (voice)
-Report filed August 12 (H. Rpt. 94-1425)
Floor Manager: Chairman Mahon

RULE: The Rules Committee August 24 granted rule waiving points of order for lack of authorization and for legislation in an appropriation bill and limiting amendments to items and language in the bill (no new expenditures could be added).

BILL SUMMARY

The bill provides a total of $3,452,433,000 to fund the programs authorized by the Public Works Employment Act of 1976 (PL 94-369) which became law over the President's veto on July 22, 1976. The law is a major congressional leadership initiative to provide jobs for the people and to sustain the nation's economic recovery. It is contemplated and provided for in the First Congressional Budget Resolution for fiscal 1977. The principal thrust of this legislation is to provide immediate economic stimulus in those geographic areas experiencing high levels of unemployment by creating thousands of jobs, directly and indirectly. Unemployment in July stands at 7.8 percent, an increase of .5 percent over the May 1976 rate and equal to the highest rate of the year which occurred in January.

Of the total provided in the bill, $2 billion will be used by the Economic Development Administration to fund local public works projects by (1) direct federal grants, (2) supplementing other federal grant programs, and (3) grants for projects authorized by state or local law. An additional $200 million is included in the bill for waste treatment construction grants to be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

This $2.2 billion for EDA and EPA will impact heavily on the construction segment of the economy which had a 17.7 percent unemployment rate in July. Although this is down from the peak rate of 23 percent, it is still unacceptably high.

The bill also includes $1,250,000,000 for antirecession financial assistance. This will be used to make payments to state and local governments when the national unemployment rate reaches or exceeds six percent. One-third of the $1.25 billion is reserved for state governments and the balance for local governments.

H.R. 15194 would leave an additional $500 million authorized by PL 94-369 for the water pollution abatement program available for future appropriation.

For additional details on the Public Works Employment Act of 1976, please see Whip Advisory 244, of June 15, 1976, and Speech Card No. 7 of August 1, 1976.

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Number Three Hundred Sixty-One August 25, 1976

ORIENTATION OF DEPENDENTS OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES HAVING FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS (S. 3052)

The House in the near future is scheduled to consider a conference report on a bill authorizing orientation and language training for families of officers and employees of the Agriculture Department stationed abroad.

ACTION BY THE 94TH CONGRESS
-Passed Senate March 16 (voice)
-Passed House amended June 7 (voice)
-Conference report filed August 11 (H. Rpt. 94-1424)
Floor Manager: Congressman de la Garza

CONFERENCE REPORT SUMMARY

The conference agreement would authorize $50,000 a year for orientation and language training for families of officers and employees of the Agriculture Department stationed abroad. PL 480 foreign currencies could be used.

The Senate bill had authorized the Secretary of Agriculture, effective upon enactment of the bill, to use any appropriated funds available to him for the orientation and language training of families of officers and employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture who have foreign assignments.

The amendments of the House (1) limited the orientation and language training to spouses; (2) provided a specific annual authorization, effective October 1, 1976, for appropriations not to exceed $35,000 annually; (3) authorized the use of foreign currencies generated under Title I of PL 480 to carry out the program in foreign nations to which the officers, employees, and spouses are assigned; and (4) required the Secretary to submit annually to both Committees of Congress a detailed report showing the activities carried out under the bill.

The House receded on the first of its amendments, and the Senate receded with a conforming amendment from its disagreement to the third and fourth amendments. The Committee of Conference agreed in lieu of the second House amendment to provide a specific annual authorization not to exceed $50,000 annually except that for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1976, the Secretary may use any funds appropriated to the Department of Agriculture in an amount not to exceed $50,000 for the purposes of the legislation. Any PL 480 currencies would be subject to the $50,000 annual limitation. The authorization becomes effective October 1, 1976, as provided in the House amendment.