

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, not since Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon and Mod Squad was on our television screens in the houses of America, the New York Mets were on their way back to one of the best come-back stories in baseball history, have we had a balanced budget or surplus in the budget.

But it is true, this year we are on our way to a budget surplus. So how does Washington react? The President goes out and breaks last year's budget agreement and calls for \$56 billion in new spending. And there you go, status quo in Washington.

Why do we have this balanced budget to begin with? Well, a couple things. Number one, we have slowed down the growth of government spending. Number two, we have a robust economy. And number three, sadly to say, we have put the Social Security surplus in with general revenues.

I believe, as do most Republican Members of Congress, if you want to put Social Security first and protect and preserve it, not just for the current generation of retirees, but for future generations, that you must separate the Social Security surplus and take it off budget and put it in a true trust fund with a fire wall from general revenue. I believe that is the number one thing this Congress should be doing.

U.S. SHOULD LEARN HOW TO DISPOSE OF NUCLEAR WASTE

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my personal welcome to the distinguished members of the House of Commons, the Parliament of Canada. They are members of the Canadian Parliament Committee on International Relations and Trade.

They have expressed an interest to discuss with our colleagues the important issues of nuclear nonproliferation and its impact, not only to our Nation, to the region, and to the world for that matter.

Mr. Speaker, with approximately a \$34 billion budget for the production and safeguard for our own nuclear arsenal, Mr. Speaker, we do not even know what to do with the billions of dollars expended on what to do with nuclear waste.

Why is Nevada made the only State to carry such a tremendous burden? We have developed the technology on perfecting the nuclear trigger, Mr. Speaker, but we do not even know how to control nuclear waste. What a travesty, Mr. Speaker. We need to look a little closer into this important issue.

SUPPORT BESTEA

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2400, the Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act or BESTEA. The House will consider BESTEA on Wednesday, and I urge my colleagues to support this violation legislation.

BESTEA provides \$217 billion in contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund over the next 6 years. This amount represents a 43 percent increase in funding over the 6 years of ISTE. Further, this legislation was off the Transportation Trust Fund and ends the assault on the fund to mask the deficit and fund other domestic priorities.

A few of my colleagues have expressed concern over funding levels in BESTEA, and I would like to address this for a moment. Mr. Speaker, BESTEA keeps our commitment to the American people to spend gas tax revenue solely for transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I am a budget hawk who came here to balance the budget. BESTEA ends the Washington charade of masking the deficit with money that should have been spent on the Nation's transportation. I look forward to the overwhelming passage of BESTEA Wednesday and urge my colleagues to support it.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, certainly the American people have a great deal of cynicism and outright apathy some days about the United States Congress because of the way that they handle campaign finance reform and other kinds of activities, sometimes late at night, sometimes at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, and sometimes not at all.

Tonight, I think we have the worst of all possible worlds. The Republican leadership has put an important issue to the American people, campaign finance reform, on the Suspension Calendar. Many Members are coming back home. They will not even be able to be involved in the debate. It requires two-thirds vote for passage on the Suspension Calendar. That is an unbelievably high hurdle or obstacle to overcome for any bill, let alone campaign finance. So we have got more and more cynicism, more and more distrust of our system here in Washington, D.C.

Let us debate this bill in the middle of the day so the American people can pay attention and decide which way they think legitimate campaign finance reform needs to go.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today just to point out to the House what we have been doing this year when we have been here, both the House and the Senate when they began looking into campaign filings of the White House.

This House subpoenaed 587 subpoenas. They deposed 114 people. They held 13 days of public hearings. They had 33 witnesses. The House gave them \$5 million. On the Senate side figures are about the same, only the Senate gave them \$3.5 million.

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In addition to what the House gave the committee they have now appropriated another \$1.8 million, and what have we gotten for it? Nothing but a sham.

These bills that come before my colleagues tonight are bills that require a two-thirds vote. Most of the Members of Congress are not even here for the debate. This is not campaign finance reform, this is a travesty on democracy.

CYNICISM IN THE AMERICAN ELECTORATE

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I began my political career after I left the University of Hawaii, was teaching at Leeward Community College, had little or nothing in the way of fiscal resources. We had the backing of young people, ran a grass roots campaign in 1974 when we had campaign expenditure limits. No matter how wealthy one was, and I was up against candidates who had great wealth available to them, we could not spend any more than the amount that was allocated.

We will not have an opportunity today to even debate whether we can get democracy back to the ordinary person. That is why we have such cynicism in the electorate today. And the approach today, and I ask my Republican colleagues to take this into account, I do not want to make this a partisan issue; but if we put this bill forward today with the two-thirds requirement when the membership is not even here, it will add to the cynicism of the American people that prevents young people from being able to run for office or even consider it.

Please do not move forward with this bill today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS INTERPRETIVE CENTER IN CASPER, WYOMING

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2186) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2186

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The city of Casper, Wyoming, is nationally significant as the only geographic location in the western United States where 4 congressionally recognized historic trails (the Oregon Trail, the Mormon Trail, the California Trail, and the Pony Express Trail), the Bridger Trail, the Bozeman Trail, and many Indian routes converged.

(2) The historic trails that passed through the Casper area are a distinctive part of the national character and possess important historical and cultural values representing themes of migration, settlement, transportation, and commerce that shaped the landscape of the West.

(3) The Bureau of Land Management has not yet established a historic trails interpretive center in Wyoming or in any adjacent State to educate and focus national attention on the history of the mid-19th century immigrant trails that crossed public lands in the Intermountain West.

(4) At the invitation of the Bureau of Land Management, the city of Casper and the National Historic Trails Foundation, Inc. (a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the State of Wyoming) entered into a memorandum of understanding in 1992, and have since signed an assistance agreement in 1993 and a cooperative agreement in 1997, to create, manage, and sustain a National Historic Trails Interpretive Center to be located in Casper, Wyoming, to professionally interpret the historic trails in the Casper area for the benefit of the public.

(5) The National Historic Trails Interpretive Center authorized by this Act is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.), which directs the Secretary of the Interior to protect, interpret, and manage the remnants of historic trails on public lands.

(6) The State of Wyoming effectively joined the partnership to establish the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center through a legislative allocation of supporting funds, and the citizens of the city of Casper have increased local taxes to meet their financial obligations under the assistance agreement and the cooperative agreement referred to in paragraph (4).

(7) The National Historic Trails Foundation, Inc. has secured most of the \$5,000,000 of non-Federal funding pledged by State and local governments and private interests pursuant to the cooperative agreement referred to in paragraph (4).

(8) The Bureau of Land Management has completed the engineering and design phase of the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, and the National Historic Trails

Foundation, Inc. is ready for Federal financial and technical assistance to construct the Center pursuant to the cooperative agreement referred to in paragraph (4).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To recognize the importance of the historic trails that passed through the Casper, Wyoming, area as a distinctive aspect of American heritage worthy of interpretation and preservation.

(2) To assist the city of Casper, Wyoming, and the National Historic Trails Foundation, Inc. in establishing the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center to memorialize and interpret the significant role of those historic trails in the history of the United States.

(3) To highlight and showcase the Bureau of Land Management's stewardship of public lands in Wyoming and the West.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS INTERPRETIVE CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (in this section referred to as the "Secretary"), shall establish in Casper, Wyoming, a center for the interpretation of the historic trails in the vicinity of Casper, including the Oregon Trail, the Mormon Trail, the California Trail, and the Pony Express Trail, the Bridger Trail, the Bozeman Trail, and various Indian routes. The center shall be known as the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center (in this section referred to as the "Center").

(b) FACILITIES.—The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, shall construct, operate, and maintain facilities for the Center—

(1) on land provided by the city of Casper, Wyoming;

(2) in cooperation with the city of Casper and the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center Foundation, Inc. (a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the State of Wyoming); and

(3) in accordance with—

(A) the Memorandum of Understanding entered into on March 4, 1993, by the city, the foundation, and the Wyoming State Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(B) the cooperative agreement between the foundation and the Wyoming State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, numbered K910A970020.

(c) DONATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept, retain, and, subject to the availability of appropriations, expend donations of funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations, corporations, or public entities for the purpose of development and operation of the Center.

(d) ENTRANCE FEE.—Notwithstanding section 4 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-6a), the Secretary may—

(1) collect an entrance fee from visitors to the Center; and

(2) subject to appropriations, use amounts received by the United States from that fee for expenses of operation of the Center.

(e) CONCESSIONS.—The Secretary may—

(1) take actions to encourage and enable private persons to provide and operate facilities and services at the Center in the same manner and extent as the Secretary may take such actions, with respect to areas administered by the National Park Service, under the Public Law 89-249 (16 U.S.C. 20a et seq.), popularly known as the National Park System Concessions Policy Act; and

(2) subject to appropriations, use amounts received by the United States from such facilities and services for development and operation of the Center.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to

the Secretary \$5,000,000 to carry out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN).

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would establish the National Historic Trails Center and Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming.

H.R. 2186 was introduced in an effort to preserve and interpret several historic trails which crossed western America during the 1800s. These historic trails represent valuable historic and cultural themes that help shaped the West. This bill is the result of a cooperative partnership with Federal and non-Federal interests which will help fund, construct, operate and maintain the trails center. The partnership includes the Bureau of Land Management, the City of Casper, the State of Wyoming and the nonprofit National Historic Trails Foundation, which have been invaluable in their contribution to this effort. The non-Federal partners have made a clear commitment to share approximately one-half of the total cost to construct, maintain and operate the trails center.

At this point the design work is done, the land is available, and most of the non-Federal funds have been accrued. Now the actual interpretive center needs to be constructed. H.R. 2186 authorizes the appropriation of funds to complete this construction.

This bill really is a showpiece of what can be accomplished as a result of cooperative partnerships between Federal and non-Federal interests. This bill is noncontroversial, Mr. Speaker, and is supported by the administration. I urge my colleagues to voice support for passage of H.R. 2186.

H.R. 2186, the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center Authorization Act, requests an amount of \$5 million be authorized for use by the Bureau of Land Management in the Department of the Interior to construct the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming.

Over a century and a half has now passed since the historic overland migrations of people across America's western frontier began. Their stories of hardship, perseverance and courage are legendary, and they figure prominently in the history of the West. The trails they traveled, especially in Wyoming, still remain a visible testimony to the great struggles of these early American pioneers.

During the mid-1800's, Casper, Wyoming was the only geographic location in the western United States where the Oregon, Mormon, California and Pony Express trails, as well as many Indian trails converged. A fork of the Bozeman Trail and the beginnings of the Bridger Trail also originated in Casper. These