

Technology (EPSCoT) despite the fact that the program was specifically not authorized by H.R. 1274. As expressed in the Science Committee's report accompanying H.R. 1274, I continue to have concerns that once EPSCoT is established, it will grow substantially beyond the \$2.1 million contained in H.R. 4276. The program, which was initiated last year and has done little with its \$1.6 million FY 1998 appropriation, is now slated to receive a 31% increase. Even with the increased funding, it seems unlikely EPSCoT will be able to help the 18 states it is designed to assist. I hope that EPSCoT is not allowed to grow into another very expensive Administration technology initiative.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4276 also includes funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Without the benefit of the increased revenues from a non-existent tobacco settlement, and notwithstanding the very tight budget caps, Chairman Rogers and the Appropriations Committee have managed to increase funding for high-priority programs, most importantly local warnings and forecasts within the National Weather Service.

This was made possible in part after an agreement was reached by the Appropriations Committee, the Science Committee and Secretary Daley to maintain the \$550 million budget cap on the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) weather modernization program.

I am also pleased that report language in the bill echoes the Science Committee's concern over adequate weather radar coverage for northwest Pennsylvania. I hope during the new fiscal year that NOAA will see the light and place a National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NEXRAD) system in this area that is so obviously necessary.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TALENT) having assumed the chair, Mr. Hastings of Washington, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

CENSUS

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

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, later on today we are going to take up an issue of enormous importance to the Nation, and that is how we count and measure ourselves. Last week in a debate that was largely constructive on the floor, we had a discussion that was thoughtful and well informed. However, insofar as one of our Members, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), suggested

that there was a hand-picked nature of the scientific panels that recommended statistical sampling methods, I wanted to share with the Members the reply of the American Statistical Association, whose president wrote to me over the weekend and said that the members of the panel that made this recommendation are recognized by their peers as among the Nation's leading experts on sampling large human populations. It included Janet Norwood, who served three administrations, Carter and Reagan and Bush, with, as the New York Times put it, her near legendary reputation for nonpartisanship. Dr. Moore, the president of the American Statistical Association, went on to cite the extraordinary quality of the members of that panel.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD at this point the substance of his letter.

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, August 3, 1998.
Congressman THOMAS SAWYER,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SAWYER: Thank you for sending me the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD account of debate on H. Res. 508, containing the remarks of several Members regarding the use of statistical sampling methods in the 2000 Census. Despite obvious differences in perspective, the discussion is thoughtful and well-informed, the sole major exception being the incorrect statement by Mr. Miller of California that the Census Bureau plans to intentionally not count 10 percent of the population. The overall level of the discussion does credit to the House of Representatives.

I do wish to respond on behalf of the American Statistical Association to the remarks of Mr. Miller of Florida concerning the "hand-picked" nature of the scientific panels that have recommended consideration of statistical sampling methods. I refer specifically to the Blue Ribbon Panel of the American Statistical Association. The members of this panel are recognized by their peers as among the nation's leading experts on sampling large human populations. They are certainly not identified with any political interest.

The ASA Blue Ribbon Panel included Janet Norwood, who served three administrations as Commissioner of Labor Statistics from 1979 to 1991. On her retirement, the New York Times (December 31, 1991) spoke of her "near-legendary reputation for nonpartisanship." Dr. Norwood is a past president of ASA, as is Dr. Neter of the University of Georgia, another panel member. Like these, the other members of the panel have been repeatedly elected by their peers to posts of professional responsibility. For example, Dr. Rubin of Harvard University is currently chair of ASA's Section on Survey Research Methods, the statistical specialty directly relevant to the census proposals. I assure you that this panel was selected solely on the basis of their widely recognized scientific expertise. Their judgment that "sampling has the potential to increase the quality and accuracy of the count and to reduce costs" is authoritative.

Mr. Miller, in hearings before his committee, has indeed produced reputable academics who disagree with the findings of the ASA Blue Ribbon Panel and the several National Research Council panels which reported similar conclusions. Those whose names I have seen lack the expertise and experience in sampling that characterize the

panel members. Statistics, like medicine, has specialties: one does not seek out a proctologist for heart bypass surgery.

I do wish to make it clear that the American Statistical Association takes no position on the political or constitutional issues surrounding the census. We also express no opinion on details of the specific proposals put forth by the Census Bureau for employing statistical sampling. As the nation's primary professional association of statisticians and users of statistics, we wish to make only two points in this continuing debate:

- Estimation based on statistical sampling is a valid and widely-based scientific method. The general attacks on sampling that the census debate has called forth from some quarters are uninformed and unjustified.

- The non-partisan professional status of government statistical offices is a national asset that should be carefully guarded. We depend on the statistical professionals in these offices for information widely used in both government and private sector decisions. Attacks on these offices as "politicized" damage public confidence in vital data.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID S. MOORE,
President.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1998

A portion of the following was omitted from the debate of the gentleman from Texas, Mr. FROST at page H-6601 during consideration of H. Res. 510, providing for consideration of the H.R. 4328, Department of Transportation and related agencies appropriation Act 1999.

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

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to make a fairly brief opening statement and then to yield back all of our time in an effort to try and move this along.

Mr. Speaker, while I rise in support of this rule and this bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 1999, I am concerned that a point of order may lie against an amendment which seeks to limit expenditures of funds for a highway project funded in this bill. Mr. Speaker, should this point of order be pursued and ultimately upheld, the House will set a terrible precedent which may have ramifications far beyond this transportation appropriations.

The matter is now being negotiated, but I do want to express my concern that a major change in the rules that govern this House was included in T-21 and was never even considered by the Committee on Rules. That being said, Mr. Speaker, while the funding level of this appropriations bill is slightly below the levels requested by the President in several areas, overall, the Committee on Appropriations did a good

job of providing adequate funding for most of the programs and services in the bill.

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I am particularly pleased that the Committee has provided \$10.6 million for RAILTRAN funding for Phase II of a modern and efficient commuter rail connection between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. While funding for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit system North Central line is considerably less than the amount that had been requested, I remain hopeful that the Committee will, within the constraints imposed upon it by subcommittee allocations, be able to increase this funding when the bill goes to conference.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my concern about a particular problem that has been brought to my attention which affects a number of cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Because TEA-21 zeroed out operating assistance for transit systems in large urbanized areas, suburban cities within those metro areas have also found that they too have been restricted in the manner in which they can use federal transit funds. In my own congressional District, the cities of Arlington and Grand Prairie will be particularly hard hit by the elimination of operating assistance. In both instances, the suburban city transit systems are used exclusively to provide transportation for the elderly and the disabled but neither city has a dedicated sales tax to pay for such a system.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I am currently writing legislation that seeks to correct this problem now confronting cities like Grand Prairie and Arlington. I hope to be able to introduce this bill before the August recess and would urge the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as the Transportation Committee to give this legislation careful consideration. If the Congress does not provide a remedy, cities like Grand Prairie which serve 3,500 disabled and elderly persons a year will most likely have to cut back their services by 50 percent next year.

Mr. Speaker, given the constraints with which the Committee must address the concerns of individual Members as well as the component parts of the Transportation Depart-

ment, this is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the bill.

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

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. SESSIONS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BARR of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CUNNINGHAM (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 2 p.m. and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. MCINNIS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TALENT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SESSIONS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BARR of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TALENT) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOYER.

Mrs. CAPPS.

Mr. KIND.

Ms. SANCHEZ.

Ms. SLAUGHTER.

Mr. SANDERS.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. TOWNS.

Mr. GEJDENSON.

Mr. ORTIZ.

Mr. WYNN.

Mr. LAFALCE.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

Mr. SERRANO.

Mr. BERMAN.

Mr. FILNER.

Ms. NORTON.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TALENT) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. LEWIS of California.

Mr. HUNTER.

Mr. PORTER.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon.

Mr. PAUL.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma.

Mr. COBLE.

Mr. SOLOMON.

Mrs. CUBIN.

Mr. PAPPAS.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

Mr. BARR of Georgia.

Mr. MICA.

Mr. BEREUTER.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4237. An act to amend the District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995 to revise the revenues and activities covered under such Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3731. An act to designate the auditorium located within the Sandia Technology Transfer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the "Steve Schiff Auditorium."

H.R. 3504. An act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and to further define the criteria for capital repair and operation and maintenance.

H.R. 3152. An act to provide that certain volunteers at private non-profit food banks are not employees for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

H.R. 872. An act to establish rules governing product liability actions against raw materials and bulk component suppliers to medical device manufacturers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 765. An act to ensure maintenance of a herd of wild horses on Cape Lookout National Seashore.

H.R. 643. An act to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at the corner of Superior and Huron Roads, in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "Carl B. Stokes United States Courthouse."

H.R. 434. An act to provide for the conveyance of small parcels of land in the Carson National Forest and the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico, to the village of El Rito and the town of Jemez Springs, New Mexico.

H.R. 4354. An act to establish the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund on behalf of the families of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police.

H.R. 1085. An act to revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organizations, as title 36, United States Code, "Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations."