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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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□ 1114

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska).

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 362, nays 52, answered "present" 1, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 461] YEAS-362

Bateman Abercrombie Boucher Ackerman Bentsen Boyd Brady (TX) Allen Bereuter Berkley Brown (FL) Andrews Archer Berman Brown (OH) Berry Biggert Armey Bryant Bachus Burr Baker Bilirakis Burton Baldacci Bishop Buver Blagojevich Callahan Baldwin Ballenger Bliley Calvert Blumenauer Barcia Camp Barr Blunt Campbell Barrett (NE) Boehlert Canady Barrett (WI) Boehner Cannon Bonilla Bartlett Capps Bono Boswell Barton Cardin Bass Carson

Clement Clyburn Coble Coburn Combest Condit Conyers Cook Cooksex Cox Coyne Kasich Kelly Cramer Crowley Cummings Kildee Cunningham Davis (FL) Davis (IL) Davis (VA) Deal DeGette Delahunt Kolbe DeLauro DeMint Deutsch LaHood Diaz-Balart Dicks Lantos Dingell Dixon Doggett Dooley Doolittle Lazio Leach Dovle Dreier Lee Levin Duncan Dunn Edwards **Ehlers** Ehrlich Linder Emerson Engel Eshoo Etheridge Evans Everett Ewing Farr Fletcher Foley Forbes Fossella Fowler Frank (MA) Franks (NJ) Frelinghuysen Frost Gallegly Ganske Gejdenson Gilchrest Gilman Gonzalez Goode Goodlatte Goodling Gordon Goss Graham Granger Green (TX) Green (WI) Minge Greenwood Mink Gutierrez Hall (OH) Hall (TX) Hansen Hastings (WA) Murtha Myrick Hayes Hayworth Nadler Herger Hill (IN) Neal Hill (MT) Hilleary Hinojosa Hobson Hoeffel Nussle Hoekstra Obey Holden Olver Holt Ortiz Horn Ose Hostettler Owens Hulshof Oxley Hunter Hutchinson Pallone

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Pastor Payne Jackson (IL) Pelosi Peterson (PA) Jackson-Lee Petri Jenkins Phelps Pickering Johnson (CT) Pitts Johnson, Sam Pombo Jones (NC) Pomeroy Jones (OH) Porter Kaniorski Portman Price (NC) Pryce (OH) Quinn Kennedy Radanovich Rahall Kilpatrick Rangel Regula Kind (WI) Reyes Reynolds King (NY) Kingston Kleczka Riley Knollenherg Rivers Rodriguez Kuykendall Roemer LaFalce Rogan Rogers Lampson Rohrabacher Ros-Lehtinen Rothman Largent Larson Latham Roukema Roybal-Allard LaTourette Royce Rush Ryan (WI) Ryun (KS) Salmon Lewis (CA) Sanchez Lewis (GA) Sanders Lewis (KY) Sandlin Sanford Lipinski Saxton Schakowsky Lofgren Lowey Lucas (KY) Scott Sensenbrenner Lucas (OK) Serrano Sessions Maloney (CT) Shadegg Maloney (NY) Shaw Manzullo Shays Markey Martinez Sherman Sherwood Mascara Shimkus Matsui McCarthy (MO) Shows Shuster McCarthy (NY) Simpson McCollum McCrery Sisisky Skeen McGovern Skelton McHugh Slaughter McInnis Smith (MI) McIntosh Smith (NJ) McIntyre Smith (TX) McKinney Smith (WA) Meehan Meek (FL) Snyder Souder Menendez Spence Metcalf Spratt Mica Millender-Stabenow Stearns McDonald Stenholm Miller (FL) Miller, Gary Strickland Stump Sununu Talent. Moakley Tanner Mollohan Tauscher Moran (VA) Tauzin Taylor (NC) Terry Thomas Thornberry Napolitano Thune Tiahrt Nethercutt Tierney Ney Northup Toomey Towns Traficant Norwood Turner Upton Vitter Walden Walsh Wamp Watkins Packard Watt (NC) Watts (OK) Pascrell Waxman

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Ford Gibbons

Gillmor

Gutknecht

Hastings (FL)

Weiner Wicker Wynn
Weldon (FL) Wilson Young (AK)
Wexler Wise Young (FL)
Weygand Wolf
Whitfield Woolsey

NAYS-52

Hefley Aderholt Hilliard Baird Bilbray Hinchey Borski Hoyer Brady (PA) Johnson, E. B. Capuano Klink Clay Kucinich Costello LoBiondo McDermott Crane Dickey McNulty English Miller, George Fattah

Stupak Sweeney Taylor (MS) Thompson (CA) Thompson (MS) Thurman Udall (CO) Udall (NM) Moore Velazquez Moran (KS) Vento Visclosky Oberstan Peterson (MN) Waters Pickett Weller Ramstad Sabo

Sawyer

Stark

Schaffer

ANSWERED "PRESENT"-1

Tancredo

NOT VOTING-18

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□ 1122

So the Journal was approved. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Pursuant to House Resolution 312 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2910.

□ 1123

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2910) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having

been read for the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill before us today reauthorizes the National Transportation Safety Board, the NTSB, for 3 years. The House needs to move forward with this legislation because the Board's authorization expires at the end of this fiscal year.

We are all familiar with the work of the Safety Board. It investigates all aviation accidents as well as accidents in other modes of transportation. The problems it uncovers and the recommendations it makes often lead to changes that make travel safer for us all

The bill before the House now would increase the authorized funding levels for the Safety Board. Currently, the agency is receiving \$54 million per year. This bill would increase that amount to \$57 million in fiscal year 2000, \$65 million in 2001, and \$72 million in 2002. These are substantial increases in the second and third years, but the funding levels in these last 2 years are much less than the Board had sought. They seem to be necessary to provide the Board with the employees and the training to keep up with rapidly changing technology.

Also, as the agency's budget increases, it is becoming more important that it be subject to the proper level of oversight. Therefore, for the first time this bill will give the Inspector General the authority to review the business and financial management of the NTSB. With this provision, we do not mean to imply that there is anything improper going on. We are merely treating the NTSB the same as other agencies which are subject to Inspector General review.

There are several other provisions in this bill worth noting. The first makes clear that the NTSB's jurisdiction over accidents on the navigable waters and territorial sea of the United States extends 12 miles from the coast. This is consistent with Presidential Proclamation 5928 and with the Coast Guard's jurisdiction.

The second change authorizes the NTSB to enter into agreements with foreign governments for the provision of technical assistance and to be reimbursed for those services which the NTSB provides. The NTSB requested that this be clarified.

The bill would also permit the NTSB to pay time-and-a-half to its employees who work overtime on an accident investigation. These employees sometimes are called unexpectedly to work in difficult conditions during nights and weekends. This provision would fairly compensate them for that. Employees in the private sector usually receive time-and-a-half when they work overtime. However, I know that overtime provisions have been abused at other agencies. Therefore, the overtime provision in this bill is subject to two limitations to ensure that such abuse does not occur at the Safety Board, and it should be done in other agencies. These limitations are that an employee cannot get more than 15 percent of his base yearly salary in any year, and the NTSB cannot pay more than \$570,000, or 1 percent of their authorized amount, per year total under this section. Moreover, overtime pay would be subject to an annual reporting requirement to ensure the committee's continued oversight of this issue. The NTSB had requested even more au-

thority in the personnel area but indicated that it was the overtime issue addressed here that it is most interested in.

Another important provision, Mr. Chairman, in this bill is the section that ensures confidentiality of video recorders on aircraft and of voice and video recorders on surface vehicles. The NTSB requested this change in case these new technologies are installed in the future. We take no position on whether these recorders should be installed. We merely want to make sure that if recorders are installed, the sure that if recorders are installed, for safety purposes and not generally released for sensational purposes or to invade the privacy of the operators.

The bill once again makes clear that the NTSB safety investigation takes priority over other investigations of the same accident. However, there is a carefully negotiated procedure in the bill for the NTSB to turn over its investigation to the FBI when the FBI notifies the Board that the accident may have been caused by a criminal act.

Finally, the bill directs the FAA to install a terminal Doppler weather radar at the former Coast Guard station in Brooklyn, New York. The FAA has already decided that this is needed for the safety of all air travelers but we want to make sure that nothing else holds this up. The need for this provision arose out of our hearing on aviation and weather accidents in July.

□ 1130

There it was revealed that the Park Service was objecting to the placement of this equipment which would very much enhance safety at LaGuardia and Kennedy airports. The Park Service has since backed down from its objection, but we want to keep pressure on them to make sure that important safety equipment is installed as quickly as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this bill gives the NTSB the tools it will need to carry it into the next century. I urge the House to support this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2910, the National Transportation Safety Board Amendments Act of 1999. H.R. 2910 is a bipartisan bill that reauthorizes the NTSB for 3 years so it can continue to play a critical role in ensuring the safety of our Nation's transportation system.

The NTSB is an independent agency that investigates transportation accidents and promotes safety for transportation. It investigates accidents in all of transportation's various modes: Aviation, highway, transit, maritime, railroad, and pipeline and hazardous material transportation and makes recommendations on ways in which to improve safety. In the last 3 years alone, the board has investigated more