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CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, 1986

SEPTEMBER 17, 1985.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WHITTEN, by direction of the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.J. Res. 388]

The accompanying joint resolution provides interim financing for the new fiscal year beginning October 1 for programs under the thirteen regular appropriation bills. The provisions of this continuing resolution apply until November 14, 1985, or until the regular annual appropriation bills are enacted into law, whichever comes first.

STATUS OF APPROPRIATION BILLS

The Committee on Appropriations, beginning on June 20, 1985, marked up bills based on the House passed version of the budget resolution. Since the conference report on the budget resolution was not agreed to until August 1, this action saved weeks which otherwise would have been lost for action on appropriation bills.

Ten of the thirteen annual appropriation bills have been reported and nine have passed the House. It is anticipated that by the end of September the Committee will have reported twelve appropriation bills and that up to eleven bills will have passed the House. The schedule for House consideration of the Defense; Foreign Assistance; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; and Military Construction bills is uncertain at this time.

The Senate is expected to pass several 1986 appropriation bills by September 30, and conference action on several bills is possible before the end of the fiscal year. However, it is evident that not all bills will be enacted by September 30. Therefore, timely enactment of the accompanying joint resolution is necessary to provide for the operation of numerous essential government programs.

The Committee emphasizes that the appropriation bills that have already been reported are within the totals set forth in the original House passed budget resolution and the adopted conference report on the budget resolution. The accompanying continuing resolution is also within the guidelines of the conference report on the Congressional budget resolution for fiscal year 1986. Specifically, in every instance the reported appropriation bills and this continuing resolution are below the applicable section 302(b) allocation.

BASIS FOR THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

This continuing resolution provides three rates of funding, all of which maintain the lowest level of interim funding and still allow for continued operation of the government until final decisions are agreed to by the Congress and the Administration. This is the fundamental philosophy upon which continuing resolutions have traditionally been based.

LEVELS OF FUNDING UNDER THE RESOLUTION

For appropriation bills which have passed the House by October 1, the funding level is the current fiscal year 1985 rate or the House passed bill, whichever is lower. These bills include the following:

Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1986;

Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1986;

District of Columbia Appropriation Act, 1986;

Department of Housing and Urban Development—Independent Agencies Appropriation Act, 1986;

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1986; Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1986; and

Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1986.

For appropriation bills which have passed both the House and Senate by October 1, the funding level is the House passed or Senate passed bill, whichever is lower. These bills include the following:

Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act, 1986; and

Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1986.

Section 101(b) provides continuing authority, under the current terms and conditions and at a rate for operations not in excess of the current rate for the following bills:

Foreign Assistance and Related Programs, 1985;

Military Construction, 1985; and

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies, 1985, and section 101(k) of Public Law 98-473.

Section 101(c) provides continuing authority for programs funded under the Department of Defense Appropriation Act, 1985 at the current rate and under the current terms and conditions. Special provisions have been included prohibiting new starts and multiyear procurements, and subjecting the procurement of MX missiles to all the limitations, restrictions, and conditions set forth in the conference report (H. Rept. 99-235) on the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986.

The joint resolution provides for the continuation of the existing provisions of law regarding the prohibition of federally funded abortions and the prohibition against preventing the implementation of programs of voluntary school prayer and meditation in the public schools.

The Committee continues to be dedicated to the principle of financing federal programs under the traditional authorization and appropriations process which includes individual appropriation bills. Therefore, it will continue its efforts to get regular bills enacted as soon as possible.

The Committee emphasizes that when regular bills are signed into law, the provisions of the continuing resolution automatically disengage and the regular appropriation bills then become the funding device. This continuing resolution in no way precludes subsequent enactment into law of the regular appropriation bills.

OTHER TECHNICAL PROVISIONS OF THE RESOLUTION

The accompanying joint resolution carries the usual necessary technical provisions including those relating to obligations or expenditures made during the duration of the continuing resolution, and modification of apportionment procedure to accommodate certain existing provisions of law.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Clause 2(1)(4) of rule XI of the House of Representatives requires that each Committee report on a bill or resolution shall contain a statement as to whether enactment of such bill or resolution may have an inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

The rates prescribed by the accompanying joint resolution are either at or below existing levels or consistent with actions heretofore taken by the Congress which have been determined not to have an inflationary impact upon the operation of the economy. Therefore, the Committee believes that enactment of this joint resolution will have no significant inflationary impact on the national economy.

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