The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. The motion to reconsider the votes by which action was taken on the several motions was laid on the table.

Mr. MAHON. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members speaking on the conference report be permitted to revise and extend their remarks, and that all Members be permitted to pay particular attention to the records on the conference report just agreed to.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 10495) to authorize appropriations for the fiscal years 1962 and 1963 for the construction of certain highways in accordance with title 23 of the United States Code, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, to disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none, and appoints the following conferees: Messrs. FALLON, DAVIS of Tennessee, BLATNICK, SCHERER, and CRAMER.

Mr. MAHON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House recede and concur in the Senate amendment.

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those salaries which are already apparently in excess of compensation rates for similar work in private industry. On the other hand, the lowest percentage increases are 2% for Federal employees, and it appears to be underpaid in relation to their counterparts in private business. To thus heighten the present distortion would be grossly unfair and highly distasteful.

3. Even within itself H.R. 9883 is manifestly unjust. For a large number of employees it would increase salaries by nearly 9%, but for others performing the same work the increase would be only slightly over 7 1/2%. Further, employees in the postal field service would, in general, be given larger percentage increases than those provided for nearly twice as many persons who are compensated under the Classification Act and other statutory pay schedules.

4. The claim by proponents of the bill that the pay increases it would provide are justified by a rise in the cost of living is utterly without foundation in fact. Since June of 1958, when a 10 percent pay increase was approved, the cost of living as measured by the Consumers' Price Index has advanced 2.1 percent. More importantly, since the beginning of this administration in January of 1953, Federal civilian employees have received two general pay adjustments, increasing average salaries 17 1/2 to 20 percent in the aggregate, while during the same period government pay already is comparable to its counterparts in private industry.

5. By not providing offsetting revenues for the $248 million a year it would add to Post Office Department costs, the bill stands in complete disregard of the policy which the Congress itself established in 1958 that postal revenues should approximately equal postal costs less those costs deemed attributable to the performance of public services. The consequences of this disregard, were H.R. 9883 to become law, would be to increase the postal deficit, which must be borne by the American taxpayer, to $851 million a year.

6. The bill would unwarrantedly extend Federal retirement and life and health insurance benefits to employees of locally elected county stabilization and conservation committees who are not Federal employees because not appointed or supervised by Government officials. The Federal system should apply only to Federal employees. The legitimate needs of these people for such retirement and insurance opportunities should be met and the Department of Agriculture, accordingly, has for some months now been negotiating means by which the Government might appropriately act. I have asked the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite these negotiations.

Looking to the future, I urge the Congress, in accordance with my recommendation of last January, promptly to enact legislation which will make permanent the 2 1/2 percent temporary postal salary increase accorded postal field service employees 2 years ago in 1958. That increase is now scheduled to expire in January of next year, so action prior to adjournment of the current session is advisable.

With regard to general pay legislation, I am convinced, as I have indicated, that it is not presently warranted and should not be enacted until we can at the same time intelligently modernize our pay system. Evidently, however, this view is not shared by the Congress. In my effort to resolve the difference, therefore, I would be willing at this time to approve a modest increase reasonably commensurate with the percentage rise in the Consumers' Price Index. A general pay increase became effective. This is the only increase that could possibly be justified under present circumstances. In fairness to the American taxpayer, however, new postal revenues should be provided sufficient not only to offset the cost of any such increase to the Post Office Department, but also to eliminate the current postal deficit.

I must preface my following remarks on another aspect of this legislation by emphasizing that I have an abiding admiration and respect for the great mass of those Government employees who are engaged in the performance of their public duties. It has been my privilege to have lived and worked with them, in Washington and throughout the world, for half a century. They deserve and rightfully expect the fair and enlightened treatment, in personnel matters, on the part of the Government. At the same time, with regard to their remuneration, they desire only that the accepted principles of reward for merit, length of service, and especial competence be followed. I bear all of this in mind in what I am about to say and I wish to make it clear that the remarks which follow are directed only to a small minority, and in particular their leadership, of what are in the main a fine and outstanding group of public servants.

The other aspect of this legislation to which I refer is unrelated to its merits and is to me deeply disturbing. I am informed that the enactment of H.R. 9883 was attended by intensive and uncontrolled political activity. I am advised fin-  gratedly and in concert on Members of Congress by a number of postal field service employees, particularly their leadership.

I fully respect the legal right of every Federal employee—indeed of all our citizens—to petition the Government. But the activity of which I have been advised so far exceeds a proper exercise of that right as grossly abuses it, as to make it a mockery.

I am further informed that, in anticipation of my disapproval of this bill, it is planned to resume these deplorable tactics, to an extent previously unprecedented.

That public servants might be so unmindful of the national good as to even entertain thoughts of forcing the Congress to bow to their will is both done and serious alarm. To have evidence that a number of them in the postal field service, led by a few, have actually sought to do so is, to say the least, shocking.

Were the pressure tactics surrounding the passage of measures of this magnitude apparently further intended in the event of its veto, widely known to the American people, their indignation and outrage in all its power would be quickly felt—and rightly so.

Dwight D. Eisenhower.


The SPEAKER. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal, and the message and bills will be printed as a House document.

Mr. MCCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that further consideration of the message of the President be postponed until tomorrow.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend my remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I earnestly commend to the attention of my colleagues the following informative, factual statement regarding H.R. 9883 made by the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

The Civil Service Commission today stated that it greatly regretted numerous inaccurate statements that have been made about the effect of the 7 1/2 percent pay bill on Classification Act salaries. In stating the Commission's views that the legislation will lead to many inequitable results, Chairman Roger W. Jones said:

"1. Legislation now pending at the White House is not a flat 7 1/2 percent increase for all grades and steps within grade under the Classification Act. The raises actually range from 8.3 percent for the top longevity step in grade GC-1 to 5.7 percent for grade GS-10. Furthermore, within all grades through grade GS-10, the average increase is 7.7 percent, with the range running from 7.5 percent for a step in GS-6 to 8.9 percent for the greatest increases, in many cases, will be given in jobs where Government pay already is comparable to competitive business and industry."

"2. Not only is that the effect of the new schedule unequal, but it also further increases the lack of consistency among the different pay systems of the Government. At the same time discrimination is increased in numerous types of positions in which the Government under one of its salary systems already pays salaries in excess of those paid in private industry. A typical example of this result may be found in the case of general line stenographers. Data thus far received by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 30 areas show a national average annual salary today for general line stenographers who average salary is at the fourth quartile in Grade GS-3 ($3,780) and level 4 of the Postal Field Service ($4,458). Under the salary bill now pending, the average salary will advance to $4,075 and the Postal Field Service rate to $4,925, thus compound increases in pay for extraneous wages."

"3. A precedent for further imbalance and inequity under the Classification Act is set in connection with the application of increased pay in the salary schedule of Medicine and Surgery of the Veterans Administration. A 7 1/2 percent increase is granted in the top salary for a Chief Medical Director, thus setting that salary above