CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE 31379

Mr. CROCKETT changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. REID changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the resolution was amended as so read: “Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should pursue an active and impartial investigation to determine whether Miroslav Medvid was accorded all the rights due him as a potential defector.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:


HON. THOMAS P. O'NEILL, JR., The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 6, Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit sealed envelopes received from the White House at 4:35 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 1985 as follows:

(1) Said to contain a message from the President wherein he transmits the 1983 and 1984 annual reports on activities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 of the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services and of the Occupational Safety Review Commission; and

(3) Said to contain H.R. 2409, an Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the authorities under that Act relating to the National Institutes of Health and National Research Institutes, and for other purposes, and a veto message thereon.

With kind regards, I am, Sincerely,

BENJAMIN J. GUTHRIE, Clerk, House of Representatives.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1983 and 1984 ON MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACTIVITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Education and Labor:

(For message, see proceedings of the Senate of today, Tuesday, November 12, 1985.)

ANNUAL REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Education and Labor:

(For message, see proceedings of the Senate of today, Tuesday, November 12, 1985.)

HEALTH RESEARCH EXTENSION ACT OF 1985—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 2409, the “Health Research Extension Act of 1985,” which would extend and amend the biomed- 

Health research authorities of the Nation-
ment to the biomedical research endeavors of NIH. In fact, I want to underscore my personal support and the support of my Administration for biomedical research for the NIH. For over 40 years, the NIH has enjoyed unparalleled success. Enormous progress in research and the improved health of the American people attest to that success. An appropriations bill or a continuing resolution will provide un
interrupted funding for NIH activities in fiscal year 1986.

I believe that instead of fostering a strong Federal biomedical research effort, H.R. 2409 would adversely affect the pursuit of research excellence at NIH by:

-imposing numerous administrative and program requirements that would interfere with the ability to carry forward our biomedical research activities in the most cost-effective manner and would misallocate scarce financial and personnel resources;

-establishing unneeded organizations, which would lead to unnecessary coordination problems and administrative expenses while doing little to assist the biomedical research endeavors of NIH; and

-imposing a uniform set of authorities on all the research institutes, thus diminishing our administrative flexibility to respond to changing biomedical research needs.

Although H.R. 2409 is overloaded with objectionable provisions that seriously undermine and threaten the ability of NIH to manage itself and is therefore unacceptable, I recognize there are areas in which the administration can step forward to strengthen specific research efforts.

As Senator HATCH pointed out when introducing the NIH reauthorization bill last June in this year, arthritis afflicts some 40 million of this Nation's citizens and "all of us suffer, at some time in our life, from some form of arthritis." Further, arthritis, along with musculoskeletal and skin diseases, "collectively result in an extraordinary loss to our economy from lost productivity as well as from medical expense."

In recognition of the plight of the millions of arthritis victims and society's costs, I have directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish administratively a separate National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases that will meet the continuing need for coordinated research in this important area. This directive is consistent with the Department's recommendation to me that this Institute be established.

At the same time, I do not believe that the establishment of a nursing research center at NIH is appropriate, for a very basic reason—there is a lack of compatibility between the mission of such a center and the mission of NIH. The biomedical research activities of NIH are concerned with discovering the etiology of and treatment for diseases. In contrast, nursing research uses substantial new information and methodology and focuses on their relevance to nursing practice and administration. This research is important, but neither it nor disease-oriented research are served by the provisions of the Nixon Administration.

H.R. 2409 manifests an effort to exert undue political control over decisions regarding scientific research, thus limiting the ability of the NIH to set this Nation's biomedical research agenda. I do not believe that it is either necessary or wise to restrict the flexibility under which the NIH has operated so successfully. In 1984, I rejected a very similar bill, and once again I find no reasonable justification for the extensive changes to the NIH mandated by H.R. 2409. In order to allow NIH to continue to provide excellence in biomedical research and in its management, I am disapproving this bill.

RONALD REAGAN.


The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I yield 30 minutes of my time to be occupied by Mr. Waxman.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come from California and I come to speak on H.R. 2409. I want to express the feeling of the people in California that the President is wrong in his veto.

H.R. 2409 represents a responsible balance between scientific freedom and the Congress' responsibility to oversee the $8 billion annual budget of the National Institutes of Health. This legislation is needed to keep biomedical research on a firm and balanced foundation. It represents a necessary and important statement of support for the biomedical research programs of the NIH.

Mr. Speaker, let me briefly summarize some of the major provisions of the bill. H.R. 2409 would:

- Reauthorize the National Cancer Act and continue the war on cancer for 3 years.
- Establish a new National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.
- Emphasize patient care research through a new National Center for Nursing Research.
- Consolidate unnecessary reporting requirements.
- Establish high priorities for research on Alzheimer's disease, spinal cord injury, AIDS and other public health emergencies.
- Emphasize health promotion and disease prevention.
- Reinstate the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for three years.
- Place a ceiling on administrative costs at the NIH.
- Establish procedures for dealing with scientific fraud.
- Establish guidelines for the proper care and treatment of animals used in biomedical research.
- Mr. Speaker, support for biomedical research is an investment in our future. I urge Members to join in maintaining the quality and productivity of biomedical research by supporting the Health Research Extension Act of 1985.