

have urged House acceptance of the Senate amendment; and why bipartisan support for the Senate amendment has been expressed by the members of the House Judiciary Committee and its Monopolies and Commercial Law Subcommittee.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Under the present law, as I understand it, in an antitrust case, the losing party in the lower court may file an appeal directly with the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. RODINO. That is correct.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Under the bill as passed by the House, it was intended that the Attorney General could determine whether or not an appeal should go directly to the Supreme Court. In all other cases an appeal would lie with the circuit court of appeals. Now, as I understand it, the Senate amendment provides that the district judge who heard the case will determine whether an appeal shall lie directly to the Supreme Court or whether the appeal will lie with the circuit court of appeals; is that correct?

Mr. RODINO. That is correct.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. With that explanation, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection, and I have no objection to the Members of the House concurring with the Senate amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The Senate amendment to the House amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GROSS. Mr. Speaker, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members failed to respond:

[Roll No. 668]		
Alexander	Goldwater	O'Neill
Ashley	Grasso	Owens
Barrett	Gray	Parris
Beard	Gubser	Passman
Blatnik	Hanley	Peyser
Brasco	Hansen, Idaho	Podell
Breaux	Hansen, Wash.	Rarick
Brown, Ohio	Harsha	Reid
Buchanan	Hays	Roncallo, N.Y.
Burke, Calif.	Hébert	Rooney, N.Y.
Burton, John	Heckler, Mass.	Shoup
Carey, N.Y.	Holifield	Shuster
Chisholm	Howard	Smith, N.Y.
Clark	Jarman	Staggers
Collier	Johnson, Colo.	Stark
Conable	Jones, N.C.	Steiger, Wis.
Davis, Ga.	Kemp	Teague
Dent	Kuykendall	Thompson, N.J.
Diggs	Kyros	Tietnan
Dingell	Litton	Udall
du Pont	Luken	Wiggins
Esch	Mathias, Calif.	Wilson
Eshleman	Mills	Charles H., Calif.
Fisher	Minshall, Ohio	Calif.
Ford	Moakley	Wyman
Gettys	Moorhead, Pa.	Young, Ga.
Gialmo	Murphy, N.Y.	
Gibbons	O'Hara	

The SPEAKER. On this rollcall 354 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device, a quorum.

By unanimous consent, further proceedings under the call were dispensed with.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO FILE CERTAIN REPORTS

Mr. ROE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Public Works have until midnight tonight, December 11, 1974, to file reports on the following bills:

S. 3934, the Federal-Aid Highway Amendments of 1974;

H.R. 17558, to amend the act of May 13, 1954, relating to the Saint Lawrence Seaway Act Development Corporation to provide for a 7-year term of office for the Administrator, and for other purposes;

S. 4073, to extend certain authorizations under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 17589, to designate the new Poe lock on the Saint Marys River at Sault Sainte Marie, Mich., as the "John A. Blatnick lock."

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

There was no objection.

REAL ESTATE SETTLEMENT COSTS

Mr. PATMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the conference report on the Senate bill (S. 3164) to provide for greater disclosure of the nature and costs of real estate settlement services, to eliminate the payment of kickbacks and unearned fees in connection with settlement services provided in federally related mortgage transactions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PATMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the statement of the managers be read in lieu of the report.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the statement.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 9, 1974.)

Mr. PATMAN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the further reading of the statement of the managers be dispensed with.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PATMAN).

Mr. PATMAN. Mr. Speaker, the legislative agreement embodied in the conference report on S. 3164, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974, in my view represents the best possible resolution of the differences between the House and Senate measures.

Almost without exception, the agreement reached among the conferees reflects acceptance of the strongest consumer protection provisions of both bills. On balance, the bill emerging from the conference constitutes a highly effective tool with which both home buyers and home sellers can protect their interests and their pocketbooks. I am certain that in the months and years ahead this measure will stand as a barrier to the deceptive and fraudulent practices which have bilked home buyers and home sellers of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The provisions of the bill are of particular importance to low- and moderate-income families who have been drained of hard-earned funds at the hands of unscrupulous attorneys, appraisers, lenders, title insurers, and others involved in the real estate settlement industry. Indeed, abusive settlement practices have often resulted in robbing low- and moderate-income families of homeownership opportunities because they could not afford inflated and unjustified charges and fees they were required to pay in order to purchase a home. In a real sense, these unchecked abusive settlement practices mocked achievement of our congressionally adopted national housing goals, especially in the case of low- and moderate-income families, those most in need of decent dwellings in suitable living environments.

Concerning major aspects of the report: Both the House and Senate bills contain provisions for the preparation and distribution of special information booklets to inform home buyers about the nature and costs of real estate settlement services. In this connection, the Senate bill required that the average amount of settlement costs in the region where the settlement is made be presented in the special booklets. The House bill did not contain such a requirement.

Conferees agreed to accept the Senate provision with an amendment which directs HUD to conduct pilot demonstration programs to determine the most practical and efficient method to acquire and analyze data in order to present to home buyers the range of charges for settlement services in the housing market where the property to be purchased is located. HUD is to report its findings to Congress not later than July 1, 1976.

Mr. Speaker, the question at hand is not whether HUD can report such information to home buyers, but rather how it will acquire and analyze such information for inclusion in the special information booklets. The conferees agreed that disclosing the range of charges for settlement services would be a highly desirable and useful shopping tool for prospective home buyers. Moreover, HUD has already demonstrated its capacity to obtain such information. It did so in following a directive of the Emergency Home Finance Act of 1970 to de-