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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With all the striving and energy that we use to make our mark, we pray, Almighty God, that we would also slow our pace and listen to Your still small voice that speaks to us in our hearts and in our minds. Just as we learn to speak, so may we learn to listen; just as we declare our ideas, so may we reflect on what others teach us; just as we hear the voices around us, so may Your gracious word speak to us in the depths of our souls, redeeming, forgiving, uniting us in faith and hope and love. May Your blessings, O God, become new to us each morning and be with us all the day long. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2071. An Act to extend a quarterly financial report program administered by the Secretary of Commerce.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. One minutes will be at the end of legislative business today.

PROVIDING FOR DELIBERATIVE REVIEW BY COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY OF COMMUNICATION FROM INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 525, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 525

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary shall review the communication received on September 9, 1998, from an independent counsel pursuant to section 595(c) of title 28, United States Code, transmitting a determination that substantial and credible information received by the independent counsel in carrying out his responsibilities under chapter 40 of title 28, United States Code, may constitute grounds for an impeachment of the President of the United States, and related matters, to determine whether sufficient grounds exist to recommend to the House that an impeachment inquiry be commenced. Until otherwise ordered by the House, the review by the committee shall be governed by this resolution.

SEC. 2. The material transmitted to the House by the independent counsel shall be considered as referred to the committee. The portion of such material consisting of approximately 445 pages comprising an introduction, a narrative, and a statement of grounds, shall be printed as a document of the House. The balance of such material shall be deemed to have been received in executive session, but shall be released from the status on September 28, 1998, except as otherwise determined by the committee. Material so released shall immediately be submitted for printing as a document of the House.

SEC. 3. Additional material compiled by the committee during the review also shall

be deemed to have been received in executive session unless it is received in an open session of the committee.

SEC. 4. Notwithstanding clause 2(e) of rule XI, access to executive-session material of the committee relating to the review shall be restricted to members of the committee, and to such employees of the committee as may be designated by the chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member.

SEC. 5. Notwithstanding clause 2(g) of rule XI, each meeting, hearing, or deposition of the committee relating to the review shall be conducted in executive session unless otherwise determined by an affirmative vote of the committee, a majority being present. Such an executive session may be attended only by members of the committee, and by such employees of the committee as may be designated by the chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, September 10, 1998, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 2 hours.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, and pursuant to the order of the House of September 10, 1998, I yield 60 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, as we start off, I want to commend the Speaker for his statement yesterday from the chair asking that the House conduct itself in the highest decorum possible. It was eloquent on your part and was concurred in by the Minority Leader Mr. GEPHARDT. We would remind Members of that. We have a copy of that at the desk should Members want to refresh their memory.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 525 provides for a deliberative review of the House Judiciary Committee of the communication from the independent counsel and also provides for the appropriate release of that communication.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. Speaker, I think I speak for many Members this morning in saying that this is a day which we hoped in our careers in public service would never come. I came here with you 20 years ago and I certainly, and I know you did, hoped such a day would never come.

There certainly is no joy in bringing forward this kind of a resolution. Only a sense of the gravity of our task ahead and our mindful and constitutional responsibilities make us do this.

Mr. Speaker, as the Members and the public are well aware by now, the independent counsel delivered a communication to the House of Representatives on Wednesday, September 9, and it was pursuant to the independent counsel law, which is the law of the land. That law requires, in pertinent part, that an independent counsel shall advise the House of Representatives, and this is quoting from the law, "of any substantial or credible information" which the independent counsel receives himself or herself, "which may constitute grounds for an impeachment," and that is the law of the land.

Of course, the Constitution vests the sole power of impeachment with this House of Representatives in Article I of section 3 of the Constitution and the "sole power to try all impeachments in the Senate."

Mr. Speaker, this communication from the independent counsel, it embarks this institution on a grave and a profound process in uncharted waters. In that spirit, the majority and the minority leadership have consulted on numerous occasions about this communication, and the chairman and ranking members of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Rules have discussed proposals for the sensitive handling and access to this material.

It has not been easy to come to an agreement. The resolution before us is the product of that bipartisan consultation, but more so, on a fair attempt to meet the concerns of all of the Members of this House; and we know that on both sides of the aisle we are divided on how to handle this issue, and that became very evident during the 4-hour hearing that we had last night in the Committee on Rules.

When this communication arrived at the Capitol, the Speaker immediately directed the material to be secured by the Sergeant at Arms, and no Members or staff have seen that document. Although there are press reports this morning asserting what might be in the communication, the House does not know what is contained in these documents at this moment, and that is the way that it should be. However, it is the understanding of the Committee on Rules that the communication does contain the following: 445 pages of a communication which is divided into three sections; an introduction, a narrative, and so-called "grounds"; and it is accompanied by another 2,600 pages of supporting material that is con-

tained in the appendices which may contain telephone records, videotapes, testimony and other sensitive material, including the 17 boxes of other supporting information.

The method of the dissemination and potential restrictions on access to this information is set forth in this resolution. The resolution provides that the Committee on the Judiciary with the ability to review the communications to determine whether grounds exist to recommend to the House that an impeachment inquiry be commenced. The resolution provides for an immediate release of approximately 445 pages, again comprised of an introduction, a narrative, and a statement of so-called "grounds." This will be printed as a House document and available to the Internet and other Web sites today as soon as technologically possible, which will be hopefully about 2 hours after this resolution passes the House.

The balance of the material will be deemed to have been received in executive session of the Committee on the Judiciary, but will be released from that status by no later than September 28, 1998, and will be released piecemeal as the Committee on the Judiciary determines relevant. Material released will immediately be printed as a House document and available to Members and the public, obvious new information, between now and September 28th.

The resolution further provides that additional material compiled by the Committee on the Judiciary during the review period will be deemed to have been received in executive session unless, of course, it is received in an open session of the Committee on the Judiciary, although, Mr. Speaker, access to that executive session material will be restricted to Members of the Committee on the Judiciary and such employees of the committee as may be designated.

Finally, the resolution provides that each meeting, hearing or deposition of the Committee on the Judiciary will be in executive session unless otherwise determined by that committee. That is up to their discretion.

□ 0915

The executive session may be attended only by Committee on the Judiciary members and employees of the committee designated by the chairman, and after consultation with the ranking minority member. The resolution before us attempts to strike an appropriate balance between House Members' and the public's interest in reviewing this material and the need to protect innocent people.

Mr. Speaker, the testimony before the Committee on Rules last night indicated that among Members, on the question of access to the material and release of it to the public, and this is important to note during this beginning part of the debate, that there were Members on the Democrat side who raised concerns about releasing the 445-page text today, and still other Demo-

crats who raised a parliamentary inquiry on Wednesday when the communication was read to the House demanding full and complete access.

There was the senior member of this body, the Dean of this entire body, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JOHN DINGELL) who insisted on that. Other Members on our side of the aisle insisted on that. Still another Democratic member proposed a resolution last night in the Committee on Rules requiring full disclosure of the entire communication immediately. He at that time wanted us to substitute and make that amendment in order, which we did not do.

This resolution is an adequate middle ground. It recognizes the public's right to know, and hence, for Members and their constituents to engage in a dialogue about all of this material. It also acknowledges the Committee on the Judiciary's proper role of sifting through all the material, while placing the burden in favor of more release rather than less. It is anticipated that the Committee on the Judiciary will require additional procedural or investigative authorities to adequately review the communications in the future.

It is anticipated, therefore, that these authorities be the subject of another resolution which will be consulted with the Democrat minorities on the two committees over the next 4 or 5 days, and that that resolution will be before the House sometime mid-week, and then on the floor of the House towards the end of the week, if necessary.

If this communication from Independent Counsel Starr should form the basis for future proceedings, it is important to note that Members will need to cast public, to cast recorded, and extremely profound votes in the coming weeks and months. Therefore, we should ensure that every Member of this House have enough information about the contents of the communication to cast informed votes and be equipped to explain those votes on this most mighty of constitutional obligations to their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out, again, just to clarify, this resolution does not authorize or direct an impeachment inquiry. Sometimes the press gets this confused, and they are stating that it does. It is not the beginning of an impeachment process in the House of Representatives. It merely provides the appropriate parameters for the Committee on the Judiciary, the historical proper place to examine these matters, to review this communication and make a recommendation to the House as to whether we should commence an impeachment inquiry. That is what this resolution before us today does.

Mr. Speaker, the constitutional process which may be initiated by this review is not about punishment nor is it about personalities. It is an effort to protect a constitutional office and to ensure it is not besmirched. The safety

of constitutional government is too precious in this world. We are looked at all over this world as the exemplary democracy, and we must always keep it that way, so the Framers of our Constitution designed an inherently cumbersome process which would require cooperation among political parties, and that is what we are here today to do. It is in that spirit in which we bring forward this resolution today.

Again, I would just urge Members to observe the proper decorum as we debate this very profound issue over the next 2 hours.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today is a very, very solemn day for the House of Representatives. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution bestows several very important responsibilities on the House. All of them have great consequence. We have the power to raise taxes, we have the power to declare war, we have the sole power of impeachment. Today we find ourselves considering a resolution to release portions of the Independent Counsel's report.

Two days ago Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr delivered to this Capitol building a 445-page report, several thousands of pages of appendices, and 17 boxes of additional materials. No one has seen what is in the materials sent up by the Independent Counsel. It is most likely to contain Mr. Starr's opinions, transcripts from dozens of witnesses, tapes, telephone conversations, and other very, very important material.

Mr. Speaker, once these boxes are opened, innocent people could be hurt, reputations could be destroyed, ongoing criminal investigations could be jeopardized. Members of the House should begin this process of releasing the information and acting on it as soberly and as fairly as possible.

There is general agreement that the 445-page referral is to be made to the public as soon as this resolution is adopted. There is no problem there. The dispute revolves around what to do with the remainder of the supporting materials.

Let me say again, Mr. Speaker, as to the 445-page referral, including an introduction, a narrative, and the statement of grounds, there is widespread agreement to make that public today. The concern is on who will review the appendices of the 17 boxes of materials to make sure that no innocent people are unfairly jeopardized.

In his letter of transmittal, the Independent Counsel, Ken Starr, stated, "Many of the supporting materials contain information of a personal nature that I respectfully urge the House to treat as confidential."

Mr. Speaker, we were heartened, very heartened, when the Speaker reached an agreement with the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan

(Mr. CONYERS), on how this material would be released.

According to this bipartisan leadership agreement, the supporting materials should be treated as if they had been received in executive session and released only to the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), for their initial review. The purpose of this restriction was to expedite review while at the same time limiting the possibility of harmful leaks. Mr. Speaker, I think that was absolutely the right thing to do.

Another important part of the agreement was to limit the content of today's resolution to the subject of how the material should be released. No mention of authorities to be granted to the Committee on the Judiciary would be contained in this resolution.

That, Mr. Speaker, was the agreement, but last night my colleagues in the Committee on Rules changed that deal. They decided to release the supporting materials to all 35 Members of the Committee on the Judiciary, and to let the materials sit there not for 10 days, as had been agreed upon, but for 17 days. Mr. Speaker, I feel that this information will leak out drip by drip, day by day, day after day.

They also added the section directing the Committee on the Judiciary to examine matters beyond the scope of the Independent Counsel's report with new depositions and new hearings.

Mr. Speaker, what is important here is not the details of how we release the Independent Counsel report. The issue is that we reached an agreement with the Speaker, with the minority leader, with the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary. We relied upon that agreement. That agreement has been unilaterally altered. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my colleagues that if we cannot rely on an agreement dealing with this kind of matter, how can we rely on other important matters that we are going to face?

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that in the future, when agreements are reached, we can rely on all sides to honor those agreements.

Mr. Speaker, when each of us took office, we put up our right hand and we swore to uphold the Constitution. In Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution states that the House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment. With that power, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, comes a very, very grave responsibility to the American people, to the American President, and to the American electoral process. So let us fulfill our responsibilities soberly. Let us fulfill our responsibilities fairly.

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me cite from the rules of the House, and my good friend,

the gentleman from Boston, Massachusetts (Mr. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY), my ranking member, is more aware of the rules than I am. Let me cite 2K(7) of Rule XI.

It says, "No evidence or testimony taken in the executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the committee," by recorded vote. Mr. Speaker, those are the rules of the House. Any violation of that rule is subject to ethical discipline.

Let me further just say that I have served on the steering committee of the Republican side of the aisle in appointing Members to committees for the last 17 years, as many of the Members there have, the minority leader, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. JOE MOAKLEY) and others.

We choose people to serve on these committees because of their professional backgrounds, because of their demeanor and their knowledge of law. Every single member of the 35 members of the Committee on the Judiciary are entitled to the same information as any one member of that committee, and we should keep that in mind.

As to the dissemination of material, I want to read just briefly a section of the resolution before us. It says that, "Notwithstanding clause 2(e) of rule XI, access to executive session material of the committee relating to the review shall be restricted to Members of the committee and to such employees of the committee as may be designated by the chairman, after consultation with the ranking member."

That means, yes, under the rules of this House, every member of every committee is entitled to anything that is submitted to that committee. But in writing the rule the way we did, no one stops the committee and stops my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) or my good friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) from appealing to the Members on their side of the aisle about letting the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) go through the material, sort through it, and then call in the other Members. I know our members are going to be more than cooperative, and I would assume that the members on the gentleman's side are, too.

So in effect, we are accomplishing exactly what the Speaker had in mind and the minority leader, and certainly this chairman of the Committee on Rules, who sat through every single one of those meetings where we negotiated what we were going to put in this resolution.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOLOMON. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am not disputing the rules. All I am saying, an agreement was made and an agreement was broken. It is not a proper way to start out this hearing.

Mr. SOLOMON. I am not going to cite members on the gentleman's side of the aisle who were in those meetings. Whenever we left those meetings, we always had to go back and discuss with our colleagues, whether it be Democrat or the Republican leadership, and I do not like the word "deals", but there were no agreements made on anything.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HENRY HYDE), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

To Ronald Reagan, my great hero, and to George Bush, the former President, I recommended this Member to be appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States of America, and I am very proud today that they did not take my recommendation at that time, because we need him desperately in the position he is in today.

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

To my good friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. JOE MOAKLEY), let me just add my spin on this situation, to use an unhappy word. This has been a moveable feast. The situation has changed from hour to hour, as everybody gets their input on how to do this.

What we are talking about is reserving from immediate distribution supporting materials which we have been advised by the Independent Counsel contain matters of a private, confidential nature, and there may be innocent people involved who do not have a central or even a peripheral relationship to the matter in chief. We are simply trying to do the decent, responsible thing by checking those over before they are released.

□ 0930

We will release them, but there may be some materials in there that we can agree on a bipartisan basis ought not to be released. We do not know. But whether the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and I do it, or whether the entire Committee on the Judiciary does it, I could live with either operation.

Mr. Speaker, I just say it is terribly hard to tell a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary that they may not look at certain materials that were sent over by the independent counsel.

So I do not think it is a terribly serious dispute. I hope the gentleman does not talk about breaking agreements. As I say, these have been fluid all along until we finally got to the Committee on Rules. I just hope the gentleman does not feel that there was any violation of trust. I do not want to start out that way. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and I are not only doing this in a bipartisan way, but in a collegial way, and we are going to keep that serious effort going.

Mr. Speaker, 166 years ago when our country was in its robust childhood the great historian Thomas Macauley wrote, and I quote, "Laws exist in vain for those who do not have the courage and means to defend them."

We are here because circumstances and our Constitution have thrust upon us an onerous duty, one that requires us to summon the courage and the means to defend the rule of law. Do not forget, please, when all the distractions and diversions and definitions have been pronounced, at the end of it all, we are about one mighty task: to vindicate the rule of law.

We are also met to defend the sacred bond contained in our oath of office, the bond that links the Members of Congress, the officials of the executive branch and our Federal judges to the people of the United States, to those who have given their lives for this country and to the American people of the future.

In taking the solemn oath to defend the Constitution, we have pledged a trust that imposes a heavy responsibility. We have pledged a trust to those patriots who sleep across the river in Arlington Cemetery and in American cemeteries around the world. We have pledged that their defense of freedom and the rule of law will not have been in vain.

Mr. Speaker, may I presume to remind us all of the oath we swore when we became Members of Congress. We raised our right arms and we said:

I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God.

Traditionally, an oath means a solemn calling on God to witness to the truth of what one is saying. We all well know the story of Sir Thomas Moore who was beheaded in the Tower of London for refusing to take the oath of supremacy that acknowledged Henry VIII as head of the Church of England. In the great drama of his life, "A Man for all Seasons," Sir Thomas tells his daughter, "When you take an oath, you hold your soul in your hands, and if you break that oath, you open your fingers and your soul runs through them and is lost."

Mr. Speaker, I believe with all my heart that each of us who took that oath of office took it seriously and we will conduct ourselves so that when this ordeal, and it is an ordeal, is over we will have vindicated the rule of law and brought credit to this institution in which we are privileged to serve.

We have also pledged a trust to the Americans of the 21st century. We have pledged to hand over to them intact and unsullied the rule of law in constitutionally ordered democracy. And we have pledged a trust to our fellow Americans, with whom we share this moment in our history, our neighbors

who have sent us to this Congress, to serve the common good through the rule of law.

Ninety-four years ago in a message to Congress, President Theodore Roosevelt defined the principle that must guide our deliberations in the days and weeks and months ahead: "No man is above the law and no man is below it, nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it." That principle really defines the solemnity of this moment.

We are sometimes too cavalier in our attitude toward the rule of law. It is something that we take for granted. Yet we live in a century which, in blood and tears, in pain and sorrow, has vindicated the contention of the Founders of this Republic and the Framers of its Constitution that the rule of law is the only alternative to tyranny or to the anarchy that eventually leads to tyranny.

The long, hard march of humanity toward the promised land of freedom has been marked by the constant struggle to vindicate the rule of law against the tyranny of power. Whether our reference point is the Ten Commandments or the code of Hammurabi, Justinian's Code or the Magna Carta, the Constitutional Convention of 1787 or the United Nations Charter of 1945, in each case humanity has made progress on its journey through history when the rule of law has triumphed over privilege or power as the arbiter of human affairs and the method to resolve conflict.

The fact that the gradual expansion of the rule of law has invariably resulted in human progress is not an accident of history; it is a reflection of human nature. For the rule of law is an expression of the spiritual nature of the human person created with intelligence and free will, a moral agent capable of freedom and capable of ordering freedom to the pursuit of goodness, decency, and justice.

Every member of our committee, indeed every Member of this Congress, is a servant of the rule of law which in this instance means we are servants of the Constitution of the United States of America.

To paraphrase Theodore Roosevelt, none of us is above the Constitution, none of us is below the Constitution, and none of us is required to ask permission when we require ourselves and all those who have also sworn a solemn oath of fidelity to the Constitution to obey it.

Because we are servants of the Constitution, because we too are subject to the rule of law it enshrines. No partisanship in the matters before us will be worthy of us. Americans pride themselves on living under the oldest written constitution in the world continually in force. That historic accomplishment simply did not happen. In defense of the Constitution, American men and women have sacrificed their lives in every corner of the globe.

In defense of the Constitution, the American people have made enormous sacrifices in time and in treasure.

In defense of the Constitution, Americans have forgotten they were black, brown, yellow or white, that they were Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Orthodox or Protestant, that they were Democrats or Republicans. They have remembered that they are Americans, inheritors of a precious tradition of the rule of law and trustees of that tradition before the eyes of the future.

The Constitution remains viable not only because the document itself is venerable and its provisions wise. The Constitution remains viable because the American people continue to affirm and defend the principle of the rule of law which animated the document and gave it its moral ballast and its moral compass. We, the servants of the people, their elected representatives, can do no less.

Thus, we too are under judgment in these proceedings: the judgment of the people, the judgment of history, the judgment of moral law. Let us conduct ourselves in this inquiry in such a way as to vindicate the rule of law.

Let us conduct ourselves and this inquiry in such a way as to vindicate the Constitution. Let us conduct ourselves and this inquiry in such a way as to vindicate the sacrifices of blood and treasure that have been made across the centuries to create and defend this last, best hope of humanity on Earth, the United States of America.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the ranking member on the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this is the second time in the century that the question of impeachment has come before this House of Representatives. I had the honor of serving on the Committee on the Judiciary when the Watergate impeachment question was before the House some 25 years ago. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) was on that committee, and we are fortunate to have his experience to bring us to the point where we can be fair in judging the conduct of the President of the United States.

Indeed, we are fortunate to have a person like the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), who is respected on both sides of the aisle, who is not tempted by politics, but is moved by what is in the best interest of the people of the United States, and more importantly, the protection of this Constitution which is not just for us, but the legacy that we have to leave to our children.

Mr. Speaker, we now will be wrestling with some serious questions as to moral standards, and it is unfortunate that many times people have found that they have a lower standard for themselves than they have for the President of the United States. But it

is abundantly clear that we are not here just to determine his personal habits, that is, the President of the United States, but we are to respect the fact that he has been elected by the people of the United States to serve for another 4 years.

So the question of fairness is what surrounded the Committee on the Judiciary under the leadership of Peter Rodino, and it will be that question of fairness that we will be judged by, if not day to day, then certainly by the November elections.

We should never forget that he has been the captain of our ship for 2 years and this journey is supposed to take legally 4 years. During this time, we have gone through some perilous economic times. We have gone through deficit spending into a balanced budget and indeed a surplus. We have gone through a period where more people are working, more people are saving, more people are living better.

So the American people want to make certain that when we judge the conduct of the President of the United States, we judge him not by a political standard, not by an individual standard, but a standard of fairness that takes into consideration that he was not appointed, he was not selected, he was elected as President of these United States.

As we get closer to the November elections, in recognizing just by being political animals, there will be a temptation for us to allow our politics to get involved with our constitutional responsibilities. It will be tragic if this happens. But remember, as we judge the President of the United States, the people of the United States will also be judging us.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

(Mr. CAMPBELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, before a vote on the floor on a Committee recommendation to proceed with an impeachment resolution, or upon the Committee's failure so to recommend after a reasonable time, any Member of the House should be entitled personally to review all executive-session material. Otherwise, that member would be required to decide on the impeachment question, whether yea or nay, without having all the information the Independent Counsel deemed relevant to send to the House. Today's rule, strictly construed, might not permit that access if the Judiciary Committee votes not to permit such access. However, this rule will expire in its effect at the end of this session, and no one anticipates a vote on the impeachment question before we must pass a new rule to govern our proceedings in the next Congress. Until we are called upon to make a vote on that fundamental question, I have no problem with the Judiciary Committee's exercise of discretion in deciding what material, out of concern for innocent third parties, should be held in executive session.

When we pass the rule to govern our later proceedings, however, we should take care

not to exclude from any Member access to material necessary to inform that member's judgment.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, in order to equalize the time, we are going to reserve our time for a few minutes.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) whether he has any speakers remaining?

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of speakers, but we have only about 35 minutes or so remaining. I think the gentleman from Massachusetts has more than 50 minutes. We would like to equalize the time.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) has 36½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) has 51½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

□ 0945

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, we gather in this Chamber today with a solemn responsibility. At its core, that responsibility is to do what is right, right by the American people, right by our Constitution, right by our country, and right by justice.

What the President did was wrong. Now the Congress has a report on his actions from Prosecutor Starr. I believe the American people have a right to see this report. But we must remember these are allegations by a prosecutor. By its very nature, it is a one-sided report.

The American people have a right to see all the facts, and Congress has a responsibility to consider all the facts. We have an obligation to conduct this process in a manner that is fair, judicious, and upholds the principles of our Constitution.

What we are about to embark upon is a very difficult task. Only a few times in our Nation's history has this House had to walk this very difficult road. Where should we turn for guidance?

There have been times in the recent past when we have been asked to judge a leader. In the 1970s, Congress had to judge a President. The President's lawyers met with the Committee on the Judiciary and had access to the evidence for seven full weeks before the information was released to the public.

In the 1980s, Congress investigated the Iran-Contra affair. The independent counsel's report was kept under seal for 5 months as President Reagan's attorneys prepared his response.

In 1996, the Committee on Ethics and this House passed judgment on our own Speaker. In that case, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH) was allowed 6 days to review the allegations and prepare a response, 6 days.

In each case, the accused was allowed an opportunity to review the allegations in preparing a response to the American people. That is only fair. It is common sense. It is what our sense of justice dictates. The American people understand that.

Just last year, this House revised its own ethics rules to give an accused Member 10 days to prepare a response before allegations are made public. Why should this House not allow the President a minimal time to review the allegations against him before they are posted on the Internet, printed in the papers, and put out over our airwaves?

Earlier this week, the Republican leadership expressed its commitment to move forward in a bipartisan fashion. Yet, today, we discover that those commitments that were made in the spirit of fairness and responsibility have been eroded one by one.

This resolution is not guided by precedent. It is not guided by a proper sense of fairness. The Republican leadership has reneged on its commitments. This is a troubling beginning to a process that should guide us as we take on the highest constitutional principles.

But I do believe the American people have a right, the American people have a right to see this report. I hope this beginning does not portend a widening partisan divide at a time when we must stand together and seek the truth and do what is right.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip of the Republican Party.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, and I really commend the leadership of the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), chairman, for putting it together.

I was very much moved by the statements of the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, a gentleman that we all know will do an incredible job in keeping this from being a partisan process.

This resolution starts the process of examining the report of the independent counsel. We demean the job, the office and the law of the independent counsel when we call him a prosecutor. This counsel is charged to exculpate the President as well as to investigate the President, not to distort what he finds.

The President of the United States has had over 8 months knowing what is coming in this report. In fact, if he started back in January and told the American people the truth, we would not be here today. So he has had his spin-meisters and his attack dogs out for 8 months.

He knows what is in this report, because he probably debriefed everybody that appeared before the Grand Jury. The President's spin-meisters have tried to hold him above the law, the rule of law that the chairman was talking about.

Now he wants 48 hours to be informed before the American people. The President is no better than any other American, and every American will see this as soon as possible. But we cannot get there until we pass this resolution. We could not even give it to the President for 48 hours unless we passed a resolu-

tion saying so. We have to accept the report.

In order to fulfill our constitutional responsibilities and the only way to uphold the wisdom and the structure and the stability of the Constitution as so ably outlined by the chairman is to have the American people to have a moral foundation to support that Constitution.

This is a moral crisis, a moral debate that we are about to enter. If the President is going to force us to go through this trauma, every one of us here must accept that responsibility.

We must understand that there is an age-old remedy for wrongdoing that is exhibited actually by the Constitution. But philosophers, religious people as far back as we know man goes has exhibited that remedy, and that is contrition, confession, and cleansing. We are at the cleansing part.

Contrition is when you recognize that you have done wrong, humbled yourself by knowing that you have done wrong. Confession is when you tell the truth about what you have done. The cleansing part is accepting the consequences for your actions and being honorable enough to accept those consequences rather than the spin, the whole spin, and nothing but the spin.

We are forced to fulfill the cleansing part of the Constitution. I think every Member in this House, Democrat and Republican, will rise to the level that the oath of office that we took exhibits and honor that oath and fulfill our responsibilities to the Constitution of the United States.

This is a wonderful institution. It will rise above everything that is going on outside this chamber. It will exhibit what the Constitution gives us the responsibility to do.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the conduct of the President over the last 8 months and before will be judged in this proceeding. What is at issue here this morning is not his conduct but the fairness of the resolution before us, which is manifestly and grossly unfair.

It is manifestly unfair because it denies the President the privilege we have given to every other person accused, as the gentleman from Michigan stated, the ability to see the accusation before it is released publicly so he can prepare a response.

It is grossly unfair because, with respect to the 2,200 pages of evidence and the 17 boxes of other evidence, the entire Committee on the Judiciary is going to see it, to decide what must be kept confidential and protecting privacy of third parties.

That means 50 people are going to see it. It is going to leak out. Those privacy rights are going to be violated. That is ensured by this resolution.

It is grossly unfair because, during the 10 or 20 days that that is going to

be done, while the world will see salacious details, the President will not be allowed to look at those documents. There is no reason why he should not. There is no delay entailed.

But this resolution is doing everything it can to make the President's defense as difficult as possible and to make it very likely that all the details that the special prosecutor himself says should be protected for privacy reasons will leak out, because 50 people in this town cannot keep a secret.

For a practical problem, if 50 people have to have time between now and September 28, how is anybody going to look through those 80,000 or 90,000 pages to decide what should be kept secret? They are not going to have time enough with two copies.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER).

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the vote we take today to release the Starr report without the opportunity for the President to review and formulate his simultaneous response is fundamentally unfair.

The charges alleged in this report are very grave. The admitted actions of the President are both serious and sober. But no matter what charges are made, the President is entitled to a fundamental fairness at every step of the process. This first step, the wholesale release of one-sided allegations and evidence to the media and the Internet violates that fairness.

Every person in this chamber understands the ramifications of the instantaneous release of harmful information in both our political and justice system, the inability of any later considered response getting any type of equal attention.

Surely there can be no harm in giving the President an opportunity to review the material before a proper and full public disclosure of the Starr report.

The release of this information may very well be the first step in commencing the process of impeachment against an elected President of the United States of America. The fairness of that process should be preserved at every level. This rule fails to do so.

The public is clearly entitled to this information, but it is our obligation to provide for its responsible release.

The President must be held accountable both for his admissions of wrongdoing and for any proven charges of illegal behavior, but he must be accorded the rights and the fairness that this highest of constitutional responsibilities requires of each of us.

The Committee on Rules has failed the first test of our Constitution, the test of fundamental fairness.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume just to respond to the previous speaker.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh, the Iran-

Contra independent counsel stated in an in-depth interview that the President and his lawyers are, without question, aware, and I am quoting, of almost all of the material contained in the 445 pages that we will be releasing today.

He further said that the President's lawyers already have prepared their public relations response and have days in which to prepare any kind of legal response to any inquiry that the Committee on the Judiciary might make.

I mean, this is obvious to every Member. Every Member of this body has a right to this public document, as does the President. If the President wants the first hard copy to be printed this afternoon, I am sure that the Speaker would be glad to give it to him so he does have it in advance.

No one is going to know what is in here for the next several hours, and certainly they will certainly have time to go through it.

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire as to the remaining time for the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) and myself.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) has 44½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) has 32 minutes remaining.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I intend to support this resolution, but I am very disappointed by what will not be accomplished today by the adoption of this resolution.

Let me share with my colleagues some of my own observations from the 6-plus years that I served in this body's Committee on Ethics. There are two key ingredients to a successful discharge of our obligations that are missing today.

First, there must be true bipartisan efforts. One side cannot and should not dictate to the other. Mr. Speaker, a truly inclusive, bipartisan approach will require patience and good negotiating skills, for our caucuses are not monolithic. But we must work in a bipartisan way, and we are not doing that with this first resolution.

□ 1000

Second, there must be basic fairness to the person who is accused. The person should have had access to the material that we have before it is made public. That is a matter of basic fairness. Sure, the President will have a response, but he should not have to speculate as to what we have. He should have had access to it first so that he is not blind-sided by information that may come out later. That is not being fair.

We have a grave responsibility to carry out, and we must develop a proc-

ess that will allow each of us to reach the right conclusions. We can do better than how we have started today.

Mr. Speaker, I have talked to both my Democratic and Republican colleagues, and I know that we can successfully carry out our obligations. I urge us to do better in the days and weeks ahead.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, under our constitution, the House of Representatives has the sole power of impeachment. This is perhaps our single most serious responsibility short of a declaration of war. Given the gravity and magnitude of this undertaking, only a fair and bipartisan approach to this question will ensure that truth is discovered, honest judgments rendered, and the constitutional requirement observed.

Our best yardstick on whether we are meeting those standards, whether we are yielding fair results, is to look at the historical experience, to look at the precedents. Twenty-four years ago this House went through a gripping, grueling experience where a Democratic House investigated a Republican President. And I think that if we hold the procedures adopted at that time as our yardstick for fairness, we will be able to measure whether or not we are meeting the bipartisan necessity of these procedures.

I have heard wonderful rhetoric today and yesterday about the need for bipartisanship. Regrettably, the behavior embodied in the resolution before us falls short of the standard set 24 years ago. It is not as good, it is not as fair as what occurred 24 years ago. At that time my predecessor in office, and my then boss, Congressman Don Edwards, insisted that the President of the United States, Richard Nixon, have complete due process; that he have the ability to see all of the evidence; that his lawyers have the ability to cross-examine and to see everything way before it was revealed.

In this case we have a rush to put allegations that have been compiled over 4 years onto the internet without giving the President 24 hours to review it. I fear for our country if we cannot do better than this.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, 168 years ago a famous author, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, and I quote, "America is great because America is good. And when America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

How true that is. Today's debate is not just about Bill Clinton. It is not just about the Presidency. Today's de-

bate is about America's greatness. And the founders fully recognized that by setting a much loftier and higher standard on the chief executive. They did not write high crimes and other felonies. They wrote high crimes and misdemeanors. Misdemeanors. A matter of truth and trust.

The American people must be able to trust the President. From Wall Street to Social Security, from Main Street to Moscow, from the United Nations to China, the President must be trustworthy. America is great because America is good.

I would have liked to have seen the considerations of the great Member the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) taken into consideration, but it will not stop me from voting for this resolution.

I have been here for a number of years, and I want to give compliment, after watching the testimony of our great chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and our great ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS). I have faith in them and faith in the Congress.

America is great because America is good, and we must hold to those high standards. I support the resolution.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

As my colleagues know, I am soon to retire, and the Speaker has already committed to my replacement. The gentleman from California is an outstanding vice chairman of our committee who will do a wonderful job as my replacement.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend for yielding me this time, and I thank him for his stellar leadership.

As has been said by most of my colleagues, this is a very solemn time and a very difficult time for Democrats and Republicans alike. Obviously, for the American people as well. It is very important that we be fair, and I am troubled by some of the statements that I have heard that are challenging this issue of fairness.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that in 1978 a Democratic Congress passed the independent counsel statute. That made major changes since the Watergate hearings of 1974. Three times since 1978 that independent counsel statute has been passed. Most recently it was reauthorized by a Democratic Congress, and it was done when President Clinton was in office.

I think it is important to note that we are complying with the rule of law under the independent counsel statute. It says, "An independent counsel shall advise the House of Representatives of any substantial and credible information which such independent counsel receives that may constitute grounds for an impeachment." That is exactly what is happening here. We are complying with the rule of law.

We very much want to deal with this in the most bipartisan way possible.

Last night in the testimony the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) said we want to have a bias for openness. And it is very clear, based on the number of hits that we had when the chairman of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), gave me the privilege of announcing the web site of the resolution that we are considering today and his opening statement from last night. The gentleman from New York has just informed me that we had over 25,000 hits on that.

We have had Democrats and Republicans say we want this information out now. I think many of us are having the phones, I know I am, ring and ring and ring saying get this information out now. But, at the same time, we are doing our darnedest to ensure that no one is hurt by this process. And that is why in executive session, in executive session, the full Committee on the Judiciary, based on the request by many Democrats and Republicans, will have the opportunity to go through the appendices and the supporting information.

Mr. Speaker, it is very apparent to me that while there is not total agreement, there is, in fact, strong bipartisan agreement for what it is that we are proceeding to do here during this very difficult and challenging time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader.

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, we enter a period of great importance for our people's House of Representatives and for our country. As has been said, next to declaring war, nothing we do here rises to the importance of this decision.

I will vote for this rule today, but I must report that I am disappointed in the way we arrived at this rule and in the result. And, more importantly, I am disappointed in our initial attempt, which I still have faith in, to try to reach bipartisan and nonpartisan agreements on how we go through this process.

The Speaker has said, and I believe his word, that he wants this to be nonpartisan. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) has said that he wants it to be fair and nonpartisan, and I believe his word. But at the end of the day yesterday we were told that there were some on the other side that could not go along with ideas that I believe many in the Republican leadership thought were reasonable ideas.

Let me say what I think should have been in this rule. First, I believe that the President deserved 24 or 48 hours to read these allegations and conclusions before it was made public and sent all across the Nation and the world. We give Members that courtesy when Members are charged with wrongdoing. We have given other Presidents that

courtesy. And I believe, in all fairness, this President deserves that basic fairness. What could possibly be lost by another 24 or 48 hours before this were made public?

Secondly, the independent counsel himself told us that there is information in parts two and three in this evidence that could be highly sensitive and injurious to innocent individuals. Now, I know that in the rush to get all this out we can all forget the rights and the reputation of innocent individuals. I simply ask all of us to put ourselves in the shoes of the people that could be injured by the leaking of this information.

And I would also remind Members that already this morning material is being leaked in the media. Details have found their way already into the media that supposedly come from this information. Why do I not have faith and confidence that we can hold the material that we should hold?

I take the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) at his word. I realize our rules say that we should not give this out if we have been charged to not give it out. I pray and hope that all of our Members, Democratic and Republican, will live with that admonition and will not leak this material out injuring the reputation of innocent people. Surely we can rise to this occasion.

Now, there are many tests ahead. This is the first step of what could be a long process. And I guess my lesson from today is that it takes all of us, not just some of us, in order to make this process work. This is a body of 435 human beings, and we are called on to be better than sometimes our natures allow us to be.

This is a sacred process. This goes to the heart of our democracy. This is not a second election. This is not politics. This is not spinning. This is not polling. This is not a lynch mob. This is not a witch-hunt. This is not trying to find facts to support our already-reached conclusions. This is a constitutional test.

Alexander Hamilton, in the Federalist Papers, said, when speaking of impeachment, "There will always be the greatest danger that the decision will be regulated more by the comparative strength of the parties than by the real demonstrations of innocence and guilt." We are all partisans. We are all in politics. We all believe strongly in our views and we all want our views to be realized by this House. But that is not what this is about.

I ask my Members to reach inside themselves in these days ahead, when we are tested, as we will be tested, to be nonpartisan, to be fair, to be objective.

□ 1015

And I ask my friend on the other side of the aisle to do the same. I will come and I ask our Members to come more than halfway to reach nonpartisan agreements, to make this a fair process. I pray that we can do this.

I am in awe of what we do here. I am so proud to be a Member of this body, because we stand for democracy and the rule of law that no one is above and no one is below. I am in awe of what we achieve here without violence. We must do this right. And I beg the Members, every one of you, to bring out the best in us to do this right. Our children and our grandchildren will know if we did.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is not appropriate for you as the Speaker to address the House from the chair. But I am sure I speak for you and we speak for the leadership on this side of the aisle in concurring with the latter part of the statement by the very distinguished minority leader. And let me assure him that we implore of our Members on this side of the aisle that they will obey the rules of this House, both morally and ethically. And if any of them on this side, as well as that side, leak information that is in violation of this House, I will assure you that I will use every power I have as chairman of the Committee on Rules, and I know you will, as Speaker, to enforce that rule to the highest degree to discipline any Member that would leak any information on this subject out of executive session.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the very distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to very briefly reply to some of the criticisms that have been made of this resolution.

The phrase "fundamental fairness," which of course has a ring to it, has been used and contentions are that we have violated fundamental fairness by not giving the President an advantage by having him get either days ahead of time or hours ahead of time the report. I do not think that is a breach of fundamental fairness.

The time has come for the American people, for the Members of this Congress, to get this report. The President will get copy number three. He will get it as soon as we get it and as soon as the American people get it. He is not caught by surprise. He is the party of the first part. He knows what is in the report better than anybody on the planet.

But to give the spin machine an opportunity to be the first impact on the American people before we, the Members, have seen this report is not bipartisanship, it is foolishness.

We are acting as a grand jury. The grand jury does not take the object of the grand jury and give them all the evidence in the proceedings and say, now you go ahead and make your case. That is not the way a grand jury operates. And we are operating as a grand jury.

Now, I pledge that the very same courtesy that Mr. Nixon had will be extended to this President and his staff,

that he will have his people present during executive sessions that we have. We will, under controlled circumstances, want to hear from him and his submissions exactly, exactly as Mr. Nixon had, no less and no more. I pledge that to you, in the interest of fundamental fairness.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO).

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I did not serve here during the Watergate era. But in the 20 years I have been here, I have been greatly involved in ethics issues, serving on the Committee on Ethics for 8 years and leading on perhaps the most important bill of my career, the Ethics Reform Act of 1989.

I can only reflect on those years as an era in which partisanship increased exponentially, the bitterness that has occurred here, the take-no-prisoners mentality that has infected this place. Within the last week, two of our colleagues in the majority have been dragged into this, unfortunately to their detriment; their private lives spread before the public.

If we are going to succeed in the task that the Founding Fathers have given us, we are going to have to overcome this tendency, this propensity to make partisanship our watchword here; we are going to have to reverse this trend.

We have had the debate between openness and the rights of the individual. It is an age-old one. And we have come down on the side of openness, because I think we believe, frankly, that the process will not work any other way.

We are not where we were with President Nixon 25 years ago. The Washington Post, NBC, are telling us this morning what is in this report. With all due respect to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and great respect is due, it is not the committee we fear. The information is in the public domain, and frankly, the public believes they know everything there is to know about this already.

So I believe we have perhaps a more difficult task than any Congress that ever proceeded us when we take up this issue. In an age of all-news radio, talk shows, and cable news television and the Internet, instant review of information is the norm. History is pronounced with 10 minutes' time, not even 10 years of reflection. So we, as an institution, have got to take up this more difficult task in a different way.

I urge my colleagues to go home this weekend, to take a deep breath, to insulate themselves from the whims of uninformed public opinion, to take seriously their responsibility to listen to both sides—including the President when he can get his side out—as well as the prosecutor, who obviously has an ax to grind.

There are people on both sides of the aisle who have already made up their minds, but I hope there are not many in this case. I reflect on the words of

our good friend and former colleague, Peter Rodino, when he said, "We were, in effect, asked to substitute our judgment for the judgment of millions of people who had voted overwhelmingly in a previous election, and for me it was a really horrible thought to be in that position."

That was, of course, the man who was said to be inadequate to the task of judging President Nixon, who became a national hero as a result of the effective job he did as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. We have got to take the same approach. It is a horrible thought to be in this position. But we have got to show objectivity, to put partisanship and bitterness behind us, and not be affected by the whims of uninformed public opinion.

We must make this judgment here, keeping in mind that our political fate is not as important, individually or as parties, as the way history will judge how we take up that responsibility.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I will vote no on this, not because I do not want it released, but because I believe that the process is unfair from the very outset.

In this morning's paper, before the vote, already the report is out. Now, we saw 2 days ago the pomp and circumstance, a great truck rolled up here that came from the special prosecutor and was handed to the leadership of this House. There are only two places that leak could have come from, the first page of the Washington Post. I mean, give me some other explanation.

Secondly, it is unbelievable that after 6 years of investigation, the President of the United States cannot be given 1 hour by the Committee on Rules last night to review this before it goes public.

Now, we did not do that to any Member of the House in the Ethics Committee. Every Member saw the report before it went public. We did not do that to Mr. Nixon.

My colleagues heard the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) talk about what went on 24 years ago with the President of the United States. This day feels to me like we are taking a step down the road to becoming a political lynch mob. We are in so much hurry to get this done so it can be in the Saturday, Sunday news cycle and have our mint juleps at 5 o'clock, we are going to find a rope, find a tree, and ask a bunch of questions later. It will be too late for fairness.

We can go back and get another rule, a fair rule that would give the opportunity to the President and, secondly, to protect those people that even Mr. Starr says needs to be protected, for heaven's sake. He did not recommend we rush out here and do this at 100 miles an hour.

I think that this House is acting way too fast for any kind of fairness. Everyone here knows the public is going to get this. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article on page 1 of today's Washington Post by Susan Schmidt and Peter Baker.

ALLEGED DECEIT IS OUTLINED

(By Susan Schmidt and Peter Baker)

Independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr's report to the House contends there are 11 possible grounds for impeachment of President Clinton, including allegations that he lied under oath, tampered with witnesses, obstructed justice and abused power to hide his affair with Monica S. Lewinsky, according to sources informed about some of its contents.

The *report*, delivered to the Capitol on Wednesday and scheduled to be made public today, *asserts* that Clinton committed perjury during his January deposition in the Paula Jones lawsuit when he denied having sex with Lewinsky and then again during his grand jury testimony last month when he acknowledged a physical relationship while insisting his previous statements were "legally accurate," the sources said.

The report, they said, recounts in sometimes lurid detail about a dozen sexual encounters with the former White House intern and outlines evidence of deceit by the president, including lying to aides, knowing they would then give false testimony to Starr's grand jury. The retrieval of presidential gifts from Lewinsky to avoid a subpoena and job assistance provided to her by Clinton associates are portrayed as elements of obstruction of justice, according to the sources.

Invoking Watergate-era language, Starr also makes the argument that Clinton abused the power of his high office, in part by waging court fights to impede the grand jury investigation, actions that might not be criminal but could be interpreted by Congress as impeachable offenses.

Details of the first president impeachment report in 24 years began to emerge yesterday while an edgy Washington awaited its formal release. As Clinton continued his contrition campaign by apologizing privately to Senate Democrats and Cabinet officers, a high-level presidential delegation to Capitol Hill failed to gain access to Starr's evidence before it becomes public. Congressional Democrats likewise lost a bid for a 48-hour delay of its release and Republican House leaders scheduled a floor vote for this morning on procedures allowing the report to be posted on the Internet by the afternoon.

The White House was left in the awkward position yesterday of trying to respond to a report it has not examined. Unable to discuss its specific elements, Clinton's personal attorney, David E. Kendall, dismissed the report as a one-sided presentation of events. "The referral by the prosecutors is simply a collection of their contentions, claims and allegations and we look forward for the chance to rebut them," Kendall told reporters.

Others in the Clinton camp were left uncertain how they would fight back once it is released. "People are just bracing for tomorrow and trying to line people up to at least hold [on] until Kendall and the others have a chance to respond," said a White House adviser.

Despite White House complaints of unfairness, Republican congressional leaders made clear they would proceed with their extraordinary plan of releasing a report that they

themselves will not have read before it becomes public.

"The report is made to the Congress of the United States and it is the responsibility of the Congress in as even-handed a basis as possible to make it available to all interested parties . . . at the same time," said House Majority Leader Richard K. Armey (R-Tex.).

Although it remained under lock and key in a House office building, both sides assume the report will dramatically alter the political dynamics of the eight-month Lewinsky saga. Until now, Clinton has survived politically, aided by a strong economy and resilient poll numbers, but the White House fears that unseemly revelations about the president's sex life could prove especially damaging.

Partial descriptions emerging yesterday indicated that the report will include graphic accounts of Clinton's sexual activities with Lewinsky, detailing about a dozen encounters in the private study off the Oval Office as well as instances when they engaged in explicit telephone sex.

On one occasion, according to sources Lewinsky told prosecutors that she and Clinton used a cigar as a prop in a sex act. In another episode likely to capture attention on Capitol Hill, sources said Lewinsky asserted that she participated in a sex act with Clinton while he was on the telephone talking with a member of Congress.

While the sexual aspects seem likely to be the most sensational parts of the impeachment report, they are intended to rebut Clinton's argument that he did not consider their activities to be "sexual relations" as defined by Jones's lawyers during their deposition.

But seemingly wary of having his investigation be seen strictly as a sex case, Starr emphasized the larger issues of alleged criminal behavior and abuse of power, according to the sources. By stressing the use of the office of president, Starr appears to be trying to counter Clinton defenders who argue that the whole investigation arose out of private behavior in a private lawsuit that was eventually thrown out and had nothing to do with his conduct of the nation's business.

Even as Starr was sending the report to Congress on Wednesday, he also notified U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson, who is overseeing the grand jury investigating the Lewinsky matter, and U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright, the Little Rock judge who presided over the Jones sexual harassment case and ultimately dismissed the lawsuit. Wright said in a footnote to a ruling last week that she is considering whether the president should be held in contempt for his misleading testimony in the Jones case.

All told, Starr delivered two 18-box sets of evidence to the House, including raw grand jury transcripts, Linda R. Tripp's secret tapes of conversations with Lewinsky and Lewinsky's Feb. 1 proffer describing what her testimony would be if given immunity from prosecution, a deal that was not arranged until six months later.

Under the plan approved by the House Rules Committee last night, only the main report would be made public today, while the rest is reviewed by the Judiciary Committee between now and Sept. 28 to determine what is appropriate for release and what should remain secret.

The main report to be posted on four congressional Web sites today begins with an introduction that explains the relevance of Clinton's actions to the Jones lawsuit and the seriousness of the allegations. It then moves on to a narrative describing the history of the affair that began as Lewinsky,

then 22 and an unpaid White House intern, became involved with the president in November 1995 during the federal government shutdown, and how the two tried to conceal it when the Jones lawyers sought their testimony. The final section outlines what Starr contends are possible grounds for impeachment.

Lawyers on all sides expect the report to fill in gaps in the story line that has emerged in fragments over the last eight months. Among other things likely to become public, according to sources, are a hard-edged exchange between prosecutors and Clinton during his grand jury appearance as they debated the meaning of sex and the heretofore largely unknown details of testimony by key witness Betty Currie, the president's personal secretary, as the investigation wore on.

The perjury allegations stem from Clinton's description of his relationship with Lewinsky when interviewed under oath on Jan. 17. Clinton denied having an affair with her, denied having "sexual relations" with her as defined by Jones's lawyers and maintained he did not recall ever being alone with her anywhere in the White House.

During the same session, he also allowed his lawyer, Robert S. Bennett, to introduce Lewinsky's own Jan. 7 sworn affidavit denying a sexual relationship and Clinton did not correct Bennett when he told Judge Wright that the statement made clear "there is absolutely no sex of any kind, in any manner, shape or form, with President Clinton."

Sevent months later to the day—after Lewinsky recanted and more than 75 other witnesses appeared before the grand jury—Clinton sat down with Starr and other prosecutors in the White House and changed his story. During this Aug. 17 session transmitted live to the grand jury at the courthouse, Clinton acknowledged having a physical relationship with Lewinsky but said he did not believe the definition of "sexual relations" included their activities, arguing that oral sex was not covered.

After that session and his subsequent televised statement that his previous testimony was "legally accurate" if not fully forthcoming, an upset Lewinsky met for two hours privately with Starr's prosecutors and gave them a deposition describing in detail their various sexual activities, including intimate fondling that would be covered by the Jones definition.

The obstruction-of-justice allegations arise in part from Currie's retrieval of gifts from Lewinsky that had been subpoenaed on the Jones case and from job help provided by Currie, Clinton confidant Vernon E. Jordan Jr. and other presidential associates.

A source familiar with Lewinsky's testimony said yesterday that Clinton gave her a total of 20 gifts, most of them relatively modest items such as a T-shirt and a book of poetry. Concerned about the subpoena, Lewinsky testified that she discussed it with Clinton and that Currie shortly afterward called her and came by her Watergate apartment to pick up the gifts, a sequence of events suggesting the president may have instructed his secretary to get them. But Clinton denied doing so and Currie told the grand jury that she believed Lewinsky called her about the gifts.

A few new details emerged about Clinton's role in Lewinsky's search for a new job beginning last summer. Clinton tried directly to find work for Lewinsky in summer 1997, asking aide Marsha Scott to find a way to move her back from the Pentagon to the White House, long before she was subpoenaed in the Jones case. But Starr presents that in the context of the Jones suit anyway, given that it occurred after the Supreme Court permitted the case to go forward in May 1997

and even as Jones's lawyers were seeking out women sexually linked to the president.

Jordan, a prominent Washington lawyer who arranged job interviews in New York for Lewinsky at Currie's request, is described in the report as an unwitting participant essentially used by Clinton in his larger effort to placate Lewinsky and thereby influence her Jones case testimony.

The president's defenders have rejected any illegal purpose in connection with the gifts or the jobs, saying there was no evidence of a direct link to Lewinsky's testimony and accusing Starr of twisting innocent actions involving two people who were close.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the report, however, may be Starr's claim that Clinton abused his office. The argument harkens back to the articles of impeachment drafted against President Richard M. Nixon, who was accused of misusing his power to cover up the Watergate burglary, among other things.

Under this interpretation, Clinton exploited the authority and resources of the White House by asserting what Starr considered frivolous claims of legal privilege to prevent his aides from appearing before the grand jury and by allowing the Secret Service to mount its own doomed court fight to keep its officers from testifying.

But Clinton advisers have ridiculed the contention, saying Starr essentially is trying to criminalize the president's attempts to assert his rights in the course of an investigation. While the administration lost battles over attorney-client and executive privileges, Judge Johnson determined that they were properly asserted even though prosecutors' need for evidence overcame the need for confidentiality.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOLOMON. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I will be very brief.

There are two concepts that are at play here: fundamental fairness and public relations. Fundamental fairness means they get an opportunity to answer the charges, they get a decent full opportunity to answer the charges. Public relations means they get a jump on the other side and they get the spin machine going.

They want a public relations advantage, and we are promising them fundamental fairness. The President and his people will have every opportunity to answer every charge, if there are any charges that require answering, in abundance. That is fundamental fairness.

We are unwilling to give them a public relations advantage any greater than the one they have had for the past many months, when Mr. Starr could not talk, whereas everyone identifying themselves with the White House could talk in abundance.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would just like to point out again in my testimony that I said that when this communication arrived at the Capitol the Speaker immediately directed the material to be secured by the Sergeant at Arms and no

Member or staff has seen any part of this.

I do not think it behooves any Member to come to the floor, come to the well, and accuse someone of leaking information. He knows, we all know, that it is hearsay and that no one has seen one word, one page, of any of these documents.

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, could I say to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), whom I plan to work as closely with for the next several months as I can, more closely than we have worked throughout our careers, you have stated twice, sir, that the President of the United States already knows what is in the report. I reject that. And I am trying not to resent it. Because, if he does, he has violated the law in that respect.

You have also said that fundamental fairness should be distinguished from public relations spin. Well, we were not spinning anything when the ethics rule got a week for the Speaker of the House to respond. We were not spinning anything on the committee that I recall you being a member of, when President Reagan got ample time to respond.

So I do not think we should confuse fundamental fairness and public relations spin when this President is requesting the very same thing.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

□ 1030

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois rose and said correctly that each of us in this body took a solemn oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. A part of that Constitution gives us the awesome responsibility of judging the conduct of public officers and holding them accountable if they do not meet their constitutional responsibilities in carrying out their duties of office.

This proceeding, as we go forth from this day, will be about that responsibility. But today's proceedings are not about the President of the United States, but about the fairness that this House is going to accord in the carrying out of its responsibilities.

Our citizens expect fairness. America's constitutional system is almost unique in its adherence to due process, to giving citizens their right to be heard. We should do no less for those whose conduct we have the responsibility to oversee.

This week, I tell my friends, is not a harbinger of fairness to come. Without notice, quickly, and to some, surprisingly, with unique timing, theatrically, obviously designed for television exposure, a report was delivered to this House, creating, I suggest to you, more of a circus atmosphere than a judicial, considered atmosphere.

We have now failed to provide one of the parties with notice as to what was going to proceed. I tell my friend from Illinois, whose intellect and integrity I have no question of, that if we are in fact acting as a grand jury, we would not release information, as no grand jury does. We in fact would review that information, consider its import, and then, and only then, report our findings.

That is not to be the case, for we will release this document. Many believe that we ought to release it so at least it is seen in whole, not in part, through leaks, which surely would happen.

Mr. Speaker, you have called for non-partisanship, but all of us know that this surely is one of the most partisan Congresses in history. We need more, my friends, than rhetorical recognition of fairness. We must have substantive adherence and the realization of fairness. Let us do our responsibility, as the citizens expect us to do that responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois rose and said correctly that each of us in this body took a solemn oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. A part of that Constitution gives us the awesome responsibility of judging the conduct of public officers and holding them accountable if they do not meet their constitutional responsibilities in carrying out their duties of office.

From this day forward, this proceeding will depend upon that responsibility. However, today's proceedings do not relate to the President of the United States, rather, they relate to the fairness that this House is going to accord in the execution of its responsibilities.

Our citizens expect fairness. America's constitutional system is almost unique in its adherence to due process, as it grants citizens their right to be heard. We should do no less for those whose conduct we have the responsibility to oversee.

Unfortunately, this week is not a harbinger of fairness to come. Surprisingly for some, theatrically for most, a report was delivered to this House. Its unique arrival created more of a circus atmosphere than one of judicious consideration.

We have already failed to inform one of the parties involved in this matter with proper notice as to what is yet to come. I tell my friend from Illinois, whose intellect and integrity I do not question, that we were in fact to act as a grand jury, then we would not release information. No grand jury does. We would, in fact, review the information, consider its import, and then, and only then, report our findings.

That will not be the case here. We will release this report. Many believe we ought to release it so at least it is seen in whole, not in part as a result of leaks, which surely would happen.

Mr. Speaker, you have called for non-partisanship. Yet all of us know that this surely is one of the most partisan Congresses in history. We need more than rhetorical recognition of fairness. We must have the substantive realization of fairness. Let us execute our responsibility as the American citizens expect and as we are solemnly pledged to do.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I always listen carefully to the gentleman from Maryland, and

when he says this is the most partisan Congress ever to convene, I would have to differ with him. It may be the most philosophical. But when you look at the great accomplishments of the Contract with America, the welfare reform, those measures passed this House with an overwhelmingly majority vote from both political parties. Thank you for being so nonpartisan when it really counts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on House Oversight, to clarify how we are going to be open and fair today.

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the innuendo, I believe it is completely factual to say that no Member of the House of Representatives has seen the documents. As a matter of fact, we are not going to open them until the House votes on this resolution.

My assumption, having heard the minority leader and others speak, is that the resolution will pass. When the resolution passes, the box that contains the overview will be opened. The two original copies will then be copied, and those two original copies will be presented to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary and the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary. They will be first to receive the copies.

Only after they have received the copies will it then become available, when it is electronically possible, on the web sites listed here. It is the House web site, the Library of Congress web site, the Government Printing Office web site and the Committee on the Judiciary through the House web site.

In addition to that, I would urge my colleagues to look for a "Dear Colleague" provided to them by the Clerk of the House, which provides an intranet capability for Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, let me also say that a request for an electronic version of the report was requested yesterday in a letter signed by the general counsel to the Office of the Speaker and the counsel of the Democratic Leader, and I include this letter for the record.

The letter referred to is as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 1998.

Mr. Robert J. Bittman
Deputy Independent Counsel, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BITTMAN: As you know, the Independent Counsel transmitted material to the House of Representatives on September 9, 1998, pursuant to section 595(c) of title 28, United States Code, involving a determination in accordance with his responsibilities under chapter 40 of title 28, United States Code.

We anticipate that the House will consider a resolution authorizing the printing and public dissemination of the portion of such material consisting of approximately 445 pages comprising an introduction, a narrative, and a statement of grounds. In order

to facilitate the expeditious, electronic dissemination of such material, we hereby request on behalf of the Speaker and Minority Leader that copies of such material be provided to the Clerk of the House in a suitable electronic format (i.e., computer diskette, CD-ROM, etc.).

We further request that such electronic copies be made available to the Clerk within the timeframe necessary to facilitate electronic dissemination by the Clerk immediately after the House approves the anticipated resolution.

Sincerely,

DANIEL F.C. CROWLEY,
General Counsel, Office of the Speaker.

BERNARD RAIMO,
Counsel, Office of the Democratic Leader.

I would also like to indicate that when the President's rebuttal through his private attorney or any other transmittal is made to the Committee on House Oversight, we will, as soon as possible, and if it is given to us in electronic form, virtually immediately post on all of these web sites on the same page the President's rebuttal.

Not only will it be fundamental fairness, but it will be an ability for those who wish to access this site to take a look at the Independent Counsel's report and then, when the President or his attorney's report is made available to us in electronic form, it will be made available as well.

I hope Members will appreciate and in fact all Americans appreciate that this will be the most widely disseminated, most rapidly available public document in the history of the United States.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, for seven of the eleven years that I have served in Congress, I have served on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct or the ethics task force. It is from that perspective that I have several questions to ask.

If indeed what we are talking about here today is the process under which the Starr report will be released, why then have the airwaves been filled with details of the Starr report for the last 36 hours? It has supposedly been under lock and key here. One can only assume the leaks are coming from the Independent Counsel's office.

My second question is to you, Mr. Speaker. Why would you not afford the President of the United States the same opportunity you were given by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of having almost a week's advance notice to review the charges against you, so that you could have your response be part of the report? Let me just say, the good news about the leaks is that this four-year investigation apparently vindicates President Clinton in the conduct of his public life, because we are only left with this personal stuff.

My third question relates to our Founding Fathers. I believe the last

question is what would our Founding Fathers think of this course we are embarking on today? I think they would say it was not for the investigation of a President's personal life that we risked our lives, our liberty and our sacred honor. I know they would not want us to rush to judgment.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just answer the last question of my good friend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) in saying there are only two bodies who have any idea what is in that report. One is the Independent Counsel's office, and the other is the White House. If there are leaks, I would assume it was one of those.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, is the gentleman contending that the details that the news media is putting out there about the Starr allegations, and I remind the gentleman that the Starr report is a list of allegations, it is not a statement of fact, and they will be unanalyzed, no witnesses cross-examined and the rest, is the Chairman of the Committee on Rules alleging that the White House is leaking the information that is in the Starr report, which the Speaker has not allowed the President any advance viewing of?

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am saying it is impossible for any Member of Congress to have any idea what is in that report.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield two minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan, Ms. KILPATRICK.

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to preserve the sanctity of this institution, to preserve the sanctity of the Constitution, and for the rights of all American people, yes, including the President of the United States.

The resolution before us is unfair. Unfortunately, we give time for all criminals, and the President is not a criminal, has not been convicted, he has committed his error and I do not condone it. He was wrong. It is for this body, those 435 of us elected by the people of these United States, to determine whether we shall preserve the Constitution and the rights of all of its people.

It has been mentioned that we are now sitting as a grand jury, and, as my friend from Maryland said, no grand jury would leak any information publicly on any case, and we know that as we have watched our government work, and it has been a good government.

Why do we now sacrifice our government, when our President of these United States, elected by his people,

who has done a good job for its people, and not allow him to view the report, as we release the report on the Internet? The rule does not allow that he, the President of these United States, would see that report. And I beg to differ with the Chair of the Committee on Rules, the White House has not seen this report. They have asked us to give them the opportunity, merely 24 hours, 48 hours, that they can see it, and, yes, release it to all the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a shame. We have done it before. We, the Members of this Congress, have ten days if we are charged before the public is released or the chamber is released the findings. I think it is despicable. We must not relegate our responsibility and our duty. Let us preserve the Constitution. Let us vote down this rule.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield three minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly disappointed that this process will begin with a blatant disregard of fairness and bipartisanship. The information in this report has to be made public, and that is why I will vote for this resolution, but it violates fundamental fairness in two respects: First of all, in the refusal on the part of the majority to give the President even one hour of prior notice so that they can intelligently respond.

Mr. Speaker, as has been pointed out on numerous occasions, you yourself were given five days to respond when your matter was before the House. Why is this President not entitled to the same act of grace and fairness that you were provided with?

Secondly, this motion walks away from the agreement reached between the leaders of both parties that the backup material would be reviewed by the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the ranking Democrat before it was released in order to protect third parties, as has been noted by Mr. Starr. This proposal walks away from that agreement and makes that information available to the entire membership of the committee. That increases the likelihood of selective partisan leaks by some of the most zealously partisan members of that committee.

Mr. Speaker, I was here during Watergate. I hated it, because it bittered up the politics of the entire country, not just toward Republicans, but toward all politicians, and we are still suffering from that. But the reason in the end that the Congressional process worked is because it was seen by the minority, then the Republicans, as being fundamentally fair to them procedurally and substantively, and that is why many of the Republicans joined in the final verdict in that process. This action does not meet that standard.

I urge the majority not to begin this process by taking unilateral actions

before it begins. Our respect for our responsibility, our reverence for this institution, should have produced a fundamentally more fair beginning than this.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, early on you and myself and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and especially the minority leader, had spoken about trying to stick to the decorum of the House. We all know it is not under House Rule XIV proper to discuss the ethics conduct of Members. I would hope that that would not continue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield three minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), a former member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and a member of the Committee on Rules.

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1045

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) and the distinguished chairman, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as we see from the remarks today, nobody is particularly happy to find themselves here under these circumstances, but we are taking our job seriously and doing our constitutional duty.

Today, we are not going to make a judgment on the merits of the independent counsel's report. Everybody needs to understand that. We all do here. Instead, we are charged with providing a procedure for release of that report that is workable, that is fair, and most importantly, that fulfills our obligation to the people we work for, the people of the United States of America, our constituents.

This resolution contains the requisite flexibility to achieve these goals, I think, while also providing the American people with the same information, and at the same time, as Members of Congress and the President. This is truly equal treatment. No one is above the law.

I do want to stress that this comes after much thoughtful deliberation, with no rush to judgment here. My friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH), who sits on the other side of the aisle from me, and many other Members on both sides of the aisle, would have liked us to make everything available and requested to make it available immediately, including the sensitive grand jury material. Well, we did not do that on the Committee on Rules.

Still, other Members wanted nothing released. Well, we did not do that, either. I believe it is important that we err on the side of providing the American people with more rather than less, empowering them to reach their own conclusions as this goes along. In doing so, we truly reflect the best strengths of our representative democracy, I

think, as envisioned by our Founding Fathers.

Government in the sunshine does work, as those of us who hold elective office in the State of Florida know, where we do have the "sunshine law."

Americans across the Nation are, in fact, calling for information about this matter, and this resolution will provide that information, I think, in an appropriate way.

Some comment has been made about the process in the Ethics Committee. As a former member and as a chairman of the task force of that committee, I would point out that the rules of the Ethics Committee do not necessarily fit the situation at hand. It says, in fact, that if there is going to be a report issued on a Member, the respondent has admitted to the charges and waives rights for trial proceedings, you have a very different circumstance than the type of report material we find we have from the independent counsel today.

We also point out that a respondent has a right to see a draft 10 days before a subcommittee is to vote, but not 10 days before being made public. Those are very important differences, and I think they have been somewhat misunderstood in the presentations.

As for the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), I agree totally with him. Leaks do frustrate the process, as the gentleman from Washington very well knows, and I seriously hope that there are no leaks; and I seriously hope, if there are any leaks, that this time the Ethics Committee can do its job fairly to deal with such leaks.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the proposed rule we are considering. I am here as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and a member of a coalition of Members of the House concerned about fairness in this process.

As policymakers, we find ourselves in the difficult position of having to formulate rules and procedures to receive a report from the Office of the Independent Counsel without statutory laws or rules that dictate procedure for carrying out this special work. It is up to the Members of this House to construct and implement a fair process.

The Congressional Black Caucus has made the decision to become the fairness cop. We have assigned to ourselves the role of being the best advocates we can for ensuring that this process recognizes the rights of everyone involved, as we go through the process.

I would say to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), Americans want fairness, fundamental fairness. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus understand this perhaps better than most. Our struggle for fairness, justice and equality, is a responsibility that we have accepted for the rest of our lives.

This resolution reported out of the Committee on Rules is not fair. It is

one-sided. It is partisan. The Republican chair of that committee, the Speaker of the House, and other Republicans are saying, oh, we want to be bipartisan, we want a bipartisan operation, we want to cooperate with the Democrats.

In the words of my grandmother, "I cannot hear what you say. I am watching what you do."

You rolled over us yesterday, and you are rolling over us today. We say without qualification, the President of the United States of America deserves the right to review, prior to its release, a copy of the report written by the independent counsel, who has spent 4½ years investigating the President, and the last 8 months devoted to the Monica Lewinsky matter.

Our position is not one of unquestioned support for this President. We have, and I have, disagreed with him on many occasions. In a court of law, it is a basic right for a defendant to know what they have been accused of and to be given the opportunity for preparation and response.

To release this report is unconscionable. Do what you did for the Speaker, for President Nixon and Oliver North. Give the President 1 hour, 2 minutes, 1 minute, but be fair.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say a couple of words about fairness and cooperation.

It is without question, from the calls that we have all had, in the communications with each other, that a small minority of Members would like to withhold all of the information. Likewise, it is true that a very small minority of this body would like to make all of the information available. But we will see, by the final vote on this resolution, fairness today, in that an overwhelming, vast majority believes that we should follow through with the resolution; we should make immediate publication of the 445 pages, and then use the good wisdom of the Committee on the Judiciary to go through the remainder. I think that speaks to cooperation and fairness.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

(Mr. SENSENBRENNER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, let us talk about fairness to the American taxpayer that paid for the independent counsel's investigation. The American public, to be fair to them, ought to be able to see what the independent counsel has sent to Congress, pursuant to the independent counsel statute, free from spin doctors, free from talking heads, free from media hype. Let them see it in the form that it was sent by the independent counsel. I would point out that nobody is going to have a 1-minute advantage and a heads-up on this, because this will be released simultaneously to the American public, to the

Congress, and to the President of the United States.

Now, the 35 of us who are members of the Committee on the Judiciary have an awesome constitutional responsibility in discharging our duties and evaluating this evidence to see whether or not the President has committed an impeachable offense or not. I am not asking for a leg-up to start working on this awesome responsibility. I am asking for fairness.

I am asking for an ability to be able to reach my own conclusions, free from the advice of people on the outside who have got axes to grind, and that is why I think that this resolution is fundamentally fair, because it strikes a balance between the openness that the American public expects this proceeding to be done, as well as the request that Independent Counsel Starr has made to protect certain individuals from undue conclusions, who are not involved in this process at all.

This report contains the most important information concerning a President that the American people will ever have to consider, and the American people ought to be put it into this equation so that they can see what the independent counsel has found and they can judge for themselves. It is imperative that the Congress conduct the public's business in as open a manner as possible.

The process laid out by the Committee on Rules is eminently fair. Congress, the citizens of this country, and President Clinton will begin their review process of Independent Counsel Starr's report at the same time. With the public dissemination of this material, the American people and Members of Congress can come to their individual conclusions regarding Mr. Starr's report.

The resolution charges the Committee on the Judiciary with the awesome responsibility of reviewing the full referral by Mr. Starr to determine if there are sufficient grounds to recommend to the House that an impeachment inquiry be commenced. We are committed to conducting an impartial and independent review of the independent counsel's investigation and his conclusions, and will reach our own conclusions based upon that review, and it will be done in a nonpartisan manner.

After evaluating Mr. Starr's evidence, the Committee on the Judiciary has two choices. Either it will find that there is no substantial evidence of impeachable activity by the President or it will recommend commencing a formal impeachment inquiry. This will be done not on a partisan basis, but on the evidence and on the law.

I support the resolution.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), a former district attorney for 21 years in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, by 3 o'clock today, millions of people

around the world will be reading the Starr report, and it will be persuasive, for any prosecutor has the ability to shape the evidence presented to a grand jury. We can claim that these are only allegations, that nothing has been proven, but the reality is by tonight, minds will be made up and judgments will be rendered, and any presumption of innocence will be overwhelmed.

I agree that the report should be released. That is not the issue. The question is when and how.

After so many months, what possible harm could come from allowing counsel for the President to review the report for a day or 2 so that both sides of the story can be told at the same time? It is only fair.

This House went even further to ensure fairness 24 years ago. During 7 weeks of closed-door hearings, President Nixon's lawyers were even allowed to cross-examine witnesses before anything was made public. We should respect that precedent, and it is unfortunate that we have not, for if the American people are to accept our ultimate conclusion, they must have confidence in the fairness of the process. That confidence, far more than the fate of a President, is what is at stake here.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

(Mr. BUYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to state that obedience to criminal law and fairness does not recognize special treatment as being requested.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes and 10 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding me this time.

Into this House come ordinary men and women, and we are often asked to do extraordinary things. We are also asked to put aside politics and the desire for self-indulgence. I hope over these weeks we will refer more often to our Bibles and the Constitution, the Bibles for redemption and fairness and the Constitution for the understanding of freedom and justice.

For the opening of the Constitution said, "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty."

□ 1100

No, the President is not above the law, the institution of the presidency is not above the law, but neither is either below the law. There is a presumption of innocence until proven guilty for all of us.

This House, during this somber process, must not be driven by politics. The delivery of 445 pages by the drama of

trucks coming onto these grounds, without the opportunity of the respondent, which could be any American in this Nation, to review such materials to provide a simultaneous response, is a political act, it is not justice.

For any of our Members to suggest that the President already knows what a prosecutor, Ken Starr, has done for 4 years with \$40 million in a document that includes 140 pages of charges, is at best being political. The Constitution was not written on the Internet, and this process should not be governed by the needs of those who travel the cyberspace, it should be governed by fundamental fairness.

In fact, in this House the Speaker himself, who presides today, was given at least 10 days to look at the allegations and charges against him. I ask the Speaker, can we be any less fair? Do we not remember what happened to the innocent Richard Jewell in the Atlanta bombings? This is what could happen if we do not allow the President to review as any American the charges brought against him and, as well, to keep the many many other documents unexposed until the evidentiary hearings are completed.

This process, Mr. Speaker, is one that will not preserve what the American people have created; that is, a perfect union with justice. This process could expose and hurt innocent people. This process will not preserve this Nation, this Constitution, or the people. We need fairness, Mr. Speaker. Let us begin today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here we are. Alexander Hamilton probably knew that someday we would be here at this point.

He said in the Federalist Papers that, the biggest fear in undergoing an impeachment proceeding would be that the "comparative differences of the party would override the real ideals of innocence and guilt."

It is important to acknowledge the sobering and somber tasks we are about to undertake. Alexander Bickel wrote in 1973, "In the presidency is embodied the continuity and indestructibility of the State. It is not possible for the government to function without a president, and the Constitution contemplates and provides for uninterrupted continuity in office." Fundamental fairness then is pivotal in any constitutional process seeking to remove the president.

During this time many issues will have to be resolved. One of them is whether or not the President should be allowed to formulate a response over the next 48 hours before the Starr report is released to the public. The answer of course should be yes. Unfortunately, the rules Committee decided not to allow the President to review the report before it was released to the American public. When the Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution, there was no Internet, no Information Superhighway. Even though Mr. Speaker the Congress is a political body, this process should not and can not be politicized.

The independent counsel's report while I am sure is presented with a high respect for the seriousness of this issue, it is still only one side of the story. The American public should

have both sides of the story at once. Otherwise, the media will only have Starr's version to discuss for the next several days.

The Watergate impeachment inquiry followed the same precedent. The Judiciary Committee received evidence in closed-door hearings for seven weeks with the President's lawyer in the same room. This evidence included the material reported by the Watergate grand jury. The materials received by the Committee were not released to the public until the conclusion of the seven-week evidentiary presentation. By then, the White House had full knowledge of the material being considered by the Committee. Also in Watergate, subpoenas were issued jointly by the chairman and ranking member, and if either declined to act, by the other acting alone, he could refer the matter to the full committee for a vote. Most importantly, it was required that the President's lawyer be provided with copies of all materials presented to the committee, invited to attend presentations of evidence, and to submit additional suggestions for witnesses to be interviewed or materials to be reviewed, and to respond to evidentiary presentations. The rules further provided that the President and his counsel "shall be invited to attend all hearings, including any held in executive session." Twenty-four hours advance notice was required, and both the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member were granted access "at all times" to committee materials.

I don't think the House should have denied President Clinton the same right our members receive when charges are filed against them by the House Ethics Committee. For example, Speaker GINGRICH was permitted to review the charges filed by the Committee before it issued its public report. The President should be afforded the same right.

Also, the Ethics rules require that the subject of any investigation to alleged violations will have "not less than 10 calendar days before a scheduled vote" to review the alleged violations. A copy of "the statement of alleged violations, together with all evidence, is also provided to the subject of any House Ethics violations." The President should not receive any less due process than any Member of Congress.

We want to do this in a fair and nonpartisan manner. It is true that no one is above the law, not even the President of the United States. However, he should not be below the law. This is not just President Clinton, but this is the institution of the Presidency. We must treat this process fairly and justly. Integrity must remain in the process. This is not a witch hunt, and an election by the American people should not be nullified without objective deliberation. It is unfortunate that the President will not be given a chance to review this report before the Press will on the Internet. Let's put fairness back in the process.

The American people understand the creation of this perfect union, they understand justice—and we must show that we will not let politics override justice and the blessings of liberty. The institution of the Presidency, preservation of the rule of law, the survival of this nation depends on this.

Alexander Hamilton in 1775 said the sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for, among old parchments, or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of

the divinity itself, and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power.

This process needs to be fair, it is a somber task. I fear political glee over one man's pending doom drives this House now to vote to deny the basic constitutional protections to the accused in a timely manner, in order that an informed response to the charges be made. I fear pre-judgment of the issues because this House fears for its survival. I however will not give up on fundamental fairness.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, time is so precious, I would just hope that the timekeeper would charge us for the time we are on our feet.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), a member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, the founders of this extraordinary constitutional republic created a system of government that is as resilient as it is intent upon being protective of the freedoms of the American people. I think we in this moment in history are seeing another manifestation of that resiliency and of that fundamental greatness of the system that was created by our Founding Fathers.

I have to respectfully but emphatically reject the accusation that we have heard this morning of unfairness that has been hurled at the Committee on Rules. The Committee on Rules has bent over backwards in satisfaction of the guidance that the Speaker and the minority leader and the distinguished member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the ranking member gave us to be precisely fair.

How ironic it is that it was from the other side of the aisle that the most emphatic and passionate requests were made to us last night to instantaneously make public everything in those many boxes that have been received and are under lock and key at this moment, and thus could not have been leaked and have not been leaked by this House. The other side of the aisle most emphatically asked that everything be made public today. There were other requests from both sides of the aisle that nothing be made public.

We have bent over backwards to be fair, and we have created a system, a rule that is fair, that protects the right of the American people to learn the facts, and the right of due and deliberative process for the President and all other citizens who may be affected by these proceedings that in effect we are authorizing today by this rule and by the rule next week that we will be bringing to the floor.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want the allegations in the report by Mr. Starr to be made public, but the way that that would be done in this resolution is wrong. The burden of that wrong will haunt this process throughout.

This process is controlled by the leadership of this House. It is important that the outcome, which could be a grave and heavy outcome, be seen as completely and entirely fair and objective by the people of this country. This process is being begun in a way that belies all of that. It is wrong. It is unfair. There is a pretense to fairness, merely the suits and trappings of fairness and objectivity, but not the real meat of fairness and objectivity.

I am convinced that we are embarking on this process in the wrong way. This resolution is wrong, and therefore, I must vote in accordance with that conviction.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I believe it was Charles Dickens who, in his novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, said, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." That is a fairly accurate assessment of where we are right now here in this Chamber.

Yes, I took the oath of office to defend our Constitution, and I will defend the rule of law and not the rule of man, which leads to tyranny. Later today we will be voting on the referral and release of the Starr report. As we proceed, I think all of us who are here will keep in mind how important it is to remain objective, and above all, fair.

The decisions we will make will have a far-reaching and long-lasting impact on our country and on every American, young and old.

Yes, let us release the report, but let us give our President the 2 days that he may be able to respond as requested. Let us be fair. There is nobody in this Chamber whom I believe can tell me that our President is not 100 percent committed to doing the best job he can for our Nation. His record on the job as President has proven that.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), a distinguished member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, many have compared President Clinton's problems with Watergate. There are similarities as well as distinctions.

A probable similarity is this: If President Nixon and President Clinton had offered sincere apologies in timely fashions, their respective problems would likely have been resolved. If, when initially confronted, they had responded truthfully in a manner worthy of their high office, the severity of their problems likely would have diminished: "American people, I made a mistake. I disappointed you. I let you down. I ask your forgiveness."

If such requests had been timely extended, forgiveness would likely have been forthcoming, because Americans by nature are a forgiving people. I am applying hindsight, Mr. Speaker, which

is nearly always 20/20. But the time for forgiveness may have passed, and now this demanding task of resolving the matter is upon this, the people's House.

The success of our Constitution is measured with the courage of those in whom it vests powers to carry them out in a just and appropriate manner. This resolution will assure that the Committee on the Judiciary is able to ascertain what we need to do to accomplish that task.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, there are few instances in this Chamber where bipartisanship is required. There are almost no instances where fairness is required. Bipartisanship is not even required when we are declaring war. As we saw in the way the Gulf War was handled, there were divisions among us, and yet we came together.

But Mr. Speaker, bipartisanship and fairness are necessary in a procedure that could overturn a democratic election. We are failing the joint test of bipartisanship and fairness this morning on the easiest of the issues of this proceeding, access to an accusatory document by the accused.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent my life in the law arguing matters of due process, down to including first amendment matters, where I was defending the rights of racists to vindicate the right of free speech. I can say to the Members that I believe history will ask, what would have been lost if the President had been given a day or two to inspect documents that accused him? Ten days for Members accused, no day for the President of the United States when he is accused.

We could have regulated how the document would be inspected. We could have sequestered those who would inspect it. There are any number of conditions, but the notion of no inspection does violate fundamental fairness.

Impeachment is a matter of a process that we make up as we go along. Particularly because this Chamber is not controlled by the President's party, they should be at pains to bend over backwards on each and every element of fairness. They have failed to do so in this proceeding.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the outstanding Member from Atlanta, Georgia (Mr. LINDER), a member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, this is a terrible thing for the Nation to have to go through, and not one of us should feel anything but sadness and pain. But Congress has a solemn responsibility to undertake this review of the report of the independent counsel.

As the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary stated earlier today, we took an oath on our first day in this

Chamber, an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. It is that Constitution that places this responsibility upon us. This is a sad day. When I came to Congress I would have never believed we would have to consider such a resolution during my service here. It is a solemn responsibility.

But we may not cede our oversight responsibility to watch over the government. Every Member of the House, in doing so, would be abdicating one of the most important obligations charged us by our Founding Fathers.

Ronald Reagan stated on the 250th anniversary of the birth of President George Washington that without President Washington stepping forward, our Nation might have failed. He said that George Washington, and I quote, "was a man of deep faith who believed the pillars of society were religion, morality, and bonds of brotherhood between citizens. He personified a people who knew it was not enough to depend on their own courage and goodness. They must also seek help from God, their father and preserver."

As we begin this process, we must put our trust in the courage and judgment of this sober body. We must put our faith in God to lead us during this very difficult time. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution. I asked myself three questions: Is the public's right to know paramount to the right of the accused to a fair hearing? My answer to that is no. That has always been the answer of our country.

Is there any precedent for what we are doing? My answer to that is no. We gave the defendant McVeigh and the defendant who shot police officers in this Chamber more due process than we are extending to the President of the United States. We fight to keep from having pretrial publicity and information out there, to assure fair trials, and we give it up today when we release this report.

Now, having dug ourselves this hole, can we provide a fair determination and fulfill our constitutional responsibility, with the public and the press second-guessing every single step and every single evaluation? It is like having the press and the public standing and saying to every single juror, "We have already made up our mind. Now you go provide a fair trial and a fair process."

□ 1115

On all three counts we have failed the system.

This is a sad day from two perspectives. It is a sad day that we are here in the first place, but it is an even sadder day for what we are doing to the Constitution and to our obligations under that Constitution.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER).

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I came here to this House at the same time as the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. I heard the questions raised so far on this proceeding and I watched the Rules Committee last night. Just to show how dull things were on television, I watched the Committee on Rules on television last night.

Mr. Speaker, to me, I get the feeling that this is, "Give him a fair trial and then hang him." Now, what is the difference in the courtesy that we extended Richard Nixon and our distinguished Speaker, and that extended to the President of the United States? After all, he supposedly speaks for all of us. Fifty percent of the people did not vote for Republicans or Democrats. They were split up. Fifty percent of the people said, we do not want to vote for anybody.

This is, in my view, an unfair rule. I hope that I would never have to come to this body for defense of my civil rights and to get fairness from the Committee on the Judiciary if this rule goes into effect. And there are already members of this committee that have made up their minds that Clinton has to go.

Mr. Speaker, to me, this is a facade. It is absolutely ridiculous. It is a travesty. And right now I am going to vote against the rule, and I would just tell all Members of this House, if they vote against this rule, the press releases are already out that they are going to defend the President and stand with him and the message will go to their districts that they do not want the truth to be seen.

This is political, and I regret it; and it is one of the reasons that I am going to be so glad to be out of here.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to be out of here too, but I am not going to be glad about it. It is a great institution, and I am certainly going to miss it.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but listen to the last two speakers from North Carolina, and others. I wish they had stayed on the floor earlier on when the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader, was here imploring the Members to have proper decorum and to cooperate in a bipartisan and nonpartisan basis.

Mr. Speaker, let me refer to the law. Section 595(c).

Mr. CONYERS. Regular order. Mr. Speaker, is the gentleman on his own time?

The SPEAKER. The time is counted around the gentleman from New York.

Mr. HEFNER. Will the gentleman yield? He mentioned my name.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I did not mention the gentleman's name.

Mr. HEFNER. I am from North Carolina.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOLOMON. No, I will not yield.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER. A point of Personal privilege is not in order at this time. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) controls the floor.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am going to say it again. Some complain about the President not being given prior notice; I think the arguments are unfounded. The Democrats controlled this place in 1978 when this initial law was put into place. Nothing in the law, and it is only one paragraph here, speaks to giving anyone notice when a report is given to this Congress.

This law has been reauthorized three times, the latest in 1994 when this House was again controlled by Democrats. Nothing was in it. Let me read it to my colleagues.

“Schedule C: Information relating to impeachment. An independent counsel shall advise the House of Representatives of any substantial and credible information which such independent counsel receives.” It goes on to say that they may constitute grounds for an impeachment.

Mr. Speaker, that is the law. We should have written it in the last five times. We did not for reasons.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Chairman SOLOMON) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule. The American people paid for this report. They have a right to see it immediately without any spin.

With regard to this rule on the Starr report, we need to make the report public immediately for these reasons:

1. Immediate release on the internet will prevent the selective leak of information both favorable and unfavorable to the President.

2. The American people, as taxpayers, have a right to see the report, complete and unedited by the media or other sources. This method provides access to the report to everyone at the same time. They paid for this report. Let us give it to them.

3. Internet release is the least partisan method of releasing the information. No one has any advantage in spinning the information for their own purposes.

4. The report is now property of the House of Representatives, as the Constitutionally authorized body to determine whether impeachment is warranted. If anyone should be able to review the material, it should be the House, and then the President, not the reverse.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS).

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first stage of what will be an incredibly difficult and

delicate challenge to this body. I am saddened by the tone of antagonism and mistrust that is already starting to creep into the proceedings.

Perhaps the flaws in this resolution do not equal a violation of fundamental fairness. Due process, of course, is different from the fairness inherent in due courtesy and due comity. But let me ask my colleagues, would there have been any real cost to a better protection of the rights of innocent persons to their privacy? I think not.

Would there have been any real cost to a fuller courtesy to the President of the United States, regardless of statutory or precedential provisions? I think not.

Would there have been any real cost to greater comity to the requests of the minority in order to assure a fuller sense of nonpartisanship in this matter? I think not.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), a member of the committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a critical time in our country's history, and we must proceed with the utmost care in fulfilling our constitutional responsibility, wherever it might take us.

It is altogether fitting that the independent counsel's report be made available to the American people, Members of Congress, and the President simultaneously. From the outset, this process must be open and fair to all, with advantage to none.

As we go forward, we do so not as partisans, but as fact-finders and truth-seekers. And we go forward together, the American people and their representatives in Congress, united in our love of country and in our desire to seek a wise and just result.

There is a passage in the scriptures where King Solomon says, “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart * * *.” That is what is needed during this time of our national tribulation.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) the chairman of the Committee on Rules, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, there is a sign that hung over my wall when I served as U.S. Attorney, and I brought it with me to Washington and it now hangs in my office here. It is a quote by Theodore Roosevelt, a former President. “No man is above the law, no man is below the law, nor do we seek any man's permission when we seek to make him uphold the law.”

That is very applicable here today as we discuss the law. I would remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who now wail so loudly in favor of special dispensation for the President, what law it is that we are operating under here and what law we are not operating under here.

Mr. Speaker, we are operating here under the independent counsel statute, which provides very specifically for the treatment of different reports by an independent counsel. We are not proceeding here under the ethics rules. We are not proceeding here under the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

The independent counsel statute, which was referred to just recently by the chairman of the Committee on Rules and which the minority, when they were in the majority, had every opportunity just 5 years ago to amend and they did not, provides very simply, very unequivocally, very clearly that the independent counsel report that we are talking about here, which is not a report to the court, is not a periodic report to the Congress; it is a report directly and solely to the Congress and not to any other party for purposes of the Congress to consider what the independent counsel believes is impeachable evidence, evidence of impeachable offenses.

If, in fact, the minority, which was then in the majority just a few years ago, was so concerned about the principle involved here, aside from the personalities that now prevail, if they were so concerned about providing special dispensation for the President to have advance access to that report from the independent counsel, so he could go to the American people and spin it and distort it, then they could have written it into the statute.

Mr. Speaker, it is too late now to do that. The statute speaks for itself, just as the evidence will speak for itself.

I support this resolution.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) a member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of remarks today, some good and some maybe not so good. I would like to come at it from a different perspective.

When I was first elected to this body, I never contemplated the possibility that I would have to address the potential of impeachment, and I think that many of us feel exactly the same way. But here we are, and we all swore to uphold the Constitution. This is what I would like to address my remarks to.

Some have characterized what we may go through as a constitutional crisis. I would emphasize that this is not a constitutional crisis. The issue that brings us here today, the method of disseminating the information in the independent counsel's report, however, may result in a crisis. It may result in a crisis of governance. It may result in a crisis in the confidence of the people that elected us, but it is not a constitutional crisis.

Our Constitution clearly lays out a process in which we should discharge our duty. This is the start of that process.

Mr. Speaker, last week before I returned to Washington, D.C., I had dinner in my district with a group of Russian professionals. At that time, Russia was in the middle of a crisis where there was no prime minister and there was a very real threat that the government might be dissolved. There clearly was apprehension in this delegation. My colleagues should recall that until yesterday, this issue was unresolved. Now, that is what I would characterize as a constitutional crisis.

Mr. Speaker, as we go through this process, let us keep in mind that this issue is very serious, but it is not a crisis of that fact. I would just say that this really demonstrates to me that the Founding Fathers, what they wrote in our Constitution does indeed work. The burden now is on us.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), another member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, this resolution begins a journey in which the path will be treacherous and the conclusion is uncertain. The journey should be guided by the Constitution, the law, and our conscience.

This resolution is a step in the right direction on that journey. It follows the precedence of the House and it is fair. Would it be more fair to withhold the release of the report to Members of this body and to the public, in other words to allow the President a head start in reviewing the report? I think not.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is fair and the chairman of the committee has done an outstanding job in working with the minority ranking member in order to assure a fair process.

As a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I have supreme confidence that the committee will provide the President an ample opportunity and a fair opportunity to respond. This process should not be a stampede to impeachment, but it should be a search for truth and justice with an allegiance to the Constitution. That is my commitment. That should be our commitment.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, first, they mentioned "the two gentlemen from North Carolina," and I am one of them. I do not know if I am a gentleman, but as far as the decorum of the House, I certainly, if I offended anybody, I apologize. I am so sorry if I hurt anybody's feelings, delicate feelings in the House.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is one question that has not been answered. By this weekend on all the talk shows, all

the things that are in the report are going to be on "Meet the Press" and "Face the Nation." Somebody is leaking this.

I am not making accusations, but somebody is leaking this and I would like to have an explanation and an answer as to where these leaks are coming from, because it does not behoove us to just say, well, we have them under lock and key here.

□ 1130

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, the intention of this Member was to come here this morning, point out my reservations about this rule, this proceeding, and vote for it. But I have been exposed to the debate now, and I will not be able to justify my support.

I am announcing to those Members on my side that I have told I was going to support the report, I am not going to vote in the affirmative. And I regret it very much because it was important to me that we continue the comity that we have worked so hard on.

Here is why. The independent counsel whom I have lectured to almost daily from this well and for whom I have had certain reservations about his overzealousness has done the Congress one important service. In his only communication that I know of to the Speaker and to the minority leader, he said in two sentences something that I think we are not following, and I command it to your attention.

It is this: "This referral," not report, "This Referral contains confidential material and material protected from disclosure by Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure." That is Starr talking to the Congress. Then he went on to say, "Many of the supporting materials contain information of a personal nature that I respectfully urge the House to treat as confidential."

It was with that understanding that, in the Office of the Speaker and with the leaders of this body we entered into an agreement that I regretfully have to tell you has been broken. It has been broken. My heart has been broken before. Agreements have been broken before.

But in this instance, we are violating the directions of the independent counsel who now, in his fifth year, and I love these reports about how the American people are waiting for this. The majority of the American people would accept a resolution saying we shall never mention this matter again for the rest of all of our honorable and distinguished careers. That is what the majority of the American people want. Twenty-five thousand people would like to see it if it is there.

But since we are worried about the contents: "Impeachment Report Contends Clinton Lied, Obstructed Justice; Alleged Deceit Is Outlined."

Independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr's report to the House contends there are 11 possible grounds for im-

peachment of President Clinton, including allegations that he lied under oath, tampered with witnesses, obstructed justice, and abused power to hide his affair with Monica S. Lewinsky, according to sources informed about some of its contents."

That is in the paper. Yet my colleagues are now urging me to tell our Members to release everything, thousands and thousands of pages. Explain to me one procedural method. How can 35 Members with at least one staffer each go through thousands and thousands of pages of documents?

I ask in the comity that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and I have pledged to work with, the friendship that the Speaker and I have enjoyed over these last 48 hours, that we please move away from this course of action. I urge that this resolution be defeated.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, after that eloquent address, it is only appropriate that the closing for our side would be the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, not only because he is the Chairman, but because he has also, in 24 years, been the Member that has been held in, I would say, the highest esteem by all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) to close for our side.

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, I would not call for a vote on that last statement the gentleman from New York made, but I do thank him for his generous remarks.

Mr. Speaker, fundamental fairness is a phrase that has been bandied around here. I did not hear that much when one of the marvelous, articulate spokesmen for the administration declared war on Kenneth Starr; and that war is still going on, volley after volley on MSNBC, CNBC, on and on and on, not to mention other spokesmen for the administration, talented issuers of insults and vitriol. There was not much due process or fairness there.

We have congratulated ourselves on saying no man is above the law, but this is not a criminal proceeding. There is no legal requirement for an answer to a complaint from the White House. We on the Committee on the Judiciary are smart enough and of such goodwill that we are going to wait and we are going to hear what the President has to say. We are going to give it every possible consideration.

The only requirement for an early copy to the White House is a public relations one. We have had the public relations feel for as long as the independent counsel has been appointed. By the way, the spin is working well here in this room. My colleagues refer to him as the special prosecutor, not the independent counsel. He is not a prosecutor on the law my colleagues passed, which did not provide for advanced copies to objects of investigation, as my colleagues wrote it. So we have a public

relations requirement that I hope my colleagues do not think we are fundamentally unfair in not wanting to give special treatment to the White House. Equality, not special treatment.

I do not have to tell my colleagues that these theaters of operations have shifted from the White House to the Grand Jury to this chamber. We are governed by what we all vote for.

I can assure my colleagues the only bipartisan thing in this whole resolution, after listening to this debate, is the bipartisan demand for immediate release of this report. I can tell my colleagues the vigor and rigor with which those demands have come from the other side is in no way less than the vigor and the rigor of the demands on our side.

We put this to a vote, we know what is going to happen, and we are the servants of this body. So there is no way we could change that.

Due process, fundamental fairness will be observed. I can assure my colleagues this whole proceeding will fail, it will fall on its face if it is not perceived by the American people to be fair.

I keenly regret what I have heard this morning, a debate that has been really partisan. Bipartisanship cuts two ways, folks. It does not mean surrender. It means thoughtful, sincere, honorable consideration of differing views and trying to reach an accommodation.

I pledge myself, even though the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) has changed his mind, I pledge myself to work with him as closely as humanly possible so we do have that bipartisan result from our efforts.

I hope my colleagues will vote for this resolution.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I will not vote for this resolution because I have grave reservations about the process under this House resolution that provides no check for the relevance or veracity of the information contained in the Starr report, and which denies the President the fairness that the House has afforded its own Members.

This report is a prosecutor's version of a case, no more and no less. It evolves from a grand jury investigation that affords witnesses no opportunity for representation by counsel and no rebuttal for witnesses. If the accused were a House Member, He would have been afforded time to review the report and prepare a response. Our own Speaker GINGRICH was given five days to read and respond to the Ethics report detailing his wrong doing; the Speaker's response was included in the document made available to the public by the Ethics Committee. Speaker GINGRICH forgets that fairness he was afforded as he casts the first stone today at the President.

As we vote today, we do not know where the truth will take us. But we must not plunge into McCarthy era demagoguery in which salacious slander replaces responsible governing.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, this House has under consideration the issue of how best to deal with the report submitted by Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr. Mr. Starr has spent almost four years investigating the presi-

dent and more recently, the allegations surrounding President Clinton and his admitted extramarital relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

I have been extremely disappointed with the President's behavior. I do not believe it is appropriate conduct for the President of the United States. However, the issues contained in the Starr Report also deal with issues of alleged legal impropriety. Those are the issues which should be our focus as we consider our duty under the Constitution.

I will vote today to release portions of the Starr Report to the public. I regret that the Republican majority of this House is opposed to giving the President an opportunity to read the allegations contained in the report before we make them public, because I believe that is unfair. We gave House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH that opportunity when allegations against him were being considered by the Congress.

However, I believe it is important the public have access to certain information in the Starr Report. I remain reluctant to make every detail—secret grand jury information, classified national security documents, or unconfirmed information which may unnecessarily involve innocent individuals—available for everyone in the world to read. On this matter, the House Judiciary Committee will be responsible for further action and recommendations to Congress.

Before I make any further judgment, I want to read the Starr Report. Then, I want to hear the President's response to the allegations made in the report. At that time, I will consider the evidence presented to me as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and take any action I believe appropriate.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, since Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr has delivered a report to Congress with evidence of possible impeachable offenses, the House of Representatives is required by the United States Constitution to review this information. Along with the power to declare war, the power to draft articles of impeachment is among the most solemn and serious powers given to the House by the Constitution.

The vote today to release the report is not an indictment against the president. The House has not voted to impeach the president, nor to proceed with an inquiry of impeachment. We have voted to make this report available to members of Congress, the President, and the American public. We have also voted to give the Judiciary Committee the authority to review all of the supporting documents to determine if there is evidence that the President has committed impeachable offenses.

Our decision today on how to handle the report is fair. The law requires Judge Starr to submit information to Congress if he has found credible evidence of impeachable offenses. The President, like the Congress, did not get an advance copy. Like any other American, he will not receive special treatment, he will receive fair treatment.

The public has a right to review the report, and innocent parties have a right to have their privacy preserved. The Judiciary Committee will be the only body with access to the supporting documentation. However, by making the report public, the American people will be able to decide for themselves what the report says rather than having the information filtered through media or government sources.

For the stability of the country and the preservation of our democracy, we must proceed with a spirit of bipartisanship that rises above politics and ideological differences. If the Judiciary Committee determines that there are impeachable offenses, and forwards its findings to the entire House, Members of the House will effectively serve as jurors. We must look at the facts in an objective and fair manner. We must leave our own personal and political predispositions at the door. Our decisions must be made on the evidence and the law.

Like every other member of the House, I plan to review the report in its entirety over the weekend. I urge every American to read the report and make their own judgements in a sober, serious manner.

To make the report more easily accessible to people in Wyoming, I want them to know that an electronic copy of the report will be posed on the Internet on the following official government sites:

Library of Congress—THOMAS—<http://thomas.loc.gov/icreport>.

Government Printing Office—<http://access.gpo.gov/congress/icreport>.

House Committee on Judiciary—<http://www.house.gov/judiciary>.

House of Representatives—<http://www.house.gov/icreport>.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker. I know that all of my colleagues recognize the gravity of the situation before us. We must bring to this matter every ounce of wisdom and thoughtfulness and nonpartisanship possible.

The statute authorizing the independent counsel requires that the House be notified of any substantial and credible information that may be grounds for impeachment. The independent counsel has fulfilled his statutory obligation. The House must now fulfill its constitutional responsibility to thoroughly review this material.

It is not the independent counsel who decides what is impeachable. That responsibility rests solely with the House. Included in this resolution is a requirement that three sections of the report be made public as soon as is physically possible. This is appropriate. The Democrats on behalf of the President's criminal defense lawyer seek to have access to the report prior to its dissemination to the public. Obedience to criminal law and fundamental fairness does not recognize special treatment as requested by the minority. The law authorizing the independent counsel does not authorize an advance copy to the subject of the investigation.

I support the resolution and urge its adoption.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for the public disclosure of the Starr report, to end questions regarding the report's content. The gravity of this historical moment cannot be underestimated. Few responsibilities will ever rise to this responsibility Congress now confronts. Throughout this difficult process, the public will always retain the right to be fully informed. The Congress, as well as the President, has such a duty to so inform.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution.

We all agree that we have a serious responsibility to fulfill our Constitutional duty as members of Congress in the matter before us. But, it is of utmost importance that we proceed in a spirit of fairness.

Sadly, it now appears at the very outset that the majority has rejected any semblance of fairness in favor of blatant partisanship. To refuse to give the President of the United States the basic courtesy of reviewing the charges made by the most far-reaching Independent Counsel in history is shameful. Is this the America we want for ourselves and our children, where individual rights are trampled on to such a degree that accusations against a person are posted on the internet before they are presented to the accused? I am afraid that this is only the beginning of more abuses to come. How can members of this body who have loudly insisted that the President resign possibly give him a fair hearing? I urge my colleagues to reject this resolution. Let us reject this cheap, partisan approach and instead chart a fair, objective and honorable course as we undertake this serious responsibility.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues, who more eloquently than I, argue for fairness and decorum in the process we are about to embark on.

This investigation, Mr. Speaker, and therefore this report is a document born out of political machinations. It is the result of a more than 6 year relentless attack on the President of the United States, which many of us believe began because his policies and political philosophy favor people of color and the less fortunate in our country, as well as because of his economic policies and high favorability with the American people.

I personally do not feel that the full report should be made public. No public good would be served, only opposing political interests. Additionally, it would further demean the office of the President as well as the Congress and further demoralize a public that has said over and over again: "Enough is enough, let's get on with the important issues facing this country."

Mr. Speaker, it is only fair to grant the request of the President and his attorney's for some time to review the report before it is made public. Even if the Republican leadership does not think that Bill Clinton deserves two days to review the report, then I offer to you that the President of the United States—whomever he might be—is due at least that amount of respect and consideration.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a sad day for America. It is a sad day, not because of what the President has done, or the ensuing media feeding frenzy, but because of the willingness of some members of the Republican Party and its cohorts of the conservative, so called "Christian" Right, to sacrifice the presidency and the integrity of the Congress on the altar of political expediency.

Let us be decent people and the upstanding representatives the American people elected us to be. We must respect the Presidency and give the President the time he has requested. We must also do as Judge Starr has asked us and protect the confidentiality of the sensitive material the report includes. Let us be fair—vote against this unfair rule!

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, two days ago, after months of speculation, leaks and revelations, the report of the Independent Counsel was delivered to the House of Representatives. If this resolution is approved this morning, the report will be in the hands of millions of people around the globe by three o'clock this afternoon.

I certainly agree that the report should be released. That is not even an issue. It will be released. The only question is when and how it should be done. For in exercising the responsibilities that the Constitution has thrust upon us, we must be sure that we proceed in a manner that observes the principles of fundamental fairness that are at the heart of that document.

Only then will the American people accept the results, whatever they may be. Only then will we begin to restore the shaken confidence of the Nation in its political institutions.

In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I consider the resolution before us today to be our first test. For in deciding the terms under which the highly sensitive material contained in the report should be released to the public, we must weigh carefully the benefits of immediate disclosure against the damage this might do to the fairness of the investigation.

If the resolution is agreed to, the entire 445 pages of the report will be posted on the Internet this very afternoon. Not a page of it will have been examined beforehand by any member of the Committee. Not one page will have been seen first by the President and his attorneys.

Some have argued that we should release the report because the essence of it has already been leaked to the press and appears in this morning's editions. If that is true, it is to be deplored, and the Independent Counsel should have to answer for it. But we should not endorse the unauthorized disclosure of pieces of the report by prematurely releasing the rest of it.

Some have argued that the President already knows what is in the report because he is the subject of it. This argument suggests, at best, a poor understanding of what goes into a prosecutor's report.

Some have argued that we should go ahead and release the report because there are still some 2,000 pages of supporting material that will not be released without Committee review, and this will be sufficient to prevent irreparable harm to lives and reputations. They cite Mr. Starr's request that we treat certain information in the supporting material as confidential, apparently inferring that the information in the report itself does not require such treatment. Yet Mr. Starr did not say this. And even if he had, it is for this House to determine what information should be disclosed. We should not abdicate that responsibility to the Independent Counsel.

Apart from whatever damage the abrupt disclosure of the report might cause to innocent third parties, it will clearly be prejudicial to the President's defense. If the Independent Counsel has done his job, the case he has constructed will be a persuasive one. Prosecutors have enormous power to shape the evidence presented to the grand jury. And—at least at the federal level—they have no obligation to apprise the jurors of exculpatory evidence. The case will seem airtight. Yet until the evidence has withstood cross-examination and the allegations have been proven, they remain nothing more than allegations.

Presidents, no less than ordinary citizens, are entitled to the presumption of innocence. They are entitled to confront the charges against them. Yet, if we adopt this resolution, by the time President Clinton is accorded that right, the charges against him will have circled the globe many times. They will be all the

public reads and hears. They will take on a life of their own, and the case will be tried, not by Congress, but in the court of public opinion.

Given these risks, why rush to judgment, Mr. Speaker? After so many months, what possible harm can come from allowing the counsel for the President a few days to review the report so that they can tell his side of the story?

In the one historical precedent we have to look to, that is precisely what was done. Twenty-four years ago, a Republican president was under investigation by a Democratic House. President Nixon's lawyers were permitted to participate in seven weeks of closed sessions, as the Judiciary Committee conducted a confidential review of Judge Sirica's grand jury materials prior to their release. The counsel to the President was even allowed to cross-examine witnesses before their testimony was made public.

Whatever the differences may be between the current controversy and the Watergate affair, President Clinton should receive the same due process protections accorded to President Nixon in the course of that investigation.

If the people of the United States are to accept our verdict—whatever it may be—they must have confidence in the fairness and integrity of our deliberations. That—far more than the fate of one particular president—is what is at stake.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution.

I commend the Chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. SOLOMON. Today the House embarks upon the first step of a Constitutional process that our commitment to the rule of law. Besides declaring war, this is the most important duty that the House could undertake. As Chairman HENRY HYDE has stated, we are about to embark on a judicial inquiry that will uphold our "Viable and Venerable Constitution."

CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS

I must stress that this process is not and should not be about politics. Partisan sniping has no place in this process. The entire Nation, indeed, the world will be watching the House of Representatives and they will be seeing our Constitution on display. Indeed, it is that document—the Constitution—that must be our guide in this process, not politics.

IMMEDIATE DISCLOSURE

The immediate public release of the 445-page written report is essential to this process. Delayed release or partial release or incomplete release will lead first to a trickle and then a torrent of leaks, rumors and outright false information.

The American people deserve better than to learn the details of the charges against the President through a cynical cycle of spin and re-spin. Nothing could be more damaging to this process and—I might add—to the office of the Presidency. For these reasons, I am confident that the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee will release the supportive documents as soon as possible and no later than September 28, 1998, consistent with their legal obligations.

PRESIDENT'S RIGHT

Now let me touch upon the President's rights in this process. I am committed to maintaining a level of fundamental fairness as the House—and possibly the Senate—move forward with this constitutional process.

Does today's release of this 445 referral compromise the President's rights or place him at a legal disadvantage? The answer is a clear "no."

The President and his lawyers will have plenty of time to craft a full defense. (Indeed, if there is any person in this Nation who has the tools and the ability to defend himself—it is the President of the United States.) That is his right. That represents basic fairness.

It is important to realize that the process that this resolution creates will provide the Independent Counsel's Report to this House, the President, and the public at essentially the same time. How can this not be fair?

CONCLUSION

It is my sincere belief that this process will prove that our Constitution works. Today, that process begins and will only end in an impeachment if substantial and credible evidence exists for that impeachment. Today's action is NOT meant to prejudge the outcome. We must uphold the laws of our free society—our republic will be secure.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, in this Nation, and in this Congress, we are confronted with a serious constitutional crisis.

In everyone's interest, Judge Starr's report should be released to the public without delay. For months we have listened to rumors and leaks. In order for the credibility of this Congress to remain intact, we must be armed with truth and the facts. The American people must share this confidence, and the only way to accomplish this, is for the information contained in Judge Starr's report to be made public. After all this time and the related costs, full disclosure is absolutely necessary.

As a Member of Congress, I will fulfill my duty and obligation to review this matter in a tradition of bipartisan cooperation already reiterated by the Speaker and Mr. GEPHARDT. Congress will execute its duty under the Constitution, but more importantly, continue to work on a legislative agenda which assures Americans that our Nation's economy will remain strong by virtue of a Balanced Budget and tax cuts. We will also continue our work to increase educational opportunities for our children, preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare, and reform health care in America.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 363, nays 63, not voting 9, as follows:

	[Roll No. 425]	YEAS—363	Ryun	Smith (TX)	Tiahrt
Abercrombie	Ehrlich	Lazio	Salmon	Smith, Adam	Tierney
Aderholt	Emerson	Leach	Sanders	Smith, Linda	Traficant
Allen	English	Levin	Sandlin	Snowbarger	Turner
Andrews	Ensign	Lewis (CA)	Sanford	Snyder	Upton
Archer	Eshoo	Lewis (KY)	Saxton	Souder	Vento
Armey	Etheridge	Linder	Schaefer, Dan	Spence	Walsh
Bachus	Evans	Lipinski	Schaffer, Bob	Spratt	Wamp
Baesler	Everett	Livingston	Schumer	Stabenow	Watkins
Baker	Ewing	LoBiondo	Sensenbrenner	Stearns	Watts (OK)
Baldacci	Farr	Lowey	Sessions	Stenholm	Waxman
Ballenger	Fawell	Lucas	Shadegg	Strickland	Weldon (FL)
Barr	Fazio	Luther	Shaw	Stump	Weldon (PA)
Barrett (NE)	Foley	Maloney (CT)	Shays	Stupak	Weller
Barrett (WI)	Forbes	Maloney (NY)	Sherman	Sununu	Weygand
Bartlett	Fossella	Manton	Shimkus	Talent	White
Barton	Fowler	Manzullo	Shuster	Tanner	Whitfield
Bass	Fox	Mascara	Sisisky	Tauscher	Wicker
Bateman	Franks (NJ)	Matsui	Skeete	Tauzin	Wilson
Bentsen	Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (MO)	Skelton	Taylor (MS)	Wise
Bereuter	Frost	McCarthy (NY)	Slaughter	Taylor (NC)	Wolf
Berman	Gallagly	McCollum	Smith (MI)	Thomas	Wynn
Berry	Ganske	McCrary	Smith (NJ)	Thornberry	Young (FL)
Bilbray	Gejdenson	McDade	Smith (OR)	Thune	Thurman
Bilirakis	Gekas	McGovern			NAYS—63
Bishop	Gephhardt	McHale	Ackerman	Hinchey	Owens
Blagojevich	Gibbons	McHugh	Becerra	Jackson (IL)	Payne
Bliley	Gilchrest	McInnis	Brady (PA)	Jackson-Lee	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Gillmor	McIntosh	Brown (CA)	(TX)	Royal-Allard
Bohrer	Gingrich	McIntyre	Brown (FL)	Jefferson	Rush
Boehner	Goode	McKinney	Carson	Kennedy (MA)	Sabo
Bonilla	Goodlatte	McNulty	Clay	Kennedy (RI)	Scott
Bonior	Goodling	Menendez	Clayton	Kilpatrick	Serrano
Bono	Gordon	Metcalf	Clyburn	Lee	Skaggs
Borski	Goss	Mica	Conyers	Lewis (GA)	Stark
Boswell	Graham	Millender-	Cummings	Lofgren	Stokes
Boucher	Granger	McDonald	Davis (IL)	Markey	Thompson
Boyd	Green	Miller (FL)	Delahunt	Martinez	Torres
Brady (TX)	Greenwood	Minge	Deutsch	McDermott	Towns
Brown (OH)	Gutierrez	Mink	Engel	Meehan	Velazquez
Bryant	Gutknecht	Moakley	Fattah	Meek (FL)	Waters
Bunning	Hall (OH)	Moran (KS)	Filner	Meeks (NY)	Watt (NC)
Burr	Hall (TX)	Morella	Ford	Miller (CA)	Wexler
Burton	Hamilton	Murtha	Frank (MA)	Mollohan	Woolsey
Buyer	Hansen	Myrick	Hastings (FL)	Moran (VA)	Yates
Callahan	Harman	Nethercutt	Hefner	Nadler	
Calvert	Hastert	Neumann	Billiard	Neal	NOT VOTING—9
Campbell	Hastings (WA)	Ney	Barcia	Jenkins	Pryce (OH)
Canady	Hayworth	Northup	Furse	Johnson, E. B.	Scarborough
Cannon	Heffley	Norwood	Gonzalez	Poshard	Young (AK)
Capps	Herger	Nussle			□ 1200
Cardin	Hill	Oberstar			
Castle	Hilleary	Obe			
Chabot	Hinojosa	Olver			
Chambliss	Hobson	Ortiz			
Chenoweth	Hoekstra	Oxley			
Christensen	Holden	Packard			
Clement	Hooley	Pallone			
Coble	Horn	Pappas			
Coburn	Hostettler	Parker			
Collins	Houghton	Pascrell			
Combest	Hoyer	Pastor			
Condit	Hulshof	Paul			
Cook	Hunter	Paxon			
Cooksey	Hutchinson	Pease			
Costello	Hyde	Peterson (MN)			
Cox	Inglis	Peterson (PA)			
Coyne	Istook	Petri			
Cramer	John	Pickering			
Crane	Johnson (CT)	Pickett			
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Pitts			
Cubin	Johnson, Sam	Pombo			
Cunningham	Jones	Pomeroy			
Danner	Kanjorski	Porter			
Davis (FL)	Kaptur	Portman			
Davis (VA)	Kasich	Price (NC)			
Davis (VA)	Kelly	Quinn			
Deal	Kennelly	Radanovich			
Defazio	Kildee	Rahall			
DeGette	Kim	Ramstad			
DeLauro	Kind (WI)	Rangel			
DeLay	King (NY)	Redmond			
Diaz-Balart	Kingston	Regula			
Dickey	Klecka	Reyes			
Dicks	Klink	Riggs			
Dingell	Klug	Riley			
Dixon	Knollenberg	Rivers			
Doggett	Kolbe	Rodriguez			
Dooley	Kucinich	Roemer			
Doolittle	LaFalce	Rogan			
Doyle	LaHood	Rogers			
Dreier	Lampson	Rohrabacher			
Duncan	Lantos	Ros-Lehtinen			
Dunn	Largent	Rothman			
Edwards	Latham	Roukema			
Ehlers	LaTourette	Royce			

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 363, nays 63, not voting 9, as follows:

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the resolution.

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

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The SPEAKER pro tempore

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.Res. 525.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR DOLLARS TO CLASSROOM ACT

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we have a number of important issues coming before the House in the next 3 weeks.

The Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of September 14 to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process on H.R. 3248, the Dollars to the Classroom Act.

Any Member who wishes to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies and a brief explanation of the amendment by 12 noon on Wednesday, September 16, to the Committee on Rules, at Room H-312 in the Capitol.

Amendments should be drafted to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The report will be filed today.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, at the direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H.Res. 530) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 530

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on the Judiciary, THOMAS M. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 4006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inquire about next week's schedule from the leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FAZIO of California. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce we have concluded the legislative business for the week. The House will next meet on Monday, September 14, at 10:30 a.m. for morning hour and at 12 o'clock noon for legislative business. We do not expect any recorded votes before 5 p.m. on next Monday.

On Monday, September 14, we will consider a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices this afternoon.

On Tuesday, September 15, and throughout the balance of the week, the House will consider the following legislation:

H.J. Res. 117, a resolution expressing the Sense of the House that marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug and should not be legalized for medicinal use;

H.R. 4006, the Lethal Drug Abuse Prevention Act;

The Drug Demand Reduction Act of 1998;

H.R. 4300, the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act.

We will also consider H.R. 3736, the Workforce Improvement and Protection Act of 1998; and H.R. 3248, the Dollars to the Classroom Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are also hoping to go to conference on several appropriations bills and perhaps get a few conference reports completed next week. We hope to conclude legislative business for the week by 2 p.m. on Friday, September 18.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from New York, who has some questions about their primary.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, New York has a primary, and other States as well. There are probably seven or eight States that have a primary.

I happen to have a contested primary election, as some of my colleagues do as well. I know in the past we have avoided having votes on a day that States are having primaries, and I am wondering if the same consideration could be given to those of us in New York who have a primary. Because, obviously, if we are running for election, we cannot be here and we would miss votes. And again, it has been done for other States, and I am wondering if it could be done on Tuesday, as well.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FAZIO of California. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for his inquiry; and I certainly appreciate the concern the gentleman has.

Unfortunately, given the rush of work we have yet to complete this year

and some lost time earlier this year because of tragic and unforeseen events and the efforts that we have made to make sure that we fully and completely accommodate the Jewish holiday, we did not feel that it would be possible this year to suspend votes on this important Tuesday.

I know that the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) will agree that is easier for me than for the gentleman. And let me just, if I may, express my regret and apologies to the gentleman for the inconvenience.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would further yield, if I may ask the majority leader one further question.

Would it not be possible to perhaps hold votes on Tuesday, hold votes over until Wednesday, to do the debates on Tuesday, as we so very often do, but not have the votes actually held until Tuesday?

That would not slow down the procedures of the House or the ability of the House to do the kinds of work that we need to do, but it would be fairer to have the actual votes on Wednesday.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would continue to yield, I would say to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) I do not believe that is possible, given the structure of the work that we have before us for that day.

But I will again, out of consideration for the gentleman from New York and others as well, I will see what and if some accommodation can be made, and I will get announcements to their offices as soon as I can determine so.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, if I could ask further of the majority leader, could he give us some understanding as to which days the bills that he listed are expected to come to the floor?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield further, I would expect that we would do the work related to the work on drugs, H. Res. 117, H.R. 4006, the Drug Demand Act, and H.R. 4300; we would expect that we would occupy most of Tuesday with that work.

In addition to that, of course we have the Workforce Improvement and Protection Act and the Dollars to the Classroom Act. We would expect those two bills to be taken up later on in the week.

Let me again remind the gentleman, we will also be occupying a good deal of the floor time with respect to going to conference with some of the work related to the appropriations bills.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, if I could ask the gentleman, are there any late nights anticipated in next week's schedule?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the inquiry of the gentleman, and I would say that at this point we do not anticipate there will be a need for any late nights. And, obviously, if we see something that changes, we will let the body know as soon as possible.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, one further, final question.

Could the gentleman give us any understandings as to which appropriations bills he expects to come before us next week with motions to go to conference with the potential of instruction for conferees and all that goes with it?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate again the inquiry, and I am, unfortunately, unable to give him that. But if the gentleman would check with the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, perhaps he could get a better read directly from him about what his plans are with respect to asking for time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday next for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES C. DIGGS

(Mr. STOKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to advise the House of the recent passing of our former colleague and friend, former Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr. Former Congressman Diggs passed on August 28, 1998.

Charlie Diggs was elected to the United States Congress from Michigan's 13th Congressional District in 1954. He was Michigan's first black Member of Congress.

During his Congressional career, he was one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus and served as the first chairman of that group.

□ 1215

He is also credited with establishing home rule for the District of Columbia, as well as authoring legislation to create the University of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, at the funeral services for Charlie Diggs, I was honored to

offer remarks on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus. I want to share my remarks and a copy of Charlie's obituary with his friends across the Nation.

Charlie was a giant in the Black political history of America. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Darlene, and members of the Diggs family. He will never be forgotten.

The materials referred to are as follows:

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE LOUIS STOKES,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS—A SPECIAL TRIBUTE
TO THE HONORABLE CHARLES DIGGS

Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Fort Washington,
MD, September 1, 1998

Darlene and members of the Diggs family. I speak here today to pay tribute to a giant in the black political history of America. I speak on behalf of the 39 black Members of Congress who inherit his legacy. The entire Congressional Black Caucus, chaired by Congresswoman Maxine Waters, liken his passing to the falling of a giant oak in the forest. Present today are Ms. Waters, Congressman Clay of Missouri, Albert Wynn of Maryland, former Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, and myself.

Long before many of us came to Congress, Charlie Diggs was a legend to us. Both his father's and his own political career had made the Diggs name a prominent family name among blacks all over America. We, too, had taken pride in 1955 in seeing this young State senator, join William L. Dawson and Reverend Adam Clayton Powell, as Michigan's first black Congressman. He hit the ground running in Congress and quietly established his reputation as a fighter for civil and human rights.

In the same year he was sworn in to Congress, Charlie received national attention for monitoring the trial of two white Mississippians accused of murdering Emmett Till. Following the trial, he proposed that the representation in Congress from Mississippi be reduced. He also called upon President Eisenhower to call a special session of Congress to consider civil rights issues.

Charlie endured fire bombings at homes he was staying in in Selma and Mississippi while taking up the cause of tenants being evicted from a slum. He investigated racial disputes at a Job Corps camp and in the United States Army. In fact, Congressman William Clay, who would not come to Congress until 1969, was one who was affected by this. In his book entitled, "Just Permanent Interests," Clay first speaks of "Diggs' long and glorious career," and then tells that "In late 1954, when I was a member of the Army Chemical Corps, stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama, I was prompted to call upon him for assistance even before he was sworn into Congress."

Between 1955 and 1968 John Conyers, Robert Nix and Augustus Hawkins had come to Congress. So, in 1969 when Bill Clay, Shirley Chisholm and I came to Congress, for the first time in history there were nine black Congresspersons. By 1971, we had been joined by Charlie Rangel, Ron Dellums, Parren Mitchell, George W. Collins and Ralph Metcalfe. This was the beginning of the Congressional Black Caucus and we elected Charlie Diggs as our first chairman.

Charlie's speech at our first Congressional Black Caucus dinner in 1971 established the creed under which the Congressional Black Caucus exists. He said, "We meet to assert the common bonds that unite men and women of all races, creeds and generations who share a fierce determination to liberate the legions of the oppressed. We come to-

gether to arm and equip ourselves to fight more effectively than ever before for those who are too seldom victors, too often victims."

Under Charlie's leadership, we became a formidable force in the United States Congress. One of our finest hours was the meeting with President Richard Nixon following our boycott of him for neglecting the legitimate needs and rights of black Americans. At this historic meeting, in his quiet, dignified manner, Charlie Diggs told President Nixon. "Our people are no longer asking for equality as a rhetorical promise. They are demanding from the national administration and from elected officials without regard to party affiliation, the only kind of equality that ultimately has any real meaning—equality of results."

President Nixon's failure to adhere to our demands forced Charlie to make a dramatic and brilliant move. He appointed the Diggs "shadow cabinet" which consisted of black professionals who were experts in government, and whom Charlie gave titles similar to that of each member of Nixon's Cabinet. Whenever a Nixon Cabinet member presented an administration policy or position, the Diggs "cabinet" counterpart would respond from the black perspective.

It was during this period of time that Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, while traveling in Africa, verbally attacked America's black leaders and the Congressional Black Caucus. Under Charlie's leadership, the caucus responded on the floor of the House. Charlie said, "Although his statements are very difficult to follow with any degree of logic, it is not hard to understand that times and the people have indeed passed him by—the matter of black leadership is not within his province to decide."

In two areas, Charlie's legislative accomplishments will remain etched in history. Under his chairmanship of the House District of Columbia Committee, home rule was established, giving the District of Columbia the right to elect their own mayor and city council for the first time in more than a century. He also authored the legislation creating the University of the District of Columbia. The other area was his tenure as chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs. He was acknowledged and respected by everyone as Capitol Hill's foremost elected official on Africa. He was loved all over Africa.

So, Charlie, we benefitted from your leadership, your friendship, your letters, your phone calls and your visits. You walked tall and quietly carried a big stick. Good night, Dean. We'll miss you.

OBITUARY

Charles C. Diggs, Jr., State Senator, Congressman and Mortician, was born December 2, 1922, and departed this life August 24, 1998. He was the only child of the late Mayne E. Jones Diggs and Charles C. Diggs, Sr. The Diggs Seniors were Morticians, pioneers in business, public service and community activists.

Charles C. Diggs, Jr. began his political career in 1951 when he was elected to the Michigan State Senate. The youngest member of the Senate, he served a total of two terms. During this tenure, he compiled a record that brought the admiration of leaders throughout the state. An advocate and firm supporter of social legislation, he did much to assist Governor G. Mennen Williams promote a constructive program of human relations for the state. He was instrumental in pushing legislation through the Senate that brought about good business and labor relations, compulsory school attendance, and a re-evaluation of restrictions to age limitations on voting.

In 1954, his popularity in his state as a leader led him on to defeat the favored incumbent, George O'Brien. He then became the Democratic candidate for Congress from the Thirteenth District. Arriving in Washington as a federal legislator, he found it relatively easy adjusting to what he described as "the way of life on Capitol Hill." He also found time to utilize his literary skills, serving as radio commentator on a program sponsored by the House of Diggs, Inc., and their insurance company. He was the owner and president of the House of Diggs, which was recognized as the state's largest funeral home.

As a Congressman, he identified himself with the problems of the Southern Blacks. This association resulted in his being described as the "Mississippi Congressman-at-large." In 1955, as a freshman Congressman, he was propelled across the international scene by his attendance at the Emmet Till murder trial in Mississippi, next to Issaquena County where his father was born and grandfather, Reverend James J. Diggs, founded the Woodland Baptist Church. Charles was a staunch supporter of the Civil Rights Movement and wrote legislation supporting the movement. During his first four years in Washington, he was assigned to the House Veterans Affairs Committee. He also served on the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee promoting Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. In 1959, he became the first Black Member of Congress to serve on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. One of the prime considerations at the time was to authorize establishment of the Peace Corps. Because of his strong support, he later became Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa.

Congressman Diggs attended all the Democratic National Conventions beginning in Chicago in 1957. He traveled throughout the U.S.A. speaking on behalf of the Kennedy/Johnson ticket. In 1969-1970, he was the founding Member and first Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. In 1973, he became the Chairman of the House District Committee and in less than a year, he persuaded Congress to grant District citizens the right to elect their own Mayor and City Council for the first time in over a century. Home Rule, the establishment of the University of the District of Columbia, the Frederick Douglass Home designation as a National Historical Site are all chiefly the results from that Committee and his Chairmanship.

Congressman Diggs is a double life member of the NAACP, and a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, East Coast Chapter and, has received numerous awards and recognitions. His congressional papers were given to Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. In Detroit, he was a member of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church. In 1986, he became a member of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Maryland, where he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and maintained strong religious ties until his death.

Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr., is survived by his wife of 15 years, Darlene Expose Diggs; six children: Charles C. Diggs, III, Denise Diggs Taylor, Alexis Diggs Robinson, Douglass J. Diggs, Carla Diggs, and Cindy Carter Diggs; 13 grandchildren: Charles IV, Nicole, Diamond, Dorian, Dominic, Itta, Juanita, Marshall, Alexandria, Ryan, Evan, Jonathan, and Jacqueline; and a host of relatives and friends.

VIOLENCE IN CAMBODIA

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the ongoing violence in Cambodia and to express my support for the brave Cambodian citizens opposing the tyranny and oppression of the Hun Sen government.

In the last week's violence in Cambodia, government forces have senselessly killed, maimed and harassed peaceful street demonstrators who are protesting allegations of election fraud. This has to stop. Hun Sen and his government must understand that his violent actions are not without consequence. The violence must stop, fundamental human rights must be restored, allegations of election fraud must be investigated and an equitable power sharing agreement must be found.

I call upon the Clinton Administration to provide leadership in the cause of democracy and human rights. The administration's absence on this issue has been felt.

To the forces of democracy in Cambodia, be assured that the world is watching. You do not stand alone in your quest for justice, for human rights and for freedom.

CONGRESS MUST RENEW FAST-TRACK

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, shortly the House may help bring around a better future for American agriculture when we vote to extend fast-track negotiating authority.

The best way to secure a better economic future for agriculture is to expand our export markets overseas. With just 4 percent of the world's population, U.S. agriculture must export in order to remain a viable industry. Nearly one-half of the wheat produce in this country is exported. Thirty percent of the feed grains and cotton is exported. There are estimates that 47 percent of our soybean crop will be exported. One out of every three acres we plant in this country is dedicated to exports.

That is why Congress must dedicate itself to step boldly into world trade negotiations next year. Congress must work with the administration to get lower foreign tariffs for agriculture goods; stop or limit the use of foreign trading enterprises used to block or underbid our U.S. exports; stopping the use of sanitary and phytosanitary measures to block U.S. exports; and to increase foreign tariff rate quotas.

Mr. Speaker, fast-track is a no-brainer for American agriculture. Pass fast-track.

AMERICAN FAMILIES NEED MEANINGFUL TAX RELIEF

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the strength of this country lies in its families, not in its bureaucracy back here in Washington, D.C., yet the current Federal Tax Code penalizes a husband and wife for jointly filing their tax return. It also penalizes seniors over 65 who earn more than \$15,500 by withholding their Social Security benefits. Also, the self-employed can only deduct 45 percent of their health insurance premiums, instead of 100 percent, which is the same tax deduction for anyone who does not have employer-subsidized health insurance.

Unfortunately, many of our colleagues on this side of the aisle believe that enacting tax cuts would be equivalent to throwing money away.

Mr. Speaker, hard-working families are losing touch with their children because they must work two and three jobs just to pay the bills. Why should American families have to apologize to Washington bureaucrats for keeping some of their hard earned money? Most Americans would agree that buying groceries, paying the house mortgage payment, taking a family vacation or just saving for their family's future, is not throwing money away.

Let us give American families a meaningful tax break. Let us give them the opportunity to use their money on their family.

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF NEEDED FOR SYRACUSE AND CENTRAL NEW YORK

(Mr. WALSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, Monday morning, Labor Day, about 1 a.m., my family and I awoke to a storm of such magnitude and destruction that I have not witnessed in my 50 years in my hometown of Syracuse. When it abated, two were killed, dozens were injured, with millions of millions of dollars of property damage to homes and businesses.

The next morning I toured the city with Governor Pataki, Mayor Bernardi and County Executive Pirro, and was absolutely amazed at the power and the breadth and the destruction of the storm. That morning also I spoke with James Lee Witt, the highly competent director of FEMA, who had been in discussions with our State Director, Mr. Jacobi, and I urged him, as I did President Clinton in a letter the following day, to please hurry as quickly as possible to make the determination necessary to declare Syracuse, central New York and nine other counties a Federal disaster area.

FULFILLING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, today we took the first vote in what may be a series of votes on how we deal with our constitutional responsibility. It was an important vote, because it was a vote to be fully inclusive, not only of every Member of the House, but to be as inclusive as possible of every American.

At this critical time for our country, being open with the American people, giving them a report that they paid the bill to produce, letting them reach their conclusions, as we reach our constitutionally required conclusion, is an incredibly important thing to do.

The job of the Congress is to do what the Constitution requires. The job of the Congress is to do what the Constitution requires and what is best for the country. As the American people enter into that job with us, I know we want to be prayerful, not only for Members of Congress, but we want to be prayerful for President Clinton and his family and for the United States as we do what the Constitution requires. We are a system of law.

OPPOSE PROPOSED REMOVAL OR BREACHING OF DAMS

(Mr. NETHERCUTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I want to again voice my opposition to the proposed removal or breaching of dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in Washington State. Some advocate that these dams be destroyed in an effort to restore wild salmon runs.

I am concerned about recovery of wild salmon runs, but I also believe that we must not destroy our multiple use river system that has been created over the past 40 years. I seek to implement a salmon recovery plan that is science-based, maintains a healthy environment for other fish and wildlife species, but balances the needs of our local economy and our rural way of life in the Northwest.

There are serious environmental effects of replacing hydroelectric power with fossil fueled generation. Dams are a clean and renewable energy resource. To replace this source of electricity with natural gas fired turbines would add thousands of tons of pollutants and chemicals into the atmosphere annually.

We must examine all sources of fish loss. Ocean conditions, predator populations and over-harvesting on the river have yet to be fully addressed. Salmon recovery can be accomplished using developing technology and sensible harvest limits. Damn removal will irreversibly remove jobs, harm the economy and the environment, while the benefits to the salmon would remain uncertain.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SOLEMN CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES PLACED UPON CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the greatest responsibility that a Member of Congress can face is the question of whether or not to go to war, to commit men and women of this country to armed conflict. The next greatest responsibility after that is the matter of impeachment of the President of the United States. With the delivery of the report by Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, to this body, that process of deliberation began, so a new set of rules, a new stage is set for the 435 Members of this House of Representatives, and it is every bit as solemn and every bit as important and every bit as somber as those deliberations that this body has had to make in matters of war. Remember, it has only been several times in our Nation's history that we have been to this stage.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know at this moment what are the allegations in the report that Mr. Starr delivered to the Congress. To my knowledge, perhaps just a few people know, and no one in this body knows. Soon the world will know via the Internet. We will all be reading and reviewing.

I do know that what the President has admitted to is wrong and distressing. I do know that the allegations in the report, which I have not seen, may be even more disturbing. There is no excuse for the already-admitted errors in the President's personal conduct, and that is something I think that all Americans, including the President of the United States by his very statements today, as well as in previous days, concur in.

That is not going to be the issue in front of this Congress and in front of this House of Representatives. The issue will be somewhat the President's personal conduct. The issue though, more significantly, is whether it is grounds for impeachment of the President.

So impeachment is the proceeding that this body goes about beginning today. It is not about polls, it is not about partisanship, it is not about personal opinion. It is about whether a standard has been crossed, a threshold has been reached, that requires this body, the House, to issue articles of impeachment, that then begin in effect a trial in the United States Senate.

With the resolution that passed today, and which I voted for, to receive the report, to make it public, I now and 434 other Members of this House become in effect grand jurors, because our responsibility is to determine whether there is probable cause to vote articles of impeachment that the Senate then takes up. That requires under the Constitution that we weigh all facts and we measure whether the offense is indeed grounds for impeachment.

I support making these documents public. The first report will be made public this afternoon, and then subsequent reports after review by the Committee on the Judiciary. I would have preferred, yes, that indeed the President had been granted an opportunity to review what is in the report, in the same manner that this body has permitted review by other officials that have been in similar situations in disciplinary actions.

□ 1230

If the choice is between making public and not making public, it should be made public. I just ask that all of us remember that this report is not a guaranteed statement of fact; it is allegations by the special counsel, and that the hearings that will be held will flesh that out further, the extent to which they are valid, the extent to which they can be challenged, and that no one should be rushing to snap judgment in a serious moment like this.

This is the second time this century that this process has taken place. This cannot be a rush to judgment via polls or talk shows or whatever the public whims are.

So we approach this carefully and seriously with due deliberation and reflection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The Chair must remind Members to avoid personal references to the President. It is no longer permissible to debate the information addressed by House Resolution 525.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

A TRIBUTE TO TWO OUTSTANDING CITIZENS FROM THE STATE OF ARIZONA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in the wake of a momentous vote to discuss not what lies ahead but to remember two who have gone before, from my great State of Arizona. I first pay tribute this afternoon to Governor Jack Williams, a dedicated public servant who served as Governor of Arizona during challenging times from the mid-1960s on through the early 1970s, an effective leader, a true public servant, who reminded us all that public service is not always equated with public office.

Jack Williams, for many years before serving as Governor of Arizona, was a broadcaster. Mr. Speaker, his repeated broadcasts on KOY radio were a source of inspiration and amusement to his fellow Arizonans and every day he would conclude his broadcast commentary with a sign-off saying, "It is a beautiful day in Arizona. Let us all enjoy it."

Arizonans enjoyed unparalleled economic prosperity during the administration of Governor Jack Williams. He was a dedicated results-oriented leader, but more than that, he was one who listened to all Arizonans, one who never developed the trappings or the arrogance of office; instead, always dedicated himself to the ideals of true public service, whether as a broadcaster or later a mayor or finally as governor of the great State of Arizona.

Because of Governor Williams' efforts, we remember him today and we can honestly say, there is a great future for Arizona. Let us all enjoy it.

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that those in the punditocracy in the light of current events and other procedures would say that the culture of Washington has somehow denigrated, has somehow deteriorated, until the politics of personality, I would make this observation, for I rise today also to remember another Arizonan, not a member of my party, not one who subscribed to the conservative philosophy to which I adhere, but one who I believe needs to be recognized. His name was John Cox. He aspired to service in this chamber and, Mr. Speaker, just last week, he passed away, even as he had made plans again to challenge my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) in the First Congressional District of Arizona.

John Cox was not a man with whom I agreed but, Mr. Speaker, he was a man whose company I enjoyed. Indeed, the last time we had a chance to get together was at one of the great programs that has been run nationally, where Americans got together to discuss the future of Social Security. That meeting was scheduled in the Valley of the Sun in the days immediately following the passing of Senator Barry

Goldwater, and it was during an honest, open dialogue and discussion, listening to citizens of Arizona when John Cox leaned over to me and whispered in my ear, I have something for you that I would like you to have that I believe will mean far more to you. Even though it has great meaning for me, I know it will have far more of a meaning to you.

Mr. Speaker, what John Cox gave me are the little replica of glasses I wear on my lapel just above my Congressional pin, glasses that symbolize allegiance to Barry Goldwater in the 1964 campaign. John Cox's gesture bespeaks what is good about our political process because in this chamber, even in these challenging days ahead, there will be honest disagreements, sincerely held, passionately stated. Our Founders experienced the same, in what Catherine Drinker Bowen calls the Miracle at Philadelphia when they put together the document which we swear to uphold and defend and indeed whose very presence we are mindful of today at the outset of such momentous proceedings.

The examples of John Cox and Jack Williams suit all Americans. That is why I pay tribute to them today and that is why they will not be soon forgotten.

WE MUST BE FAIR AND NON-PARTISAN IN JUDGING OUR PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, twenty months ago, Members of the 105th Congress took our collective oaths of office. In that oath, we have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. As such, it is not our option, but our obligation to the American people to deliberate the issues and information that are presented before us in hearings, Committee mark-ups, or during floor debate, and weigh them in an unbiased and clear fashion before voting on the issue of the day. Our votes on items both mundane and vital must come in a context of what is best for our respective constituencies and our nation.

Today, Congress voted to release the Referral from the Office of the Independent Counsel. Like my colleagues, I soberly await its arrival to my office. I promise my constituents, the residents of the great State of Michigan, and the citizens of our country, that I will read, analyze, and review this report, like all of the bills and reports that come before me, with great care. While it would be sheer folly of me to arrive at any conclusion before I have had the opportunity to review the record from the Independent Counsel and its rebuttal by the Executive Branch, I would like to use this opportunity to make one thing clear: our Constitution demands that we provide a fair and non-partisan venue for the consideration of impeachment. Regrettably, the resolution that was voted on today did not provide that consideration. It is my sincere hope, wish and desire that from this point onward, Congress acts in a way in which the founding fathers not just desired, but decreed.

Our President has made a mistake; he has admitted as much himself. Our President has apologized to our country; the Congress, his family, and the other affected individuals and groups in this sad matter; he reiterated that just this morning. In the maelstrom of events of the past few days, it is sometimes difficult to remember or recall exactly what the President has done for our country. For example:

Our President has boosted the economy of our nation. During President Clinton's term in office, more jobs have been created, unemployment has hit all-time lows, the stock market has spiraled to unprecedented highs, and the budget has been balanced. In Detroit, President Clinton was key in ensuring the establishment of the Empowerment Zone, and in sending millions of federal funds that will provide for decent housing for senior citizens, better roads and safer bridges to drive on, and improved access to health care for all.

Our President has helped to make our streets safer. Under President Clinton, the City of Detroit has received a significant increase in police officers patrolling the beat and dedicated to community-based policing. Under President Clinton, the Brady Law has kept handguns out of over 20,000 potential felons. Under President Clinton, the stronger assault weapons ban has saved innumerable lives and made the City of Detroit and our nation a safer place to live.

Our President has begun to provide investment in Africa. President Clinton was the first President in a generation to visit the land of all of our birth, Africa. He stood in the dome of the site where perhaps my ancestors were taken in chains to the United States. President Clinton has fostered and used the strength of his office to ensure that Congress and private industry include Africa on its list of international development and investment.

In closing, let me repeat that I do not condone the actions to which the President has admitted. While we all strive for perfection and purity, there is not a single soul who is perfect, clean or untarnished. The President has apologized for the errors of his ways.

While I understand that impeachment is second only to declaring war in Constitutional importance, Congress still has work to do. We have not solved the problem of those senior citizens, unemployed persons or the poor who go to the hospital and cannot afford health insurance. We have not solved the problem of those persons who have mental illness and wander our nation's streets. We have not solved the problem of our crumbling and deteriorating elementary, secondary and high schools. We have not solved the problem of our frayed social safety net. It is important that Congress seriously weigh and analyze this referral, but not neglect the people's business. We have tough decisions to make; the consideration of this referral should not, and must not, push the concerns of our senior citizens, working families, and the poor aside.

FAREWELL TO SYDNEY SEWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in coming to this House, there are many times that we talk about issues of State, sometimes issues of war. But maybe it makes us more

human to come and discuss friends that we will miss. So even after this day of vigorous debate, reaffirming the Democratic tenets of this Nation, I come this afternoon to pay tribute to a fallen personality, one respected and admired by her Houston community, and that is Sydney Seaward, one of the anchors of Channel 51, coming to that station in 1993.

Someone on the national level might not have heard of Ms. Seaward. One did not see her on the national 6 o'clock news. She did not reach CNN. She was a local anchor. But her cause and her personality deserve tribute in this body. She was an American in the true sense of the word, for she never said never. She died recently of cancer, but the cancer became a challenge to educate, to embrace life, to teach others, to not give up.

She touched me in a special way. Beyond her responsibilities as a news person, she always gave me the sense that she would, in fact, survive. A coworker said that everyone enjoyed Sydney, and of course, some would say that that word is used like "nice." But frankly, if it is said in earnestness, it means something. The coworker said, she was a nice part of the day. She made people's days. She took time to personally talk to people and hear them out. She was, in fact, a leader in her trade. Most of all, she was sensitive and she was willing to overcome her own doubts. When this disease was diagnosed her first response I imagine was disbelief and turning inward, until she realized that she could play a special role in educating women and the community about cancer, its devastation, but also one's ability to survive.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I come to salute Sydney Seaward for what she has done for our community, but, in fact, how she exemplifies what America is all about. It is, in fact, the can-do attitude. It is, in fact, the recognition that we live in the most wonderful Nation in the world. With all of its ills, with all of our disagreements, we can embrace the right that we live in freedom.

Sydney Seaward exemplified the fact that she was proud to be an American. She took her lumps along with her successes. She took her downs with her ups. She took her good days with her bad days. She took her sunny days with her rainy days. And she said to us, whatever comes your way, remember, we are all blessed to be living in freedom, we are all blessed to have the opportunity to fight whatever we can fight to survive, and we are all blessed to have been able to walk this way, to have touched someone, and Sydney Seaward clearly touched our lives.

Sydney, farewell. Thank you for all that you have done, and may you rest in peace.

SPECIAL COUNSEL INVESTIGATION BLATANTLY UNFAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA is recognized for 5 minutes).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment today to express my feeling for the whole process of the special counsel's investigation of the President for the past 4 years that got us where we are today, and that is that it is blatantly unfair.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago the independent counsel began investigating

what is known as Whitewater. Well, some of us know what it is in the independent counsel's report. Indications are that after 4 years of investigations and \$40 million of taxpayers' money, no crimes related to Whitewater were committed by the President.

So how did we get from there to where we are today? The independent counsel took it upon himself to expand his investigation to allegations presented to him that the President had an extramarital affair. With tapes in hand, he went to the Attorney General asking for authority to continue to expand his investigation, which she granted. Today we have a report within our jurisdiction, and I fail to see why we are in such a rush to release it without giving the President—

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman must be reminded that there should be no references to the President or personal allegations in any debate or discussions on the floor of the House.

The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I believe I was saying it in the third person; I was not making it directly to any person in particular.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If the gentleman will suspend, references or inferences are not to be made on the floor of the House and should be avoided. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, such an approach seems fair to me, and I regret that the rule being offered today does not offer that consideration to the President.

INDONESIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF WEST PAPUA

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to an ongoing struggle presently being waged many miles away in the Pacific by the people of West Papua New Guinea, or Irian Jaya, as it is known by the Indonesian government. In July, the attention of the world was focused, however briefly, on the immense tragedy caused by the Tsunami which caused the devastation of the coastal villages of Papua New Guinea.

In the western half of the same island, some miles away, agonies of another sort were being experienced by the people of Papua New Guinea. It is not my intent, Mr. Speaker, to detract in any way from the horror and the misery inflicted on the people of Papua New Guinea by the disaster which wiped out their coastal villages. Rather, my concern is that we should not forget the devastation wrought by our own fellow human beings.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on previous occasions about the history of the people of West Papua and about their struggle for independence from Indonesia. On July 3, Indonesian armed forces fired on pro-independence demonstrators at a university in Jayapura, the Capital of West Papua. On July 6, more than 100 people were wounded and

at least 3 people were killed when Indonesian armed forces fired on a crowd of pro-independence demonstrators on the Island of Biak.

Since 1962, Mr. Speaker, the people of West Papua have been under the occupying authority of Indonesia. Over the past 3 decades the use of excessive and lethal force has been a feature of the Indonesian armed forces' response to both peaceful and armed opposition by the people of West Papua.

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The recent events in West Papua have only served to underscore the brutality with which the aspirations of the West Papuan people are being suppressed by the new regime which took power after the resignation of President Suharto.

Mr. Speaker, the recent violence of the Indonesian government against the people of West Papua is part and parcel of a long history of Jakarta's oppression. Papuan people are not Indonesians, they are Melanesians. Their country is not naturally a part of Indonesia, which is more than 2,300 miles away across the ocean, with many island nations in between. West Papuan languages, religions, history, identity, and customs are their own, and bear no relation whatsoever to the rest of Indonesia.

These two nations were cobbled together in 1969 to serve the foreign policy interests of our own Nation and its ally, Indonesia. Indonesia took over West Papua New Guinea in 1963, suppressing the West Papuan New Guinea dreams of freedom and self-determination. There was no natural reason for this union, so it should come as no surprise that it is unraveling.

Since Indonesia took over West Papua New Guinea, the native people have suffered under one of the most repressive and unjust systems of colonial occupation in the 21st century. The Indonesian government has waged an ongoing war against the "Free Papua movement" and their supporters since the 1960s. The civilian populace that has objected to Indonesia's plans for development in West Papua has suffered similar oppression.

Mr. Speaker, incredible as it may seem, estimates are that between 100,000 to 300,000 indigenous Melanesians, West Papuan New Guineans, have been killed or have simply vanished from the face of the earth during the years of Indonesian occupation. I hope my colleagues will appreciate the suppression and the problems the West Papuan New Guineans are now going through with the Indonesian government.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to an on-going struggle presently being waged many miles away in the Pacific by the people of West Papua, or Irian Jaya as it is known by the Indonesia Government. In July, the attention of the world was focused, however briefly, on the immense tragedy caused by the Tsunami which devastated the coastal villages of Papua New Guinea.

In the western half of the same island, some miles away, agonies of another sort were being experienced by the people of West Papua. It is not my intent, Mr. Speaker, to detract in any way from the horror and the misery inflicted on the people of Papua New Guinea by the disaster which wiped out their coastal villages. Rather, my concern is that in the midst of the devastation wrought by nature we should not forget the devastation wrought by our fellow human beings.

We can only respond after the fact to the devastation brought by a Tsunami. We have the opportunity to respond with more immediacy to the devastation which is caused by our fellow human beings.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on previous occasions about the history of the people of West Papua and about their struggle for independence from Indonesia. On July 3rd, Indonesian Armed Forces fired on pro-independence demonstrators at a university in Jayapura, the capital of West Papua. On July 6th, more than 1000 people were wounded and at least three people were killed when Indonesian Armed Forces fired on a crowd of pro-independence demonstrators on the island of Biak.

Both of these demonstrations were peaceful, Mr. Speaker. They expressed the desire of the people of West Papua for a just resolution to the matter of their political status. Human Rights Watch has called for a full investigation into the shootings in Biak, where 140 citizens have been detained by the government and where there are reports that wounded detainees are being denied medical care and that their families are not being allowed to visit them.

Since 1962, the people of West Papua have been under the occupying rule of Indonesia. Over the last three decades the use of excessive and lethal force has been a feature of the Indonesian Armed Forces' response to both peaceful and armed opposition. The recent events in West Papua have only served to underscore the brutality with which the aspirations of the West Papuan people are being suppressed by the new regime which took power after the resignation of President Suharto.

Mr. Speaker, the recent violence by the Indonesian Government against the people of West Papua is part and parcel of a long history of Jakarta's oppression. Papuan people are not Indonesian, they are Melanesian. Their country is not naturally a part of Indonesia, which is more than 2,300 miles away—across the ocean, with many island nations in between. West Papuan languages, religions, history, identity and customs are their own, and bear no relation to those of Indonesia.

These two nations were cobbled together in 1969 to serve the foreign policy interests of the United States and its ally Indonesia. Indonesia took West Papua in 1963, suppressing the West Papua people's dreams of freedom and self-determination. There was no natural reason for this union, and so it should come as no surprise that it is unravelling.

Since Indonesia took over West Papua, the native Melanesian people have suffered under one of the most repressive and unjust systems of colonial occupation in the twentieth century. The Indonesian military has waged an ongoing war against the "Free Papua Movement" (OPM) and their supporters since the 1960s. The civilian populace that has objected

to Indonesia's plans for development in West Papua has suffered similar oppression. The thousands of killings associated with the expansion of the freeport copper and gold mines in West Papua are testimony to the brutality of the Jakarta central government.

Incredible as it may seem, Mr. Speaker, estimates are that between 100,000 to 300,000 indigenous West Papuans have been killed or have simply vanished from the face of the Earth during the years of Indonesian occupation. And this pattern of annihilation is being continued by the regime of Mr. Habibie, despite initial promises of reform.

The current Government of Indonesia continues to choose a policy of repression, a policy which disregards the rights of the indigenous people of West Papua. Mr. Speaker, the tragic situation in West Papua is of great concern to me. The recent shooting over the pro-independence demonstrations in Jayapura and on the island of Biak, the violent responses which we have seen to pro-independence demonstrations in towns and cities all across West Papua indicate that this new regime is prepared to continue the repression of the past.

One half of Papua New Guinea is still reeling from the worst natural disaster to hit the island in recent memory. Whole villages and the lives of the people in them have been completely obliterated, wiped off the face of the Earth. In the other half of the same island, the people of West Papua are suffering another form of devastation. Their identity as a people is being obliterated by a brutal regime thousands of miles away.

I would hope that all my colleagues would join me in urging the Indonesian Government to cease these violations of human rights and instead take immediate steps to review the political status of West Papua. The new regime in Indonesia has an opportunity to correct the mistakes of the past, not repeat them. It seems to me that we have an obligation to lend our support to this effort, and I urge my colleagues to protest in the strongest possible terms these continuing violations of basic human rights by the new Government of Indonesia.

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND RUSSIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I come to the House floor to talk about the international money fund and Russia. I think many of us are very deeply concerned about what is happening in Russia, and there have been calls in the land to have Americans continue funding the international money fund, and the international money fund should help bail out Russia.

But I come here this afternoon to talk about what we really should do. Secretary of Treasury Robert Rubin was quoted recently as saying, "At this point, we don't have a Russian economic team. We don't have a Russian economic plan."

That is unbelievable. We had, in the subcommittee, a hearing on this. I did

not serve on this, but the chairman invited me to listen, and I heard some of the witnesses. I think we all agree that the goal should be to find a way to help Russia, but more importantly, what has gone wrong with Russia's economy, and how has the IMF's policies affected the current economic state of Russia?

As I have mentioned numerous times in the past here on the floor, the economic dilemmas in Asia, in Russia, are not due necessarily to excess capitalism but to the lack of controls, the lack of policing in these nations, and truly, not putting in place a free market system.

There is a great book by Michael Novak called *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*. Mr. Novak talks about how the need for successful capitalism in countries depends upon a culture, a culture of honesty and a culture in which, if honesty is not in place, the government polices it and makes sure corruption does not exist. It also talks about democracy, the freedom of a Nation to elect its leaders, and it talks about ownership of property.

These three components make up every successful Nation that deals in the area of capitalism. But in this case, Russia does not have in place a policing system to stop corruption.

Let me quote from Jim Hoagland, who did an article entitled "Russia, a System that Prevailed and Failed." He said, "The fundamental problem in Russia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and elsewhere was not that they went too far in adopting American style capitalism, but these nations did not go far enough."

Then he went on later to talk about Russia, and he said, "Russia demonstrates the perils of trying to skim off the cream of a globalized economy without adopting the checks and controls needed to restrain human appetites and ambitions. Lacking in Russia and Asia was an appreciation of the open and fair competition needed to police capitalism and to make it work."

That is the key. "Since its 1991 revolution, Russia has not developed a risk-based entrepreneurial market economy, and its institutions, to allocate rewards and pain through the efficiency of the marketplace." That has not been in place.

Mr. Speaker, not only have Russia's leaders failed in developing a free market system, they have allowed pure, all-out corruption to guide Russia, and allowed the corrupters to steal billions of dollars to create their own criminal fiefdoms. Official Russian corruption is unmatched anywhere in the world.

Experts say Russia is being plundered through the sale of its natural resources. In a typical scheme, a seller, aided by corrupt officials, sells Russian commodities overseas for higher prices than he reports to the government, and pockets the difference.

A Russian scholar compared reports of such sales filed with the Russian government with known market prices

of the same commodities. His findings are related on the chart that I have here on the floor, Mr. Speaker. The difference in the chart represents the amount believed to have been stolen.

When we talk about crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, and aluminum, you can see the estimated illegal profits from commodity sales in Russia. For 1995 alone, the estimated illegal profits from the sale of crude oil were \$828 million, \$1.5 billion in petroleum products, \$1.2 billion in natural gas, and \$900 million in illegal profits from aluminum sales. All told, the Russian government lost \$4.4 billion in revenue in 1995.

With these facts of how Russia has been plundered, how can the Clinton Administration and the IMF continue to justify propping up the failed Russian government by demanding more money from hard-working U.S. taxpayers. We have seen that the recent Russian bailout by the IMF amounting to \$22.6 billion has been a failure.

The IMF should suspend any additional payments to Russia immediately and until there can be a consensus built whether any additional funding would actually do any good for Russia. Congress should continue withholding any additional funding to the IMF itself until Congress can determine if the IMF is increasing the "moral hazard" by continuing its bailouts.

Let me close, Mr. Speaker, by saying the IMF should suspend funding until we find out how to stop corruption, and in fact, Congress should not give funding to the IMF until it understands how the IMF works in Russia.

TRIBUTE TO ED BOHRER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on Labor Day the city of Gaithersburg, which is the second largest city in my congressional district, celebrated its traditional Labor Day parade, one of the biggest parades in the State, and I would venture, probably in the region. It was the 60th parade.

The parade was dedicated to the mayor, Ed Bohrer, who on August 27 at age 58 died suddenly. He was there in spirit. I pay tribute to Ed Bohrer.

Ed Bohrer was a man of Gaithersburg, born and bred. He lived and loved in the town that he knew so well, where everyone knew each other and everyone cared. He loved his native Gaithersburg, and he enthusiastically nurtured his town into a community which has become the second largest city in the State of Maryland.

He was first elected mayor in 1986, after he had already served 10 years on the Gaithersburg city council. He was a man who truly believed in the people of Gaithersburg. He was committed to his community, and he exhibited honor and integrity in all that he did. His leadership and achievements enhanced

the quality of life for all of the citizens of Gaithersburg, and he made us very proud.

Ed was very proud that Gaithersburg was a very fiscally solvent city. He was a Republican, but he was a Republican who was bipartisan, in fact nonpartisan in working with businesses, elected officials, organizations to serve all the people.

His vision led to the establishment of the Wells Robertson house for transitional homeless, in response to a problem of homeless in Gaithersburg, giving them the opportunity to prepare for jobs and for transitioning into the city beyond the homeless shelter.

He established effective antidrug programs. He was very much involved with the revitalization of the Gaithersburg Old Town, and he established Gaithersburg as a "character counts" city, a model for the Nation. We will sorely miss the beloved mayor, whom I called endearingly "Mr. Gaithersburgermeister."

Most of all, we remember Ed Bohrer, the man. Each of us who knew him in some way has been touched in a very special, personal way by Ed Bohrer. We have called him a mentor, because he guided, helped, and cared. We recall his pride and involvement on the athletic fields, cheering the young people. We can almost see him now, wearing his hallmark outfit: loafers and no socks and chino pants. We were his classmates, his neighbors, his letter carriers, his school crossing guards, his community police. We all knew that we were part of his leadership, his commitment to community service.

Ed Bohrer was unpretentious with a sense of humor and a sense of values. He was loyal to his friends. He was a man of his word who believed passionately that public service meant helping others.

On August 30th, which was the eve of his funeral service, Ed lay in state in the hallowed sanctuary of his church, Epworth United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Well over 1,400 people passed through to pay tribute to this man that they remembered so endearingly.

It was very appropriate because he truly lived the prayer of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley: "to do all the good you can, in all the places you can; in all the ways that you can; for as long as you can." Pastor Reverend Green in his homily celebrated the life and legacy of Ed Bohrer by citing examples of his faith in his actions.

Ed Bohrer was a family man. He knew the values of family. I remember his pride when his wife, Sharon, graduated from Columbia Union College, when the children were adults. She was getting a graduate degree, and in fact, I was the speaker.

He and Sharon gave their children, Paige and Patrick, a loving home. They have reflected in their lives that inspiration. He encouraged his son Pat's dedication to a law enforcement career. He was filled with joy for Paige

and his four grandchildren, and he was devoted to his mother, Juanita.

We were very proud to be part of one of the many things that Ed and Sharon did in the community. They had a holiday tradition where he and Sharon would serve members of the community at their home at a breakfast, and they had the traditional pancakes prepared by his mother, Juanita.

Ed's loss leaves a void, particularly in the lives of his family. We offer our prayers for Sharon, Paige, Patrick, his mother, Juanita, his sisters, grandchildren, and all the family.

At the memorial service on August 31, reflections on the life of Ed Bohrer were offered by Sidney Katz, Gaithersburg city council member; Roy Green, his brother-in-law; his son, Patrick Bohrer; the Board Chairman of the Adventist Health Care, Ron Wisbey; Teresa Wright, a community representative. I also had the honor of offering some reflections.

□ 1300

What was so special was that the eulogy was given by his wife. And it was so filled with the warmth, enthusiasm, humor, and compassion that characterized Ed, we all felt that he was there. Everyone was deeply moved.

Sharon stated she was following Ed's request to deliver the eulogy.

I stress that Ed Bohrer personified the pillars of "Character Counts." In Congress we have a resolution encouraging States and localities to become "Character Counts" cities, States, and jurisdictions. Gaithersburg's commitment shows its effectiveness.

Those pillars of "Character Counts" are Respect, trustworthiness, fairness, citizenship, caring and responsibility. And, indeed, in this day when public servants are judged not only by accomplishments but by character, Ed Bohrer was truly a role model.

I talked with Ed on the phone at the hospital a few days before he passed away. His wife, Sharon, had just washed his hair. He was filled with hope. I told him that I loved him, and I said that for all of us who knew him.

Thornton Wilder wrote, "There is a land of the living and a land of the dead, and the bridge is love—the only survival and the only meaning."

Ed Bohrer will be missed, but he will certainly live on in love and is our inspiration. "We thank you, Ed."

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MEEK of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WISE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KILPATRICK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 60 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. STEARNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCINNIS, for 5 minutes, on September 14.

Mr. HAYWORTH, for 5 minutes, today. (The following Member (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MEEK of Florida) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. KIND.

Mr. ACKERMAN.

Mr. LEVIN.

Mr. HALL of Ohio.

Mr. GORDON.

Ms. PELOSI.

Mr. BENTSEN.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. CAMP.

Mr. THOMAS.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

Mrs. ROUKEMA.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MORELLA) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BAESLER.

Ms. HARMAN.

Mr. GILLMOR.

Mr. KLECKA.

Mr. HILLEARY.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1883. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction over part of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion in the Wenatchee National Forest.

S. 1883. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Marion National Fish Hatchery and the Claude Harris National Aquacultural Research Center to the State of Alabama, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.) under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 14, 1998, at 10:30 a.m. for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10833. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order—Decrease in Importer Assessments [No. LS-98-004] received September 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

10834. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Animal Welfare; Marine Mammals, Swim-with-the-Dolphin Programs [Docket No. 93-076-10] (RIN: 0579-AA59) received September 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

10835. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Comptroller of the Currency Administrator of National Banks, transmitting the Office's final rule—Extended Examination Cycle for U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks [Docket No. 98-11] (RIN: 1557-AB60) received September 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

10836. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Replacement Housing Factor in Modernization Funding [Docket No. FR-4125-F-02] (RIN: 2577-AB71) received September 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

10837. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Modification of Significant New Use Rules for Certain Substances [OPPTS-50631A, etc; FRL-6019-2] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received August 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10838. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Examination of Current Policy Concerning the Treatment of Confidential Information Submitted to the Commission [GC Docket No. 96-55] received September 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10839. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [I.D. 070698D] received September 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10840. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Federal Register Certifying Officer, Financial Management Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Offset of Tax Refund Payments to Collect Past-due, Legally Enforceable Nontax Debt (RIN: 1510-AA62) received September 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

10841. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the approval of \$50,000,000 in emergency funds to the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, pursuant to Public Law 99-177; (H. Doc. No. 105-305); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

10842. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request to Congress to consider expeditiously the request for \$3.25 billion in FY 1998 contingent emergency funding for year 2000 (Y2K) computer conversion activities; (H. Doc. No. 105-306); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

10843. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); (H. Doc. No. 105-302); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10844. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a continuation of the national emergency declared by Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); (H. Doc. No. 105-303); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10845. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council, pursuant to Public Law 102-1, section 3 (105 Stat. 4); (H. Doc. No. 105-304); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10846. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification to Congress that the security of the Albaina Embassy in Tirana has been enhanced; (H. Doc. No. 105-307); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10847. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of the U.S. strikes in Afghanistan against a series of camps and installations used by the Usama bin Ladin organization, and in Sudan where the bin Ladin organization has facilities and extensive ties to the government; (H. Doc. No. 105-308); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10848. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification to Congress that a Joint Task Force of U.S. military personnel from U.S. Central Command deployed to Nairobi to coordinate the medical and disaster response assistance arriving in Kenya and Tanzania; (H. Doc. No. 105-309); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10849. A letter from the the Kenneth W. Starr, the Independent Counsel, transmitting a Referral to the United States House of Representatives filed in conformity with the requirements of title 28, United States Code, section 595(c); (H. Doc. No. 105-310); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1659. A bill to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of private mineral interests within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument mandated by the 1982 Act that established the Monument, and for other purposes; with

an amendment (Rept. 105-704). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4166. A bill to amend the Idaho Admission Act regarding the sale or lease of school land (Rept. 105-705). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3903. A bill to provide for an exchange of lands located near Gustavus, Alaska, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 105-706, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2314. A bill to restore Federal Indian services to members of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma residing in Maverick County, Texas, to clarify United States citizenship status of such members, to provide trust land for the benefit of the Tribe, and for other purposes (Rept. 105-706, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3055. A bill to deem the activities of the Miccosukee Tribe on the Tamiami Indian Reservation to be consistent with the purposes of the Everglades National park, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 105-708, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the Committee on International Relations discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3654 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the Committee on Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3903 referred to the committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4005 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the Committee on Banking and Financial Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4275 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4283 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 2314. Referral to the Committee on the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than September 18, 1998.

H.R. 3055. Referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure extended for a period ending not later than October 9, 1998.

H.R. 3903. Referral to the Committee on Commerce extended for a period ending not later than September 11, 1998.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of Rule X and clause 4 of Rule XXII, public bills and resolu-

tions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. GINGRICH, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. BALLENGER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, and Mr. MICA):

H.R. 4550. A bill to provide for programs to facilitate a significant reduction in the incidence and prevalence of substance abuse through reducing the demand for illegal drugs and the inappropriate use of legal drugs; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Government Reform and Oversight, Small Business, Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 4551. A bill to amend section 16 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 to prohibit occupancy in public housing by, and rental assistance under section 8 of such Act for, any person convicted of manufacturing or producing methamphetamine on the premises; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 4552. A bill to provide grants to certain local educational agencies to provide integrated classroom-related computer training for elementary and secondary school teachers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. ROUKEMA:

H.R. 4553. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand S corporation eligibility for banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THOMAS:

H.R. 4554. A bill to reform Federal land management activities relating to endangered species conservation; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. THOMAS:

H.R. 4555. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to reform provisions relating to liability for civil and criminal penalties under that Act; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. FAZIO of California:

H. Res. 530. A resolution designating minority membership on certain standing committees of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RADANOVICH:

H. Res. 531. A resolution calling upon William Jefferson Clinton to immediately resign the Office of President of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GILLMOR (for himself, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. PAXON, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SNOWBARGER, Mr. WELLER, and Mr. BALLENGER):

H. Res. 532. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should personally reimburse the Federal Government for the costs incurred by the Office of Independent Counsel since January 26, 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H. Res. 533. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the culpability of Hun Sen for war

crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Cambodia (the former Kampuchea, the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and the State of Cambodia); to the Committee on International Relations.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 1 of rule XXII,

Mr. UPTON introduced a bill (H.R. 4557) to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel EMBARCADERO; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 98: Mr. SANDLIN.

H.R. 218: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina and Mr. SPENCE.

H.R. 372: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 611: Mr. BAESLER and Mr. MCHALE.

H.R. 1050: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1215: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

H.R. 1531: Mr. MILLER of California.

H.R. 2701: Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN and Mr. MARTINEZ.

H.R. 2761: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2840: Mr. GEKAS.

H.R. 2912: Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2938: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 3008: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 3248: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky.

H.R. 3514: Mr. CARDIN.

H.R. 3567: Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

H.R. 3622: Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Ms. SANCHEZ, and Mr. FORD.

H.R. 3632: Mr. HYDE, Mr. HORN, and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 3634: Mr. HILL, Mr. BUYER, Mr. GORDON, Mr. TAUZIN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. RIGGS.

H.R. 3636: Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 3734: Mr. METCALF.

H.R. 3779: Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. STARK, Mr. WISE, and Mr. KIND of Wisconsin.

H.R. 3831: Mr. DIXON.

H.R. 3899: Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. EHRLICH, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. JONES, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GORDON, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. BLILEY.

H.R. 3905: Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. MCINTOSH, and Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 3985: Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon.

H.R. 3991: Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 3995: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 4031: Mr. STOKES and Mr. CLYBURN.

H.R. 4032: Mr. NEUMANN.

H.R. 4122: Mr. LUTHER.

H.R. 4175: Mr. TORRES, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. VENTO, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 4182: Mr. SANDLIN.

H.R. 4184: Mr. SANDLIN and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4185: Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. POMEROY.

H.R. 4198: Mrs. WILSON.

H.R. 4235: Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. FOLEY.

H.R. 4258: Mrs. KELLY, Ms. DANNER, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. HORN, and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 4275: Mr. WATKINS and Mr. SPENCE.

H.R. 4283: Mr. MEEKS of New York and Mr. CLYBURN.

H.R. 4300: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. BARTON of Texas, and Mr. WALSH.

H.R. 4339: Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. LAMPSON, and Mr. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 4353: Mr. MANTON.

H.R. 4355: Mr. CLYBURN.

H.R. 4404: Mr. BRYANT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 4474: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4489: Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 4495: Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H.R. 4531: Mr. FROST, Ms. WATERS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Con. Res. 114: Ms. KILPATRICK.

H. Con. Res. 239: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Con. Res. 274: Mr. FORD, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. COOK, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington, Mr. DIXON, Ms. DELAUR, and Mr. SNYDER.

H. Con. Res. 306: Mr. COOK.

H. Con. Res. 325: Mr. CHABOT, Ms. DUNN of Washington, and Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington.

H. Res. 96: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

H. Res. 135: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H. Res. 460: Ms. CARSON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. COYNE, Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SNYDER,

Mr. McNULTY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FREILINGHUYSEN, and Mr. ORTIZ.

H. Res. 519: Mr. McKEON.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 4006: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.