

Union Calendar No. 618

106TH CONGRESS }
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT
106-1056

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DURING THE
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS
TOGETHER WITH
MINORITY AND ADDITIONAL VIEWS



JANUARY 2, 2001.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on
the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

JANUARY 2, 2001.

Hon. JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR JEFF: Pursuant to Clause 1(d) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby submit to the House a report on the activities of the Committee on House Administration for the 106th Congress, including the oversight plan for the 106th Congress.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee was created on January 4, 1995, and is successor to the Committee on House Administration, which was created on January 2, 1947 as part of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. This Act combined the Committee on Accounts, Enrolled Bills, Disposition of Executive Papers, Printing, Elections, Election of the President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress, and Memorials. Between January 2, 1947 and January 4, 1995, the jurisdiction of the Committee was amended to include the House Restaurant System, parking facilities, House Beauty Shop, campaign contributions to candidates for the House, resolutions authorizing committees to employ additional professional and clerical personnel, and the Committee's shared jurisdiction with the Post Office and Civil Service Committee on matters relating to compensation, retirement and other benefits of Members, officers and employees of Congress.

The Rules of the House of Representatives for the 104th Congress expanded the Committee responsibility for authorizing payment of expenses including all staff salaries for any committee, commission, or other entity (except the Committee on Appropriations) for each Congress. The Committee's jurisdiction was also broadened to include the Franking Commission. Responsibility for erection of monuments to the memory of individuals was transferred to the Committee on Resources.

Upon adoption of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 105th Congress, the Committee was given sole jurisdiction over, and responsibility for, assigning functions and providing oversight and policy direction to the Chief Administrative Officer of the House. An additional provision was added, which requires joint approval by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee concerning the amount of funds to be paid before a House employing office may enter a settlement of a complaint under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) that provides for such a payment. The CAA assigns to the Committee responsibility for oversight of the Office of Compliance and the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance (section 301(i) of Public Law 104-1; 2 U.S.C. 1381(i)).

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Committee on House Administration is a standing committee of the House of Representatives. The powers and duties of the Committee include the statutory responsibilities of the predecessor committee, the Committee on House Administration, as determined primarily by the Legislative Reorganization Acts of 1946 (Public Law 79-601) and 1970 (Public Law 91-510); the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act

of 1996 (Public Law 104–186), and; the Rules of the House of Representatives adopted on January 7, 1997. The Committee on House Administration, which consists of 9 members, has jurisdiction and related functions assigned by clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives; and all bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to the following subjects shall be referred to the Committee:

1. Appropriations from accounts for committee salaries and expenses (except for the Committee on Appropriations), House Information Systems, and allowances and expenses of Members, House Officers and administrative offices of the House.

2. Auditing and settling of all accounts described in subparagraph (1).

3. Employment of persons by the House, including clerks for Members and committees, and recorders.

4. Except as provided in Rule X, clause 1(q)(11), matters relating to the Library of Congress and the House Library; statuary and pictures; acceptance or purchase of works of art for the Capitol; the Botanic Gardens; management of the Library of Congress; purchase of books and manuscripts.

5. Except as provided in Rule X, clause 1(q)(11), matters relating to the Smithsonian Institution and the incorporation of similar institutions.

6. Expenditures of accounts described in subparagraph (1).

7. Franking Commission.

8. Matters relating to printing and correction of the Congressional Record.

9. Measures relating to accounts of the House generally.

10. Measures relating to assignment of office space for Members and committees.

11. Measures relating to the disposition of useless executive papers.

12. Measures relating to the election of the President, Vice President, or Members of Congress; corrupt practices; contested elections; credentials and qualifications; and Federal elections generally.

13. Measures relating to services to the House, including the House Restaurant, parking facilities and administration of the House Office Buildings and the House wing of the Capitol.

14. Measures relating to the travel of Members of the House.

15. Measures relating to the raising, reporting and use of campaign contributions for candidates for office of Representative in the House of Representatives, or Delegate, and of Resident Commissioner to the United States from Puerto Rico.

16. Measures relating to the compensation, retirement and other benefits of the Members, officers, and employees of the Congress.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction under the preceding provisions (and its general oversight function) the Committee has the function of:

1. Examining all bills, amendments, and joint resolutions after passage by the House and, in cooperation with the Senate, examining all bills and joint resolutions which shall have passed both Houses to see that they are correctly enrolled,

forthwith presenting those which originated in the House to the President of the United States in person after their signature by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and reporting the fact and date of such presentation to the House; and

2. Providing policy direction for, and oversight of, the Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chief Administrative Officer, and Inspector General.

Finally, the Committee has privilege to report at any time on enrolled bills, contested elections, and all matters referred to it of printing for the use of the House or the two Houses, and on all matters of expenditure of the applicable accounts of the House and on all matters relating to preservation and availability of non-current records of the House.

INTRODUCTION

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

BRIEF HISTORY

The Committee on House Administration is distinguished by its exercise not only of legislative and oversight functions, but also of extensive responsibility to regulate the day-to-day management of internal support and operations of the House. The vital character of the Committee's activities is reflected in the broad scope of its authorities, which give it responsibility for most internal fiscal and administrative functions of the chamber.

In the elections of 1994, Republicans took majority control of the House for the first time since 1954, and instituted a sharp break with past House administrative practices. Signaling recognition of the Committee's important role, the new majority party placed authority to name Members of the committee in the hands of its leadership rather than election by the party conference.

Under the leadership of Chairman Bill Thomas, the first Republican to hold this post in 40 years, the Committee on House Administration adopted a management philosophy substantially different from the pattern of the past. Basing many of its reforms on private sector management principles, the Committee's role evolved into one in which the Committee set policy and conducted oversight of the subsequent implementation by officers of the House.

Under Chairman Thomas, the Committee also conducted an exhaustive survey of public laws applicable to itself, House officers, and administrative functions. This effort culminated in the August 1996 enactment of the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act, which clarified, changed, or repealed more than 250 ambiguous or unnecessary statutes.

Additionally, the Committee commissioned an independent audit of all House accounts by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) in 1995. The audit revealed deficiencies in House financial management including disorganized record keeping and inadequate attention to costs. A series of more limited audits of House accounts was carried out over the next six years by the House Inspector General.

On the basis of the findings of those audits, the Committee developed policies implementing extensive financial and accounting

management systems. A follow-up audit by PWC in 1999 found significant improvements in House accounts record keeping, and the company pronounced the new financial management practices instituted under the Committee's oversight in keeping with standard accounting practices.

While putting the House in order, the Committee also made great strides in making Congress more accessible to the American people. By working with Speaker Newt Gingrich, the Senate, and the Congressional Research Service, to develop a computer system called THOMAS (after Thomas Jefferson), which was established in the Library of Congress. A variety of internal reforms ushered the digital age into the House and today is a vital resource for Members, staff and the American people.

The Committee also made significant strides by starting the federal elections reform process. Chairman Thomas sponsored a host of campaign finance disclosure and Federal Elections Commission reform bills to modernize and update the federal election system. A procedure was also established for dealing with contested elections for Members of the House of Representatives.

A central indicator of the success of the Committee under Chairman Thomas is the extent to which it has been able to effectively carry out its administrative, legislative, and operational functions. These operations are often measured by their shortcomings, gaining attention only when they fail. Today's Committee carries out its work in support of the legislative and representational missions of Congress smoothly, without precipitating controversies or requiring corrective actions.

106TH CONGRESS OVERSIGHT PLAN

MEMBER SERVICES

- Oversee Member allowance amounts, structure, and regulations; provide guidance to offices to ensure compliance with House regulations.
- Review *Members' Congressional Handbook* regulations governing expenditure of Members' Representational Allowances.
- Review the formulas that establish the Members' Representational Allowance.
- Review processing of vouchers and payroll.

COMMITTEE FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT

- Continuing review of biennial and consolidated funding resolutions for committees.
- Receive and review Monthly Reports on committee activities and expenditures.
- Review *Committees' Congressional Handbook* regulations governing expenditure of committee funds.
- Review Primary Expense Resolutions and approve committee-funding levels.
- Review rules and regulations associated with administration of the reserve fund for unexpected oversight activities of committees.

IX

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

- Monitor implementation of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (PL 104–1).
- Review regulations adopted by the Office of Compliance.
- Evaluate resources available to the Office of Compliance and House Employing Offices to facilitate implementation of the Act.
- Provide oversight for the Office of Compliance.
- Review the Congressional Accountability Act.

FRANKING COMMISSION

- Review proposals to reform mass mailing practices of Members, and regulations governing such mailings, and monitor current prohibition on mass mailings 90 days before a primary or general election.
- Review previously implemented rules to increase disclosure and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.
- Consider revisions of pre-election franking complaint procedures.
- Review regulation of Unsolicited Mass Communications.
- Review alternatives to the District Office Franked Mail Certifications for recording and reporting franked mail usage in district offices.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

- Consider legislation to reform government printing by eliminating redundancies, increasing efficiency, and enhancing public access to government publications.
- Gather information on the restructuring of government printing and the dissemination of government information to the public, especially in electronic form.
- Track the implementation of the Booz-Allen study required in the FY99 Appropriations bill.
- Conduct Oversight of the Government Printing Office.

HOUSE OFFICERS AND HOUSE OPERATIONS

- Analyze management improvement proposals and other initiatives submitted by the House Officers, the Inspector General and the Architect of the Capitol.
- Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations on matters impacting operations of the House and joint entities.
- Provide policy guidance to the House Officers, Inspector General and the Joint entities as appropriate.
- Oversee compliance with the House Employee Classification Act, 2 U.S.C. 291, *et seq.*
- Assure coordination among officers and joint entities on administrative matters.

Chief Administrative Officer

- Review procedures for processing contracts with the House that exceed the threshold of \$100,000.

- Continue to review implementation of new financial management system.
- Review the structure of House Information Resources and determine organizational direction.
- Review new technology initiatives to better serve Members, Committees, and the House.
- Review the process for approving equipment purchases by members and committees.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the CAO.
- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.

Clerk of the House

- Review the administration of the audio transmission on the House floor.
- Review and approve contracts and requests for proposals for the Clerk which exceed the \$100,000 spending threshold.
- Review plans for the implementation of the document management system.
- Review progress steps towards defining a standard for the electronic exchange of legislative information among Congress and legislative branch agencies.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Clerk.
- Review of semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.

Sergeant at Arms

- Review security operations in the House, including the House chamber, the galleries, the Capitol, House Office Buildings, and Capitol Grounds.
- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review impact of electronic access to controlled spaces.
- Continuing review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Sergeant at Arms.
- Review the security operation of the House's parking facilities, its regulations and allocation of parking spaces.
- Analyze U.S. Capitol Police Board plans for the spending of \$106.7 million for the enhancement in Capitol campus security as authorized by the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1999.

Inspector General

- Review proposed audit plan and audit reports.
- Review comprehensive financial and operational audits of the House: investigate any irregularities uncovered; and monitor the required improvements.
- Monitor progress of House audits.

OVERSIGHT OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ENTITIES

Information and Technology Coordination

- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, forums for the sharing of technology plans and capabilities among the legislative branch agencies.
- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, the Legislative Branch Telecommunications group.
- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, plans for the implementation and growth of the Legislative Information System.

Library of Congress

- Oversee the remedial measures taken by the Library in response to the audit conducted in the 104th Congress.
- Consider the Library's proposals regarding restructuring of the Gift and Trust funds.
- Conduct a review of the progress that the Library has made in providing public access to government information, especially in electronic form.
- Continuing oversight of Library and Congressional Research Service operations.
- Continuing review of the preparations for the Culpeper Film Preservation Facility by the Library.
- Examine options to improve the operation and structure of the Library Inspector General.

Smithsonian Institution

- Review the Smithsonian Inspector General's reports on the status of the Smithsonian.
- Continuing oversight of Smithsonian operations.

Architect of the Capitol

- Review the operations of the office of the architect, consider a systems and financial audit of the operation as a whole to provide a baseline for the administration of the new Architect.
- Review the electronic and procured services provided by the Architect.
- In conjunction with the Senate and other appropriate House Committees, oversee the preparations for the construction of the proposed Capitol Visitor's Center.

TECHNOLOGY USE BY THE HOUSE

- Continuing oversight of House Information Resources and other technology functions of the House to ensure timely, accurate electronic information dissemination.
- Oversee implementation of House Rule XI 2(e)(4) requiring committee documentation to be made available electronically, to the maximum extent feasible.
- Oversee the continuing efforts of the House to prepare for the Year 2000 computer problem.

ELECTIONS, VOTER REGISTRATION, AND CORRUPT PRACTICES

- Conduct a review of current operations of the Federal Election Commission and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency,

strengthen enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and improve procedures for the disclosure of contributions and expenditures.

- Review state and federal activities in connection with the National Voter Registration Act. Examine reforms that could improve voter registration procedures, particularly with regard to strengthening protection against fraud.

- Examine evidence of fraud in the conduct of federal elections and evaluate measures to improve the integrity of the electoral process.

- Examine evidence of possible corruption and evasion of election laws in campaign fundraising, including contributions from prohibited foreign sources.

- Study the role of involuntary contributions used for expenditures that influence political campaigns.

- Review current federal election financing laws and consider legislative changes as necessary.

Calendar No. 618

106TH CONGRESS 2nd Session	}	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	}	REPORT 106-1056
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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

JANUARY 2, 2001.—Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and
ordered to be printed

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration,
submitted the following

REPORT

together with

MINORITY AND ADDITIONAL VIEWS

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION DURING THE 106TH CONGRESS

SUMMARY OF OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

FIRST SESSION

The Committee met on January 7, 1999—Business Meeting

1. The Committee introduced the 106th Congress Committee on House Administration Members.

2. The Committee considered the 106th Congress Committee on House Administration Rules. A Motion to adopt the rules was agreed to by voice vote.

3. The Committee was notified of action and approval taken under Interim Authority.

(a) Judiciary Committee Consultant Contracts with David P. Schippers & Associates, Chartered and R.S. Hoover & Associates.

(b) Extensions to the Select Committee on China Consultant Contracts with the Washington Advisory Group, LLC, and Dechert, Price & Rhoads.

(c) The User's Guide to Equipment Software and Related Services.

(d) The Universal Resource Locator Regulations.

4. The Committee considered the Members' Representational Allowance for 1999. The MRAs were approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. The Committee considered the Managers' consultant contracts for the Impeachment Trial of William J. Clinton, President of the United States. The contracts were agreed to by voice vote.

The Committee met on February 3, 1999—Business Meeting

1. Minority Amendments to the 106th Congress Rules of the Committee on House Administration.

2. Committee Resolution Approving the 106th Congress Oversight Plan.

3. Committee Resolution Approving a Drug Testing Policy for the House of Representatives.

4. Consideration of the Committee on House Administration minority consultant contract.

5. Committee Resolution Approving Unsolicited Mass Communications Regulations.

The Committee met on February 10, 1999—Business Meeting

1. Committee Resolution: Appointing Members to the Joint Committee on the Library and to the Joint Committee on Printing.

2. Committee Resolution: Approving the 106th Congress Budget Request.

3. Consideration of Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial concerns with the People's Republic of China consultant contracts.

4. Consideration of a contract for the purchase of a New Member Payroll System from Lawson Software.

The Committee met on February 24, 1999

Closed Meeting:

1. Consideration of the U.S. Capitol Police Security Enhancement Plan.

2. Consideration of the Capitol Perimeter Security Improvement Plan.

The Committee met on March 3, 1999—Committee Funding Hearing

The Committee heard testimony from the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the following House committees concerning their proposed budgets for the 106th Congress:

1. House Administration Committee

Mr. Bill Thomas, Chairman

Mr. Steny Hoyer, Ranking Minority Member

2. International Relations Committee

Mr. Benjamin A. Gilman, Chairman

Mr. Sam Gejdenson, Ranking Minority Member

3. Standards of Official Conduct Committee

Mr. Lamar Smith, Chairman

Mr. Howard Berman, Ranking Minority Member

4. Science Committee

Mr. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

Mr. George E. Brown, Jr., Ranking Minority Member

5. Budget Committee

- Mr. John Kasich, Chairman
- Mr. John Spratt, Ranking Minority Member
- 6. Veterans' Affairs Committee
 - Mr. Bob Stump, Chairman
 - Mr. Lane Evans, Ranking Minority Member
- 7. Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
 - Mr. Bud Shuster, Chairman
 - Mr. James L. Oberstar, Ranking Minority Member
- 8. Banking and Financial Services Committee
 - Mr. James A. Leach, Chairman
 - Mr. John LaFalce, Ranking Minority Member

The Committee met on March 4, 1999—Committee Funding Hearing

The Committee heard testimony from the chairman and ranking minority members of the following House committees concerning their proposed budgets for the 106th Congress:

1. Small Business Committee
 - Mr. James M. Talent, Chairman (Missouri)
 - Ms. Nydia Velázquez, Ranking Minority Member (New York)
2. Resources Committee
 - Mr. Don Young, Chairman (Arkansas)
 - Mr. George Miller, Ranking Minority Member (California)
3. Judiciary Committee
 - Mr. Henry J. Hyde, Chairman (Illinois)
 - Mr. John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Minority Member (Mississippi)
4. Agriculture Committee
 - Mr. Larry Combest, Chairman (Texas)
 - Mr. Charles W. Stenholm, Ranking Minority Member (Texas)
5. Ways and Means Committee
 - Mr. Bill Archer, Chairman (Texas)
 - Mr. Charles Rangel, Ranking Minority Member (New York)
6. Intelligence Permanent Select Committee
 - Mr. Porter Goss, Chairman (Florida)
 - Mr. Julian Dixon, Ranking Minority Member (California)
7. Armed Services Committee
 - Mr. Floyd Spence, Chairman (South Carolina)
 - Mr. Ike Skelton, Ranking Minority Member (Missouri)
8. Education and the Workforce Committee
 - Mr. William F. Goodling, Chairman (Pennsylvania)
 - Mr. William Clay, Ranking Minority Member (Missouri)
9. Government Reform Committee
 - Mr. Dan Burton, Chairman (Indiana)
 - Mr. Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Minority Member (California)
10. Commerce Committee
 - Mr. Thomas J. Bliley, Chairman (Virginia)
 - Mr. John Dingell, Ranking Minority Member (Mississippi)
11. Rules Committee
 - Mr. David Dreier, Chairman (California)
 - Mr. John Moakley, Ranking Minority Member (Massachusetts)

The Committee met on March 10, 1999—Business Meeting

1. Consideration of the 106th Congress Franked Mail Allocation for Committees. Set and Approved by Resolution.
2. Consideration of the Architect of the Capitol Reengineering Plan for FY 99. Approved by Resolution.
3. Consideration of the Committee on House Administration Parking Policy. Approved by Resolution. Resolved further Chairman may in consultation with Ranking Minority Member direct changes in the policy as necessary.
4. Consideration of the House of Representatives Inspector General Audits for 1999. Approved by Resolution.
5. Acceptance of the Officer's Semi-Annual Reports.
6. Consideration of Revised Reserve Fund Guidelines. Approved by Resolution. Resolved further Chairman may in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member direct changes in these guidelines as necessary.

The Committee met on March 16, 1999—Mark-Up

The Committee met to consider H. Res. 101, 106th Congress Omnibus Committee Primary Expense Resolution. Mr. Boehner introduced the leadership mark as an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Mr. Hoyer introduced two amendments. The first amendment required that one-third or greater of any amount allocated from the Reserve Fund be paid at the direction of the Ranking Minority Member. The second amendment required that one-third or greater of any amount authorized to committees, except the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, be paid at the direction of the Ranking Minority Member. Both amendments failed by roll call vote. The amendment in the nature of a substitute introduced by Mr. Boehner was agreed to by roll call vote. H. Res. 101, as amended, was reported favorably to the House by voice vote.

The Committee met on March 25, 1999—Hearing on United States Capitol Police Management

The Committee heard testimony from the following:

1. Robert Gramling, U.S. Government Accounting Office
2. John D. Mayer, Project Manager, Booz-Allan & Hamilton
3. James W. Ziglar, Chairman of the U.S. Capitol Police Board
4. Gary L. Abrecht, Chief of Police

April 1, 1999—Committee Poll

Approved 8–0 contract extensions for the Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial concerns with The People's Republic of China.

The Committee met on May 18, 1999—Federal Election Commission Authorization Hearing

Witnesses (Independent Auditors):

1. Kevin Bacon, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers
2. Stephen Watson, Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers
3. Ray Mayfield, Principal Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Witnesses (Commissioners):

1. Scott E. Thomas, Chairman, Federal Election Commission
2. Darryl Wold, Vice Chairman, Federal Election Commission
3. Danny Lee McDonald, Federal Election Commission

May 25, 1999—Committee Poll—Contract Amendments

The Committee approved (9–0) amendments to 3 contract agreements between the Select Committee on U.S. National Security Military/Commercial Concerns with the People’s Republic of China and Bahler Communications, Dechert Price & Rhoads, and Briggs Design Associates.

The Committee met on June 17, 1999—Campaign Reform Hearing

Witnesses:

1. The Honorable Wayne Gilchrest
2. The Honorable Ken Calvert
3. The Honorable Martin Sabo

The Committee met on June 22, 1999—Committee Business Meeting

The Committee Considered and Approved the following items:

1. House Officer Drug Free Workplace Policies
2. FEMA-US Capitol Police Agreement
3. Liability Policy for Equipment Assigned to House Officers
4. Purchase Approval Threshold Increase
5. Systems Development Life Cycle Policy
6. CHA Majority Consultant Contracts with Baker & Hostetler
7. *Members’ Congressional Handbook*

The Committee met on June 29, 1999—Campaign Reform Hearing

Witnesses:

1. The Honorable Christopher Shays
2. The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
3. The Honorable Ralph Regula
4. The Honorable Patsy Mink
5. The Honorable Paul Gilmor
6. The Honorable John Tanner
7. The Honorable Robert Andrews

The Committee met on July 13, 1999—Campaign Reform Hearing

Witnesses:

1. The Honorable David Dreier
2. The Honorable John Doolittle
3. The Honorable Dan Burton
4. The Honorable Doug Bereuter
5. The Honorable Joseph Pitts
6. The Honorable Bill Goodling
7. The Honorable David Price
8. The Honorable Ron Paul
9. The Honorable Wes Watkins

The Committee met on July 22, 1999—Campaign Reform Hearing

Witnesses:

1. Roger Pilon, Director, Center for Constitutional Studies, CATO Institute

2. Laura Murphy, Legislative Director, American Civil Liberties Union
3. Don Simon, Acting President, Common Cause
4. Jim Miller, Author of Monopoly Politics, Former Director OMB
5. Burt Neuborne, Director, Brennan Center for Law and Justice
6. James Bopp, James Madison Center for Free Speech
7. Bob Dahl, Fair Government Foundation
8. Paul Sullivan, Americans Back in Charge Foundation
9. David O'Steen, Executive Director, Campaign for America
10. Cheryl Perrin, Executive Director, Campaign for America
11. Amy Kauffman, Research Fellow, Hudson Institute
12. Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Dean, Annenberg School of Communication

The Committee met on August 2, 1999—Committee Markup-Campaign Reform

1. Markup of H.R. 2668, Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act of 1999—Reported Favorably.
2. Markup of H.R. 1922, Citizen Legislature and Political Freedom Act—Reported without recommendation.
3. Markup of H.R. 1867, Campaign Integrity Act of 1999—Reported without recommendation.
4. Markup of H.R. 417, Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 1999—Reported Unfavorably.

Committee Poll August 4, 1999—Committee Business

The following items were approved by committee poll unanimously:

1. Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Contract Agreement.
2. *Committees' Congressional Handbook*.
3. Committee and Event Room Security Standards. (HISPUB 009.09)

October 21, 1999—Committee Business Meeting

The following were considered and approved:

1. Acceptance of Officers' Semi-annual Reports.
2. Consideration of Chief Administrative Officer's Proposal for Procuring a House Financial System.
3. Consideration of Chief Administrative Officer's Proposal for Procuring a Staff Payroll System.
4. Consideration of Telecommuting Policy.
5. Consideration of updated House Information Security Policies (HISPOL).
6. Consideration of Incidental Use Policy.
7. Consideration of Interim Authority Resolution.

October 26, 1999—Committee Poll

The following were approved by committee poll:

1. Amendment to Contract Agreement between the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and First Security of Boston ex-

tending the date of contract from October 31, 1999 through April 1, 2000.

2. Committee Resolution Adopting the House Information Security Policy 5.1 establishing minimum-security standards for permanent connections to the House network.

SECOND SESSION

January 20, 2000—Committee Poll

The following items were approved by Committee Poll:

1. Contract Agreement between the Committee on House Administration Majority and Baker & Hostetler, LLP. (General election issues).

2. Contract agreement between the Committee on House Administration Majority and Baker & Hostetler, LLP. (Contested election issues).

3. Contract agreement between the Committee on House Administration Minority and Herb Stone.

The Committee met on March 8, 2000—Committee Business Meeting

1. Announcement of Actions taken under Interim Authority.

2. Announcement of Revisions to *Members' Congressional Handbook*.

3. Announcement of Revisions to *Committees' Congressional Handbook*.

4. Acceptance of House Officers' Semi Annual Reports.

5. Consideration and Approval of the House of Representatives Inspector General Audits for 2000.

The Committee met on March 29, 2000—Federal Election Commission Authorization Hearing

Witnesses:

1. Darryl Wold, Chairman, Federal Election Commission.

2. Danny Lee McDonald, Vice Chairman, Federal Election Commission, and Chairman, Federal Election Commission Finance Committee.

3. David Mason, Commissioner, Federal Election Commission.

April 7, 2000—Committee Poll

Committee approved consultant contract agreement between the Committee on Agriculture and John A. Jurich for investigations determined by the oversight agenda of the Committee on Agriculture.

The Committee met on June 28, 2000—Committee Business Meeting

1. Consideration and Approval of Award of Contract for the House Financial System Replacement Requirements Analysis to Booz-Allan and Hamilton.

2. Consideration of Committee Resolution Approving the Revised Unsolicited Mass Communication Restrictions Policy. Approval was deferred.

3. Capitol Police Update on Security Enhancements.

The Committee met on September 21, 2000—Committee Business Meeting

The Committee considered the following:

1. Information Systems Security Program. Resolution Approving Program Adopted.
2. Revised User's Guide to Equipment. Resolution Approving Revised Guide Adopted.
3. Officers' Semi-Annual Reports. Accepted.
4. Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's Consultant Contract. Approved.
5. Architect of the Capitol update on Fire Protection efforts in the House Office Buildings and House side of the Capitol.

The Committee met on October 12, 2000—Committee Business Meeting

Consideration of Interim Authority Resolution. Approved.

November 6, 2000—Committee Poll

Committee Poll on three separate contracts before the Committee. All Approved.

1. Contract with Herb Stone to assist Democratic Members of the Committee with contested election issues through January 2, 2001.
2. Contract with Patton Boggs, L.L.P. to assist Democratic Members of the Committee with contested election issues through January 2, 2001.
3. Contract with Robert Hunter to assist Republican Members of the Committee with contested election issues through January 2, 2001.

November 28, 2000—Committee Poll

Committee approved Amendment to the Contract Agreement between the Committee on House Administration Majority and Baker & Hostetler.

GENERAL OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE 106TH
CONGRESS

MEMBER AND COMMITTEE SERVICES

Members

- Oversee Member allowance amounts, structure, and regulations; provide guidance to offices to ensure compliance with House regulations.
- Review *Members' Congressional Handbook* regulations governing expenditure of Members' Representational Allowances.
- Answered questions regarding parking rules and assignments.
- Handled problems regarding allowance regulations. (In response to certain inquiries, the Committee created clarifying policy memoranda to the administrative offices of the House).
- Answered inquiries regarding service and support issues concerning House Information Resources (HIR) and Correspondent Management System (CMS) vendors.
- Oversaw the registration of Congressional Member Organizations, disseminating information and responding to questions accordingly.

- Respond to inquiries on Federal laws, House Rules and Committee regulations pertaining to the operation of Member offices.
- Calculated and issued authorization amounts for Member's Representational Allowances.
- Brief district office staff on use of official resources.
- Established seminars for House staff to address concerns related to issues under the Committee's jurisdiction.
- Provided advice to offices on personnel and employment issues, such as Accrued Leave, Drug Testing, and American with Disabilities Act Compliance.

Committees

- Answered inquiries regarding regulations governing the expenditures of committee funds.
- Reviewed and approved detail agreements.
- Received and reviewed monthly reports from the standing and select committees of the House.
- Continuing review of biennial and consolidated funding resolutions for committees.
- Oversee implementation of House Rule XI 2(e)(4) requiring committee documentation to be made available electronically, to the maximum extent feasible.

Commission on Mailing Standards

- The Franking Commission reviewed drafts of proposed mass mailings, issued written advisories on approved mailings, answered questions regarding specific mailings as well as general franking regulations and policy.
- Answered inquiries from Member offices regarding compliance with the new Single Drop Mass Mail Obligation Requisition Form.
- Review all Unsolicited Mass Communications.
- Review proposals to reform mass mailing practices of Members, and regulations governing such mailings, and monitor current prohibition on mass mailings 90 days before a primary or general election.
- Review previously implemented rules to increase disclosure and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.
- Consider revisions of pre-election franking complaint procedures.
- Review alternatives to the District Office Franked Mail Certifications for recording and reporting franked mail usage in district offices.

ELECTIONS

General Election Issues

- Studied voter registration laws under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.
- Handled inquiries from the public regarding campaign finance reform legislation.
- Distributed information on bills referred to the Committee and summaries of campaign finance reform bills from previous Congresses.
- Reviewed, monitored, and studied legislation introduced on election reform issues.

Federal Election Commission

- Monitored the appointment process of Commissioners to the Federal Election Commission.
- Handled inquiries and gathered information on FEC oversight issues.
- Conduct a review of current operations of the Federal Election Commission and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency, strengthen enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and improve procedures for the disclosure of contributions and expenditures.

OVERSIGHT OF HOUSE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL

General

- Track the implementation of the Booz-Allen study required in the FY99 Appropriations bill.
- Analyze management improvement proposals and other initiatives submitted by the House Officers, the Inspector General and the Architect of the Capitol.
- Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations on matters impacting operations of the House and joint entities.
- Provide policy guidance to the House Officers, Inspector General and the Joint entities as appropriate.
- Assure coordination among officers and joint entities on administrative matters.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

- Provided policy direction for and oversight of the CAO.
- Reviewed and revised service contracts with the House.
- Reviewed and evaluated equipment purchases over \$100,000 by Members and committees.
- Review the structure of House Information Resources and determine organizational direction.
- Review the process for approving equipment purchases by members and committees.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the CAO.
- Oversee compliance with the House Employee Classification Act, 2 U.S.C. 291, *et seq.*
- Continuing oversight of House Information Resources and other technology functions of the House to ensure timely, accurate electronic information dissemination.

Clerk of the House

- Provided policy direction and oversight of the Clerk.
- Reviewed and approved contracts and requests for proposals for the Clerk which exceed the \$100,000 spending threshold.
- Coordinated and worked with Congressional Research Service, the Clerk of the House and HIR staff to implement the new Legislative Information System.
- Worked with the Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate Task Force to implement a data standard for information exchange for the Legislative Branch.

- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Clerk.

Sergeant-at-Arms

- Provided policy direction for and oversight of the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Monitored pending litigation involving the U.S. Capitol Police.
- Continuing review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Sergeant at Arms.
- Review security operations in the House, including the House chamber, the galleries, the Capitol, House Office Buildings, Parking Facilities, and Capitol Grounds.

Inspector General

- Provided policy direction for and oversight of the Inspector General.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AGENCIES

Library of Congress

- Biweekly meetings with the library to review operations, budgetary concerns, and management concerns.
- Reviewed and answered inquiries on Library of Congress security issues.
- Continuing oversight of Library and Congressional Research Service operations.
- Oversee the remedial measures taken by the Library in response to the audit conducted in the 104th Congress.
- Conduct a review of the progress that the Library has made in providing public access to government information, especially in electronic form.

Government Printing Office

- Worked with representatives of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Subcommittee and the Government Printing Office (GPO) to discuss budget requirements for GPO.
- Monitored legislation to reform Title 44 of the U.S. Code relating to government printing and dissemination of government information to the public.
- Gather information on the restructuring of government printing and the dissemination of government information to the public, especially in electronic form.

Smithsonian Institution

- Reviewed the Smithsonian Institution's draft Strategic Plan developed in response to the Government Performance and Results Act.
- Continuing oversight of Smithsonian operations.
- Review the Smithsonian Inspector General's reports on the status of the Smithsonian.

Office of Compliance

- Monitor implementation of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (PL 104-1).
- Conduct oversight of the Office of Compliance.

- Processed requests for authority to settle cases pending before the Office of Compliance.

Architect of the Capitol

- Worked with Architect of the Capitol staff to discuss their plans for a Computer Assisted Facilities Management (CAFM) system.
- In conjunction with the Senate and other appropriate House Committees, oversee the preparations for the construction of the proposed Capitol Visitor's Center.
- Consider a systems and financial audit of the operation as a whole to provide a baseline for the administration of the new Architect.

Technology

- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, forums for the sharing of technology plans and capabilities among the legislative branch agencies.
- Review new technology initiatives to better serve Members, Committees, and the House.
- Review progress steps towards defining a standard for the electronic exchange of legislative information among Congress and legislative branch agencies.
- Oversee the continuing efforts of the House to prepare for the Year 2000 computer problem.

General

- Answered press inquiries regarding issues under the Committee's jurisdiction.
- Enrolled House bills and resolutions.
- Processed vouchers for payment under the Federal Tort Claims Act and the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act.
- Worked with foreign congressional delegations to discuss issues related to the Committee and the House.
- Worked closely with the Legislative Branch Subcommittee on appropriations matters.
- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, the Legislative Branch Telecommunications group.
- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, plans for the implementation and growth of the Legislative Information System.
- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Continue to review implementation of new financial management system.

FIRST SESSION

January 1999

- Review the formulas that establish the Members' Representational Allowance.
- Review processing of vouchers and payroll.
- Committee adopted policy requiring Franking Advisories for all Unsolicited Mass Communications.

- Review *Committees' Congressional Handbook* regulations governing expenditure of committee funds.
- Review Primary Expense Resolutions and approve committee-funding levels.
- Review rules and regulations associated with administration of the reserve fund for unexpected oversight activities of committees.
- Review plans for the implementation of the document management system.
- Analyze U.S. Capitol Police Board plans for the spending of \$106.7 million for the enhancement in Capitol campus security as authorized by the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1999.
- Review comprehensive financial and operational audits of the House: investigate any irregularities uncovered; and monitor the required improvements.
- Review preparations for the Culpeper Film Preservation Facility by the Library.
- Examine options to improve the operation and structure of the Library Inspector General.
- Oversee implementation of House Rule XI 2(e)(4) requiring committee documentation to be made available electronically, to the maximum extent feasible.
- Met with GAO and Representatives of the Accounting firm of Price Waterhouse Coopers to review results of the Independent Technology and Performance Audit and Management Review of the Federal Election Commission.
- Examine reforms that could improve voter registration procedures, particularly with regard to strengthening protection against fraud.
- Met with members of Joint Election Officers Liaison Committee to discuss State and local election official perspectives on reform of voter registration laws.
- Study the role of involuntary contributions used for expenditures that influence political campaigns.
- Met with Member of Peruvian Congress to discuss operations of the Committee.

February 1999

- Committee adopted policy requiring Franking Advisories for all Unsolicited Mass Communications.
- Reviewed 106th Congress budget requests submitted by all House Committees, excluding the Appropriations Committee.
- Review previously implemented rules to increase disclosure and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.
- Consider revisions of pre-election franking complaint procedures.
- Review alternatives to the District Office Franked Mail Certifications for recording and reporting franked mail usage in district offices.
- Review the administration of the audio transmission on the House floor.
- Review plans for the implementation of the document management system.
- Review House ID Card policies and procedures.
- Review proposed audit plan and audit reports.

- Review comprehensive financial and operational audits of the House: investigate any irregularities uncovered; and monitor the required improvements.
- Review the Library's FY '00 Budget request.
- Analyze Library's 106th Congress legislative agenda.
- Review and evaluate proposal of Buyout plan for certain Architect employees.
- Examine reforms that could improve voter registration procedures, particularly with regard to strengthening protection against fraud.
- Reviewed correspondences on military voting rights.
- Met with Postal Service representatives, Postal Service Subcommittee staff, and election officials to discuss proposal to establish a special, postal rate for election officials.
- Study the role of involuntary contributions used for expenditures that influence political campaigns.

March 1999

- Reviewed 106th Congress budget requests submitted by all House Committees, excluding the Appropriations Committee. Receive and review Monthly Reports on committee activities and expenditures.
- Review and evaluate proposal of Buyout plan for certain Architect employees.
- Prepared plans for FEC Authorization Hearing.
- Reviewed materials on Missouri contribution limits case.
- Discussed election law conferences with Dave Scott of Council of State Governments.
- Examine evidence of fraud in the conduct of federal elections and evaluate measures to improve the integrity of the electoral process.
- Reviewed, monitored, and studied legislation introduced on campaign finance reform and discussed possible bills to be proposed.
- Review state and federal activities in connection with the National Voter Registration Act.

April 1999

- Committee adopted policy requiring Franking Advisories for all Unsolicited Mass Communications.
- Track the implementation of the Booz-Allen study required in the FY99 Appropriations bill.
- Analyze management improvement proposals and other initiatives submitted by the House Officers, the Inspector General and the Architect of the Capitol.
- Review plans for the implementation of the document management system.
- Monitor progress of House audits.
- Oversee the remedial measures taken by the Library in response to the audit conducted in the 104th Congress.
- Continuing oversight of House Information Resources and other technology functions of the House to ensure timely, accurate electronic information dissemination.

- Oversee implementation of House Rule XI 2(e)(4) requiring committee documentation to be made available electronically, to the maximum extent feasible.
- Discussed plans for FEC Authorization Hearing, including distribution of FEC response to audit implementation to outside experts.
- Analyzed interaction of Federal and California election law with regards to 2000 elections.
- Responded to American Bar Association regarding campaign finance laws.
- Reviewed military voting rights initiative and Internet voting initiatives.

May 1999

- Receive and review Monthly Reports on committee activities and expenditures.
- Reviewed House Officer Drug Free Workplace Policies.
- Reviewed House Officer Equipment Management Policies.
- Reviewed proposed agreement between FEMA and the USCP Board.
- Reviewed revisions to the House Procurement Guidelines.
- Review security operations in the House, including the House chamber, the galleries, the Capitol, House Office Buildings, and Capitol Grounds.
- Continued with House IG search process.
- Review the Library's FY '00 Budget request.
- Analyze Library's 106th Congress legislative agenda.
- Wrote to the Architect of the Capitol on management of statues in the Capitol.
- Met with election officials, Minority staff, and Rep. Ney's staff to discuss and analyze proposed legislation to improve voting access for the elderly and disabled.

June 1999

- Held Campaign Reform Hearing.
- Attended Election Center Conference on voting access for the disabled.
- Continued analyzing proposed legislation to improve voting access for the elderly and disabled.
- Met with officials from Congo to discuss election laws.
- Reviewed legislation introduced on campaign finance reform and discussed possible bills to be proposed.
- Held FEC Authorization Hearing.

July 1999

- Answer correspondence and research requests for processing GPO tasks.
- Approved House Officer Drug Free Workplace Policies.
- Approved House Officer Equipment Management Policies.
- Approved proposed agreement between FEMA and the USCP Board.
- Approved revisions to the House Procurement Guidelines.
- Raised procedures for processing contracts with the House that exceed the threshold of \$250,000.
- Continued with House IG search process.

- Held Campaign Reform Hearing to discuss and analyze campaign reform bills referred to the Committee.
- Propose H.R. 2668, "Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act of 1999".
- Monitor Treasury Postal Appropriations, dealing with Federal Election Commission recommendations.
- Review and discuss, with election officials, voting system standards.
- Review and analyze Department of Defense Appropriations bill, specifically provisions regarding military voting rights.

August 1999

- Receive and review Monthly Reports on committee activities and expenditures.
- Approved and distributed the 1999 edition of the *Committees' Congressional Handbook*, which governs the expenditure of committee funds.
- Held Campaign Reform Markup to consider campaign reform bills H.R. 417, Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 1999; H.R. 1867, Campaign Integrity Act of 1999; H.R. 1922, Citizen Legislature and Political Freedom Act; and H.R. 2668, Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act of 1999.
- Review legislation dealing with disabled voting rights.

September 1999

- Draft incidental use of official resources policy.
- Draft telecommuting policy.
- Monitor Transition of New Board Appointments to the Office of Compliance.
- Review and Approval of end of year procurement contracts.
- Review and propose House ID Card policies and procedures.
- Monitor progress of House audits.
- Continued with House IG search process.
- Managed floor consideration of campaign finance reform proposals.
- Reviewed proposal to prohibit regulation of Internet campaigning.

October 1999

- Analyzed Senate debate on McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform Bill.
- Met with Oregon's State Treasurer to discuss "pay to play" rules.
- Monitored ongoing census activity, and attended a briefing on cooperation between the House and Census Bureau.

November 1999

- Review the formulas that establish the Members' Representational Allowance.
- Calculate the 2000 MRA amounts.
- Oversee Committee budgets and regulations; provide guidance to offices to ensure compliance with House regulations.
- Research the acquisition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. papers.
- Research contested election reform proposals.

December 1999

- Calculate and Issue the 2000 MRA amounts.
- Support Y2K remediation efforts in Member Offices, especially in districts.
- Monitor committee hearing room upgrades.
- Monitor implementation of the PL 105-277 Security Enhancement Plan.
- Monitor implementation of the recommendations of the GAO management review.

SECOND SESSION

January 2000

- Support Y2K remediation efforts in Member Offices, especially in districts.
- Receive and review Monthly Reports on committee activities and expenditures.
- Monitor Transition of New Board Appointments to Office of Compliance.
- Answer correspondence and research requests for processing GPO tasks.
- Review JCP Regulations.
- Review comprehensive financial and operational audits of the House: investigate any irregularities uncovered; and monitor the required improvements.
- Monitor committee hearing room upgrades.
- Monitor implementation of the PL 105-277 Security Enhancement Plan.
- Monitor implementation of the recommendations of the GAO management review.

February 2000

- Oversee Committee budgets and regulations; provide guidance to offices to ensure compliance with House regulations.
- Study Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998.
- Answer correspondence and research requests for processing GPO tasks.
- Review GPO Budget Request for FY2001.
- Review and research Title 44 for administrative changes.
- Review JCP Regulations for administrative changes.
- Monitor GPO and Fraternal Order of Police wage impasse.
- Request and monitor GAO audits on GPO related issues.
- Reviewed proposal to prohibit regulation of Internet campaigning.

March 2000

- Track the implementation of the Booz-Allen study required in the FY99 Appropriations bill.
- Review of semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review the electronic and procured services provided by the Architect.

- In conjunction with the Senate and other appropriate House Committees, oversee the preparations for the construction of the proposed Capitol Visitor's Center.

April 2000

- Monitor Transition of New Board Appointments to Office of Compliance.
- Study Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998.
- Review previously implemented rules to increase disclosure and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.
- Consider revisions of pre-election franking complaint procedures.
- Monitor GPO and Fraternal Order of Police wage impasse.
- Review the process for approving equipment purchases by members and committees.
- Study and review possible legislation at the federal or state level to reform redistricting procedures.
- Monitor and research developments on Internet voting issues.
- Study the Pentagon's decision to disallow military facilities to be used as voting sites.
- Review the Federal Election Commission's legislative recommendations regarding the Elimination Act and Treasury Postal Appropriations.

May 2000

- Oversee Library efforts to negotiate the purchase of the Martin Luther King, Jr. papers.
- Review preparations for the Library's yearlong bicentennial celebration.
- Oversee the Library's response to audit issues.
- Consider and pass House legislation on the appointments of citizen regents to the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents.
- Continue to monitor tax-exempt organizations involved in politics.
- Monitor military voting and residency issues and developments regarding military use of voting via the Internet.
- Review the Federal Election Commission's Final Rule implementing an Administrative Fines Program.
- Monitor and Provide Oversight Direction to Federal Election Commission Requesting the Implementation of Appropriate Terms and Conditions for FEC Supplied Electronic Filing Software.
- Monitor Proposed Rulemaking by the Federal Election Commission on Mandatory Electronic Filing, Election Cycle Reporting and Campaign Finance Reform.
- Research various options for conducting a field hearing in California regarding the impact of technology on the electoral process.

June 2000

- Monitor, review Senate Legislative Branch appropriations pertaining to the GPO, draft comments.
- Continue to review implementation of new financial management system.
- Review the structure of House Information Resources and determine organizational direction.

- Study and review legislation affecting the Smithsonian Institution and the creation of any new Smithsonian facilities.

July 2000

- Monitored developments on Internet voting.
- Monitor and provide analysis of campaign finance reform efforts by the Federal Election Commission and Congress.
- Study issues with regard to scheduling of national primaries.
- Study legislation proposed by Hoyer on contested elections.

August 2000

- Approved wage agreement reached by GPO management and Fraternal Order of Police.
- Review GPO requests for expenditures above \$50,000, including purchase orders.
- Coordinate printing memorial tributes in accordance with Title 44.
- Review GPO audit, Inspector General semi-annual report.
- Review and draft proposed personnel policy statute changes (HEPCA).
- Draft Payroll Corrective Actions Policy.
- Research standards for Conflict of Interest in procurement process.
- Researched proper accounting of liquidated damages in Members' Representational Allowance funds.
- Assure coordination among officers and joint entities on administrative matters.
- Review activities related to the Library's yearlong bicentennial celebration.
- Review the Library's response to a report by the National Academy of Sciences regarding Information technology and the digital future of the Library.
- Meet with Library staff regarding LC21 information technology, Gerswin Trust Fund, and other outstanding LOC issues.

September 2000

- Prepare information for new member orientation program and departing members.
- Review and draft proposed personnel policy statute changes (HEPCA).
- Research standards for Conflict of Interest in procurement process.
- Review and draft proposed personnel policy statute changes (HEPCA).
- Draft Payroll Corrective Actions Policy.
- Review the Library's response to a report by the National Academy of Sciences regarding Information technology and the digital future of the Library.
- Oversee Library's acceptance of a \$60 million gift by John Kluge.
- Review Smithsonian's request for appropriation/authorization bill.
- Considered and adopted S. 2498, authorizing the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, construct, and equip laboratory, administrative, and support space to house base operations for the Smith-

sonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array located on Mauna Kea at Hilo, Hawaii.

- Considered and adopted S. 3201, which provides for the renaming of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art to the Smithsonian American Art Museum.
- Oversee the House Information Resources and other technology functions of the House to ensure timely, accurate electronic information dissemination.

October 2000

- Considered and adopted S. 3201, which provides for the renaming of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art to the Smithsonian American Art Museum.
- Conducted a series of training and orientation seminars for Congressional staff interested in participating as Congressional observers for contested elections.
- Examined and introduced bill regarding military voting and residency issues.
- Study legislation proposed on contested elections and other military facility bill.
- On October 27, 2000 President Clinton signed into law H.R. 4475, which included three FEC legislative reforms. The measure cleared Congress on October 6, 2000. These consensus reforms were the result of close cooperation between the Committee on House Administration and the Treasury Postal Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee and are as follows:
 1. Require that independent expenditure reports must be actually received by the FEC within 24 hours of the expenditure. Prior law merely required that the reports be filed within 24 hours.
 2. Clarify that fax machines or electronic mail may be used to file last minute expenditure reports from independent expenditure committees who are not required to file electronically.
 3. Clarifying that Federal candidates may treat lines of credit such as advances on brokerage accounts or home equity lines of credit as commercially reasonable loans and therefore use funds from such sources in their campaigns.

November 2000

- Responded to requests for information on the Federal election and Electoral College presidential selection process.
- Requested a Congressional Research Service report on Congressional involvement in the Electoral College process, and posted the report on its web site.
- Pursuant to authority and responsibilities under Article One, Section 5 of the U.S. Constitution, dispatched official observers from both the Majority and Minority to observe the counting and recounting of ballots in the following Districts: Florida 22, New Jersey 12, Michigan 8, and Minnesota 2.
- Coordinated orientation program for the newly elected Members of the 107th Congress.

December 2000

- Assisted with the transition of both departing and newly elected members.
- Monitor implementation of the recommendations of the GAO management review.
- Continued recount oversight in Michigan 8 and Minnesota 2.

SUMMARY ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Committee met on March 16, 1999—Committee Mark-Up—H. Res. 101

The Committee met to consider H. Res. 101, 106th Congress Omnibus Committee Primary Expense Resolution. Mr. Boehner introduced the leadership mark as an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Mr. Hoyer introduced two amendments. The first amendment required that one-third or greater of any amount allocated from the Reserve Fund be paid at the direction of the Ranking Minority Member. The second amendment required that one-third or greater of any amount authorized to committees, except the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, be paid at the direction of the Ranking Minority Member. Both amendments failed by roll call vote. The amendment in the nature of a substitute introduced by Mr. Boehner was agreed to by roll call vote. H. Res. 101, as amended, was reported favorably to the House by voice vote.

*The Committee met on May 18, 1999—Federal Election Commission Authorization Hearing**Witnesses (Independent Auditors):*

1. Kevin Bacon, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers
2. Stephen Watson, Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers
3. Ray Mayfield, Principal Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Witnesses (Commissioners):

1. Scott E. Thomas, Chairman, Federal Election Commission
2. Darryl Wold, Vice Chairman, Federal Election Commission
3. Danny Lee McDonald, Federal Election Commission

The Committee met on August 2, 1999—Committee Markup—Campaign Reform

1. Markup of H.R. 2668, Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act of 1999—Reported Favorably.
2. Markup of H.R. 1922, Citizen Legislature and Political Freedom Act—Reported without recommendation.
3. Markup of H.R. 1867, Campaign Integrity Act of 1999—Reported without recommendation.
4. Markup of H.R. 417, Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 1999—Reported Unfavorably.

FLOOR ACTIVITIES

FIRST SESSION

February 2, 1999—The House considered and passed H. Con. Res. 19 permitting use of the Capitol Rotunda for ceremony commemorating day of remembrance for victims of the Holocaust.

February 8, 1999—Rules of the Committee on House Administration for the 106th Congress were submitted to the House.

February 9, 1999—The House considered and passed S. Con. Res. 6 authorizing flags located in the Capitol complex to be flown at half-staff in memory of R. Scott Bates, Legislative Clerk of the United States Senate.

February 11, 1999—The House considered and passed H.R. 705 approving technical corrections regarding monthly reports submitted by the Postmaster General on official mail of the House of Representatives.

March 23, 1999—The House considered H. Res. 101, as amended, providing amounts for the expenses of all standing committees (excluding Appropriations) and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and funding for the reserve fund for the One Hundred and Fifth Congress. H. Res. 101, as amended, was agreed to.

July 26, 1999—The House considered and passed H. Res. 172, making available for public use the records of the Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia.

September 1999—Floor Consideration of H.R. 417 (Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 1999).

On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 252–177

10 Perfecting and 3 Substitute Amendments were made in order and offered by:

Perfecting:

1. Mr. Whitfield—Failed by recorded vote: 127–300
2. Mr. Doolittle—Failed by recorded vote: 123–302
3. Mr. Doolittle—Failed by recorded vote: 189–238
4. Mr. Bereuter—Agreed to by recorded vote: 242–181
5. Mr. Faleomavaega—Agreed to by voice vote.
6. Mr. Goodling—By unanimous consent, the Goodling amendment was withdrawn.
7. Mr. Calvert—Failed by recorded vote: 179–248
8. Mr. Sweeney—Agreed to by recorded vote: 261–167
9. Mr. DeLay—Failed by recorded vote: 160–268
10. Mr. Ewing—Failed by recorded vote: 167–259

Substitutes:

1. Mr. Doolittle—Failed by recorded vote: 117–306
2. Mr. Hutchison—Failed by recorded vote: 99–327
3. Mr. Thomas—Failed by recorded vote: 173–256

October 18, 1999—H. Con. Res. 196. Permitting use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal to President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford.—Passed.

October 25, 1999—H.R. 2303. History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act.—Passed.

October 25, 1999—H.R. 3122. Permitting Non-Congressional Federal Employees to Enroll Their Children in the House Child Care Center.—Passed.

November 9, 1999—H.J. Res. 76. Waiving certain enrollment Requirements for the Remainder of the First Session of the 106th Congress. Passed without Objection.

November 9, 1999—H. Con. Res. 221. Authorizing printing of brochures entitled “How Our Laws Are Made” and “Our American Government”; the pocket version of the United States Constitution, and the document-sized, annotated version of the United States Constitution. The Resolution was agreed to.

SECOND SESSION

January 31, 2000—H. Con. Res. 244. Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust. Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays.

January 31, 2000—H. Con. Res. 221. Authorizing printing of the brochures entitled “How Our Laws Are Made” and “Our American Government”, the pocket version of the United States Constitution, and the document sized annotated version of the United States Constitution. Agreed to by voice vote.

January 31, 2000—H. Res. 407 Permitting official photographs of the House of Representatives to be taken while the House is in actual session. Agreed to by voice vote.

March 14, 2000—S. Con. Res. 89. To establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States on January 20, 2001. Agreed to by voice vote.

March 14, 2000—S. Con. Res. 90. To authorize the use of the rotunda of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States. Agreed to by voice vote.

March 28, 2000—H. Con. Res. 269. Commending the Library of Congress for 200 Years of Outstanding Service. Agreed to by voice vote.

May 2, 2000—S.J. Res. 40. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Alan G. Spoon as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Agreed to by voice vote. Became Public Law No: 106-198.

May 2, 2000—S.J. Res. 42. A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Manuel L. Ibanez as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Agreed to by voice vote. Became Public Law No: 106-199.

June 27, 2000—H. Con. Res. 333. Providing for the acceptance of a statue of Chief Washakie, presented by the people of Wyoming, for placement in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes. Agreed to by voice vote.

June 27, 2000—H. Con. Res. 344. Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Father Theodore Hesburgh. Agreed to by voice vote.

July 25, 2000—H.R. 4846. “The National Recording Preservation Act of 2000.” To establish the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress. Passed by voice vote. On motion that the House disagree to the Senate amendments Agreed to without objection. Became Public Law No: 106-474.

September 12, 2000. H. Con. Res. 368. Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol. Agreed to by voice vote.

October 3, 2000—H.R. 5212. Veterans' Oral History Project Act. Directing the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to establish a program to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of American war veterans. Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays. Became Public Law No: 106-380.

October 13, 2000—H.R. 5174. To Amend Title 10 and 18, United States Code, and the Revised Statutes to remove the uncertainty regarding the authority of the Department of Defense to permit buildings located on military installations and reserve component facilities to be used as polling places in Federal, State and Local elections for public office. Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays.

October 17, 2000—H.R. 5410. To establish revolving funds for the operation of certain programs and activities of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes. Became Public Law No: 106-481.

October 17, 2000—S. 2498. A bill to authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, construct, and equip laboratory, administrative, and support space to house base operations for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array located on Mauna Kea at Hilo, Hawaii. Agreed to by voice vote. Became Public Law No: 106-383.

October 24, 2000—S. Con. Res. 141. A concurrent resolution to authorize the printing of copies of the publication entitled "The United States Capitol" as a Senate document. Agreed to without objection by unanimous consent.

December 15, 2000—H. Con. Res. 445. To honor Henry B. Gonzalez. Agreed to by voice vote.

MINORITY VIEWS OF STENY H. HOYER, CHAKA FATTAH,
AND JIM DAVIS

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

We have read with interest the Majority activities report's "Brief History" of the Committee, which focuses primarily on events after 1995. We would broaden the discussion with the following observations.

During the last six years, the Republican Majority, in the Committee and more generally, has effectuated improvements to the management and operation of the House. Many of the improvements had actually been initiated during previous, Democratic Congresses. Into this category falls enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-1), subjecting Congress to certain employment-related laws applicable to the private sector. The House had previously considered such proposals, and during the 103d Congress had even passed a bill (H.R. 4822) to accomplish it. But the bill stalled in the Senate, so by a vote of 348-3, that same House adopted a resolution (H. Res. 578) applying such laws to itself, the most that it could accomplish without Senate concurrence. Fortunately, the next Congress enacted the reform as a permanent law, a superior approach that could also cover the Senate and other legislative-branch employers such as the Architect of the Capitol and the Library of Congress.

The Majority's 1995 creation of the post of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) as an elected officer of the House similarly built upon the progress made by Democrats with the Director of Non-legislative and Financial Services, created in the Administrative Reform Resolution of 1992 (H. Res. 423, 102d Cong.). After the failed experiment with the Director, who was appointed jointly by the two party leaders as a non-partisan House official, the GOP recast the position into the partisan CAO we know today.

The 1992 Administrative Reform Resolution also created the non-partisan position of Inspector General of the House. To its credit, the Republican Majority has strengthened the Inspector General by augmenting his budget, staff, and authority to contract for professional, outside audits. The Inspector General's work has contributed greatly to the recent improvements in the management and operation of the House.

Another significant improvement made by the Committee since 1995, consolidation of the Members' office allowances into one Members' Representational Allowance (MRA), continued a trend begun under Democrats during the 1970s. The flexibility afforded by a single MRA has relieved many administrative burdens imposed by the prior scheme of multiple, discrete office accounts. However, in this area much work remains because the MRA formula, which has not been modified since 1986, has not kept pace

with changes in the economy and how Members operate their offices. A recent study reconfirmed that House personal staff earn on average substantially less than comparably educated workers in the national economy and elsewhere in the federal government, yielding high staff turnover and low tenure in Members' offices impairing Members' ability to achieve their goals. In addition, high costs of computers and other commodities Members must buy also compete for the available resources. In the First Session of the 107th Congress, the Committee should re-examine the MRA formula, and make appropriate adjustments effective for the Second Session. If Members are to represent their constituents effectively, they must have adequate resources.

We share the Majority's pride in the Committee's role in the development of the THOMAS electronic information system. We recall that Congressional information was available on-line, through the tremendous work of the Government Printing Office, even before THOMAS made its debut. In 1993, the 103d Congress mandated (P.L. 103-40) that the GPO make the Congressional Record and the Federal Register available online, and distribute other government information electronically, and since June 1994, the GPO has been doing just that. GPO Access, the GPO's website (www.access.gpo.gov), has in the last six-and-a-half years grown wildly popular. In January 1998 alone, the public retrieved more than 10.5 million documents from it, the equivalent of nearly 250 documents per minute around the clock. Today's GPO Access features more than 70 databases from all three branches of the Federal Government, and its Congressional databases, which are constructed and maintained by the GPO, are the very same databases relied upon by the THOMAS system.

While it has had its achievements, at times the Committee has been slow to exercise its responsibilities, if at all. In 1998 the Committee voted to permit Members, officers and committees to offer transit-fare subsidies to qualifying employees, finally bringing to the House a government-wide program established by the 102d Congress which the Senate had adopted in 1993. The Committee acted after a bipartisan majority of the House cosponsored a resolution (H. Res. 37, 105th Cong.) sponsored by Representative Earl Blumenauer of Oregon calling for implementation of the program. In 1999, the Appropriations Committee by voice vote adopted an amendment by Representative Sam Farr similar to his resolution (H. Res. 146, 106th Cong.) mandating improvements to the House's troubled office-waste recycling program. The program fails to realize thousands of dollars that could be collected if the program were optimized. In this case, the Committee has to this date failed to act, and the recycling program's troubles continue.

However, we commend the Majority for continuing and accelerating the improvements to the administrative structure of the House that that began, in a bipartisan fashion, under Speaker Tom Foley. These achievements will help ensure that, from a ministerial standpoint, the House runs more efficiently and effectively, which benefits all Members. We have appreciated the opportunity to work together with the Majority toward these improvements. In the 107th Congress, we hope to work with the Majority toward further improvements, both in the Committee's administration of the

House, and in the Committee's exercise of its legislative jurisdiction.

MAJORITY BREAKS PROMISE OF "ONE THIRD" MINORITY COMMITTEE FUNDING

Before they became the Majority party in 1995, House Republicans adopted the mantra that "one-third" of the resources of each committee for staff, salaries and expenses should be provided to the Minority to be spent as directed by the committee's ranking minority member.

A March 30, 1993, letter sent to the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress and signed by every member of the Republican leadership and the Republican ranking minority members of every House committee states: "A ratio of one-third/two thirds for all committee staff, investigative as well as statutory, is a *sine qua non* for bridging the institutional animosities that now poison our policy debates."

Since taking control of the House, however, the new Majority has failed repeatedly to put its principles into action. Instead, the Majority restated "one-third" as a future goal rather than as a principle, and one that the House would have to "grow" toward over some indeterminate period of time.

During consideration of the biennial committee funding resolution by the House Administration Committee in 1999, the Committee during markup rejected on a party-line vote amendments by Representative Hoyer which would have mandated one-third of committee resources to be used at the direction of each committee's ranking minority member, including any expenditures derived from the resolution's "reserve fund" for future unexpected investigations and contingencies. A Hoyer motion to recommit the funding resolution with instructions to achieve the same result was subsequently rejected on the House Floor on a party-line vote.

Ironically, the only House committee which complied with the "one-third" principle during the 106th Congress was House Administration, and Chairman Thomas deserves credit for successfully implementing the practice. Unfortunately, his zeal to put the long-promised reform into action was apparently not shared by the Republican leadership and other committee chairmen.

Instead, the Minority party on committees throughout the House faced a crazy-quilt of practices, and excuses, to avoid providing the promised resources to a Democratic minority which comprises 49 percent of the House membership. For example, Republican chairmen resorted to such tactics as declaring certain staff "administrative" in nature, pretending that these staff served the interests of both parties when in fact they had little or nothing to do with serving the Minority's interests and the Minority had no control over their hiring. The Minority was then given a percentage of the remaining committee staff, which was then falsely advertised as being one-third.

It is essential that the Majority again face this issue in the new 107th Congress, in which the Republican Majority will be reduced even further. The Minority will continue to argue, both in the House Administration Committee and on the Floor, that one-third

of funding and committee resources for staff salaries, staff slots and equipment be provided to us.

With respect to the reserve fund, which was used in the 104th and 105th Congresses to fund investigations, the Minority will also insist on one-third of any allocations which may be made. The Minority was pleased that, while \$3 million was placed in the reserve fund for the 107th Congress, none of this money was ultimately expended for additional committee activities. The reserve fund, if used sparingly and disbursed fairly, can be a useful mechanism to deal with unanticipated situations.

REFORM OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS

The Majority makes the claim of having made significant strides in its work in the area of election reform and the political process, which is the Committee's major legislative policy jurisdiction under House Rule X. In fact, the 106th Congress represented a series of missed opportunities for the passage of legislation enacting campaign finance reform, revitalizing the Federal Elections Commission and improving the operation of the Federal Contested Elections Act used in House election contests. What could have been a Congress of historic achievement, instead was one of inaction.

I. Campaign finance reform—missed opportunities

On June 17, 1999, the Committee began a series of hearings on campaign finance reform. While holding hearings marked a noticeable improvement from the previous Congress, where campaign finance legislation was marked up without any hearings and within only hours of the text becoming available, the hearings in the 106th Congress had been scheduled only after the introduction of a discharge petition on H.R. 417. H.R. 417, "The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 1999", also known as the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill, would ban soft money and bring sham issue ad spending back within the campaign finance system. A related version of this bill had passed the House easily in 1998 despite opposition by the Committee and the majority of House Republicans.

Three hearings were held in which Members had an opportunity to testify on the various proposals that they had sponsored, and one hearing presented perspectives of various campaign finance experts from groups as diverse as Common Cause and the James Madison Center for Free Speech.

The Majority notes that it reported four campaign related bills on August 2, 1999. Only one, H.R. 2688, Chairman Thomas' "Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act", to make procedural fixes in the structure and functioning of the Federal Elections Commission, was reported favorably. This bill, consisting of useful but minor technical changes in election laws, was noncontroversial but did nothing to address the major defects plaguing the election process. Two other bills, H.R. 1922 and H.R. 1867, were reported without recommendation. All three of these proposals were ultimately defeated by the House when they were offered as substitutes to comprehensive campaign reform: the Shays-Meehan bill.

The Committee reported the Shays-Meehan bill unfavorably by a party-line vote despite its strong bipartisan support and previous

passage in the 105th Congress. Nonetheless, the bill was again easily passed on the House Floor, just as it had been in 1998, by a vote of 252–177 on September 14, 1999. It remains the dominant vehicle for future action. Following passage of H.R. 417, campaign finance reform was ultimately blocked by a Republican filibuster in the Senate. However, House Administration Committee markup and Floor action on the bill yet again is virtually certain in the 107th Congress and we hope that it will be possible to work together to report a comprehensive campaign finance package out of the Committee.

II. FEC reform—missed opportunities

After House passage of Shays-Meehan, the opportunity was available to deal with issues relating to the Federal Election Commission. Several legislative vehicles were readily available. Chairman Thomas' bill, H.R. 2668, reported unanimously by the Committee, had been rejected by the House as a substitute to the Shays-Meehan bill because its adoption would have defeated the comprehensive campaign reform legislation. However, H.R. 2668 had a number of useful provisions in its own right which were deserving of separate consideration. In fact, we had previously introduced H.R. 1818, a similar bill containing provisions that had the bi-partisan support of a majority of FEC Commissioners. Passage of H.R. 1818 would have resulted in streamlined procedures for contributors.

Committee Democrats believe that either H.R. 1818 or H.R. 2668 would have made an excellent companion measure to the Shays-Meehan campaign finance bill and that together the bills would have reformed the campaign finance system and the agency that oversees it. Either of these FEC reform bills could have passed the House easily under suspension of the rules. Unfortunately, although Representative Hoyer sent a letter to Speaker Hastert on September 23, 1999, requesting that either H.R. 1818 or H.R. 2668 be brought to the Floor for a vote, no vote was ever scheduled. Thus, another opportunity came and went.

In the second session of the 106th Congress, we again introduced an FEC reform bill, H.R. 4037, "The FEC Reform and Authorization Act of 2000", this time incorporating all provisions of both H.R. 1818 and H.R. 2668. The committee on March 29, 2000, held a brief hearing with three FEC commissioners without addressing any of the substantive issues or taking up any piece of legislation, and then dropped the subject for the remainder of the Congress.

Once again, the Majority squandered the opportunity to work together in a bipartisan fashion to enact legislation to strengthen the FEC in its mission, even though there were broad areas of agreement. We hope that in the upcoming 107th Congress the committee will be more receptive to FEC reauthorization legislation and other reforms.

It was unfortunate that one significant provision the Minority repeatedly sought but failed to pass was an update of the Voting Systems Standards utilized by all state and local election boards to determine what voting equipment best fits their needs and what equipment functions best in particular circumstances. Despite Representative Hoyer's efforts to add this provision to H.R. 2668, the

Thomas FEC bill, by amendment at the Committee markup of August 2, 1999, the Majority opposed it, arguing that states alone could instruct the FEC to undertake the update. While the FEC ultimately did undertake the update absent authorization, the effort was late in coming and underfunded, and it has yet to be completed. We hope that the failure to authorize the Voting Systems Standards update will serve as a valuable lesson in the upcoming months, as we anticipate that the Committee will begin to look at the Federal government's role in ensuring the integrity of federal elections.

III. Contested elections—missed opportunities

The Majority claims credit for establishing a procedure for dealing with contested elections. In fact, the Majority did nothing on this subject during the 106th Congress and resisted efforts by the Minority to address the problems left to fester since the *Dornan v. Sanchez* contest in the 105th Congress (The Majority's efforts to undermine the Federal Contested Elections Act, flawed though it was during the 1997–98 election contest *Dornan v. Sanchez*, were discussed at length in the Minority Views printed in the Report on the Activities of the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives during the 105th Congress, H. Rpt. 105–850, starting on page 53.).

In the wake of the *Dornan v. Sanchez* contest, it seemed that the Committee as a whole appreciated the need for procedural reforms to the Federal Contested Elections Act (FCEA), the 1969 statute which governs procedures for the consideration of election contests by the House. For the first time since the Republicans assumed control of the House in 1995, no election contests were filed in the 106th Congress, and the time was ripe to make the needed changes on a bipartisan basis. But while the Chairman expressed a general willingness to work together, in fact no real progress was made.

Although Representative Hoyer convened a group of experts and drafted proposed legislation, a series of delays instigated by the Majority led to months of meetings without any discernable progress. Although Representative Hoyer sent proposed legislation to the Chairman and to other senior members of the Committee in June 2000, and various meetings were held at the staff level to discuss possible options, the Chairman appeared generally unwilling to alter the status quo. As late as the Committee meeting of October 12, 2000, Chairman Thomas stated his intention to provide draft legislation to the Minority within the week. Unfortunately, nothing was ever presented to us.

As we approach the 107th Congress, there will once again be no contested elections for the Committee to consider. Let us hope that this time we can finally seize the opportunity and craft a fully workable procedure for exercising the House's constitutional authority to judge the elections, returns, and qualifications of its Members.

STENY H. HOYER.
CHAKA FATTAH.
JIM DAVIS.

