

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 276

Relating to a question of the privileges of the House.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 1997

Mr. GEPHARDT submitted the following resolution; which failed of adoption

RESOLUTION

Relating to a question of the privileges of the House.

Whereas Loretta Sanchez was issued a certificate of election as the duly elected Member of Congress from the 46th District of California by the Secretary of State of California and was seated by the United States House of Representatives on January 7, 1997;

Whereas a Notice of Contest of Election was filed with the Clerk of the House by Mr. Robert Dornan on December 26, 1996;

Whereas the Task Force on the Contested Election in the 46th District of California met on February 26, 1997, in Washington, DC, and on April 19, 1997, in Orange County, California, and has not met since that time;

Whereas the allegations made by Mr. Robert Dornan have been largely found to be without merit: Charges of improper voting from a business, rather than a resident ad-

dress; underage voting; double voting; and charges of unusually large number of individuals voting from the same address;

Whereas it was found that voting from the same address included a Marine barracks and the domicile of nuns, that business addresses were legal residences for the individuals, including the zookeeper of the Santa Ana Zoo, that duplicate voting was by different individuals and those accused of underage voting were of age;

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has issued unprecedented subpoenas to the Immigration and Naturalization Service to compare their records with Orange County voter registration records, the first time in any election in the history of the United States that the Immigration and Naturalization Service has been asked by Congress to verify the citizenship of voters;

Whereas the Immigration and Naturalization Service has complied with the committee's request and, at the committee's request, has been doing a manual check of its paper files and providing worksheets containing supplemental information on that manual check to the Committee on House Oversight for over five months;

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight subpoenaed the records seized by the District Attorney of Orange County on February 13, 1997, and has received and reviewed all records pertaining to registration efforts of that group;

Whereas some Members of the House Oversight Committee are now seeking a duplicate and dilatory review of materials already in the committee's possession by the Secretary of State of California;

Whereas the Task Force on the Contested Election in the 46th District of California and the committee have been reviewing these materials and has all the information it needs regarding who voted in the 46th District and all the information it needs to make judgements concerning those votes;

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has, after over nine months of review and investigation, failed to present credible evidence to change the outcome of the election of Congresswoman Sanchez and is pursuing never-ending and unsubstantiated areas of review;

Whereas contestant Robert Dornan has not shown or provided credible evidence that the outcome of the election is other than Congresswoman Sanchez' election to the Congress; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight should complete its review of this matter and bring this contest to an end:
Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That unless the Committee on House Over-
- 2 sight has sooner reported a recommendation for its final
- 3 disposition, the contest in the 46th District of California
- 4 is dismissed upon the expiration of October 29, 1997.

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