



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1995

No. 22

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Ken Massey, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Waco, TX, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, bless Your servants in Congress today. Grant them clear vision and immutable wisdom. Help them speak and act truthfully in a world of lies. Keep them true to Constitution and conscience.

I ask, O Lord, that You protect and sustain them as they seek to govern with integrity. As they turn to You, guard them from fear and grant them faith. Protect them from cynicism and give them courage. Save them from pride and lead them to authentic servanthood.

I especially ask You to bless those who work for peace today: Among warring nations, cultures in conflict, cities in crisis, families divided. Bless those who promote peace in this House and in Your house. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of the Chair, will there be any limitations on 1-minutes today?

The SPEAKER. The Chair is informed that we have talked with Members on the gentleman's side of the aisle, and if there is no Journal vote,

the Chair will entertain 20 1-minute speeches on each side.

Mr. VOLKMER. I thank the Chair.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas [Mr. EDWARDS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EDWARDS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

THE REVEREND DR. KEN MASSEY

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is my personal pleasure and privilege to introduce our guest chaplain of today, Dr. Kenneth Massey of my hometown of Waco, TX, a personal friend and my wife's pastor.

He is a native of Beaumont, TX, graduated from Baylor University in 1978. In 1984 and 1987 he received a masters and doctoral degrees from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

He pastored in Garland, TX and Marks, MS, and has been at Calvary Baptist in Waco since 1990.

He is married to Sara Miller Massey and has three wonderful children, Kristen, Aaron, and Adreana.

He enjoys hunting, golf, and reading and, in addition to a great pastorhood for Calvary Baptist, he has reached out to the community of Waco, TX, with his religious beliefs and convictions to all of the people of our great city.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will:

Require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget.

We have done that.

It goes on to state that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: a balanced budget amendment—we have done this; unfunded mandates legislation—we have done this; line-item veto—we are doing that today; a new crime bill to stop violent criminals; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for families to lift Government's burden from middle income Americans; national security restoration to protect our freedoms; seniors citizens' equity act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; Government regulatory reform; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make congress a citizen legislature.

Mr. Speaker, this is our Contract With America.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 66, A COMPROMISE ON TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, soon this body will be considering the issue of term limits. It is an issue that

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

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



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divides many of us, not on the principle but on the details.

Roll Call has recently had a headline in which it talks about a civil war over term limits in which organizations that support certain numbers of years have actually had campaigns against those who support longer term limits. I have introduced House Resolution 66, which is a proposition that hopefully accommodates all of those who are interested in this issue. It would set a 12-year outer limit by this constitutional amendment, but would also recognize that States would not be preempted from setting lower limits by State statute if they chose to do so.

I would urge those who support the concept of term limits to examine House Resolution 66. It accommodates the principle of term limits, but recognizes the importance of States to set lower limits if they chose to do so.

ANNOUNCEMENT ON AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR THE CRIME BILLS

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce to Members that the Rules Committee will meet next Monday,

February 6, at 2 p.m. to consider rules for the first two of the six crime bills ordered reported by the Judiciary Committee.

The first two bills are: H.R. 665, Victim Restitution Act, and H.R. 666, Exclusionary Rule Reform Act.

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee has requested that each of these bills be considered under an open rule. He has further requested that the rule include a provision giving priority in recognition to Members who have caused their amendments to be printed in the amendment section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration.

There is a strong possibility that the Rules Committee will report the rules requested, and Members may want to avail themselves of the option of pre-filing amendments in order to gain priority in recognition, though there is no requirement that they do so. Members will still be recognized whether their amendments are in the RECORD or not.

Later in the week it is anticipated that the Judiciary Committee will be coming to the Rules Committee with four additional crime bills. They are: H.R. 668, Criminal Alien Deportation Improvements Act; H.R. 667, Violent Criminal Incarceration Act; H.R. 729, Effective Death Penalty Act, and H.R.

728, Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Act.

Of these, the Criminal Alien Deportation Improvements Act may also be considered under an open rule with an option to gain priority in recognition by pre-printing amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The remaining three bills may be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule, with a possible overall time limitation on the amending process. There would also be the option to gain priority in recognition by pre-printing amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

If Members choose to avail themselves of the pre-printing option, amendments should be titled, "Submitted for printing under clause 6 of Rule XXIII," signed by the Member, and submitted at the Speaker's table.

Members should use the Office of the Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted.

The amendments must still be consistent with House rules. It is not necessary to submit amendments to the Rules Committee or to testify.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to put Members on notice as to what sort of amending process they might expect on the six crime bills.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULING OF CRIME BILLS IN RULES COMMITTEE

| Bill | Judiciary files | Deadline announcement | Filing deadline | Rules meets | Rule on floor |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| H.R. 665, Victim restitution | 2-2 | NA (open) | NA | 2-6 | 2-7 |
| H.R. 666, Exclusionary rule reform | 2-2 | NA (open) | NA | 2-6 | 2-7 |
| H.R. 668, Criminal alien deportation | 2-6 | NA (open) | NA | 2-8 | 2-9 |
| H.R. 667, Violent criminal incarceration (prisons) | 2-6 | | Noon, 2-7 | 2-8 | 2-9 |
| H.R. 729, Effective death penalty | 2-7 | | Noon, 2-8 | 2-9 | 2-10 |
| H.R. 728, Block grants | 2-8 | | Noon, 2-9 | 2-10 | 2-13 |

For the purpose of drafting amendments, the text to be amended will be available at the Judiciary Committee Office, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, for the following bills on the following dates:

H.R. 667, February 6.

H.R. 729, February 7.

H.R. 728, February 8.

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

Mr. SOLOMON. I yield briefly to my friend, the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, under the three bills that we are talking about that would have a time limit, those are habeas corpus, and what are the three again?

Mr. SOLOMON. They are the Violent Criminal Incarceration Act, the Effective Death Penalty Act, and the Block Grants Act for Local Government Law Enforcement.

Mr. VOLKMER. Habeas corpus, the prison construction, and what was the third one?

Mr. SOLOMON. It is the block grants bill.

Mr. VOLKMER. The block grant. That is on the crime prevention program.

Mr. SOLOMON. Let me just explain. The first three bills will more than likely be considered under totally open

rules, and that is the way it should be. The only exceptions to open rules would be in the next three. In other words, we may have to shut down debate to be out of here by April 8 so Members can have the 3 weeks back home for Easter and the district work period. That is terribly important.

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And there is a possibility we might take the last three bills and limit debate to one full day. That could mean 12 hours from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on each of those last three. Hopefully we might not even have to do that. If we can just move along with these six crime bills, we will have gotten them out of the way so that we can stay on schedule for our Easter break.

Mr. VOLKMER. Will the gentleman be able to determine whether or not that even would be necessary somewhat by a number of amendments that may be prefiled?

Mr. SOLOMON. Could very well be. We are going to consult with the minority on all of these bills.

Mr. VOLKMER. All right. And the other thing, in other words, I would urge Members, like you have, for people to put them in the RECORD, and also to contact the Committee on Rules to

give you a better idea of where you have to go.

Mr. SOLOMON. That is correct. And that can be very helpful to Members. I would point out that one Member on your side of the aisle prefiled an amendment for another bill. It turned out that it was a flawed amendment. The Parliamentarians caught it. The Member was able to correct it, and it benefited him. It would benefit all Members to prefile their amendments, although there is no requirement for that.

Mr. VOLKMER. Could I ask you one additional question?

Mr. SOLOMON. All right. We have to get on with it.

Mr. VOLKMER. I understand that. But I think this is very important.

You are saying that you are talking about an overall time limit on the total bill, not on any one amendment. Therefore, if there are, let us say, you do do that on one bill, let us take the habeas corpus bill, and let us say there are still 50 or 60 amendments that are offered, that means that at the end we would still have to vote on those amendments even though there may not be any debate time left?

Mr. SOLOMON. Not necessarily. If there were an overall time limitation on the amendment process, in other