

it is a tremendous honor to welcome Rabbi Motty Berger.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar scheduled for today be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC OFFICIAL OBJECTORS RELATIVE TO PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that at this point in the RECORD there be inserted an agreement between the three Republican and three Democratic official objectors to the Private Calendar relative to procedures used for the consideration of the Private Calendar during the 104th Congress.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the agreement is as follows:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to set forth some of the history behind, as well as describe the workings of the Private Calendar. I hope this might be of some value to the Members of this House, especially our newer colleagues.

Of the five House Calendars, the Private Calendar is the one to which all Private Bills are referred. Private Bills deal with specific individuals, corporations, institutions, and so forth, as distinguished from public bills which deal with classes only.

Of the 108 laws approved by the First Congress, only 5 were Private Laws. But their number quickly grew as the wars of the new Republic produced veterans and veterans' widows seeking pensions and as more citizens came to have private claims and demands against the Federal Government. The 49th Congress, 1885 to 1887, the first Congress for which complete workload and output data is available—passed 1,031 Private Laws, as compared with 434 Public Laws. At the turn of the century the 56th Congress passed 1,498 Private Laws and 443 Public Laws—a better than three to one ratio.

Private bills were referred to the Committee on the Whole House as far back as 1820, and a calendar of private bills was established in 1839. These bills were initially brought before the House by special orders, but the 62nd Congress changed this produce by its rule XXIV, clause six which provided for the consideration of the Private Calendar in lieu of special orders. This rule was amended in 1932, and then adopted in its present form on March 22, 1935.

A determined effort to reduce the private bill workload of the Congress was made in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Section 131 of that Act banned the introduction or the consideration of four types of private bills: first, those authorizing the payment of money for pensions; second, for per-

sonal or property damages for which suit may be brought under the Federal tort claims procedure; third, those authorizing the construction of a bridge across a navigable stream, or fourth, those authorizing the correction of a military or naval record.

This ban afforded some temporary relief but was soon offset by the rising postwar and cold war flood for private immigration bills. The 82nd Congress passed 1,023 Private Laws, as compared with 594 Public Laws. The 88th Congress passed 360 Private Laws compared with 666 Public Laws.

Under rule XXIV, clause six, the Private Calendar is called the first and third Tuesday of each month. The consideration of the Private Calendar bills on the first Tuesday is mandatory unless dispensed with by a two-thirds vote. On the third Tuesday, however, recognition for consideration of the Private Calendar is within the discretion of the Speaker and does not take precedence over other privileged business in the House.

On the first Tuesday of each month, after disposition of business on the Speaker's table for reference only, the Speaker directs the call of the Private Calendar. If a bill called is objected to by two or more Members, it is automatically recommitted to the Committee reporting it. No reservation of objection is entertained. Bills unobjected to are considered in the House in the Committee of the Whole.

On the third Tuesday of each month, the same procedure is followed with the exception that omnibus bills embodying bills previously rejected have preference and are in order regardless of objection.

Such omnibus bills are read by paragraph, and no amendments are entertained except to strike out or reduce amounts or provide limitations. Matter so stricken out shall not be again included in an omnibus bill during that session. Debate is limited to motions allowable under the rule and does not admit motions to strike out the last word or reservation of objections. The rules prohibit the Speaker from recognizing Members for statements or for requests for unanimous consent for debate. Omnibus bills so passed are thereupon resolved in their component bills, which are engrossed separately and disposed of as if passed separately.

Private Calendar bills unfinished on one Tuesday go over to the next Tuesday on which such bills are in order and are considered before the call of bills subsequently on the calendar. Omnibus bills follow the same procedure and go over to the next Tuesday on which that class of business is again in order. When the previous question is ordered on a Private Calendar bill, the bill comes up for disposition on the next legislative day.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to describe to the newer Members the Official Objectors system the House has established to deal with the great volume of Private Bills.

The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader each appoint three Members to serve as Private Calendar Objectors during a Congress. The Objectors are on the Floor ready to object to any Private Bill which they feel is objectionable for any reason. Seated near them to provide technical assistance are the majority and minority legislative clerks.

Should any Member have a doubt or questions about a particular Private Bill, he or she can get assistance from objectors, their clerks, or from the Member who introduced the bill.

The great volume of private bills and the desire to have an opportunity to study them carefully before they are called on the Private Calendar has caused the six objectors to agree upon certain ground rules. The rules limit consideration of bills placed on the Private Calendar only shortly before the calendar is called. This agreement adopted on

December 5, 1995, the Members of the Majority Private Calendar Objectors Committee have agreed that during the 104th Congress, they will consider only those bills which have been on the Private Calendar for a period of seven (7) days, excluding the day the bill is reported and the day the calendar is called. Reports must be available to the Objectors for three (3) calendar days.

It is agreed that the majority and minority clerks will not submit to the Objectors any bills which do not meet this requirement.

This policy will be strictly enforced except during the closing days of a session when the House rules are suspended.

This agreement was entered into by: The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Sensenbrenner), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Coble), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Goodlatte), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Boucher), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Mfume), and the gentlelady from Connecticut (Mrs. DeLauro).

I feel confident that I speak from my colleagues when I request all Members to enable us to give the necessary advance consideration to private bills by not asking that we depart from the above agreement unless absolute necessary.

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER,
JR.

HOWARD COBLE.
BOB GOODLATTE.
RICK BOUCHER.
KWEISI MFUME.
ROSA DELAURO.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 20 1-minute speeches on each side.

DO THE RIGHT THING: BALANCE THE BUDGET IN 7 YEARS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the President has refused to negotiate a balanced budget, just 17 days after signing an agreement to balance the budget in 7 years. There are three plans out there: His plan, which did not get one vote in the Senate, went down 96 to 0; then the Democrat Coalition plan, which did get some votes and does balance in 7 years; but the best plan is the Republican plan.

The reason I believe so is because it has the discipline of a balanced budget. It will balance in 7 years. It is the right thing to do. We will never get there unless we have the discipline.

Second, it deals with the tough issues like welfare reform. We believe it is the right thing for people to work for what they get, and not just get a handout, so they can believe in themselves. We trust States like Kansas to do what is right for those truly in need.

The Republican plan also trusts parents by giving them a \$500 per child tax break. It allows them to spend money on their children rather than the Government. It will strengthen families and it is the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, let us do the right thing for our country, for ourselves, and for

our children. Let us balance the budget in 7 years.

AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO FACTS ABOUT ETHICS INVESTIGATION INTO SPEAKER'S TIES TO GOPAC

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the Hartford Courant says that the Ethics Committee investigation of Speaker GINGRICH has "the foul odor of cover-up." How much longer is the Ethics Committee going to let this charade continue?

We now know that four members of the Ethics Committee—including the chairwoman herself—have ties to GOPAC. The same GOPAC which financed the Speaker's own campaigns to the tune of \$250,000 a year.

The evidence against Speaker GINGRICH is so damning that last week, two of the three Republicans at the FEC voted to make their evidence public.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to call on the chairwoman and the members of the Ethics Committee to fully disclose their ties to GOPAC. And I am calling on the Speaker himself to release the names of past GOPAC donors and release the list of past GOPAC expenses.

Mr. Speaker, if you've got nothing to hide, you've got nothing to be afraid of. But if you keep dragging your feet, the American people have a right to ask: what are you trying to hide?

AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT A BALANCED BUDGET AND NOT CHARACTER ASSASSINATION

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my friend, the minority whip, trying to whip this body into a rage with an editorial from the Hartford Courant. It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, to hear really the poster boy of American liberal journalism, Bob Woodward, on "Meet the Press" this weekend, saying in effect that all of these chargers were trumped up, that there was no reason to attack the Speaker on any of these things.

In fact what we see, Mr. Speaker, is a minority so bereft of ideas, so unwilling to come to the table, so unwilling to address the central question, which is balancing this budget in 7 years, that they will try any tactic of character assassination, any exaggeration, anything to avoid the point.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want it now, they want it simply, they want us to face up to the challenges they put us here to face up to. They want us to balance the budget and not to engage in character assassination.

GATORS SCORE SEC THREE-PEAT

(Mrs. THURMAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, for the Florida Gators, it's 12 down and 1 to go.

That's right, after thrashing the Arkansas Razorbacks 34 to 3 for a Southeastern Conference three-peat, the fighting Gators from the University of Florida will be meeting the Nebraska Cornhuskers in the Fiesta Bowl on January 2 to settle the question of who is the No. 1 team in the Nation.

Guess whom I'll be rooting for?

The undefeated Gators, led by the tactical brilliance of coach Steve Spurrier and the pinpoint accuracy of quarterback Danny Wuerffel, stomped 12 opponents during this record year. The Gator offense left their opponents dazzled and befuddled, while the defense did the rest.

Never before have the University of Florida Fighting Gators played for a national championship. To all the dedicated coaches and gifted athletes of the 1995 University of Florida football team—and on behalf of the proud alumni, congratulations on an already historic year.

And look out Nebraska, cause the Gators will be growling again in the Fiesta Bowl.

LET THE BEST TEAM WIN

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I cannot let go unchallenged a laying down of the gauntlet like that from my friend, the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. THURMAN]. As a Cornhusker and a proud supporter of Tom Osborne and the next Heisman trophy winner, Tommie Frazier, we are looking forward to our January 2 meeting with the third Florida team in 3 years.

To refresh the memory of the gentlewoman from Florida, 2 years ago we lost to Florida State. Last year we beat the University of Miami for the national championship. This year we are looking forward to repeating our national claim to that trophy. We are anxious to have at our helm, a Florida individual from Bradenton, FL, Tommie Frazier, who we are all hoping will win that Heisman trophy award.

It is going to be a fun game. I will see my colleague in Florida, and we look forward to a great, great game. Let the best team win.

FORTY YEARS AGO TODAY

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago today, December 5, 1955, the Montgomery bus boycott began after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus. It marked the beginning of a long and difficult struggle toward equal rights and civil rights in this Nation.

Forty years later, those signs that I saw growing up in the rural south, those signs that said colored men, white men, colored women, white women, colored waiting, white waiting, are gone.

We have witnessed what I like to call a nonviolent revolution in America. It is a time and a period that we will never go back to, but we must never forget.

On the occasion of this important anniversary, I want to pay tribute to the leaders of that struggle, to Rosa Parks and to my late great mentor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We have come a long way toward achieving what Dr. King called the "beloved community", but we still have a long way to go. Let us, on this anniversary, rededicate ourselves to building a truly inter-racial democracy in America. For in truth, we are one nation, one people, one house, the American House.

IT IS TIME FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has said time and time again that he supports a balanced Federal budget. True, he has never actually proposed such a plan, but because of the Balanced Budget Act passed by this Congress, he has now got an opportunity to walk the walk, not merely talk the talk.

The President made a start last month when he agreed with this Congress to balance the budget in 7 years. Of course, the very next day, his chief of staff, Leon Panetta, told the American people that they should not read too much into that. But, Mr. Speaker, I am willing to take the President at his word, even if his own chief of staff apparently does not.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress has brought to the negotiating table a detailed balanced budget proposal. The President thus far has brought only press releases. The President can accept our plan, or he can tell us how much more he wants to spend and just where he is going to find the money to pay for it.

With a Federal debt at nearly \$5 trillion, it is time for the President to get off the dime. Mr. President, let us work together to balance the budget.

VOTE AGAINST H.R. 2099, VA-HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, while I would like to commend the conferees on their efforts to increase funding for