

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING
POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CON-
FERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1530,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-407) on the resolution (H. Res. 307) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1530) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WELCOME TO JESSE JACKSON, JR.

(Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have known our new colleague for a very long period of time and have worked with his parents for an extremely long period of time. I have watched him grow up in a very disciplined, loving household, one that has been in the forefront of all of the issues. I have particularly watched him grow up in an environment where his very loving family has been one that has been led by a freedom fighter, his father, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and who has been under the very loving care of his mother, Mrs. Jacqueline Jackson.

Clearly here is a young man who grew up sort of in the eye of a storm of liberation and a storm of good will that was trying to be brought for our country, and yet here is a young man who is an example of what can happen to young people.

Here is a young man who has never had a problem with drugs, a young man who has never had a problem with the law, a young man who has developed into a fine human being, one who has a great education, one who has been a person who wanted to learn and to grow. He epitomizes what America can do and what those of us who are concerned about the well-being of our young people can hope to expect.

Let me say this. It has already been discussed that he has a number of degrees, a Bachelor's degree from North Carolina A&T University. He has a Master's from the Chicago Theological Seminary. He has a law degree from the University of Illinois. Believe me, he got a mandate from the Second Congressional District of Illinois, and has won two elections in 2 weeks, and we salute him.

JACKSON USHERS IN NEW ERA OF
LEADERSHIP

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly stand and join with my colleagues in

welcoming the newest Member to this House, JESSE JACKSON, Jr. I feel as if he, too, is my child. I feel as if he is my son. I feel that way because I guess I have known him, I have watched him grow up. I have worked very closely with his father and his mother. They are my friends.

When he first indicated that he would be running for this seat, I did everything that I could to encourage him, and I would like to thank all of my colleagues in this House who joined with us in a tremendous effort to raise money and to work in the district to ensure that JESSE JACKSON, Jr., could be with us being sworn in today.

I am so proud of him, because he represents everything that we want our children to be. I am so proud of him, because oftentimes there are these negative images of young African-American men portrayed in the media. However, there are many young JESSE JACKSON, Jr.'s out there. A lot of people do not know about them. They do not understand that there are children who have come from nurturing families, with the kind of support that could lead them here to this House and to other things if but given the opportunity and the chance to do that.

And so JESSE JACKSON, Jr., stands here today as a symbol to all of those young people out there who believe that they can do it, that there can be support for them realizing their dreams.

I am proud that he is here. I look forward to the leadership that he is going to provide, not only in this House but throughout this Nation.

Let me just say this to my colleagues. JESSE JACKSON, Jr., will usher in a new generation of leadership in this country to deal with the problems that confront us all. So I want you to look at him today and look at him in a new and different way. I want you to understand what he symbolizes and what he is going to mean, not only to this House but to all of America.

I welcome you, JESSE JACKSON, Jr. I look forward to working with you, and let the message go forward to the young people out there, that they have got someone now who is going to reach out to them, bring them into these new possibilities and show America the way in which it should be going.

WELCOME TO JESSE JACKSON, JR.

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

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to the House our newest Member and my long-time friend JESSE JACKSON, Jr. I first met JESSE during his father's 1984 presidential campaign. During that time JESSE and I had the opportunity to register people to vote together, rally together, encourage young people to stay in school together, and we always had the dream to serve in this House, the

United States House of Representatives, together.

I will never forget the many trips we made to Washington as young college students, and we would pass the House, the Capitol, the United States Capitol, and look at each other and say, one day we will serve in the House of Representatives together and shape national public policy.

I recall the great words of Benjamin Mays when he said, "The calamity of life is not failing to reach your dream. The calamity of life is having no dreams to reach for."

JESSE JACKSON, Jr., is not only a dreamer but one who works night and day to accomplish his dreams. The people of the Second Congressional District of Chicago and young people all across this Nation should be very proud to have such a great public servant like my friend and now my new colleague JESSE JACKSON, Jr.

I welcome you, my friend, and together we will keep hope alive.

A GREAT DAY

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I am very, very proud today. Today is indeed a great day for myself, for the people in the city of Chicago, the people of the Second Congressional District. Today is a day that is great for all of America.

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We must take pause today, Mr. Speaker, to understand all that has gone on in regards to JESSE JACKSON, Jr., being sworn in as a Member of Congress. I am absolutely so proud, and I am so appreciative of the work of the Jackson family.

You see, Mr. Speaker, about 25-26 years ago I had to call upon Jesse Jackson, Sr. to save my very life. I called him when I was on the run, when police officers were out to kill me. Jesse Jackson did not hesitate to come to my assistance and to come to my aid.

I have seen JESSE JACKSON, Jr., from a toddler up until an adult, and I cannot think of any more qualities that God could have invested in a single individual than what he invested in JESSE JACKSON, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, this young man, as you saw a brief indication of today, has traveled the world, has been in the company of great individuals, individuals at the top of national governments, individuals who are, indeed, movers and shakers and history makers throughout the world. But the quality, the resounding quality that keeps coming forward in terms of JESSE JACKSON, Jr., is not arrogance, is not a higher-than-thou or greater-than-thou or holier-than-thou. The common characteristic that comes through in terms of JESSE JACKSON, Jr., is humility and

humbleness and willingness to work in behalf of those individuals in this society who have no one to fight and to work for them. He is, indeed, a great person already at the age of 30, a remarkable man, a history maker.

Simply because of the fact that he can walk with kings and yet still he can also be very comfortable to walk and lead and participate and fight for the common man, Mr. Speaker, this House of Representatives will not be the same because we have a humble individual, an individual who knows greatness and knows that greatness evolves as a direct byproduct of working on behalf of common people.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BONIOR. I ask for this time to inquire of the distinguished majority leader about the schedule for today, tomorrow, the weekend, and next week.

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

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to preface my comments by adding my congratulations to those that have gone before me to the gentleman from Illinois. It is always a great thrill to be sworn in for the first time and to have your family here for the event.

Mr. Speaker, there will be no more legislative business today. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the upcoming schedule for the remainder of the week.

Tomorrow, we plan to take up the conference report for H.R. 1530, the Department of Defense Authorization Act. There is also the possibility that the appropriations conference report for the District of Columbia will be ready for consideration tomorrow. We should know more about that possibly later today and will, of course, keep Members advised.

As Members know, it has been 25 days since the House passed our last CR. For over 3 weeks now we have been waiting for the President to become engaged in substantive discussions and present his alternative plan to reach a balanced budget in 7 years. Mr. Speaker, we are still waiting. We are eager to examine his alternative and to commence serious negotiations with the President at the table.

Mr. Speaker, if the President decides to get serious about these balanced budget negotiations, there may be a possibility of a short-term continuing resolution for the weekend. Obviously, we will know more about that this afternoon after negotiations with the administration today and tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I should note that I will be happy to engage in further discussions tomorrow regarding details of the schedule for next week.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BONIOR. I just say to my friend, the gentleman from Texas, I thank him for his patience in order for us to have this colloquy. I appreciate his patience, and I would also like to yield now to my friend, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. LOFGREN], who I think has a concern about the weekend.

Ms. LOFGREN. If I may inquire, I am a freshman Member of this body, and so perhaps this is the way things normally go, and I am certainly not opposed to working hard. But I, as do many parents in the Congress, have a little boy who believes in Santa Claus. I am wondering when I will get to take him to visit Santa Claus, and further, when all of the wonderful things that Santa Claus is going to bring him will actually arrive.

He did point out to me the other day that we did not work last Friday and we did not work this Monday, and we did not start working until late on Tuesday, and now it is 2 o'clock and we are knocking it off for the day.

My question is: Are we going to be working on Saturday to finish the appropriations bills not yet done? If not, why are we leaving now so that myself and the other parents might actually get their children to visit Santa Claus?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, let me just thank the gentlewoman for her observations.

It is a difficult time for all of us. I am amazed at how many Members have children and grandchildren that are dancing in the Nutcracker Suite this weekend all across this Nation, and it is a matter of enormous consequence to all of these families.

My governing principle, Mr. Speaker, is to schedule work when it is ready, to move it as quickly as we can. We had had other work scheduled for today. Unfortunately, the bill that might have been under consideration at this time was withdrawn for reasons that are of the committee's concerns.

The defense appropriations bill is obviously something we must move tomorrow, and can do so. If we have no work, that is, work that must be done on Saturday or Sunday, and I am sure the gentlewoman would agree with me, that should we approach an opportunity to complete the budget on Saturday or Sunday, I am sure she, as well as all the rest of the Members, would more prefer to stay here and do that and finish out the year.

But short of that work on the weekend, especially if it appears that we will be here working next week, it would be my intention, under whatever parliamentary arrangements are possible, for us to have no work on the floor on Saturday and Sunday, so that those Members who are not otherwise engaged, perhaps in a conference or perhaps in the budget negotiations, could indeed grab a couple of days with their families before we come back and commence work on Monday.

I wish I could be more specific and give Members a definitive answer right now. But I think I owe it to all of us to

be certain that I have, in fact, explored every possibility of having that definitive work before us before I close the door on Saturday and Sunday and encourage people.

So for now, I would suggest to the gentlewoman and to all of my colleagues, if you have plans to try to go home for the weekend, that is something that is, indeed, as these things are, very important to you and your family, do not cancel those plans. As soon as I can say something definitive, I will.

Mr. BONIOR. We thank the majority leader for his understanding and his reading of what he sees possible this weekend. We appreciate his concern.

Can the gentleman from Texas give us an indication, if we leave for this weekend or tomorrow, when we will resume on Monday next?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, of course, again, if it is possible, that is to say, unless I am otherwise compelled by compelling work, I would try to enable the Members to have Saturday, Sunday, and, say, Monday until 5 free from any votes on the floor.

Obviously, we all need this time. It is precious. And I would try to make it as extended a period of time as possible and would change from Monday at 5 only if compelled by some work that I thought would justify the inconvenience to the families.

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

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, as the leader knows, this has been a very difficult year on the schedule and its impact upon families, on both sides of the aisle. And as we enter the holidays, Mr. Leader, I would hope that we would have some indication as to how late we are going to be going into the schedule next week. It is a very difficult time to get plane reservations to fly back home to our home districts and see families and spend time with families at the holiday.

Do you have some kind of indication as to how long into the next week we will be proceeding on the budget?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, let me make the observation, we are in very difficult, very serious, and extremely important negotiations with heartfelt differences between the Congress and the White House, and while I am confident that everybody is trying to do their very, very best, and have my own hopes that the week could be shorter instead of longer, I simply could not with any degree of reliability give any intimation to the Members other than to advise you to be prepared to stay for a long, hard work week throughout all of next week, with the hope that perhaps we could reach some agreement that would allow me to come on this floor and enjoy your appreciation with my bringing of the good news, and I would hope that would happen.

Mr. ROEMER. As the leader knows, I want a balanced budget. I have been