

for this legislation, and I appreciate their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy has primary jurisdiction over the tied aid credit program of the Export-Import Bank. A subcommittee hearing and markup was held on September 7, 1995, and H.R. 2203 was favorably reported out of subcommittee by voice vote. The previous authorization expired on September 30, 1995; American exporters have been at a severe disadvantage since then. This authorization is necessary to protect American exporters and their trading in developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, the tied aid program is an important tool for American companies against international exporters. The tied aid matching authority allows the Ex-Im Bank to respond to American exporters' need for competitive financing in developing markets. Tied aid, in the form of grants and loans, is defined as below-market rate concessional financing, used for purchasing capital tools manufactured in the developed country. By matching foreign countries' offers of aid, the Ex-Im Bank has forced those countries to withdraw several of their offers, and has matched 33 other offers worth almost \$2 billion of potential export sales. Additionally, the Ex-Im Bank's tied aid credit has had a chilling effect on excessive use of tied aid by foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, the tied aid program levels the playing field of international trade, and permits recipient countries to compare project on the basis of price, technology, quality, delivery, and service. The manager's amendment substitutes an indefinite authorization for tied aid credits in place of the authorization contained in the introduced bill of \$500 million per year. Previous spending has not exceeded \$100 million per annum. This bill does not affect direct spending on receipts, and is not subject to pay-as-you-go procedures.

H.R. 2203 protects American trade and businesses. I urge its immediate adoption.

□ 1130

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2203, a measure to reauthorize the tied-aid authority of the Export-Import Bank. In the past, I have supported this measure, and I will do so again today. However, given the gravity of the current debate over the size and purpose of various government agencies, I have welcomed the opportunity to learn about the efficacy of the Export-Import Bank. Moreover, I wish to personally thank the distinguished Ex-Im president and chairman Kenneth Brody. Chairman Brody is leaving the Bank for other endeavors, and in doing so, the United States is losing one of its champions of increased exports.

My fellow colleagues, I have been amazed at the intensity of the debate on whether or not we should fund, or even have the Export-Import Bank. Both those who are in favor of the Bank, and those who vehemently oppose it have executed overwhelmingly comprehensive lobbying campaigns. The result is that we have a broad spectrum of opinions as to how much closing the Bank will save the American taxpayer, and it is no surprise that several Members of Congress have sometimes staked their positions on this aspect alone. I must note for the record, however, that savings is not the only issue, and to make it the only issue is shortsighted.

Most of our competitors in the industrialized world use economic credit agencies to assist their exporters, and thus foreign governments seek to ensure the viability of their industries in an ever increasing atmosphere of competitiveness. Beyond this one aspect there are many salient issues, and probably more important to our constituents, is the fact that exporting to emerging markets is probably the only area where American business can expect to grow in the future. To the extent that tied-aid is just one tool that the Ex-Im Bank uses to further this projected growth, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2203.

Tied aid is one of the strongest tools Ex-Im has when it attempts to deter foreign governments from offering concessional financing to borrowing countries. Tied aid represents perhaps the most overt and most distorting subsidy associated with export credit assistance. The Ex-Im Bank aptly describes this practice as the buying of export deals because perpetrating countries extend concessional funding packages in exchange for the purchase of its products. When U.S. companies face competition backed by tied aid, there is little doubt that they will lose bids without Ex-Im matching support.

We would be remiss and should be embarrassed if we were to take several steps backward in not passing this bill, and thus cripple American export business. U.S. exporters are benefiting from Ex-Im's matching policy, because of the overall reductions in global tied aid. From the Ex-Im banks bottom line perspective, given our strong deterrent use of tied aid matching, U.S. exporters are in fact competing on a more level playing field, and yet have kept their gloves on in a competitive fistfight.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman CASTLE and his staff for their cooperation in finally moving this legislation to the floor, and regret that Congress as a whole does not have the relationship that we have established in this subcommittee. The public would be better served if we could extend our cooperation to other issues, and to other committees.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, so the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] may want to call on anyone else he may have, but I would like to say before we yield back, if we are going to do that, that Mr. Ken Brody will be leaving his position as president and chairman of the Export-Import Bank, and I have enjoyed working with him. I believe him to be an excellent public servant who understands his subject matter extremely well, eliminates politics from carrying out his responsibilities, and I think has served both the administration and this country exceptionally well, and we appreciate that.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2203, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 1995

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2627), to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the founding of the Smithsonian Institution, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2627

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Smithsonian Institution Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins in commemoration of the founding of the Smithsonian Institution:

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000 5 dollar coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 650,000 1 dollar coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) PLATINUM COINS.—The Secretary may mint and issue not more than 100,000 5 dollar platinum coins instead of the gold coins required under subsection (a)(1) in accordance with such specifications as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(c) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 3. SOURCES OF BULLION.

(a) GOLD.—The Secretary shall obtain gold for minting coins under this Act pursuant to the authority of the Secretary under other provisions of law.

(b) SILVER.—The Secretary shall obtain silver for minting coins under this Act only from stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the scientific, educational, and cultural significance and importance of the Smithsonian Institution.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year "1996";

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum"; and

(D) an inscription of the following phrase from the original bequest of James Smithson: "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge".

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular combination of denomination and quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on August 1, 1996.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in subsection (d) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

(d) SURCHARGES.—All sales shall include a surcharge of—

(1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin; and

(2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

SEC. 7. GENERAL WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), no provision of law governing procurement or public contracts shall be applicable to the procurement of goods and services necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(b) EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.—Subsection (a) shall not relieve any person entering into a contract under the authority of this Act from complying with any law relating to equal employment opportunity.

SEC. 8. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Smithsonian Institution for the following purposes:

(1) 85 percent of the amount transferred shall be available for such purposes as the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution determines to be appropriate.

(2) 15 percent of the amount transferred shall be dedicated to the support of the operation and activities of the National Numismatic Collection at the National Museum of American History.

(b) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall have the right to examine such books, records, documents, and other data of the Smithsonian Institution as may be related to the expenditures of amounts paid under subsection (a).

SEC. 9. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

(a) NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government.

(b) PAYMENT FOR COINS.—A coin shall not be issued under this Act unless the Secretary has received—

(1) full payment for the coin;

(2) security satisfactory to the Secretary to indemnify the United States for full payment; or

(3) a guarantee of full payment satisfactory to the Secretary from a depository institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration Board.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] each will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2627, the Smithsonian Sesquicentennial commemorative coin bill. This bill has received very broad based support in this body as represented by its more than 300 cosponsors. It is also supported by the numismatic collectors and their representatives on the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker, apart from the significance of the Smithsonian anniversary, the designation of 15 percent of the surcharge proceeds to benefit the numismatic collection at the Museum of American History is another reason for this support. The Smithsonian has agreed to have its coins be the first to be governed by the rules and restrictions set down in H.R. 2614, the Commemorative Coin Reform Act of 1995. As a consequence, providing the mint can prepare in time, they may also have the benefit of issuing the first platinum coinage in U.S. history.

Mr. Speaker, the Commemorative Coin program is clearly in trouble, largely because too many unpopular

coins are being produced. The mintage level of 800,000 silver \$1 coins in the Livingston bill caused some discussion during subcommittee markup. Amendments of 400,000 and 500,000 were both offered, and the ultimate compromise amendment offered to this bill is for a mintage level of 650,000 \$1 silver coins. This number was reached following representations by the CCCAC membership and the Mint reaffirming their belief that the unique marketing ability of the Smithsonian justifies a higher authorization than 400,000 or 500,000 coins.

The proponents of this bill have observed the rules of the Banking Committee by obtaining more than 290 cosponsors. This bill also demonstrates that the Banking Committee rules are not simply a block to all coin legislation, and that if a group follows the rules, they have an opportunity to get a coin.

Mr. Speaker, our actions today should not be taken as an invitation for more coin projects to advance; 1996 is already at least fully subscribed, no more coins can be considered for that year.

In the coming years, we will continue to press for full compliance with Banking Committee rules and if necessary we will recommend that they be tightened should it appear that more coins are being proposed than the market will absorb.

I urge this body to immediately adopt H.R. 2627.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CASTLE. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, would it not be nice if the Smithsonian were open so that the general public, the Americans who are visiting Washington, were able to see the marvelous collection of coins that the Smithsonian usually has on display for them?

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I do not disagree with the gentleman at all, but I do not think this is the time to get into the discussion of why the Smithsonian is not open today. That may happen starting in about 20 minutes or so. But perhaps this is not the time. Hopefully, by the time we pass this bill it will be open and we will be able to see that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2627, the Smithsonian Institution Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin Act of 1995. I also support the manager's amendment, which was reached in bipartisan agreement with strong input from Representative KENNEDY from Massachusetts. Furthermore, I commend all parties involved in this effort, including Chairman CASTLE, Mr. KENNEDY, the Mint, the Smithsonian, and the Citizens Commemorative Coin

Advisory Committee. I would also be remiss if I did not thank Mr. LIVINGSTON and our former colleague Mr. Mineta.

This act celebrates one of our Nation's most celebrated treasures, and will commemorate 150 years of excellence in the arts, sciences, and history. The Smithsonian has chronicled its own history, and I would like to state for the RECORD a brief account from the Smithsonian's history annals:

In 1826, James Smithson, a British scientist, drew up his last will and testament, naming his nephew as beneficiary. Smithson stipulated that, should the nephew die without heirs—as he would in 1835—the estate should go “to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.”

The motives behind Smithson's bequest remain mysterious. He never traveled to the United States and seems to have had no correspondence with anyone here. Some have suggested that his bequest was motivated in part by revenge against the rigidities of British society, which had denied Smithson, who was illegitimate, the right to use his father's name. Others have suggested it reflected his interest in the Enlightenment ideals of democracy and universal education.

Smithson died in 1829, and six years later, President Andrew Jackson announced the bequest to Congress. On July 1, 1836, Congress accepted the legacy bequeathed to the nation and pledged the faith of the United States to the charitable trust. In September 1838, Smithson's legacy, which amounted to more than 100,000 gold sovereigns, was delivered to the mint at Philadelphia. Recoined in U.S. currency, the gift amounted to more than \$500,000.

After eight years of sometimes heated debate, an Act of Congress signed by President James K. Polk on Aug. 10, 1846, established the Smithsonian Institution as a trust to be administered by a Board of Regents and a Secretary of the Smithsonian.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first legislation to be considered under the rubric of legislation passed just 2 weeks ago under the guidance of Chairman CASTLE. I could not think of a better bill to mark our new process minting commemorative coins, and I hope that the collecting community, and the general public, will benefit from this new process. H.R. 2627 shows that the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee process works, and that the Banking Committee will only consider CCCAC coin recommendations with the cosponsorship of two-thirds of the House.

In closing, let me say that during the subcommittee markup, I was prepared to offer an amendment to allow the minting of no more than 500,000 silver coins, which was the original recommendation of CCCAC. Valid concerns from Mr. KENNEDY were debated, and after discussion we finally arrived at a mintage level of 650,000 silver dollars coins. In the future, I strongly urge the Mint and CCCAC to resolve discrepancies early, and to report to Congress firm recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill, and urge all of colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York, my good friend Mr. FLAKE, for yielding me this time.

I rise in very strong support of this legislation. I rise for a reason in addition to that. The American public is angry with us today, as well, in my opinion, they ought to be.

□ 1145

The American public sees, on a very regular basis, the confrontation between Members on this floor and on the Senate floor and between the Congress and the President. They conclude, all too often, that all we do here is fight with one another; that we cannot, as adults, as reasonable, rational representatives of our various constituencies, come together and do things that make sense.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, therefore, to not only note that this legislation is important legislation that will not only commemorate, but will assist the work of one of the great institutions in this country, the Smithsonian Institution. My friend, who is in charge of funding the Smithsonian Institution, in exile, I should say, he and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA] are in charge. The fact of the matter is that it is one of the great institutions of the world, as the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES] so well observes.

I want to, therefore, rise and congratulate and express appreciation to one of the very decent and able Members of this House, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE], the former Governor of the State of Delaware. The gentleman, frankly, is the kind of representative every American wants to have. A thoughtful, hard-working, conscientious, honest individual. Not only in addressing this issue, which is a relatively minor issue, but some of the great issues that confront this House.

The gentleman from Delaware and I have had the opportunity of working together over the last few months on this particular piece of legislation. As he observed, there is a problem. The numismatic community has observed the problem of overissuance of coins and, therefore, the glutting of the market and the threatening of the value of each one of the issues.

The gentleman from Delaware has been concerned about that. The gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] has expressed his concern about that. The gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Delaware together are individuals who did and do work with one another and on both sides of the aisle to try to make good common sense, and turn that into good public policy. I think they have done that in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY]. He is the former chairman of this committee and is very interested and knowledgeable about the

whole issue of the authorization of the minting of coins. He has addressed this issue, and I appreciate very much, as the gentleman from New York has observed, his agreement to compromise between the 800,000 that the Smithsonian thought was a viable number and the 500,000 that the numismatic committee originally recommended, and then modified their recommendation because of the ability of the Smithsonian to market its coins.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, the gentleman from Delaware, and the gentleman from New York.

I would close, Mr. Speaker, in support of this legislation by simply mentioning one additional individual. John Berry, formerly of my staff, now works at Smithsonian and he has been very interested in this particular piece of legislation. I thank him for the energy and the tenaciousness that he has shown and congratulate him on the success of the passage of this legislation.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] does not have any additional speakers, and before the gentleman and I get our own coins here with all of these marvelous commendations, I am prepared to yield back.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we do not have additional speakers. I know the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON] is trying to get here. He is in a press conference, and the gentleman will submit a statement later as sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like very much to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] for his very interesting history lesson on the Smithsonian, which I think is a good lesson for schoolchildren and people who may have heard it across the country. It is one that maybe even not a lot of Members know and understand.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] for his very kind words and his work throughout this, and I thank the gentleman from New York for all the exceptional hard work that he and his staff do and the cooperation to allow us to get legislation like this done. If I thought it was that simple, I would suggest that we take over the budget. But we will leave it alone at this point.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, I rise in support of H.R. 2627, which authorizes the minting of a coin to commemorate the Smithsonian Institution's 150th anniversary.

I appreciate Chairman CASTLE and Ranking Member FLAKE for moving so quickly in subcommittee so that we can enact this bill in time for next year's anniversary. I also appreciate Full Committee Chairman LEACH and Ranking Member GONZALEZ for their work in moving the bill to the House floor.

The Institution is planning a number of events beginning in January 1996 to celebrate 150 years of providing education, research, and exhibitions to the American public and the world. The proceeds generated from this coin program will help finance a travelling exhibition, which will take many of our national treasures "off the mall" and display them in cities across the country. Many Americans who are unable to come to Washington will be able to enjoy a blockbuster exhibition of 350 treasured Smithsonian artifacts including the Apollo 14 space capsule, a hat belonging to Abraham Lincoln, and a Wright Brothers biplane.

This coin bill will also devote 15 percent of the proceeds to the numismatic collection at the National Museum of American History helping coin collectors invest in their own history. This provision will insure that the Smithsonian coin will have the support of the coin collecting community.

I am pleased that the interested members were able to compromise on the number of coins to be minted under this bill. While I am disappointed that we are not authorizing the full 800,000 coins as supported by the Citizens Advisory Committee, I am glad that we could compromise on the 650,000 level. The marketing opportunities provided through Smithsonian's magazine and catalogue coupled with the support of the coin collecting community, will ensure that the Secretary of Treasury will quickly sell the authorized level of coins.

This coin bill complies with H.R. 2614, the Commemorative Coin Authorization and Reform Act of 1995, which passed the House on December 5, 1995. The Smithsonian will audit all proceeds from the coin and the Comptroller General will have the right to review the audit. The Smithsonian will not receive any funding until the Treasury has recovered all costs associated with minting the coin. This bill has the support of the U.S. Mint and the congressionally established Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee, and the numismatic community.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2627, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2627, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2203 and 2627, the bill just considered, and that I may include extraneous materials for the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR PROVISIONAL APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO HOUSE AND ITS EMPLOYEES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 311) to provide for the provisional approval of regulations applicable to the House of Representatives and employees of the House of Representatives and to be issued by the Office of Compliance before January 23, 1996.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 311

Resolved,

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS.

The regulations applicable to the House of Representatives and the employees of the House of Representatives which are to be issued by the Office of Compliance before January 23, 1996, are hereby approved on a provisional basis until such time as such regulations are approved in accordance with section 304(c) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS].

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING], chairman of the Committee on Education and Economic Opportunities, for a colloquy.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution before us today and would like to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS], the chairman of the Committee on House Oversight, regarding the jurisdiction of these resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, while this matter is within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Oversight and the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, we do not intend to delay the progress in considering this matter and support suspending the rules and passing without consideration in committee these two resolutions.

I also join the gentleman from California in his assurances that we will work to have the final regulations promptly considered by the House once we reconvene in January.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I concur with the gentleman's conclusions and obviously we share jurisdiction. The

Committee on House Oversight, primary jurisdiction; the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, sequential jurisdiction. Neither one of us want to delay putting these into effect. I will support the gentleman's jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Accountability Act, which was passed on the first day of this Congress, created an Office of Compliance. It is to become effective January 23, 1996. The board of directors of the Office of Compliance have issued notice of proposed rulemaking and is in the process of reviewing those comments on the proposed regulations.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is that the board is scheduled to make final those regulations on January 8, 1996. It is our fervent belief that we are going to adjourn sine die prior to that time and not reconvene for the second session of the 104th Congress until January 23.

Therefore, this resolution provisionally adopts the anticipated regulations that are applicable to the House and at the next regularly scheduled meeting, which will be as soon as possible upon reconvening, we will review the final regulations and make a recommendation as to their final approval to the House.

Obviously, in that interim period between January 8 and January 23, we do believe it is appropriate to offer provisional approval, whatever those regulations may be. That is the intent and purpose of House Resolution 311.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is clearly needed legislation and it needs to be implemented, not just in the technical sense, but in the spirit of the law. Some of the treatment of employees in this House over the last year, I believe, has been reprehensible. The long-time employees of this institution have been treated badly.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that this new legislation will improve their lot. We ought to be an example for the Nation, not just of following the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law in dealing with our employees.

Frankly, leaving all Federal employees in a lurch over the failure to pass a continuing resolution is another example of some of the hypocrisy here, but I do commend the spirit of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I am pleased that the process that was started in the 103d Congress is finally nearing implementation. Very frankly, we had a political discussion, in the 102d and 103d, about merit hiring and about doing away with patronage; doing away with the politicization of the ministerial duties of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I was for that. I thought we were moving in the right direction.