

hospitals that is being stored around our cities, being stored in our own communities, how do we provide for the safe disposal, what happens to the reactor rods we take out of nuclear reactors, are they going to be in your community or my community, what are the conditions under which they will be disposed of when they are stored, what are the protections to the citizens in those areas; that is the kind of debate we should have, and that is the discussion they should have had in the committee. The Republicans were just not up to it.

On the first day they said their contract required open meetings and the Speaker stood before this House and said let the great debate begin. Apparently it was not as great as we thought. They decided to close the meetings, they decided to rule amendments out of order because they simply did not want any more time, not that the amendments were not germane or did not have an impact or were not worthy of consideration. They decided it was 6 o'clock, time had come to leave.

These were people who said they were going to work every day around the clock, Monday to Friday, 100 days. They could not find time to have hearings on a bill that decimates the laws of this country. I hope we will have better debate on the floor and the Republicans will reconsider their assault, and I hope the American people will turn them back from this assault.

I will urge the President to veto this bill, because in one swoop of his pen he undoes 30 years of social progress in the environment and in the workplace and in the security of American families.

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

THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk a little bit today about my own support, which is strong support, of the Congressional Accountability Act. It was introduced by my colleague and my good friend, the gentleman from Connecticut, CHRIS SHAYS, and I congratulate him for his tenacity and for his determination to see this piece of legislation through.

The Congressional Accountability Act is a commonsense piece of legislation. It simply requires Congress to abide by all of the laws that it passes, so that Congress and Members of Congress are accountable for the laws that they pass, and they apply to Members. It makes perfect sense.

By bringing Congress under labor and workplace laws that have long regulated private industry, we then begin to move government closer to people.

The reforms of this Congressional Accountability Act are long overdue, and once again I reiterate my strong support for it and in fact worked very, very hard for it in the last session of this Congress.

However, in the midst of this wave of reform, in this package one perk was left untouched, and that is the ability of Members of this House to convert frequent-flier miles accrued from taxpayer-funded travel to their own personal use. Ending the frequent-flier perk is essential. It is essential to our ability to restore that bond of trust with the American people which we so need to remake with the American public. Members of this body should not be taking golf junkets or tropical vacations at the taxpayers' expense.

Last August under Democratic leadership, the House overwhelmingly approved the Congressional Accountability Act, and when we did that last August it included a ban on personal use of frequent-flier miles by Members of the House of Representatives. In October, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] objected to inclusion of the frequent-flier ban, so it was removed. We cannot reform this institution while the Republican leadership works behind closed doors to protect perks. It is wrong. It is not open government and it is not reform in the way that the American public demanded reform on November 8.

□ 1400

A ban on conversion of frequent-flier miles for personal use should, indeed, have been included in the Congressional Accountability Act today as it was last year.

Quite honestly, what makes the omission more disgraceful is that our colleagues in the Senate have included a frequent-flier ban in this version of the bill, and that means that we will pass a Congressional Accountability Act that will hold the United States Senate to a higher standard than the House of Representatives. That is wrong, and it is shameful.

By requiring that Members of Congress use these tickets only for official use we save the taxpayers money. That is what the debate is about.

Speaker GINGRICH says that hardly any money would be saved by ending this perk and, therefore, this is a "Mickey Mouse reform." And while it is true that most Members of Congress only qualify for a few frequent-flier tickets per year, the dollars in fact do add up. Ask working Americans if they would not like a pair of free airline tickets dropped in their laps every few months to use at their own discretion to take a trip and get some rest and relaxation.

It may not be a lot of money to the Speaker, but it is to most Americans. But by simply attaching a dollar figure to figure the value of reform we miss the point. It is the message, the message that protection of this perk sends to the public that is most destructive.

Today, just today, Mr. GINGRICH reiterated his support for keeping the frequent-flier perk for Members of the House and admits that he used these freebies to fly members of his own family. Mr. GINGRICH says that he is interested in a more family friendly Congress and worries about Members of Congress of modest means who use the free tickets to fly family members to and from Washington.

Modest means? Members of Congress make \$126,000 a year. I doubt that most Americans consider this to be modest means.

The American people, indeed, are fed up with public officials who live by a different set of rules. The Congressional Accountability Act begins to address these inequities, and the American public is right, Congress should not live by a different set of rules. But today we had a chance to go a step further and to close that loophole that allows Members of Congress to vacation at the taxpayers' expense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FRANK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause XII, rule 1, the Chair declares the House in recess until 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 5 p.m.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. DREIER] at 5 o'clock p.m.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the Senate bill, S. 2.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is one the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr.

THOMAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Consistent with the Chair's announced policy of January 4, 1995, as shown on pages H112 and H18 to H19 of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the Chair will keep to a maximum of 17 minutes the time for a recorded vote on this matter. Members should depart for the Chamber immediately upon the start of the vote by the electronic device.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 390, nays 0, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 16]

YEAS—390

Abercrombie	Costello	Greenwood
Ackerman	Cox	Gunderson
Allard	Coyne	Gutierrez
Andrews	Cramer	Gutknecht
Archer	Crane	Hall (TX)
Armey	Crapo	Hamilton
Bachus	Creameans	Hancock
Baesler	Cubin	Hansen
Baker (CA)	Cunningham	Harman
Baker (LA)	Danner	Hastert
Baldacci	Davis	Hastings (FL)
Ballenger	de la Garza	Hastings (WA)
Barr	Deal	Hayes
Barrett (NE)	DeFazio	Hayworth
Barrett (WI)	DeLauro	Hefner
Bartlett	DeLay	Heineman
Barton	Dellums	Herger
Bass	Diaz-Balart	Hilleary
Bateman	Dickey	Hilliard
Beilenson	Dicks	Hobson
Bentsen	Dingell	Hoekstra
Bereuter	Doggett	Hoke
Bevill	Dooley	Holden
Bilbray	Doyle	Horn
Bilirakis	Dreier	Hostettler
Bishop	Duncan	Houghton
Bliley	Dunn	Hoyer
Blute	Durbin	Hunter
Boehlert	Edwards	Hutchinson
Boehner	Ehlers	Hyde
Bonilla	Ehrlich	Inglis
Bonior	Emerson	Istook
Bono	Engel	Jackson-Lee
Borski	English	Jacobs
Boucher	Ensign	Johnson (CT)
Brewster	Eshoo	Johnson, E.B.
Browder	Everett	Johnson, Sam
Brown (CA)	Ewing	Jones
Brown (FL)	Fattah	Kanjorski
Brown (OH)	Fawell	Kaptur
Brownback	Fields (LA)	Kasich
Bryant (TN)	Fields (TX)	Kelly
Bunn	Filner	Kennedy (MA)
Bunning	Flake	Kennelly
Burr	Flanagan	Kildee
Burton	Foglietta	Kim
Buyer	Foley	King
Callahan	Forbes	Kingston
Calvert	Ford	Klecicka
Camp	Fowler	Klink
Canady	Fox	Klug
Cardin	Frank (MA)	Knollenberg
Castle	Franks (CT)	Kolbe
Chabot	Franks (NJ)	LaFalce
Chambliss	Frelinghuysen	LaHood
Chapman	Frisa	Largent
Chenoweth	Frost	LaTourette
Christensen	Funderburk	Laughlin
Chrysler	Furse	Lazio
Clay	Ganske	Leach
Clayton	Gejdenson	Levin
Clement	Gekas	Lewis (CA)
Clinger	Geren	Lewis (GA)
Clyburn	Gibbons	Lewis (KY)
Coble	Gilchrest	Lightfoot
Coburn	Gillmor	Linder
Coleman	Gilman	Lipinski
Collins (GA)	Gonzalez	Livingston
Collins (IL)	Goodlatte	LoBiondo
Collins (MI)	Goodling	Lofgren
Combest	Gordon	Longley
Condit	Goss	Lowe
Conyers	Graham	Lucas
Cooley	Green	Luther

Maloney	Peterson (MN)	Spence
Manton	Petri	Spratt
Manzullo	Pickett	Stark
Markey	Pombo	Stearns
Martinez	Pomeroy	Stenholm
Martini	Porter	Stockman
Mascara	Portman	Stokes
Matsui	Poshard	Studds
McCarthy	Pryce	Stump
McDade	Quinn	Stupak
McHale	Radanovich	Talent
McHugh	Rahall	Tanner
McIntosh	Ramstad	Tate
McKinney	Rangel	Tauzin
Meehan	Reed	Taylor (MS)
Meek	Regula	Taylor (NC)
Menendez	Riggs	Tejeda
Metcalf	Rivers	Thomas
Meyers	Roberts	Thornberry
Mica	Roemer	Thornton
Miller (CA)	Rogers	Thurman
Miller (FL)	Rohrabacher	Tiahrt
Mineta	Ros-Lehtinen	Torkildsen
Minge	Roth	Torricelli
Mink	Roukema	Towns
Moakley	Roybal-Allard	Trafigant
Molinari	Royce	Tucker
Mollohan	Rush	Upton
Montgomery	Sabo	Velazquez
Moorhead	Salmon	Vento
Moran	Sanders	Visclosky
Morella	Sanford	Volkmer
Murtha	Sawyer	Vucanovich
Myers	Saxton	Waldholtz
Myrick	Scarborough	Walker
Nadler	Schaefer	Walsh
Neal	Schiff	Wamp
Nethercutt	Schroeder	Ward
Neumann	Schumer	Watt (NC)
Ney	Scott	Watts (OK)
Norwood	Seastrand	Waxman
Nussle	Sensenbrenner	Weldon (FL)
Oberstar	Serrano	Weldon (PA)
Obey	Shadegg	Weller
Oliver	Shaw	White
Ortiz	Shays	Whitfield
Orton	Sisisky	Wicker
Oxley	Skaggs	Williams
Packard	Skeen	Wise
Pallone	Skelton	Wolf
Parker	Smith (MI)	Wyden
Pastor	Smith (NJ)	Wynn
Paxon	Smith (TX)	Young (AK)
Payne (NJ)	Smith (WA)	Young (FL)
Payne (VA)	Solomon	Zeliff
Peterson (FL)	Souder	Zimmer

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—44

Barcia	Hinchey	Owens
Becerra	Jefferson	Pelosi
Berman	Johnson (SD)	Quillen
Bryant (TX)	Johnston	Reynolds
Deutsch	Kennedy (RI)	Richardson
Dixon	Lantos	Rose
Doolittle	Latham	Shuster
Dornan	Lincoln	Slaughter
Evans	McCollum	Thompson
Farr	McCrery	Torres
Fazio	McDermott	Waters
Gallegly	McInnis	Wilson
Gephardt	McKeon	Woolsey
Hall (OH)	McNulty	Yates
Hefley	Mfume	

□ 1717

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, due to medical reasons, I was unavoidably absent during roll-call vote No. 16 on agreeing to S. 2, the Congressional Accountability Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, due to a scheduling conflict in association with the celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I was forced to miss the vote that was taken today, Tuesday, January 17, 1995.

Had I been here, I would have voted "aye" to suspend the rules and pass the bill S. 2, the Congressional Accountability Act 1995.

As my record will show, I have been a strong supporter in both 1994 and 1995 of legislation to require that the Congress comply with the legislation it passes. I am pleased that this year this legislation was approved of by the other body, and like many of my colleagues I look forward to seeing it signed into law in the very near future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, during roll-call vote No. 16 on S. 2, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in California because of the floods, just arrived here on the airplane, and inadvertently missed the last vote on rollcall No. 16.

□ 1720

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members are recognized for 5 minutes each.

ON UNFUNDED MANDATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. GILLMOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILLMOR asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, this country needs an end to unfunded mandates by the Federal Government on State and local governments. I am delighted to see that this concept is finally receiving broad support from both the public and from this Congress.

I introduced a constitutional amendment a year and a half ago to end those unfunded mandates by constitutional amendment, and what a difference a year and a half makes.

When I first proposed it, most people thought there was almost no chance of ever seeing a constitutional amendment voted on or adopted in this body. But after the November election and after increasing concern shown by Governors and State legislators, we have an excellent chance of getting this issue before both Houses and to a vote.

There is legislation pending to curtail unfunded mandates by statute. I support that. I cosponsored it last