

down there. They would not be surprised to find out, I suspect, that most of the heroin and cocaine coming into this country is coming in produce trucks.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH GABBARD

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

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I pay tribute to Ralph Gabbard, a friend and a servant to Kentucky. Ralph passed away Tuesday night at the young age of 50.

Ralph was a radio and TV broadcaster all of his life.

And from his teenage days as a radio disc jockey in the 1960's, Ralph grew to serve our State, and unintentionally made a name for himself, like no other media person of our time.

Unassumingly, yet with tenacity, he went about the task of being the best broadcaster he could be, and succeeded. He redefined what we call the broadcaster's public service obligation.

His commitment to news, his commitment to community, his commitment to industry excellence, was unsurpassed inside or outside of the TV stations and boardrooms where his legacies will live.

EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COUNSEL WAS PUT ON ICE

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, just a moment ago the Speaker of the House held up an ice bucket. What concerns the American people, and should concern them, is that the report of the Special Counsel which was given to the Ethics Committee one month ago may well have been put on ice, because, Mr. Speaker, this report, which took 9 months to complete—

POINTS OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman will state the point of order.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, is it not correct that the rules of the House under regular order prevent people from speaking on the floor of the House with respect to matters before the Ethics Committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

The gentleman from West Virginia may proceed in order.

Mr. WISE. Continuing, Mr. Speaker, my concern is that any report which has been presented and investigated—

Mr. LINDER. Regular order, Mr. Speaker. Regular order.

Mr. WISE. Regular order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

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Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I will repeat that references to matters before the Ethics Committee are out of order to be addressed on the floor of this House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The previous ruling of the Chair is again sustained and the gentleman from West Virginia may proceed in order.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Georgia who raised a point of order feels that the words of the gentleman from West Virginia concerning the lack of the Ethics Committee to make the report public is out of order, the gentleman can demand that the gentleman from West Virginia's words be taken down, is that not correct, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. LINDER. I appreciate the gentleman's instructions on parliamentary procedure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will kindly suspend so there may be proper decorum in the House.

The gentleman from Georgia has not taken that step. The gentleman from Georgia made a point of order.

Mr. VOLKMER. I just asked if that was available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

The gentleman from West Virginia will please proceed in order.

Mr. WISE. Continuing, Mr. Speaker, or trying to, any report dealing with an investigative body that has had at least 9 months of investigation and may have cost as much as one-half million dollars I think should be released before the Congress goes home.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WALKER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania will state his point of order.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from West Virginia continues to proceed out of order of the House and should be called to order by the Chair.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, if I may respond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If both gentlemen will suspend.

The Chair at this time will read the rule and will repeat the admonition from the Chair of June 26, 1996.

It is an essential rule of decorum in debate that Members should refrain from references in debate to the conduct of other Members where such conduct is not the question actually pending before the House by way of a report from the Committee on Standards of Official conduct or by way of another question of the privileges of the House.

This principle is documented on pages 168 and 526 of the House Rules and Manual and reflects the consistent rulings of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses and applies to 1-minute and special-order speeches.

Neither the filing of a complaint before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, nor the publication in another forum of charges that are personally critical of another Member, justify the references to such charges on the floor of the House. This includes references to the motivations of Members who file complaints and to members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Clause 1 of rule XIV is a prohibition against engaging in personality in debate. It derives from article I, section 5 of the Constitution, which authorizes each House to make its own rules and to punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and has been part of the rules of the House in some relevant form since 1789. This rule supersedes any claim of a member to be free from questioning in any other place.

On January 27, 1909, the House adopted a report that stated the following: "It is * * * the duty of the House to require its Members in speech or debate to preserve that proper restraint which will permit the House to conduct its business in an orderly manner and without unnecessarily and unduly exciting animosity among its Members. * * *" (Cannon's Precedents, volume 8, at section 2497). This report was in response to improper references in debate to the President, but clearly reiterated a principle that all occupants of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses have held to be equally applicable to Members' remarks in debate toward each other.

The Chair asks and expects the cooperation of all Members in maintaining a level of decorum that properly dignifies the proceedings of the House.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VOLKMER. I listened to the Speaker in support of his ruling and comment upon the precedents of the House. But I did not hear the words "reports from other special counsel." I did not hear that report. I heard about the reports from the Ethics Committee, et cetera, but not from the special counsel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Until such time as there is a report pending on the floor of the House from the Standards Committee, or a question of privilege, the issue is not debatable on the floor of the House.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I may have misunderstood the gentleman from West Virginia, but I heard the gentleman from West Virginia talk about any report from any committee. I do not think he directly attached it to the Ethics Committee. And so, therefore, I cannot understand what this ruling has to do with what the gentleman said.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Any reference to pending proceedings is out of order. The Chair in the course of this morning's activities first ruled on the gentleman from Georgia's point of order when there was a specific reference to the counsel's report, and now the Chair has issued an admonishment reiterating the rule of the House and would invite the gentleman from West Virginia to proceed in order.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

Is the Chair saying that we cannot refer to anything in any committee? That is what I understand the ruling to be. Because the gentleman is talking generically.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is in particular to matters before the Standards Committee dealing with sitting Members. That is the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 20 seconds remaining.

The gentleman from West Virginia will please proceed in order.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker himself stated in 1989 the 435 Members of the House should look at all the facts, should have available to them all the reports and all the background documents, and the American people should have the same.

It is clear the Republican leadership today wants to talk about ice buckets, and they do not want to let me talk about whether reports from the Ethics Committee are being put on ice. I think it is a sad day.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION AND THE WAR ON DRUGS

(Ms. GREENE of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GREENE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, let us talk about a real scandal, and that is the Clinton administration's approach to the war on drugs. Ever since President Clinton took office, his cavalier attitude about drug use has had widespread effect across the country. According to a recent administration study, overall drug use by teenagers has nearly doubled in the last 4 years. Marijuana use is up 37 percent, LSD use is up 183 percent, cocaine use is up 166 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I thought the President was supposed to be a role model for children. But when asked on MTV if he had the chance to do it over again would he inhale, the President replied, sure, if I could, I tried before.

Mr. Speaker, this is the wrong message for our children. The Clinton administration has dropped the ball on taking the war on drugs seriously, causing untold suffering, pain, and even death for our children and their families. To the people on the other side of Pennsylvania Avenue, it all seems to be a game, a game where the only response is, do whatever you want.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in an editorial yesterday, the New York Times said, the House Ethics Committee, quote, "seems determined to sacrifice whatever little is left of its credibility by letting Congress adjourn without resolving any of the pending ethics complaints against Speaker NEWT GINGRICH."

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia will suspend.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania will state his point of order.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia is engaging in debate which is outside the rules of the House and should be admonished by the Chair.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia is merely reading from a New York newspaper.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri will suspend.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania is correct. Consistent with prior rulings, the gentleman from Georgia is advised to proceed in order.

Does the gentleman from Missouri wish to be recognized?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VOLKMER. Is the Chair now telling us that if there has been a periodical published, that in regard to the Ethics Committee, that we cannot comment on it? Or cannot read from it?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Newspaper accounts detailing a pending investigation before the Standards Committee not yet brought to the floor of the House come under the same restrictions as the Member's own words. That has been the basis of the rulings of the Chair, yes, sir.

Mr. VOLKMER. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

In other words, you are saying, under your ruling, every Member of this House is gagged as far as commenting on a report from the Ethics Committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Precedents have long held that to be the

standard, that is correct. That is the ruling of the Chair.

The gentleman from Georgia may proceed in order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I can clearly understand that the gentlemen from Pennsylvania and Georgia desire to silence us on this issue, but this issue will not go away.

Mr. Speaker, if I might continue.

The outside counsel, James Cole, has submitted an extensive report on his 9-month investigation of Speaker GINGRICH.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia will suspend.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania will state his point of order.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia continues to proceed out of order, and the Chair should require that the gentleman observe the regular order of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia must either proceed in regular order or be seated.

Mr. VOLKMER. Did the Chair rule that the gentleman's words were not in order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is correct. The gentleman continues to refer to a pending investigation before the Standards Committee.

Mr. VOLKMER. He merely stated that a report had been filed with the Ethics Committee. He did not mention any action of the Ethics Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is the Chair's opinion and ruling that that is part of the prohibited debate.

The gentleman from Georgia is invited to proceed in regular order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me just say, enough is enough.

Mr. Speaker, if the Ethics Committee will not act, the American people have a right to judge for themselves.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia continues to proceed out of order in the House. The gentleman is not following the Chair's admonishment that Members have an obligation to the House and to the institution to proceed in order.

The point of order is that the gentleman is out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order is again sustained, and the gentleman from Georgia is again advised to please proceed in regular order or be seated.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Ethics Committee has a responsibility and a moral obligation to release the outside counsel's report.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia will suspend.

The other gentleman from Georgia will state his point of order.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth time that the gentleman has referred to matters on the floor that