

H.R. 1031. An act for the relief of Oscar Salas-Velazquez;

H.R. 1734. An act to reauthorize the National Film Preservation Board, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2297. An act to codify without substantive change laws related to transportation and to improve the United States Code;

H.R. 2579. An act to establish the National Tourism Board and the National Tourism Organization to promote international travel and tourism to the United States;

H.R. 3916. An act to make available certain Voice of America and Radio Marti multilingual computer readable text and voice recordings.

H.J. Res. 197. Joint resolution waiving certain enrollment requirements with respect to any bill or joint resolution of the One Hundred Fourth Congress making general or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1997;

H. Con. Res. 221. Concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of H.R. 3159; and

H. Con. Res. 229. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make corrections in the enrollment of S. 1004.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3668. An act to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 1996.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2158. An act to set the time for counting electoral votes; and

S. 2159. An act to set the time for the convening of the One Hundred Fifth Congress.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1004), "An Act to authorize appropriations for the United States Coast Guard, and for other purposes," and that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1467), "An Act to authorize the construction of the Fort Peck Rural County Water Supply System, to authorize assistance to the Fort Peck Rural County Water District, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning, design, and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes."

ELECTION OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT S. WALKER AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE THROUGH LEGISLATIVE DAY OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 553) electing the Honorable ROBERT S. WALKER of Pennsylvania to act as Speaker pro tempore, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 553

Resolved, that the Honorable Robert S. Walker, a Representative from the Common-

wealth of Pennsylvania, be, and he is hereby, elected Speaker pro tempore through the legislative day of Tuesday, October 1, 1996.

Sec. 2. The Clerk of the House shall notify the President and the Senate of the election of the Honorable Robert S. Walker as Speaker pro tempore during the absence of the Speaker.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT S. WALKER AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE DURING ABSENCE OF THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] please come to the well of the House and administer the oath of office.

Mr. WALKER took the oath of office administered to him by the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ASTRONAUT SHANNON LUCID

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely delighted with Newsweek because you know what it says? Here we have this wonderful picture of Shannon Lucid and it said: Forget the fighter jocks. At 53 years of age, Shannon Lucid has the new right stuff. To be in space 188 days is almost as long as this Congress has been in session and I must say I am very proud of the fact I held the first hearing here when we asked NASA why there were no women and they tried to explain to us, because you had to be tough and strong and it was back when the jock-ocracy was ruling that. Well, I pointed out I was a pilot and I understood it really was more like milking a mouse. They kind of swallowed hard and we finally moved on with moving women into that era. And now we have her defining the norm for the future. I think that is very exciting.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Shannon and NASA for having the vision to move there and I think all of us as Americans are terribly proud of her accomplishment and very few of us would want to have changed places with her during those 188 days.

TRIBUTE TO HON. ROBERT WALKER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago I had the privilege to swear you in as Speaker pro tempore for the next 2 days. I just want to say to the body when I came here 18 years ago, BOB WALKER had been here for a while, and over the years there is no one who has mastered the parliamentary procedures of this floor more than BOB WALKER, but even beyond that, this man has been a watchdog of this body. He is a man of the highest integrity, and we are so sorely going to miss him. Today will probably be the last day and tomorrow, that he will be a Member of this body but we wish him well and we hope he still remains available to give us his old sage advice as the years go on.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman from New York very much.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEXAS RANGERS, CHAMPIONS OF AMERICAN LEAGUE WESTERN DIVISION

(Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Texas Rangers are the champions of the American League West. I know I speak for all of Texas when I say congratulations to the Ranger players, coaches and management.

I particularly want to make mention of my friend Tom Schieffer, the managing partner of the Rangers. Under his leadership, the team has given us the magnificent ballpark at Arlington and now has filled the park with a champion. We wish you the best as the playoffs begin.

Texas Rangers, you are champions. Thank you for a great year.

TRIBUTE TO HON. ROBERT WALKER

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I also want to come to the well this afternoon and commend the Speaker for the next 2 days, the Honorable ROBERT WALKER of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He came to this Congress in our bicentennial year as I did, an unusual class, Vice President AL GORE was in that class, Democrat leader DICK GEPHARDT was in that class, former Vice President Dan Quayle was in that class. Mr. Speaker, NEWT did not come until 2 years later. BOB WALKER set the ground for NEWT over those 2 years and he has been what Mr. SOLOMON said, a master of parliamentary procedure. Through tough times and smooth times, he has been the conscience of the House at least on our side of the aisle. He is going to be sorely missed.

He and I are Korean-war-era veterans. By our birth date, we missed the combat in Korea but we did not miss the combat here. Mr. Speaker, your two decades here set the stage, I think, for the Republicans to take the House on November 8, 1994, and probably to retain it about 36 days from now. Please keep coming back and keep us on the straight and narrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman from California.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. COLLINS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

HOUSE TO INSTITUTE RANDOM DRUG TESTING

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, there is something happening throughout this country which is so discouraging, and that is the escalating illegal drug use by Americans, particularly young Americans. We have seen the reports just recently that among 12- and 13-year-olds that illegal drug use is up by 137 percent over the last 4 years. In youth 14 and 15 years of age it is over 200 percent. It is a situation that seems to be getting worse and worse.

Now it is estimated that 75 percent of all the crime against women and children, the abuse of women and children, is drug-related. Mr. Speaker, that is just absolutely intolerable. Studies have shown in the past that 75 percent of all the drug use in America is used not by the inner core areas of the country where we seem to see all the killings taking place, but 75 percent of all the illegal drug purchases in America actually come from outside the inner core cities. It comes from the suburbs of our cities where even the upper-middle-class people are driving in, purchasing these drugs, taking them back and using them on a recreational weekend; and, Mr. Speaker, that is what props up the price of ille-

gal drugs in this country and that is why we have to make an all-out effort with everything that we can do in government to try to prevent this from happening.

That is why on the opening day of this Congress next year, I will be offering an amendment to the rules of the House which will require random drug testing of all Members of Congress, and of their staffs as well, both on the committee staffs and personal staffs. It is not because I think that there is any wide abuse by Members of Congress or even of their staffs with using illegal drugs but, Mr. Speaker, we have to help set the example for the rest of the country. Back in the early 1980's—1983 and 1984—President Reagan at the urging of myself and others implemented random drug testing in our military. At that time there was an estimated drug use of 25 percent by our active military personnel. Within several years of random drug testing, that average had dropped from 25 percent down to less than 4 percent, to what it is today. If we could lower that 4 percent throughout the entire Nation, what a difference that would make. That is why major corporations like the General Electric Co. and IBM and others have random drug testing of their employees.

We need to set the example in this Congress and make it a condition of employment that if they are going to work for the House of Representatives, that they are going to submit as a condition of their employment to random drug testing. That way there can be no violations. It simply is a question of their duty as a part of being paid to submit to the random drug testing. If we could do that, if we could do it throughout the Federal Government, and if we could do it at the State and the county and the town and village and city levels, just think what that would be with all those massive employees. And then if we could encourage the rest of the private sector to do the same thing, it would then become very unhip for people to be using drugs. If they knew they were going to go to a hockey game, a football game, a basketball game or to a cocktail party and people were going to turn up their noses at them when they were using these drugs recreationally, let me assure you they would soon stop doing it, especially if they thought that their good job was going to be affected.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to call attention to the Members that that rule change will be taking place on January 3 when this Congress reconvenes. I thank the Speaker for his time. I also thank him for his leadership over all these years of helping me with legislation that we have implemented on the floor of this Congress dealing with this particular issue of illegal drugs.

□ 1415

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to proceed out of order for the purposes of asking something about the scheduling with the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT], and the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON].

Mr. Speaker, because the chairman of the Committee on Rules is on the floor and Mr. HASTERT, another one of the leaders on your side of the aisle, I am very concerned that the Senate apparently has not yet passed the omnibus appropriation bill, or the CR, whatever we are calling the vehicle we are using to fund the balance of Government. The concern obviously is, as the chairman knows, the fiscal year ends in essentially 9 hours 45 minutes.

Can the gentlemen sort of enlighten us as to where the Senate might stand, what are the prospects of making sure we pass something by tonight, so that we do not put the Federal employees and the Federal Government to the test of shutting down and opening up?

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, let me say to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland, who is a strong defender of the Federal employees of this country, as well he should be, because 99 percent of them are good, loyal Americans and hard working people, and he should be concerned.

Let me just say I was about to pose the same question to him. As the gentleman knows, we constructed an unusual rule, an innovative rule, which sent over to the other body not only the omnibus appropriation conference report, taking care of all of the unfinished appropriation business, but at the urging of the other side of the aisle, the gentleman's side, we also sent a freestanding bill consisting of the exact language.

The reason for that was that there were Members that wanted to offer some amendments. As I understand it, and I talked to Mr. LOTT not too long ago, they are going to pursue that out of courtesy and fairness to the Democrat side of the aisle. Should any of those amendments I guess be enacted, I think they would pull that freestanding bill and then pass the conference report well before midnight tonight.

How long it is going to take to go through this amendment process, I do not know. In the meantime, as the gentleman knows, there are a number of other unfinished matters. Some are terribly important to some Members. We are operating under a unanimous-consent rule now. Those are being negotiated.

To answer the gentleman's question, I feel confident from my conversations with the other body that they are going to act on the final conference report before midnight tonight, which would solve the concerns of the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his answer. Obviously I think all of us believe that