

successive Speakers as recorded on page 534 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

□ 1800

PURE LUNACY

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, we have heard all day today about the Members on the other side trying to blame the President for the shutdown when we all know that only in the House can appropriation bills be instituted. All they have to do is bring a clean continuing resolution, we pass it, and everybody goes back to work.

It is really silly, I would say it is lunacy that today we tell Federal workers that they can work but not be paid, while at the same time here in this House we are getting paid and we are not working. We have not really done anything today.

Look at the legislation that was passed. Unanimous consent on a little agriculture bill which we needed, but that is all. What did we do? What are we going to do tomorrow? Nothing. What are we going to do the next day? We are going to recess, we are going to recess until the 23d, almost the whole month, not do anything, get paid, while the Federal workers out there, the Republican majority tells them, "You go ahead and work but you won't get paid."

It is pure lunacy. What is lunacy? It is insanity, great or wild foolishness.

You never saw anything foolish like this in the history of this Congress.

A SAD DAY

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting turn of events today. We have had opportunity to put Federal employees back to work. This House met its constitutional responsibility and in fact did vote, and twice the other side of the aisle has now voted down measures that would put our Federal civil servants back to work.

Now we had another opportunity here to get some relief for the District and other Federal employees, and that was objected to by the other side. We have given the President of the United States a balanced budget, we gave him a CR and 30 days to come back with a plan, and we have met in good faith.

We need trust, we need working together. We do not need this obstructionism from the other side of the aisle. We need to come together, get these problems resolved. It is a sad day for the country and a sad day for the Congress that in fact we could not have

taken care of the people's business and the Federal employees' business today with simple action by the House of Representatives and working together.

SHUTDOWN AFFECTS INNOCENT FEDERAL WORKERS

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, during 1987 when we had a Republican President and a Democratic Congress that could not agree, what we did was to respond to the President's request to have a continuing resolution throughout the year. Again in 1988 we had the same inability to agree, and we had a continuing resolution throughout the year.

This is the normal course of business. That is what the majority leader in the Senate has attempted to do. He said yesterday this does not make any sense. Whatever point there was, I do not know what the point was, but it has not been made.

The fact is that what we are doing is punishing Federal employees, and that is the point we want to make. The Congress is not punishing the President, it is not punishing ourselves. We are punishing innocent Federal employees, public civil servants. These people are innocent.

Politics is the art of compromise. It is not the tactics of terrorism. Terrorists take hostages, innocent hostages for purposes beyond anything to do with the hostages. This has got to stop.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I again offer a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 153) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, and ask unanimous consent that it be considered as passed and that a motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will say to the gentleman from New York, I will not object, but I want to under my reservation say that my frustration over being held back from offering the no-budget/no-pay provision led me to object earlier.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. My good friend from Illinois objected to this, which would have stopped the District government from going back to work tomorrow. I

hope he regrets that decision. Does the gentleman regret that decision?

Mr. DURBIN. Let me say this to the gentleman from New York. I will not object because I will not allow myself—

Mr. WALSH. Do the gentleman regret the decision that he made?

Mr. DURBIN. Regular order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois controls the time under his reservation.

Mr. DURBIN. I will not object because I will not descend to the level that you have inflicted on 280,000 other Federal workers across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I trust that no one at this point will object, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES 153

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of the general fund and enterprise funds of the District of Columbia for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 for continuing projects or activities including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees (not otherwise specifically provided for in this title of this joint resolution) which were conducted in the fiscal year 1995 and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority would be available in the following appropriations Act:

The District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1996:

Provided, That whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted in this Act is greater than that which would be available or granted under current operations, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate.

(b) Whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted under the Act listed in this section as passed by the House as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, is different from that which would be available or granted under such Act as passed by the Senate as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate or the rate permitted by the action of the House or the Senate, whichever is lower, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995: *Provided*, That where an item is not included in either version or where an item is included in only one version of the Act as passed by both Houses as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall not be continued except as provided for in section 111 or

112 under the appropriation, fund, or authority granted by the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 and under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 102. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner which would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 103. No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 104. No provision which is included in the appropriations Act enumerated in section 101 but which was not included in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 1995 and which by its terms is applicable to more than one appropriation, fund, or authority shall be applicable to any appropriation, funds, or authority provided in this title of this joint resolution.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this title of this joint resolution shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any program, project, or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this title of this joint resolution.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this title of this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this title of this joint resolution shall be available until (a) enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this title of this joint resolution, or (b) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act by both Houses without any provision for such project or activity, or (c) January 25, 1996, whichever first occurs.

SEC. 107. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except section 106, none of the funds appropriated under this title of this joint resolution shall be expended for any abortion except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or where the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

SEC. 108. Expenditures made pursuant to this title of this joint resolution shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 109. No provision in the appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1996 referred to in section 101 of this title of this joint resolution that makes the availability of any appropriation provided therein dependent upon the enactment of additional authorizing or other legislation shall be effective before the date set forth in section 106(c) of this joint resolution.

SEC. 110. Appropriations and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this title of this joint resolution may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing herein shall be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 111. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except section 106, whenever the Act listed in section 101 as passed by both the House and Senate as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, does not include funding for an ongoing project or activity for which there is a budget request, or whenever the

rate for operations for an ongoing project or activity provided by section 101 for which there is a budget request would result in the project or activity being significantly reduced, the pertinent project or activity may be continued under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 by increasing the rate for operations provided by section 101 to a rate for operations not to exceed one that provides the minimal level that would enable existing activities to continue. No new contracts or grants shall be awarded in excess of an amount that bears the same ratio to the rate for operations provided by this section as the number of days covered by this resolution bears to 366. For the purposes of this title of this joint resolution the minimal level means a rate for operations that is reduced from the current rate by 25 percent.

SEC. 112. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except section 106, whenever the rate for operations for any continuing project or activity provided by section 101 or section 111 for which there is budget request would result in a furlough of Government employees, that rate for operations may be increased to the minimum level that would enable the furlough to be avoided. No new contracts or grants shall be awarded in excess of an amount that bears the same ratio to the rate for operations provided by this section as the number of days covered by this resolution bears to 366.

SEC. 113. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except sections 106, 111, and 112, for those programs that had high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of funding at the beginning of the fiscal year in fiscal year 1995 because of distributions of funding to states, foreign countries, grantees, or others, similar distributions of funds for fiscal year 1996 shall not be made and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this title of this resolution that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 114. This title of this joint resolution shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in this title of this resolution shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 115. The provisions of section 132 of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1988, Public Law 100-202, shall not apply for this title of this joint resolution.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title of this joint resolution, except section 106, none of the funds appropriated under this title of this joint resolution shall be used to implement or enforce any system or registration of unmarried, cohabiting couples whether they are homosexual, lesbian, heterosexual, including but not limited to registration for the purpose of extending employment, health, or governmental benefits to such couples on the same basis that such benefits are extended to legally married couples; nor shall any funds made available pursuant to any provision of this title of this joint resolution otherwise be used to implement or enforce D.C. Act 9-188, signed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia on April 15, 1992.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 153 extends title II of the current continuing resolution (H.J. Res. 136), which expires at midnight tonight, to January 25, 1996. It provides the District government with the authority necessary to continue providing municipal services using its locally raised revenues. This resolution does not provide any Federal funds.

The exact same terms and conditions that were included in title two of the previous joint resolution (H.J. Res. 136) are included in House Joint Resolution 153. The joint resolution that I have just introduced simply extends the terms, conditions, and spending authority for a 3-week period to January 25, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, the regular appropriations bill for the District of Columbia government for fiscal year 1996 was passed by the House on November 2, 1995, and is presently in conference. The conference committee has had several meetings and we have made considerable progress. However, there are some issues that are requiring more time to resolve than we had anticipated.

I have made this unanimous consent request and introduced this joint resolution because I believe it is essential that municipal services continue to be provided by the District government using their own local revenues. As I mentioned earlier, no Federal funds will be made available by this resolution.

So the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 153 and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

A GREAT TRAGEDY

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, there is a great tragedy going on here. Our friends on the other side have pontificated at great length today, but they have had several opportunities to put several hundred thousand Federal workers back to work and they have refused the opportunity.

It is unfortunate that these opportunities have gone by the wayside, while we stand here as Americans hoping that we can get to the 7-year balanced budget that on November 20 was promised to not just this Congress but to all of America. When the polling numbers dipped overnight, that is when we saw the 7-year balanced budget agreement on November 20.

Unfortunately it will not be until the polling numbers, the tracking numbers over at the executive branch drop overnight that we will see a balanced budget agreement. It is unfortunate, and I regret the turn of events, and I hope that sanity will be restored in Washington.

WANTED: 20 GOOD REPUBLICANS

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the