

I am concerned that we do that. Would the gentleman agree to have unanimous consent that Mr. WELLER be able to take this up in general provisions tomorrow so we can finish with title II?

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, we would be pleased to cooperate with the chairman in that respect and let him offer it at that time.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's interest in my amendment and his accommodating my opportunity to offer the amendment once again. I feel this is a very important amendment. The opportunity to accommodate, of course, the chairman of the subcommittee and working with the gentleman in his role as the ranking member, I do appreciate the opportunity to offer the amendment. I am anxious to work with them. I ask for the gentleman's support tomorrow when we have the opportunity to once again offer the amendment.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to the gentleman's amendment. I just want to protect those Members. This accommodation will be fine with me if it is fine with the gentleman.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment for the purpose of offering it tomorrow during general provisions debate on this particular bill, title IV.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise tonight in anticipation of the Weller amendment being before the House tomorrow in general debate. I rise in support of that amendment that we will be discussing tomorrow at length because it is going to expand homeownership opportunities.

There are many Americans who are one downpayment or one closing cost away from becoming first-time home buyers. And by having more homeowners in our communities, it will strengthen those communities. By having more homes built, we create more jobs. There, after all, is the American dream.

Alan Greenspan has told us about having a balanced budget. Interest rates for the mortgages on those new homes will decrease. So I would ask the Members, when they hear about further debate on the Weller amendment tomorrow, that they will support it. Republicans, Democrats together, House and Senate working together,

this will strengthen our communities. This will strengthen our families and, by reducing the cost, Mr. Chairman, of the FHA mortgage insurance premium, the first-time home buyers who receive ownership counseling by going from 2.25 percent to 2 percent, we would save the average FHA homeowner at least \$200 annually. This is a step in the right direction for first-time home buyers.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH].

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding to me.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois for offering the amendment. The notion is empowering first-time home buyers. I would suggest, echoing the comments of my good friend from Pennsylvania, when we think about the fact that this amendment would save the average FHA homeowner about \$200 in savings on an annual basis and, while we are here talking about billions and indeed trillions of dollars, the fact is sometimes lost upon us, I would suggest, that \$200 is a significant amount of money for first-time home buyers. And indeed, if the notion of what we are here to do in this 104th Congress is to expand opportunity, to empower first-time home buyers to lead to more home sales and to expand homeownership opportunities, then I am glad to rise in support of the amendment. I, too, look forward to its offering tomorrow during the later debate on this amendment.

I look forward to supporting the amendment.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for his supportive comments of the Weller amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

“TITLE III—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES”

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MICA) having assumed the chair, Mr. COMBEST, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

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RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MICA) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on International Relations:

U.S. CONGRESS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 12, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: I am writing to officially resign from my seat on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight in order to be seated on the Committee on International Relations.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

JON D. FOX,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution, House Resolution 462, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 462

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and they are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on International Relations: Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Frisa of New York and Mr. Tiahrt of Kansas.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 Illinois [Mr. HASTERT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HASTERT 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 gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

[Mr. SCARBOROUGH 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 [Mr. MANZULLO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MANZULLO 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 Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO BILL EMERSON OF MISSOURI

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to address my colleagues on the sad occasion of the passing of one of our most honored and distinguished Members. WILLIAM EMERSON, Representative from Missouri, had a very distinguished career here in the House. He served for eight terms from his district in Missouri. His record for constituent services had no peer. He was a parliamentary law expert. His legislation filled volumes.

But above all, as a person he was, to many of us, especially freshmen and entering Members as they came to this body, a great teacher, someone who loved the House, who loved the legislative process and wanted the others to learn about it and do their best, always humble, always caring, self-effacing, low-key. This was a humanitarian extraordinaire.

BILL EMERSON cared about each person he met, was sincere in all his dealings. He was a model Congressman. He was an advocate for his people. He fought hard for them. He could listen to others' points of view without giving ground and without compromising principle, but always patient and open-minded. That was his hallmark as an outstanding Congressman.

It was noted at the beginning of this 104th Congress that there was one person who was here as a Member of Con-

gress now and was here the last time the Republicans were in the majority, and that person was BILL EMERSON because at that time he was a U.S. Capitol page, and he went on from that outstanding service to Westminster College, University of Missouri, law school, University of Baltimore, and he also distinguished himself in the U.S. Air Force.

Besides serving other Representatives in Congress, he had also great experience in the business world, for which we are all beneficiaries because of the legislation he brought about that was pro-business, pro-jobs and pro-economy.

BILL EMERSON, his life is a legacy of great service, and, Mr. Speaker, for those who choose to serve in this body, they only have to look to the life of BILL EMERSON as someone who is a role model, and for me and the other freshmen who entered the 104th Congress he is someone we will always remember. We will cherish our own experiences with him and hope that we can model our careers after someone who was so great, so humble and so dedicated.

TRIBUTE TO BILL EMERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker pro tempore, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. MICA, for his recognition this evening, and I would thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his word of remembrance of our departed colleague, BILL EMERSON of Missouri, and I would second the notion that BILL EMERSON was a great teacher in this House, and he taught all of us who were newcomers by example.

I daresay that the example of his courage in the wake of fighting his final battle with illness can only be described as exemplary, and indeed that word falls short for the courage displayed by BILL EMERSON, and his dedication to duty will rank as perhaps the greatest lesson he has provided to us.

Our sympathies go to his family and the people of his congressional district in Missouri, and whomever is honored with selection by those constituents to serve in this House will indeed have big shoes to fill.

Mr. Speaker, as evidenced by the debate tonight, the preceding debate, there are many important jobs and many important roles which we must fulfill here in the House of Representatives. We spoke earlier tonight of empowering first-time homeowners. We spoke of a variety of issues dealing with concerns on housing and the appropriation process that is so vital to conclude. Yet, Mr. Speaker, before this legislative day ends we would be remiss if we failed to mention other concerns that dominate the headlines of this

evening and indeed will reach into tomorrow and in the days to come.

We mourn the deaths and injuries of American servicemen abroad as we hear of a terrorist attack in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, overnight, and we will watch with interest and indeed work with the administration to determine exactly what happened, what type of preventive measures need to be taken by Americans abroad and how this tragedy could come to pass.

But again for now our concerns and our prayers are with the families of those who have perished and, of course, with those who have been wounded in this attack, and indeed, Mr. Speaker, while we are mindful that this issue is something that will warrant our concern and vigilance in the days to come, there are other developments in other stories and in other concerns that we must address.

My colleague, Mr. Fox, who preceded me, it should be noted, has resigned from the Government Oversight Committee to take another appointment, and yet that committee tomorrow, led by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, BILL CLINGER, will be asking some very serious questions of administration officials. Let me begin with what I believe is truly a positive and constructive note in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, as you are no doubt aware, a contempt of Congress citation was being prepared, indeed a vote would have occurred in this Chamber later this week, concerning the apparent lack of cooperation that the administration had shown in surrendering some 2,000 pages of documents needed to continue the investigation of what has become known as Filegate, possession of FBI files of prominent members of my party by the Clinton administration, and one official in particular, an Anthony Marcera, for examination over a long period of time.

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As I noted, Mr. Speaker, this House, and indeed the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, asked for some 2,000 pages in documents, and it appeared that the White House was reluctant to turn over those documents. I understand now some agreement has been reached. The White House, as I understand it, will cease to offer its claim of executive privilege to these documents, and there has been some measure of accommodation so these documents may be examined by officials on the committee.

Even as we welcome this important action, I remember the observation of that great author and humorist, Mark Twain. From time to time I have recalled it here in the well of this House. It was Twain who observed, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it rhymes." And I believe that tonight again we see that strange similarity of actions that have gone on before, actions that, in all candor, caused great concern, precipitated a great crisis, and led, of course, to a change in the executive branch almost a quarter century ago.