

The States may impose much more stringent requirements. We trust the States. We have confidence in the States. So let us not fall back into the old trap of saying "Washington knows best." Let us give flexibility to the States. Let us pass this bipartisan legislation overwhelmingly. I urge adoption of the bill before us.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of H.R. 2567, the Constructed Water Conveyances Reform Act of 1995. I want to thank Representative CONDIT for his efforts to address this important issue.

California farmers have been very active in developing innovative strategies for reducing the discharge of pollutants into our natural waterways. Producers in the Sacramento Valley have used closed drainage systems that hold water until its pesticides degrade, making it safe for release. Such efforts have yielded extremely impressive results. However, the possibility that these closed drainage systems could be required to meet water quality standards similar to those for natural waterways has created a great deal of uncertainty for users of these pollution control methods.

H.R. 2567 would provide the certainty needed to ensure that these innovative efforts to improve water quality can continue to go forward. At the same time, its provisions will ensure that there is no change in the regulation of the impact of constructed water conveyances on natural waterways. In the Sacramento area, we already face significant challenges in protecting and improving the quality of our waterways. We must not make this task more difficult.

I am aware that the administration has expressed concern about certain aspects of this legislation. I am pleased, however, that they are committed to addressing the concerns of California agriculture on this matter, and I am ready to work with them to achieve resolution.

I urge my colleagues support for this issue of great importance to California's agricultural economy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces he will postpone further proceedings today on each mo-

tion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV. Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has been concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, your committee on the part of the House to join a like committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled and is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make has performed that duty.

The President asked us to report that he will be pleased to deliver his message at 9 p.m. tonight to a joint session of the two Houses.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I concur in the report of the majority leader.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the majority leader and the minority leader.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO RUTH AND BILL GRAHAM

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2657) to award a congressional gold medal to Ruth and Billy Graham.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2657

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress hereby finds the following:

(1) Ruth and Billy Graham have made outstanding and lasting contributions to morality, racial equality, family, philanthropy, and religion.

(2) America's most respected and admired evangelical leader for the past half century, Billy Graham's crusades have reached 100,000,000 people in person and reached over 2,000,000,000 people worldwide on television.

(3) Billy Graham, throughout his 76 years of life and his 52-year marriage to Ruth Graham, has exemplified the highest ideals of teaching, counseling, ethics, charity, faith, and family.

(4) Billy Graham's daily newspaper column and 14 books have provided spiritual counseling and personal enrichment to millions of people.

(5) Ruth and Billy Graham have been the driving force to create the Ruth and Billy Graham Children's Health Center at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, whose vision it is to improve the health and well-being of children and to become a new resource for ending the pain and suffering of children.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate are authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to Billy and Ruth Graham a gold medal of appropriate design, in recognition of their outstanding and enduring contributions toward faith, morality, and charity.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury may accept, use, and disburse gifts or donations of property or money to carry out this section.

(2) NO APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZED.—No amount is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 5. TRANSFER OF ANY PROFIT TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer an amount equal to the amount by which—

(1) the sum of any gifts and donations received by the Secretary in accordance with section 2(c)(2) and any proceeds from the sale of duplicate medals under section 3, exceeds

(2) the total amount of the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out his Act, from the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund to the Library of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2657, the bill to award a congressional gold medal to Ruth and Billy Graham. Members on both sides of the aisle support H.R. 2657. Included on the list of 296 cosponsors are Speaker GINGRICH, Majority Leader ARMEY, and Majority Whip DELAY. Chairman LEACH of the Banking Committee, Ranking Minority Member GONZALEZ, and Representative FLAKE, ranking minority member of the subcommittee are also cosponsors.

Throughout their lives Ruth and Billy Graham have made great contributions to American society. They are religious leaders and role models. Their commitment to each other and their marriage is something both rare and wonderful in today's society. Billy Graham's crusades, daily newspaper column, and books have helped millions of people in need. Ruth and Billy's support of the Children's Health Center in Asheville, NC is yet another example of their dedication to the health and well-being of our Nation's children.

H.R. 2657 complies with Banking Committee rules regarding the authorization of congressional gold medals. Although a committee markup was not held, a majority of both committee and subcommittee members are cosponsors. There is no opposition from Members of Congress or the U.S. Mint.

The Memorial Mission Medical Center and its not-for-profit foundation have offered to cover the costs for designing and striking the medal, up to \$25,000. The Congressional Budget Office reports a possible impact to the Federal budget of about \$10,000, depending on sales of the duplicate medals. All donations and proceeds in excess of the cost of designing and striking the medal will be given to the Library of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, because the U.S. Mint normally needs about 6 months to produce a congressional gold medal, and we hope to present this medal to the Graham's in the late spring, we need to move quickly to pass this bill. I urge the immediate adoption of H.R. 2657.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 2657 and join with the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] the chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, because I believe that this represents for us an opportunity to say to the American people and to the world that it is important for persons to make commitments with their life that express the very best of what it means to be not only a citizen of this Nation, but a citizen of the world. No one has done that more effectively than Billy Graham, with Mrs. Ruth Graham, who stands beside him as the First Lady.

As they have moved throughout the world, persons have been moved to levels of commitment that perhaps would never have happened. We talk about salvation often, but many times it is nothing more than theoretical language. For the Grahams it is much more than that. It has been a reflection of not only their faith commitment; it has been a reflection of a faith commitment that is deep down within their hearts, given to them by virtue of their calling as religious leaders.

Truly in a world like the one in which we live, to find a person who has been available to every President, who has been available to even the lowest of persons, the many thousands who have gathered in auditoriums and in stadiums throughout this Nation, to the many who have come up from all around the world and found their hope in the message of this great and sainted leader, we take time out today to honor them through this gold medal.

It is more appropriate when you consider that one who follows the teachings of the Bible would readily associate Billy Graham with the Apostle Paul, for indeed the missions he has

carried out throughout this world have been those that have been productive to so many people, have changed so many people's lives, have caused them to feel there is a reason for living, have given them hope that today is not their last day, but there is hope for their tomorrows.

Over and over again he has been able to come in moments when he did not feel physically able to give a message, and yet to give one. When there have been times when this Nation has been at its very worst, he has been able to raise us to levels of thinking about not only ourselves, but thinking about matters which are greater than us. He moved from one place to the other, one journey after another, proclaiming the gospel, proclaiming the good news, letting the world know that in the midst of all that is bad, there is yet much to live for, there is yet much to hope for.

I am pleased as the ranking member of this subcommittee to have this opportunity to honor another cleric. As one who has been in the ministry since the age of 15 myself, I know the arduous task and the responsibility that is placed on one who assumes this level of commitment that drives them to go well beyond what they could ordinarily do as human beings without their special touch of God.

For a man who is anointed, for a man who knows he has been called to do a special work, for a woman who knows that her calling beside him is one to lift the hopes and aspirations of people throughout this world, regardless of race, regardless of color or gender, we are pleased this day to join with the committee in supporting H.R. 2657, asking all of our Members of this House to join with us in a resounding support for this particular piece of legislation, because it gives us an opportunity to look beyond whatever it is that separates us, whatever it is that causes us to participate in most instances in partisan fashion, to respond in a way that says this is a man and a woman that deserve the best of us for they have given their best to all of us.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time in the hopes that all of our colleagues will join with us in support of this legislation.

□ 1515

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. TAYLOR], the primary sponsor of this legislation.

(Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman for giving me this time, and I also want to thank the ranking minority Member for the eloquent remarks he made about Reverend and Mrs. Graham.

Mr. Speaker, in sponsoring this legislation and talking to various Members to cosponsor, there was no problem in getting hundreds of Members of this

House, all of whom had separate and individual reasons for endorsing this legislation.

As one of the most revered evangelical leaders in modern history, Billy Graham has helped the less fortunate and prescribed the need for a moral society. He has been spiritual adviser and confidant to 10 Presidents. Over 100 million people have come to see Billy Graham at crusades, and another 2 billion people have watched him on television. His character and strength have made him America's most admired man. He has used his immense popularity to confront major social problems, such as racism, the homeless, and hunger. He continues trying to reverse the decline in our society's morals by emphasizing ethical and spiritual values.

Billy Graham was reared in Charlotte, NC, and upon finishing seminary began preaching his message in Tampa, FL. He now has preached to more people than anyone else in history. To extend the reach of his message, he used television, magazines, and a weekly radio broadcast for which he was given a gold star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He has also spread his message through his daily newspaper column and 14 books.

The Billy Graham Training Center in Black Mountain and the Billy Graham Evangelical Association, headquartered in Minneapolis, MN, have become beacons of spirituality for people around the world.

Billy Graham adheres to the principles of which he preached. He and his wife of 52 years, Ruth, live their lives with the commitment to their family, each other, and God.

The other side of Billy Graham is the humanitarian and champion of the disadvantaged. He helped the flood victims of India rebuild their villages. He arranged for food and supplies to be flown to the earthquake victims of Guatemala and aided refugees fleeing political oppression.

Reverend Graham was also deeply involved in the fight for racial equality in the South. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., declared, and I quote, "that had it not been for the ministry of Billy Graham, he could not have done the work that he did."

People with Billy Graham's strength and devotion are very rare. His duty to God has led him to be the great man that he has become today. It is fitting for this Congress to honor both Reverend Graham and his wife, who has been by his side. His son, Franklin Graham, who heads the Samaritan Purse, and is now moving into his father's ministry, has carried on works for many years helping the poor, helping disadvantaged around the world.

Most recently, the Grahams have devoted themselves to the establishment of the Ruth and Billy Graham Children's Health Center at Memorial Mission in Asheville, NC. They share the vision of this new center in its efforts to improve the health and well-being of

the children of the southern Appalachia and the world. Their goal is for the Ruth and Billy Graham Children's Center to become a new resource for ending the pain and suffering of children.

We hope that once this legislation is passed by the Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal will be presented to the Grahams at a joint session of this Congress, and I take pride in being one of the many cosponsors of this legislation.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA].

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and my colleague from New York for this time; and also the chief sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Delaware.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to give special recognition by the Congress to the Reverend and Mrs. Billy Graham, who over the course of some 60 years, have provided comfort and support for the spiritual needs of millions of men, women, and children throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Billy Graham, in my humble opinion, is perhaps the greatest Christian evangelist of this century. His spiritual messages were universal, in that they touched the hearts and minds of every human being who has been influenced by his demeanor, his example, and, most important of all by the giving of his life to serve the needs of others. That is pure Christianity in every way.

Again, I commend my good friend from New York and the gentleman from Delaware for sponsoring this legislation.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEINEMAN], another distinguished Member of the House.

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

Mr. HEINEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2657, legislation which commissions a Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to Billy Graham and his wife Ruth. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this legislation. H.R. 2657 honors Billy and Ruth Graham's years of service towards morality, racial equality, family, charity and religion.

The Reverend Billy Graham was raised in North Carolina and has been a great spiritual leader, not only for the United States, but for the rest of the world. He has dedicated his life crusading against homelessness, racism, and hunger while helping spread spiritual and moral values to those willing to listen. Billy and Ruth Graham have positively affected the lives of millions throughout the world. In today's society, it is rare to find such undying dedication and devotion to one's beliefs.

Rev. Graham has used the media to help spread his message of hope to billions of people. Billy and Ruth Gra-

ham's faith in God has helped them in their fight to aid the disadvantaged and less fortunate. It is only right that this Congress honor the Reverend Billy Graham and his wife Ruth with the Congressional Gold Medal.

I'd like the RECORD to indicate that this Member of Congress attended the Billy Graham Crusade in 1957 at the Polo Grounds in the Bronx, NY. Although the site no longer exists, the vestiges of that experience still live within me.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and vote for the legislation, and I also compliment the gentleman from North Carolina, Congressman CHARLES TAYLOR, for his initiative; and the gentleman from Delaware, Congressman MIKE CASTLE, for sponsoring this bill.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BURR], yet another distinguished Member.

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring two outstanding Americans and fellow North Carolinians. Throughout their lives, Ruth and Billy Graham have exemplified the highest goals our country holds dear, and as a result, they have left a lasting impression not only on the people they touch individually, but on our Nation as a whole.

Most people first encountered Rev. Graham through his many crusades. Through this vehicle, he has reached over 100 million people in person and over 2 billion people throughout the world in his television audiences spreading his message of hope. Rev. Graham's achievements, however, go much deeper than his accomplishments as a religious leader. He and his wife are also leaders in promoting education, charity, and the importance of family. They were the driving force in creating the Ruth and Billy Graham Children's Health Center at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, NC. This facility provides comfort and care to the most helpless members of society—our children. And, finally, Rev. and Mrs. Graham have served us as leaders—leaders by example. If we would all dedicate ourselves to just a fraction of the unselfish endeavors of these two people, the world would be a much better place.

Mr. Speaker, in this Olympic year, when we honor our best athletes with gold medals for achievements on the field, it is fitting that we honor these two outstanding individuals with a gold medal for their outstanding achievements in a much more difficult arena—life. So, for myself, my colleagues in this House, and for our Nation, I say thank you, Ruth and Billy Graham.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that there was one other person

who clearly wanted to speak, and there are two others who have contacted us that they are trying to get here, but they are not presently with us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STOCKMAN].

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me this opportunity to speak on behalf of what, in my personal life, has meant more to me than anything else, and that is my faith.

As I was growing up and watching throughout my history, I watched Rev. Billy Graham as he portrayed what I think was good in everything in life. And now as we get older and we look and reflect upon our lives, today I have to tell you I still reflect upon Billy Graham.

Billy Graham has meant a lot to me personally in influencing my life and my goals, and I cannot think of anybody better that we dedicate this medal to than to Dr. Graham and his wife Ruth.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I think this one man has meant more to more people than anyone else in the world. As he goes and travels, he is respected by leaders and government officials and that without Mr. Graham, we would not have, I think, some of the moral principles that we have in this Nation today.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

As one who has traveled to various seminaries throughout this land, periodically speaking to those young ministers who are in training, I want to take this opportunity to just say a word, and that is a word to encourage them to look at the ministry of Billy Graham as a model by which they might be able to emulate and replicate, because I think it indicates the kind of commitment that is necessary when one feels the authority of God that has called and anointed them to do the special work.

And it is special work that can only be done by a calling. The Bible tells us that many are called, but few are chosen. Truly, Billy Graham and Ruth Graham represent they who have been chosen of the Lord and who understand what it means to make the fullest of commitments, understand what it means when the Bible talks about bearing our crosses daily and denying one's self. For truly his ministry indicates that regardless of one's training, one has to have a real sense about what it is the Lord wants him to do and where the Lord wants it done.

The commission of the Lord commands that we go into all nations and baptize and teach and reach all of those who have not been reached and bring them into the family of the faithful. I tend to believe that this Nation will be a better place because of Billy Graham and Ruth Graham, but more importantly those young men and women who are in training in seminaries, as they look at this model, as they make the same kind of commitment, as they

understand that their faith commitment should drive them to never having to feel that they have to be of the world, but rather that they can be in it, but live beyond it as it relates to how they maintain themselves morally and spiritually. Billy Graham has shown us all of that.

I would hope that his model is one, as he nears the sunset of his life, that there will be someone who will pick up that mantel and will go forth into the world making the same kind of proclamations without fear of trembling, but understand, as we say in that song, to be on the battlefield for the Lord, and to do so with the kind of courageousness that will not allow them to be able to turn around.

We can change families, we can change the quality of life for people in this Nation, we can change the quality of life for people in the world. More of us have to be on the battlefield and believe this is a battle that we cannot afford to lose.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I will be very brief and then yield back the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, as a layperson and one who is not involved in the clergy as the distinguished ranking member is, and without being as eloquent as he is on the subject, it is wonderful to admire from afar and from television, an individual and a couple who have lived the way we would like the heroes of America to live.

Mr. Speaker, so often we see people, individuals who are flawed in all walks of life and we make them our role models and somehow they fall. This is a couple that not only is not going to fall, but has risen from pedestal to pedestal and we admire them greatly. This coin that we are dedicating today is well earned.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of those who were able to come to the floor and speak. I would remind those who were not able to, that they could submit statements at the end.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from Delaware, chairman of the subcommittee, I say thank you. This is a glorious day for both of us. I think the way we work together in our committee represents the essence of the kind of spirit that Billy Graham would hope all American citizens would be able to work together.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to work with the gentleman from Delaware and proud to have shared with him in the sponsorship of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and hope that our Members will join with us, not only in trying to work together the way we do, but also in supporting this legislation.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE], our ranking mem-

ber. I must say I do not think we have ever had a cross word in the over a year that we have worked together. Our legislation, as is most true in this particular bill today, is generally positively received. We are blessed in that way. Working with the gentleman from New York and his staff has been an extraordinary pleasure, and I look forward to the balance of our time together.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our hometown hero, Dr. Billy Graham. I have been friends with Dr. and Mrs. Graham for many years, and it is a privilege to know people of such high moral fortitude and devotion to principle.

Dr. and Mrs. Graham have traveled the world in the advancement of a message of hope, a message that has reached the ears and hearts of millions of people. Those who have known the Graham family have been enriched not only by their words, but by the living example their daily walk in life has set for us. Their endless devotion to the advancement of a simple, yet profound message has truly changed the lives of millions of people around the globe.

I can think of no better recipients of this award than the Reverend and Mrs. Billy Graham. May this award serve as a small token of appreciation for their lifetime of service.

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

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2657.

The question was taken.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—PROTECTING CREDITWORTHINESS OF UNITED STATES, AVOIDING DEFAULT, AND AVERTING ANOTHER GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause (2)(a)(1) of rule XI, I give notice of my intention to offer a resolution on behalf of myself and the gentleman from Houston, TX [Mr. BENTSEN], who is at the mike and who joins me today.

Mr. Speaker, this would be a resolution that raises a question of the privileges of the House and the form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the inability of the House to pass an adjustment in the public debt limit unburdened by the unrelated political agenda of either party, an adjustment to maintain the creditworthiness of the United States and to avoid disruption of interest rates and

the financial markets, brings discredit upon the House;

Whereas, the inability of the House to pass a clean resolution to continue normal governmental operations so as to end the abuse of American citizens and their hard-earned dollars, Federal employees, private businesses who perform work for the Federal government, and those who rely upon Federal services as a bargaining tactic to gain political advantage in the budget negotiations, brings discredit upon the House;

Whereas, previous inaction of the House has already cost the American taxpayer about \$1.5 billion in wasteful governmental shutdown costs, reduced the productivity and responsiveness of federal agencies and caused untold human suffering;

Whereas, the failure of the House of Representatives to adjust the federal debt limit and keep the nation from default or to act on legislation to avert another government shutdown impairs the dignity of the House, the integrity of its proceedings and the esteem the public holds for the House;

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the enrolling clerk of the House of Representatives shall prepare an engrossment of the bill, H.R. 2862, and the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 157. The vote by which this resolution is adopted by the House shall be deemed to have been a vote in favor of such bill and a vote in favor of such joint resolution upon final passage in the House of Representatives. Upon engrossment of the bill and the joint resolution, each shall be deemed to have passed the House of Representatives and been duly certified and examined; the engrossed copies shall be signed by the Clerk and transmitted to the Senate for further legislative action; and (upon final passage by both Houses) the bill and the joint resolution shall be signed by the presiding officers of both Houses and presented to the President for his signature (and otherwise treated for all purposes) in the manner provided for bills and joint resolution generally.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, in respect to the resolution offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT], my colleague, as it related—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inform the gentleman that the resolution is not debatable at this time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, is it in order at this time to determine whether or not this rule IX applies to this resolution and is it also in order at this time for the House to debate whether rule IX would apply with respect to this resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inform the gentleman that under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Speaker in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days its being properly noticed. The Chair will announce the Speaker's designation at a later time. In the meantime, the form of the resolution proffered by the gentleman from Texas will appear in the RECORD at this point.