

than 15 minutes in which to answer an ordinary rollcall vote or quorum call. The rule obviously establishes 15 minutes as a minimum. Still, with the cooperation of the Members, a vote can easily be completed in that time. The events of October 30, 1991, stand out as proof of this point. On that occasion, the House was considering a bill in the Committee of the Whole under a special rule that placed an overall time limit on the amendment process, including the time consumed by rollcalls. The Chair announced, and then strictly enforced, a policy of closing electronic votes as soon as possible after the guaranteed period of 15 minutes. Members appreciated and cooperated with the Chair's enforcement of the policy on that occasion.

The Chair desires that the example of October 30, 1991, be made the regular practice of the House. To that end, the Chair enlists the assistance of all Members in avoiding the unnecessary loss of time in conducting the business of the House. The Chair encourages all Members to depart for the Chamber promptly upon the appropriate bell and light signal. As in recent Congresses, the cloakrooms should not forward to the Chair requests to hold a vote by electronic device, but should simply apprise inquiring Members of the time remaining on the voting clock.

Although no occupant of the Chamber would prevent a Member who is in the well of the Chamber before the announcement of the result from casting his or her vote, each occupant of the Chair will have the full support of the Speaker in striving to close each electronic vote at the earliest opportunity. Members should not rely on signals relayed from outside the Chamber to assume that votes will be held open until they arrive in the Chamber.

7. USE OF HANDOUTS ON HOUSE FLOOR

The Speaker's policy announced on September 27, 1995, will continue through 105th Congress.

The SPEAKER. A recent misuse of handouts on the floor of the House has been called to the attention of the Chair and the House. At the bipartisan request of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the Chair announces that all handouts distributed on or adjacent to the House floor by Members during House proceedings must bear the name of the Member authorizing their distribution. In addition, the content of those materials must comport with standards of propriety applicable to words spoken in debate or inserted in the Record. Failure to comply with this admonition may constitute a breach of decorum and may give rise to a question of privilege.

The Chair would also remind Members that pursuant to clause 4, rule XXXII, staff are prohibited from engaging in efforts in the Hall of the House or rooms leading thereto to influence Members with regard to the legislation being amended. Staff cannot distribute handouts.

In order to enhance the quality of debate in the House, the Chair would ask Members to minimize the use of handouts.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to the provisions of 40 United States Code 175 and 176, the Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] as Members of the House

Office Building Commission to serve with himself.

APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 105TH CONGRESS

The Chair announces, pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of rule VI, the Speaker, majority leader, and minority leader jointly appoint Mr. John W. Lainhart, IV, to the position of inspector general for the House of Representatives for the 105th Congress.

A FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A further message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

BIENNIAL REPORT ON HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION FOR CALENDAR YEARS 1994-95—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with Public Law 103-272, as amended (49 U.S.C. 5121(e)), I transmit herewith the Biennial Report on Hazardous Materials Transportation for Calendar Years 1994-1995 of the Department of Transportation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 7, 1997.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 3536, I transmit herewith the 31st Annual Report of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which covers calendar year 1995.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 7, 1997.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, 1994 AND 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Commerce.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the requirements of section 657 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law 95-91; 42 U.S.C. 7267), I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Energy, which covers the years 1994 and 1995.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 7, 1997.

WAIVER FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith for your immediate consideration and enactment legislation to provide a waiver from certain provisions relating to the appointment of the United States Trade Representative.

This draft bill would authorize the President, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint Charlene Barshefsky as the United States Trade Representative, notwithstanding any limitations imposed by certain provisions of law. The Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 amended the provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 regarding the appointment of the United States Trade Representative and the Deputy United States Trade Representatives by imposing certain limitations on their appointment. These limitations only became effective with respect to the appointment of the United States Trade Representative and Deputy United States Trade Representatives on January 1, 1996, and do not apply to individuals who were serving in one of those positions on that date and continue to serve in them. Because Charlene Barshefsky was appointed Deputy United States Trade Representative on May 28, 1993, and has continued to serve in that position since then, the limitations in the Lobbying Disclosure Act, which became effective on January 1, 1996, do not apply to her in her capacity as Deputy United States Trade Representative and it is appropriate that they not apply to her if she is appointed to be the United States Trade Representative.

I have today nominated Charlene Barshefsky to be the next United States Trade Representative. She has done an outstanding job as Deputy United States Trade Representative

since 1993 and as Acting United States Trade Representative for the last 9 months. I am confident she will make an excellent United States Trade Representative. I urge the Congress to take prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 7, 1997.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, 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 Florida [Mrs. THURMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

TIME TO SOLVE THE NATION'S PROBLEMS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am, in fact, delighted to be the first person to give special orders, and obviously the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] was scheduled to be, but he is presiding in the chair.

I had the great fortune as a freshman Member of the 104th Congress to be the first to deliver a 1-minute speech on this floor. I return to Congress very proud that the members of the 16th District have chosen to ask me to serve them once again in this very high honor in the U.S. Congress.

We had a lot of debate today, a lot of acrimony, a lot of discussion about the future of this Congress and its Speaker. We have concluded that debate with reelecting NEWT GINGRICH, the gentleman from Georgia, as Speaker.

I implore Members on all sides of the aisle, both sides of the aisle, that it is now time to come together, in the spirit of this country, in the pride of this Nation, to start solving our Nation's problems, to start solving our Nation's ills, to focus on things that will make people's lives better rather than focusing on things that will destroy people's individual lives. This Chamber and this Government is bigger than this Member, it is bigger than the Speaker, it is bigger than anybody else's ego. It is about helping Americans help themselves. It is about instilling in our children a knowledge and a wisdom that through hard work, you can overcome any adversity.

But if this Chamber operates much like it did in the 104th Congress, with bitterness and rancor and personal animosity, we will not set an example for the future leaders of this Nation. We will not set an example for children to

look up to this body and say, "I, too, would like to be a leader in the Congress. I, too, would like to serve my community." We will denigrate into an embarrassment.

So I ask my fellow Members, from all walks of life, from all localities, to think first about what is good for America, not what is good for the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, what is good for this Nation. A balanced budget, saving our Nation from fiscal crisis. The education of our children, to prepare them for the 21st century, to prepare them with skills that will give them jobs that will allow them to provide for themselves and their families.

To reach beyond partisanship, in a spirit of cooperation, to fight together against crime that threatens every American, crime in our schools, violence against our teachers, crimes in our malls and in our communities that frighten our citizens, regardless whether they be seniors or young adults. To work together on Medicare fraud and abuse, and save our Medicare Program so that we will have a system that ensures that every American will receive Medicare when they grow to the day to need it.

Let us also cause special focus on the illnesses that hurt our American citizens: AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, cancer, leukemia, tuberculosis, to name but a few. Sudden infant death syndrome, to name another. If we would use our energies to focus our resources through the National Institutes of Health to try and find cures for these diseases, we will do more for humanity in this Chamber, we will do more for the future of this world and this Nation than any 5-minute speech or any special order or any rancor or debate.

This Nation has given 435 individuals the chance to represent their communities. I know that the Members are up to the task of facing that challenge. I know that each Member, regardless of their party, deeply loves this Nation.

But I also know that if we proceed in the 105th as we did in the 104th with gridlock, acrimony, personal attack, and negativity, that none of the successes will be possible. We will be mired in failure, mired in debate that is nonproductive. So I ask in this first day of the new Congress that we join together to make every citizen proud of the conduct of each individual Member and all Members of this House; that the Democrats join me in working with Speaker GINGRICH, in assuring that the Speakership is respected, that the institution of governance of the House of Representatives is brought to the highest standard, and that we work together for all of the best interests of this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

□ 1800

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: A HISTORIC DAY

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard several allusions throughout the day of the nature of the historic event in which we participated, the election of the Speaker of the House for the 105th session. That is more than rhetoric, Mr. Speaker.

Have Members ever heard of the name of Jonathan Dayton? Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey was elected Speaker of the House in the fifth session in 1797. So when we say today's event was historical, we really mean it. It is a repetition of the preservation of our liberties that emanated from the first and second terms of George Washington and the Fifth Congress, which marked his exit from public service, and has run down to today, when we repeated the process in the preservation of those same liberties which they fought so hard to create for us in the first place.

So the message for the day for our constituents is that the election of the Speaker today is a purely political process. When we say "political process," that does not demean it, because many in the world today will say, he is a politician, or he is involved in politics, denoting the worst in humanity. But the preservation of our liberties to which I have made reference, beginning with the First Congress and then reendorsed in the Fifth Congress and here today in the 105th, became part and parcel of our history because of the political process it involves.

So we had the spectacle today of the minority Democrats nominating their favorite son while the Republicans chose to nominate the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. GINGRICH. What happened? Through the political process, GINGRICH has been elected Speaker of the House. We should honor that. It is the duty and right of the majority to select one of its own to lead the agenda for the ensuing Congress, and we have done so. Now it is time to put everything aside and proceed with that very same agenda.

I also want to comment on some other part of the proceedings here today that was very important but very likely accepted by the general public, because we have not made it clear. When we established the rules of the House, and the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER, alluded to it in his prefatory remarks during the debate on the rules, we were reendorsing, reconfirming here today, historically what the 104th Congress under the majority Republicans was able to fashion; and the 104th Congress, one step of which, in which I was personally involved and of which I am very proud, is the elimination of proxy voting in committee.