

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—13

Becerra	Hastings (FL)	Owens
Brown (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi
Carson	Kaptur	Torres
Flake	Lewis (GA)	
Furse	Lofgren	
NOT VOTING—15		
Barton	Lowey	Schiff
Cox	McHugh	Smith (NJ)
Delahunt	Nadler	Stokes
Dunn	Neumann	Waxman
Fazio	Obey	Yates

□ 1137

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was unavoidably out of the Chamber when a couple of rollcall votes were taken. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 235, "no" on rollcall 236 and "no" on rollcall 237.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2015, BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997, AND H.R. 2014, TAX-PAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 174 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 174

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2015) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(1) and (c) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 1 pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXIII shall be considered as adopted. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) three hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2014) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(2) and (d) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill and against provisions in the bill, as amended by this resolution, are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed three hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the

Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 2 pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXIII shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment and shall be considered as read. No other amendment shall be in order except the further amendment printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 1 pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXIII, which may be offered only by Representative Rangel of New York or his designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against that amendment are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill, as amended, for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendment as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and any further amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 174 is the customary structured rule for the consideration of a budget reconciliation bill. In this case, the rule provides for the consideration of reconciliation legislation in two parts, which reflects the bipartisan budget agreement reached between Congress and the White House on May 2, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, this rule first waives all points of order against the consideration of the legislation, the Balanced Budget Act. The rule provides 3 hours of debate on the entitlement reform bill, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on the Budget.

The rule also considers the amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1 as adopted upon the adoption of this rule. This amendment by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] reflects hours of negotiations between Democrats and Republicans and between the White House and this Congress, both bodies of this Congress.

This amendment attempts to resolve many of the outstanding issues related to our bipartisan efforts to reform the Nation's out-of-control entitlement

spending. And we all know that it is totally out of control.

The rule further waives all points of order against the provisions of the bill as amended by the rule. After the conclusion of the 3 hours of debate, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Yesterday, we informed the minority members of the Committee on Rules that we were prepared to grant a rule allowing one Democrat substitute to be offered by the minority leader or his designee. However, we were informed yesterday that such a substitute would not be offered, even though we were willing to make that amendment in order.

□ 1145

In addition, section 2 of the rule provides for consideration of the second part of this reconciliation product, the Taxpayer Relief Act. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of this bill and against its provisions as amended by the rule. The rule further provides another 3 hours of general debate on this tax cutting measure, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule also considers the amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 2 as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. This amendment, drafted by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER], reflects further negotiations between the various interested parties involved in the implementation of the tax portion of this bipartisan agreement with the White House.

Furthermore, the rule provides for the consideration of a substitute amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1 only if offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL] or his designee.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and is not subject to amendment or to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole and all points of order are waived against the amendment. This amendment, offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL], the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Ways and Means, represents the minority substitute to the tax bill.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, after hearing testimony up in the Committee on Rules yesterday for more than 5 hours and from more than 40 witnesses, the Committee on Rules has produced a rule that is very similar to that used on reconciliation bills going all the way back to the 96th Congress, over two decades. Furthermore, after consultation with the minority and our committee, we actually extended the total debate time on the two bills from 5 hours to 7