

Opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses, including the SBA's 8(a) program.

Oversight and investigative authority generally.

REGULATORY REFORM AND PAPERWORK REDUCTION

Oversight and investigative authority over the regulatory and paperwork policies of all Federal departments and agencies.

Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Paperwork Reduction Act.

Competition policy generally.

TAX, FINANCE AND EXPORTS

Tax policy and its impact on small business.

Access to capital and finance issues generally.

Export opportunities and promotion.

12. COMMITTEE STAFF

(A) MAJORITY STAFF

The employees of the committee, except those assigned to the minority as provided below, shall be appointed and assigned, and may be removed by the Chairman. Their remuneration shall be fixed by the Chairman, and they shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman.

(B) MINORITY STAFF

The employees of the committee assigned to the minority shall be appointed and assigned, and their remuneration determined, as the ranking minority member of the committee shall determine.

(C) SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF

The Chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee shall endeavor to ensure that sufficient staff is made available to each subcommittee to carry out its responsibilities under the rules of the committee.

13. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the full committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee chairmen shall set meeting and hearing dates after consultation with the Chairman of the full committee. Meetings and hearings of subcommittees shall not be scheduled to occur simultaneously with meetings or hearings of the full committee.

14. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

(A) INVESTIGATIVE HEARINGS

The report of any subcommittee on a matter which was the topic of a study or investigation shall include a statement concerning the subject of the study or investigation, the findings and conclusions, and recommendations for corrective action, if any, together with such other material as the subcommittee deems appropriate.

Such proposed reports shall first be approved by a majority of the subcommittee members. After such approval has been secured, the proposed report shall be sent to each member of the full committee for his or her supplemental, minority, or additional views.

Any such views shall be in writing and signed by the member and filed with the clerk of the full committee within 5 calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) from the date of the transmittal of the proposed report to the members. Transmittal of the proposed report to members shall be by hand delivery to the members' offices.

After the expiration of such 5 calendar days, the report may be filed as a House report.

(B) END OF CONGRESS

Each subcommittee shall submit to the full committee, not later than November 15

of each even-numbered year, a report on the activities of the subcommittee during the Congress.

15. RECORDS

The committee shall keep a complete record of all actions which shall include a record of the votes of any question on which a rollcall vote is demanded. The result of each subcommittee rollcall vote, together with a description of the matter voted upon, shall promptly be made available to the full committee. A record of such votes shall be made available for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the committee.

The committee shall keep a complete record of all committee and subcommittee activity which, in the case of any meeting or hearing transcript, shall include a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved.

The records of the committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with rule XXXVI of the Rules of the House. The Chairman of the full committee shall notify the ranking minority member of the full committee of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of rule XXXVI of the House, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the committee for a determination of the written request of any member of the committee.

16. ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED OR SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Access to classified or sensitive information supplied to the committee and attendance at closed sessions of the committee or its subcommittees shall be limited to members and necessary committee staff and stenographic reporters who have appropriate security clearance when the Chairman determines that such access or attendance is essential to the functioning of the committee.

The procedures to be followed in granting access to those hearings, records, data, charts, and files of the committee which involve classified information or information deemed to be sensitive shall be as follows:

(a) Only Members of the House of Representatives and specifically designated committee staff of the Committee on Small Business may have access to such information.

(b) Members who desire to read materials that are in the possession of the committee should notify the clerk of the committee or the subcommittee possessing the materials.

(c) The clerk will maintain an accurate access log which identifies the circumstances surrounding access to the information, without revealing the material examined.

(d) If the material desired to be reviewed is material which the committee or subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special handling, before receiving access to such information, individuals will be required to sign an access information sheet acknowledging such access and that the individual has read and understands the procedures under which access is being granted.

(e) Material provided for review under this rule shall not be removed from a specified room within the committee offices.

(f) Individuals reviewing materials under this rule shall make certain that the materials are returned to the proper custodian.

(g) No reproductions or recordings may be made of any portion of such materials.

(h) The contents of such information shall not be divulged to any person in any way, form, shape or manner, and shall not be discussed with any person who has not received the information in an authorized manner.

(i) When not being examined in the manner described herein, such information will be kept in secure safes or locked file cabinets in the committee offices.

(j) These procedures only address access to information the committee or a subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special treatment.

(k) If a Member of the House of Representatives believes that certain sensitive information should not be restricted as to dissemination or use, the Member may petition the committee or subcommittee to so rule. With respect to information and materials provided to the committee by the executive branch, the classification of information and materials as determined by the executive branch shall prevail unless affirmatively changed by the committee or the subcommittee involved, after consultation with the appropriate executive agencies.

(l) Other materials in the possession of the committee are to be handled in accordance with the normal practices and traditions of the committee.

17. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chairman of the full committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the committee.

The committee may not be committed to any expense whatever without the prior approval of the Chairman of the full committee.

18. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the committee may be modified, amended or repealed by a majority of the members, at a meeting specifically called for such purpose, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such member at least 3 days before the time of the meeting.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT 105TH CONGRESS

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. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the requirement of clause 2(a) or rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I submit herewith the rules of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight for the 105th Congress and ask that they be printed in the RECORD at this point. These rules were adopted by the committee on February 12, 1997.

I. RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

RULE 1. APPLICATION OF RULES

Except where the terms "full committee" and "subcommittee" are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and its subcommittees as well as to the respective chairmen. [See House Rule XI, 1.]

RULE 2. MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the full Committee shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., when the House is in session. The chairman is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof, and to call and convene additional meetings, when circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the committee may be requested by members of the committee following the provisions of House Rule XI, 2(c)2. Subcommittees shall meet at

the call of the subcommittee chairmen. Every member of the committee or the appropriate subcommittee, unless prevented by unusual circumstances, shall be provided with a memorandum at least three calendar days before each meeting or hearing explaining (1) the purpose of the meeting or hearing; and (2) the names, titles, background and reasons for appearance of any witnesses. The ranking minority member shall be responsible for providing the same information on witnesses whom the minority may request. [See House Rule XI, 2(b).]

RULE 3. QUORUMS

A majority of the members of the committee shall form a quorum, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, and one-third of the members shall form a quorum for taking any action other than the reporting of a measure or recommendation. If the chairman is not present at any meeting of the committee or subcommittee, the ranking member of the majority party on the committee or subcommittee who is present shall preside at that meeting. [See House Rule XI, 2(h).]

RULE 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bills and resolutions approved by the committee shall be reported by the chairman following House Rule XI, 2(l).

Every investigative report shall be approved by a majority vote of the committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Supplemental, minority, or additional views may be filed following House Rule XI, 2(l)(5). The time allowed for filing such views shall be three calendar days, beginning on the day of notice but excluding Saturday, Sundays, and legal holidays (unless the House is in session on such a day), unless the committee agrees to a different time, but agreement on a shorter time shall require the concurrence of each member seeking to file such views. A proposed report shall not be considered in subcommittee or full committee unless the proposed report has been available to the members of such subcommittee or full committee for at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) before consideration of such proposed report in subcommittee or full committee. An investigative report or oversight report will be considered as read if available, to the members, at least 24 hours before consideration, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays unless the House is in session on such days. If hearings have been held on the matter reported upon, every reasonable effort shall be made to have such hearings available to the members of the subcommittee or full committee before the consideration of the proposed report in such subcommittee or full committee. An investigative or oversight report may be filed after sine die adjournment of the last regular session of the Congress, provided that if a member gives timely notice of intention to file supplemental, minority or additional views, that member shall be entitled to not less than seven calendar days in which to submit such views for inclusion with the report.

Only those reports approved by a majority vote of the committee may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 5. PROXY VOTES

In accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, members may not vote by proxy on any measure or matter before the committee or any subcommittee. [See House Rule XI, 2(f).]

RULE 6. ROLL CALLS

A roll call of the members may be had upon the request of any member upon approval of a one-fifth vote. [See House Rule XI, 2(e).]

RULE 7. RECORD OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The committee staff shall maintain in the committee offices a complete record of committee actions from the current Congress including a record of the rollcall votes taken at committee business meetings. The original records, or true copies thereof, as appropriate, shall be available for public inspection whenever the committee offices are open for public business. The staff shall assure that such original records are preserved with no unauthorized alteration, additions, or defacement. [See House Rule XI, 2(e).]

RULE 8. SUBCOMMITTEES; REFERRALS

There shall be seven subcommittees with appropriate party ratios that shall have fixed jurisdictions. Bills, resolutions, and other matters shall be referred by the chairman to subcommittees within two weeks for consideration or investigation in accordance with their fixed jurisdictions. Where the subject matter of the referral involves the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee or does not fall within any previously assigned jurisdiction, the chairman shall refer the matter as he may deem advisable. Bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to subcommittees may be reassigned by the chairman when, in his judgement, the subcommittee is not able to complete its work or cannot reach agreement therein. In a subcommittee having an even number of members, if there is a tie vote with all members voting on any measure, the measure shall be placed on the agenda for full committee consideration as if it had been ordered reported by the subcommittee without recommendation. This provision shall not preclude further action on the measure by the subcommittee. [See House Rule XI, 1(a)(2).]

RULE 9. EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

The chairman and the ranking minority member of the committee shall be ex officio members of all subcommittees. They are authorized to vote on subcommittee matters; but, unless they are regular members of the subcommittee, they shall not be counted in determining a subcommittee quorum other than a quorum for taking testimony.

RULE 10. STAFF

Except as otherwise provided by House Rule XI, 5 and 6, the chairman of the full committee shall have the authority to hire and discharge employees of the professional and clerical staff of the full committee and of subcommittees.

RULE 11. STAFF DIRECTION

Except as otherwise provided by House Rule XI, 5 and 6, the staff of the committee shall be subject to the direction of the chairman of the full committee and shall perform such duties as he may assign.

RULE 12. HEARING DATES AND WITNESSES

The chairman of the full committee will announce the date, place, and subject matter of all hearings at least one week before the commencement of any hearings, unless he determines, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the committee determines by a vote, that there is good cause to begin such hearings sooner. So that the chairman of the full committee may coordinate the committee facilities and hearings plans, each subcommittee chairman shall notify him of any hearing plans at least two weeks before the date of commencement of hearings, including the date, place, subject matter, and the names of witnesses, willing and unwilling, who would be called to testify, including, to the extent he is advised thereof, witnesses whom the minority members may request. The minority members shall supply the names of witnesses they intend to call to the chairman of the full committee or subcommittee at the earliest possible

date. Witnesses appearing before the committee shall so far as practicable, submit written statements at least 24 hours before their appearance and, when appearing in a non-governmental capacity, provide a curriculum vitae and a listing of any Federal Government grants and contracts received in the previous fiscal year. [See House Rules XI, 2(g)(3), (g)(4), (j), and (k).]

RULE 13. OPEN MEETINGS

Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the committee shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with Rule XI of the House of Representatives. [See House Rules XI, 2 (g) and (k).]

RULE 14: FIVE-MINUTE RULE

(1) A committee member may question a witness only when recognized by the chairman for that purpose. In accordance with House Rule XI, 2(j)(2), each committee member may request up to five minutes to question a witness until each member who so desires has had such opportunity. Until all such requests have been satisfied, the chairman shall, so far as practicable, recognize alternately based on seniority of those majority and minority members present at the time the hearing was called to order and others based on their arrival at the hearing. After that, additional time may be extended at the direction of the chairman.

(2) The chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the committee by motion, may permit an equal number of majority and minority members to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(3) The chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the committee by motion, may permit committee staff of the majority and minority to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(4) Nothing in paragraph (2) or (3) affects the rights of a Member (other than a Member designated under paragraph (2)) to question a witness for 5 minutes in accordance with paragraph (1) after the questioning permitted under paragraph (2) or (3). In any extended questioning permitted under paragraph (2) or (3), the Chairman shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by majority members or majority committee staff and the ranking minority member shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by minority members or minority committee staff. The Chairman or the ranking minority member, as applicable, may allocate the time for any extended questioning permitted to staff under paragraph (3) to members.

RULE 15. INVESTIGATIVE HEARINGS; PROCEDURE

Investigative hearings shall be conducted according to the procedures in House Rule XI, 2(k). All questions put to witnesses before the committee shall be relevant to the subject matter before the committee for consideration, and the chairman shall rule on the relevance of any questions put to the witnesses.

RULE 16. STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

A stenographic record of all testimony shall be kept of public hearings and shall be made available on such conditions as the chairman may prescribe.

RULE 17. TV, RADIO, AND PHOTOGRAPHS

An open meeting or hearing of the committee or a subcommittee may be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any such methods of coverage, unless closed subject to the provisions of House Rule XI, 3.

RULE 18: ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the full committee shall:

(a) Make available to other committees the findings and recommendations resulting from the investigations of the committee or its subcommittees as required by House Rule X, 4(c)(2);

(b) Direct such review and studies on the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within the committee's jurisdiction as required by House Rule X, 2(c);

(c) Submit to the Committee on the Budget views and estimates required by House Rule X, 4(g), and to file reports with the House as required by the Congressional Budget Act;

(d) Authorize and issue subpoenas as provided in House Rule XI, clause 2(m), in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities within the jurisdiction of the committee;

(e) Prepare, after consultation with subcommittee chairmen and the minority, a budget for the committee which shall include an adequate budget for the subcommittees to discharge their responsibilities;

(f) Make any necessary technical and conforming changes to legislation reported by the committee upon unanimous consent; and

(g) Will designate a Vice Chairman from the majority party.

RULE 19: COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

The committee has adopted the policy that the determination of the subject matter of commemorative stamps properly is for consideration by the Postmaster General and that the committee will not give consideration to legislative proposals for the issuance of commemorative stamps. It is suggested that recommendations for the issuance of commemorative stamps be submitted to the Postmaster General.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH AND RACE ENTERTAINMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. JACKSON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am particularly honored on this occasion to welcome the distinguished gentleman from Illinois [Mr. SHIMKUS] to the 105th Congress. I know he gave his first special order just a few moments ago. He, like I, when I first became a Member of this institution, was quite nervous, and we talked about it just before he began. But I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome him to the 105th Congress and indicate to him how much I look forward to serving with him in this institution.

Today for the better part of this special order I want to talk about a subject that is near and dear to my heart, that is near and dear to 39 Members of this institution, the Congressional Black Caucus. This is African-American History Month. We find ourselves this February confronting some challenges as a nation.

We have heard our Speaker talk about racial reconciliation. We have heard our President address the issue of racial reconciliation. And I thought what a better start we could have if we could just begin an honest dialogue

about racial reconciliation in the context of Black History Month.

Carter G. Woodson is known as the father of black history. Originally it was designated to be just one week long, and then it eventually became a month. He knew that the African-American experience was unique and that the chronologizing of the African-American history and the chronologizing of American history did not, would not and could not acknowledge the contributions that African-Americans have made.

Recently racial reconciliation has become a widely talked about issue. The O.J. case has forced us to face the wide gap separating white and black Americans in their views of our criminal justice system. How can people have such different perspectives of the same case according to the color of their skin? It becomes obvious that blacks and whites are not speaking from the same page because both groups are looking at the case through the lens of their own experiences, in this case, the experiences of whites versus the experiences of people of color with the criminal justice system.

The first step in a process of racial reconciliation is to build understanding between the races. We cannot have an effective conversation about racial reconciliation, which is one of the Speaker's goals, which is certainly one of the President's goals, if we do not try to understand the other group and their experiences. This is what Carter G. Woodson was thinking about and reflecting about when he wanted us as a Nation to pause during the month of February to acknowledge the contribution of African-Americans.

The purpose of this special order today is to take that first step, a serious dialogue about race issues, by beginning to explain the historical experience of African-Americans and by explaining the history of obstacles and advances which have allowed me to stand in this room and speak to you today as the 91st African-American Member of Congress.

To talk about the history of blacks in America, one cannot avoid the story of the struggle against discrimination in America. The two are intertwined. It is hard for many people to sit down and listen to a history full of discrimination. Many people do not want to relive it. Others do not feel like, they feel more like they are being blamed, but the history has to be told because many people are not aware of the full history, Mr. Speaker.

To build bridges, we have to build awareness. One of the greatest problems in race relations is the lack of awareness about discrimination. The discrimination that many blacks experience every day as common knowledge is the same discrimination that many whites do not experience and do not realize even exists. As a Member of this institution, I found myself in the 104th Congress, since I do not wear the identification pin that most Members of

Congress tend to wear, late at night standing out in front of the Capitol of the United States trying to catch a taxi.

Why can I not catch a taxi late at night in Washington, DC? I do not know. But I have some assumptions. That young African-American males in America trying to catch a cab late at night, where the cab driver is white or black, brings certain prejudices to the whole notion of catching a cab. For example, they may think that I am going to rob them. They may think that I am going to take something from them when the reality is nothing could be further from the truth. Discrimination exists even for Members of this institution as Members of Congress whether we talk about it in our daily lives on the floor of this Congress or not.

The purpose of this speech today is not to blame or create guilt over black history. It is to build an understanding, to begin to explain the experiences of African-Americans. A better understanding, I genuinely believe, will help us move past the guilt to create positive change.

So I must ask each and every one, particularly the Members who are in their offices today to do just one thing: Put aside your opinions for now and try to imagine with me for a moment what it is like to be an African-American. I ask those of you who are not African-Americans to imagine that you are experiencing the history as being an African-American, that is the history of your people in this country, the history of your sisters, your brothers, your parents and your grandparents. I ask you to imagine what it would feel like had you had to have that certain outlook on the world.

I ask if you are an African-American to listen to this story as if you were white, as if this was the first time you heard some of these accounts. How would you react?

My first special order, one of five special orders I plan to have this month, is entitled, "O.J. and Race Entertainment." The noted historian John Hope Franklin in his book, "The Color Line," 1993, said perhaps the very first thing we need to do as a nation and as individual members of society is to confront our past and to see it for what it is. If we do that, he says, whites will discover that African-Americans possess the same human qualities that other Americans possess, and African-Americans will discover that white Americans are capable of the most sublime expressions of human conduct of which all human beings are capable.

Then he suggests we need to do everything possible to emphasize the positive qualities that all of us have, qualities that we have never had to utilize to the fullest but which remain, but which we must utilize if we are to solve the problem of the color line in the 21st century.

America is a nation that is in dire need of entertainment. And the media, Mr. Speaker, knows how to provide it.