

to at least be conscientious about American-made goods.

What this bill says is this: "Look, if you are buying a refrigerator in Chicago, you can call that 1-800 hot line and say, what refrigerators, if any, are still made in the United States of America." And then they would give that inquiring consumer a list. And maybe when they go out to buy, they would say to the retailer, "Do you have one of these refrigerators on sale? We would like to price them. We would like to look at their quality in comparison to the foreign-made product."

It is not a sophisticated program, for sure. It is not paid for by the taxpayers. It is paid for by the companies, whom I hope would be proud of still being in America and making and building a product in America. I think it is a straightforward bill.

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY). He has a tremendous amount of important issues right now facing his committee, but he has always taken the time to give each and every Member an opportunity to appeal to that committee, and I also thank my neighboring colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate the support, overwhelming support, on this bill.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 754, the Made in America Information Act, Introduced by Representative TRAFICANT of Ohio.

This important piece of legislation establishes a toll-free hotline consumers can call to determine if a product is "Made in America."

The self-financed hotline established by H.R. 754 applies to those products with a sale price of over \$250, and the bill imposes a fine of up to \$7,500 on any manufacturer who falsely registers a product as "Made in America."

The Made in America Act has passed the House the last three Congresses, and enjoys strong bipartisan support.

Many Americans want to "Buy America," and we have an obligation to provide consumers with the information they need to make informed choices about how to spend their money.

Mr. Speaker, this is a win-win proposition, and I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support passage of the Made in America Information Act.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 754, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HISTORY OF THE HOUSE AWARENESS AND PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (2303) to direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2303

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act".

SEC. 2. WRITTEN HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to available funding and in accordance with the requirements of this Act, the Librarian of Congress shall prepare, print, distribute, and arrange for the funding of, a new and complete written history of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Committee on House Administration. In preparing this written history, the Librarian of Congress shall consult, commission, or engage the services or participation of, eminent historians, Members, and former Members of the House of Representatives.

(b) GUIDELINES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Librarian of Congress shall take into account the following:

(1) The history should be an illustrated, narrative history of the House of Representatives, organized chronologically.

(2) The history's intended audience is the general reader, as well as Members of Congress and their staffs.

(3) The history should include a discussion of the First and Second Continental Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, especially with regard to their roles in creating the House of Representatives.

(c) PRINTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress shall arrange for the printing of the history.

(2) PRINTING ARRANGEMENTS.—The printing may be performed—

(A) by the Public Printer pursuant to the provisions of chapter 5 of title 44, United States Code;

(B) under a cooperative arrangement among the Librarian of Congress, a private funding source obtained pursuant to subsection (e), and a publisher in the private sector; or

(C) under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(3) INTERNET DISSEMINATION.—Any arrangement under paragraph (2) shall include terms for dissemination of the history over the Internet via facilities maintained by the United States Government.

(4) MEMBER COPIES.—To the extent that the history is printed by the Public Printer, copies of the history provided to the Congress under subsection (d) shall be charged to the Government Printing Office's congressional allotment for printing and binding.

(d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Librarian of Congress shall make the history available for sale to the public, and shall make available, free of charge, 5 copies to each Member of the House of Representatives and 250 copies to the Senate.

(e) PRIVATE FUNDING.—The Librarian of Congress shall solicit and accept funding for the preparation, publication, marketing, and public distribution of the history from private individuals, organizations, or entities.

SEC. 3. ORAL HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress shall accept for deposit, preserve, maintain,

and make accessible an oral history of the House of Representatives, as told by its Members and former Members, compiled and updated (on a voluntary or contract basis) by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress or other private organization. In carrying out this section, the Librarian of Congress may enlist the voluntary aid or assistance of such organization, or may contract with it for such services as may be necessary.

(b) DEFINITION OF ORAL HISTORY.—In this section, the term "oral history" means a story or history consisting of personal recollection as recorded by any one or more of the following means:

(1) Interviews.

(2) Transcripts.

(3) Audio recordings.

(4) Video recordings.

(5) Such other form or means as may be suitable for the recording and preservation of such information.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) orientation programs for freshman Members of the House of Representatives should contain a seminar on the history of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Speaker of the House of Representatives should conduct a series of forums on the topic of the history of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

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

Mr. Speaker, this measure would require that there be created a history of the House of Representatives. The intent is to create a popular illustrated and chronologically ordered volume that covers the entire history of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the fact that the House has a House historian, this particular history is required in the bill to be prepared with no appropriated funds.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the chairman for his comments and his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this important legislation, sponsored by my good friend and our colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON). This legislation has 311 cosponsors, including the Speaker and the minority leader. I understand that a few more have been added even this day.

H.R. 2303 is an extraordinarily timely initiative, given the massive institutional changes which have affected the House over the last few years, and as we move into the 21st century.

Earlier this year, the House recodified its rules for the first time since 1880, another recent useful effort to re-examine and hopefully to improve things which we tend to take for granted. We benefit as Members of the House, and the American people benefit, when Members can take some

time away from the constant pressures of legislating, meeting our constituents, traveling back and forth from our districts and keeping hectic schedules, to think about the environment in which we work and the legacy of all those who came before us. And we have so little time even to do that.

In my earlier career, I was president of the State Senate in Maryland, and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) was president pro tempore of the Senate in Connecticut, roughly equivalent positions in two parliamentary bodies which are older than this House of Representatives. As such, we had some responsibility for managing the work of our legislative institutions and the environment in which State Senators worked, environments rich in history.

Here in Washington it takes real work and effort for Members to learn about the history of the House, however. We rarely think of the historic figures who populate artwork throughout the Capitol as having been persons of great accomplishment in legislation, oratory, and the philosophy of democracy, rather than figures we may notice momentarily as we dart through the corridors from meeting to meeting.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution requires that Congress assemble to do its work and that we can exercise our priorities only by working collectively. Too often Members can feel isolated managing their individual offices tending to constituent problems in their district and come to the floor only for a few minutes to vote. But it was not always like that in this chamber, and we do well to remember that.

It would benefit this House if the public had a better understanding of not only what we do on a daily basis, but what our predecessors did and how we stand up compared to them. Certainly, the public has more than enough exposure to the politics of the House.

The bill offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) would offer interested citizens a chance to appreciate, in addition to the politics of the House today, the historic role of the House as the representatives of the popular will.

Mr. Speaker, the bill would direct the Librarian of Congress, at no cost to the Government, I might add, and with the ability to accept private funds, to prepare an illustrated narrative history of the House of Representatives.

The Librarian could use the extensive scholarly resources at his command and would be authorized to consult, commission, or engage the services of eminent historians, Members, and former Members of the House to produce a book accessible to the public at large as well as to the House and to the scholarly community.

The Librarian has informed us, Mr. Speaker, that once the bill is enacted into law he intends to appoint a schol-

arly advisory board to engage an eminent historian or historians who would conduct the principal work of writing the book.

The Librarian will also consult with the House Administration Committee led by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS). The bill would also authorize the Librarian to accept materials relating to an oral history of the House as told by its Members and former Members.

The bill states the sense of the House that orientation programs for freshmen Members of the House should include a seminar on the history of the House and that the Speaker should conduct forums on the history of the House.

As ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, I participate in orientation sessions on many occasions; and I believe that they would be benefited greatly from the inclusion of a big picture view of the House, the Members' place in it, and its historical role.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation and that it has received the strong bipartisan and leadership support needed to give the history of the House project momentum to get it underway quickly and do it thoroughly.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), the former President pro tempore of the Connecticut Senate, now a very, very active and effective leader in the House of Representatives, the sponsor of this legislation.

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

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2303, an act concerning the history of the House Awareness and Preservation Act.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, let me profoundly and deeply thank the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and his staff for taking a good concept and making it into a much better bill.

I would also like to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), for his constant advice and mentoring. As a former Senate president, as well, he understands how important it is, especially amongst freshmen Members, to make sure that we receive the appropriate kind of guidance at all times. So I want to thank the staffs, as well, who have labored on this bill.

The bill has over 300 sponsors, Mr. Speaker, and in large part because of two prominent cosponsors on the bill, the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT). So I foster no illusions that my name on the top of this bill attracted so many sponsors, but would point out that at the heart of this bill is a deep and abiding respect for this chamber and its history; and the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and the gentleman from Mis-

souri (Mr. GEPHARDT) personify all the Members who care deeply about this Chamber and its history.

A special thanks must go, as well, to the staff of the Speaker and Ted VanDerMeed as well in our leader's office, DAN BURTON for the tireless work they performed, as well.

I would be remiss if I did not mention George Shevlin and my entire staff who have shepherded this bill to this point.

How fitting, Mr. Speaker, that as it approaches its 200th year that the Library of Congress will undertake this important local legacies project as it reaches out and asks every congressional district in return to report back to it the legacies of the 435-Member body here.

I wanted to thank the Members, especially the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), who, on a trip to Hershey, talked to me about how important the history of this institution is and reflecting on her husband Bill; and to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), who, also during that sojourn, talked about its importance, talked about his service with Bob Michel. They were enormously helpful.

Also, I want to thank for her constant encouragement the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

This bill had its genesis actually at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy School in Harvard in meetings with Alan Simpson and David Broder, when they challenged the freshmen class of the 106th Congress to return to a time of civility. This charge was further echoed when we went on to Williamsburg by Cokie Roberts, talking about her dad, Hale Boggs and, of course, the beloved Lindy Boggs and the feeling that they had for this great institution. And at a dinner in Virginia with the dean of the House, to be able to hear the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), who has been here since 1954, talk about the Presidents and the speakers that he has served with was incredible.

All of that led me to believe that we deserved a history of our own here. I had observed, having traveled over to the other body to listen to debate, that there appeared a four-volume history of that body written by Senator BYRD. And to my chagrin, I learned that we had no such works for the People's Chamber.

Just a walk through Statuary Hall will indicate to anyone the magnitude of the history of the House of Representatives. In the very short time that I have been here, the number of important speeches that have taken place in this Chamber and the fond memories that were recalled of people like Moe Udall, of people like George Brown, who when I came here was the ranking member of the Committee on Science and had chaired that committee and, as we all know, has passed on.

The richness of the political experience and the governmental experience are the people that come here and the people that serve, and that is why this

history is so important. And yet this seeks to accomplish more than just the writing of history, but the capturing of its membership in oral history, as well.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) has discussed what the bill proposes and what it actually carries out. First is to have the Librarian of Congress summon both Members of this House, past and present, and eminent historians to decide how to go about and write this great history of this institution, not only including this Congress but the Continental Congress, as well. It also calls on the Library of Congress to become a repository for oral history.

The Former Members of Congress Organization, for example, has already set out on this task. But, in talking to many of them, it has been piecemeal and catch as catch can. And to come under the vast umbrella of the Library of Congress will aid it immensely because there are unique stories to be told by all the Members of this body. It truly is what makes this a representative institution.

And the last, of course, is to provide a sense of the Congress, a sense of the Congress in terms of instructing incoming freshmen about the rich history of the House of Representatives and having our more learned Members and providing them with the opportunity to meet and discuss the great history of the House of Representatives.

It also provides for the Speaker, as he may choose, to conduct forums and to provide the same kind of meetings where dialogue can take place. In discussing this with the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), he was reflecting, as we are both former school teachers, how interesting it would be to have Bob Michel and Dan Rostenkowski discussing the Congress in Statuary Hall and its importance and significance.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to stand here today as a sponsor of this bill and continue to be humbled every time I walk into this Chamber. I believe that history is important. I believe this bill is important, not so much because it is a bill that I have introduced and care deeply about, but because what it means to this grand institution.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter of support from James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress.

THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, June 22, 1999.

Hon. JOHN B. LARSON,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LARSON: I very much appreciate the opportunity to review the final version of your draft bill authorizing the Library of Congress to oversee the preparation of a written history of the House of Representatives. I believe the legislation you have developed allows the Library to bring together a number of necessary elements to produce an authoritative publication that will fill a void in the annals of the Congress, and I support both the bill's goal and substance.

Your legislation will allow the Library's publishing office and curatorial staff to work

together to develop the project, identify primary source material in our collections, and explore various options for its publication. As I indicated in my comments on an earlier draft of the legislation, I envisage appointing a scholarly advisory board, including historians as well as current and former Members of Congress, to assist in the selection of one or more historians to provide the text of the book, and to continue to be involved through the publication stage. The legislation provides sufficient discretion for the Librarian to work out the details of funding, publication, marketing and distribution in a manner consistent with the best interests of the House of Representatives.

The legislation also reflects the appropriate roles of the Library of Congress and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress in the collection and preservation of oral histories of the Congress. These will undoubtedly prove invaluable to some future historian in continuing the narrative begun by your legislation.

I would like to extend again my offer to hold a lecture series on the history of the House of Representatives in the Members' Room, as a way of both stimulating interest in the published history and drawing together Members, former Members, historians and the Library's incomparable collections for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. BILLINGTON,
The Librarian of Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time that has been yielded to me, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 2303. I would like to give a couple of observations, primarily as a history teacher I think.

For most of my career before coming to Congress, I taught history both at the university level and at the high school level. Sometimes historians make the wry observation that historians are people who, those who cannot make history, are condemned to teach it.

As a consequence, I think, in trying to meld these two experiences together, those of us who have a unique appreciation of history and also have a unique appreciation and understanding of this institution, I think this kind of legislation is very critical and much needed. I certainly congratulate all the cosponsors and in particular applaud the efforts of our colleague the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) to educate, inform, and ultimately preserve the legacy of this body for future generations.

What we are seeking to preserve here is not so much history but the raw material of history. And there is a little bit of a distinction in the profession of history in understanding that history is really what historians write. It is not the raw data; it is not the raw material, but what we are seeking to do here is provide the historian with an opportunity to sift through the mul-

titude of information which this institution can provide in a more organized fashion.

Like the other Members who support this legislation, I, too, am in awe of the institution.

□ 1445

I would like to point out, because I know that perhaps this debate, or this discussion that we are having here will be part of the legacy for this legislation which hopefully will get the history of the House awareness and preservation projects under way, that I am not one of those 435 Members alluded to. The official title of the office I hold is Nonvoting Delegate. Sometimes it gets a little bit cumbersome and awkward when people come to the floor and talk about the 435 Members of the House, and you are one of five people who regularly come here and try to do business and represent your constituents and you are not one of those 435 alluded to.

So I would certainly hope that in the course of conducting this project and in the course of writing this history, that certainly those people who were Delegates, and the first Delegate, I believe, was William Henry Harrison, so there is hope for Delegates. They could become President, although they would die 1 month in office. But certainly he was the very first Delegate elected to this office. Since that time there have been a couple of models on how to represent people, in a slightly imperfect way, for those people who are not representatives of various States ranging from the Resident Commissioner model which is used currently for Puerto Rico and previously for the Philippines.

In light of that, I want to take the time to point out that in support of this legislation, we should make every effort to include all of the people who have served here.

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

I want to thank the gentleman from Guam for his contribution. I might want to say, as well, that I had the opportunity of being on the West Coast just a few days ago and there was a former broadcaster on Guam, a journalist with whom I talked, and she said whenever there was a problem from an historical or political perspective that the media had in Guam and wanted some expert information, they would call Dr. Underwood who was a distinguished historian and teacher and get advice and counsel and he always knew the answers. He makes an appropriate point, the 440 Members indeed that make an impact on this body.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate the gentleman from Connecticut for his leadership.

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

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

As I indicated, I moved to suspend the rules on H.R. 2303 with an amendment, and there was no discussion of

the amendment, so I will briefly for the Members review the amendments. There were three.

One, based upon the number of cosponsors and an indication that we want to extend it to every person who has had an affiliation with the House, whether they be Member or Delegate, that the oral history portion may in fact be of a considerable length, and so in the amendment, one of the items is that "in consultation with the Committee on House Administration" was added so that there could be some minimal institutional control over the history in terms of its overall purport and direction.

Secondly, there was a provision of changing "may" to "shall." The language was that "the librarian may use private funds" and it was changed to "the librarian shall use private funds." One only need pick up current newspapers and examine the way in which "may" and "shall" will be of significance.

There was to be an event in Lisbon, Portugal which was to be funded by private dollars. It turns out that they became public dollars, including an \$18,000 a month apartment for former Member Tony Coelho who headed that operation, and that was one of the reasons we stressed "shall" instead of "may."

And then finally, based upon the description about what folks thought was important in presenting this legislation to the Members, the third amendment, and probably ultimately the most important amendment, required that on the Internet, not, as the bill originally stated, excerpts of the history would be presented but, in fact, the entire history.

It seems as though as time goes on, people tend to have their own particular view of what was important and what was not, of who was important and who was not. And to ensure that no future majority is able to distort the full history of the House of Representatives, the third item was added, and I think all Americans will be supportive of the fact that the entire history is made available, not someone's version of what the history of the House of Representatives ought to be.

And so with those amendments, I am pleased to support the measure.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2303—The History Of The House Awareness And Preservation Act. I wish to commend my colleague from Connecticut for introducing this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we all know how easy it is to forget our history. In the hectic days and weeks that make up our lives on Capitol Hill, many of us rush from meeting to meeting through this magnificent building, often not even glancing at the beautiful artwork that adorns its walls, or to consider the awesome achievements of the men and women who preceded us.

As a freshman legislator, I am still struck with a sense of awe when I walk in this chamber to cast a vote, representing more than

600,000 Americans in their national legislature. As I walk in Statuary Hall, I am still halted by the serene statue of Wisconsin's Fighting Bob LaFollette, a progressive champion who represented my district nearly a hundred years ago. What I think is great about this institution, and why it is valuable to record its history, is that members who have been here for decades still get those feelings too.

This legislation will help us all take a moment to reflect on the importance of what has been decided here and its context in history. By having the Library of Congress create the first history of the House of Representatives, the Nation will have a resource to remind us of the how and why the 13 colonies came together in something called a Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I know it is not fashionable to praise this body. I know that pundits and critics make healthy livings denigrating Congress and the work we do here. This legislation, this history, may give them pause to consider the underpinnings of this institution, and realize that the nobler calling of the Founding Fathers are still with us, and that all of us—Republican and Democrat—are still trying to do our best to live up to those high standards established more than two centuries ago.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2303, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of H.R. 2303, the legislation just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

PERMITTING NON-CONGRESSIONAL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN THE HOUSE CHILD CARE CENTER

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3122) to permit the enrollment in the House of Representatives Child Care Center of children of Federal employees who are not employees of the legislative branch.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3122

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

SECTION 1. ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN OF OTHER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHILD CARE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312(a)(1) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1992 (40 U.S.C. 184g(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) if places are available after admission of all children who are eligible under subparagraphs (A) or (B), for children of employees of other offices, departments, and agencies of the Federal government."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to children admitted to the House of Representatives Child Care Center on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

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

Mr. Speaker, I have been a supporter of the House Child Care Center since its initiation. Actually the wife of one of our former colleagues, Al Swift, Mrs. Swift, was instrumental along with others, both staff and Members and spouses, in initiating the House Child Care Center. However, today, eligibility for that center is restricted, first to the children of House employees, then to the children of employees of the Senate, and other legislative branch agencies. While clearly the supportive costs were initiated by the House, this has become a self-funding structure. One of the concerns that we have is that this not be in direct competition with the private sector but that it be able to have a broad enough scope to sustain itself.

And so this measure provides for the extension of the House Child Care Center to a third category, which would assume its position below the others in terms of a prioritization of admittance of students, and that would be children of other employees of the Federal Government, i.e., the executive branch. This expansion of eligibility was requested by the board of directors, supported by the chief administrative officer and as evidence of our general support here on the floor of the House today.

As I said, there is no direct subsidy from the House of Representatives today, and, frankly, the budget for the House Child Care Center is one that is very tight. It performs a needed and very useful service to the legislative branch, and we would not just want this useful and needed service to fail because of our failure to extend it to other areas of the Federal Government. When a request for this change was made, the board of directors wrote this: "If we are allowed to fill vacancies with children of other Federal agencies, our budget will be augmented,