

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,

more children and families will get high quality services, and no House family will be worse off. This new policy, then, will produce lots of winners and no losers."

It seems to me that a Child Care Center closely associated with the place of work is a winner to begin with, but it also must be financially viable. The step that we take with this bill today ensures indeed that we will continue to be winners.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, a timely bill, and hopefully every Member will support it. The House is indeed fortunate to have such an excellent Child Care Center. At present, Mr. Speaker, the center is open only to children of employees of the legislative branch, with Members and employees of the House having priority. Numerous Members and staff have entrusted their children to the center over the years. My own granddaughter Judy, as a matter of fact, when my daughter was working here was at the Child Care Center and she was enriched immeasurably by that experience. The House Child Care Center is a wonderful place, and I wish there were many more like it for parents across the country who desperately need safe, reliable, high quality child care.

The House center, which occupies space in the Ford House Office Building, receives no direct appropriations. Except for its space, utilities and benefits for its staff who are House employees, the center must sustain itself through its tuitions. Like many child care centers, the House center has difficulty filling all its places for 3- and 4-year-olds. There is a long waiting list, Mr. Speaker, for infants and strong demand for places for 1- and 2-year-olds. This is because new working parents without family-based child care alternatives often find few options for child care outside the home. However, as children approach the school age, other options become available to many parents. These options may include free or low cost public preschool programs. Parents may enroll in prekindergarten programs that virtually assure later acceptance in a particular school. The arrival of younger siblings may render it more economical for one parent to stay home or to hire a nanny to care for children in the home, if that is financially possible. For child care centers, the loss of 3- and 4-year-olds, who are the most profitable since child-to-adult ratios can be higher, has a great effect on the bottom line.

This legislation will ease this problem for the House center by expanding the population it can serve to include employees of other Federal agencies. The center will continue to give first

priority to children of the House, then to other legislative branch children. If places remain, however, available thereafter, it will then be offered to children of other Federal employees. This is a sensible move that will make the House center more efficient. It will ease the upward pressure on the center's tuition rates which are already frankly beyond the reach of many House employees. Equally important, it will make the benefits of the House Child Care Center available to Federal employees throughout the Washington region. There are undoubtedly numerous Federal workers across this area who would appreciate the chance to enroll their children in the House Child Care Center. We should certainly offer them placements in our center that would otherwise go unfilled, and that is the key. We are simply providing for vacant spaces being available. We will not in any way compete with the House employees.

Mr. Speaker, by strengthening the House Child Care Center, this bill is good for the House and other legislative branch employees who need child care. By expanding the eligible population to include all Federal employees, it is good for Federal workers in this area and the government generally. I certainly rise in strong support of this legislation and ask for an affirmative vote.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, H.R. 3122 that allows federal employees who do not work for the legislative branch to enroll their children in the House of Representatives Child Care Center. Every parent that works for the federal government should have access to quality child care.

Child care is critical to the success of working families and to ensuring that every child enters school ready to learn. The need for child care has become a necessity for many parents.

It is estimated that 65 percent of women with children younger than six, and 78 percent of women with children between the ages of six and 17 are in the work force. Almost 60 percent of the women with infants are also in the work force. The majority of working women provide half or more of their family's income.

Every day, 13 million preschoolers, including six million babies and toddlers are in child care. Children enter child care programs as early as six weeks of age.

Quality child care has a lasting impact on children's well-being and ability to learn. Poor quality child care can result in delayed language and reading skills.

Many parents struggle to find affordable, quality child care because of the high costs. Full day care costs as much as \$4000 to \$10,000 per year—close to the cost of one year of public college tuition.

The Child Care Center that serves the House of Representatives is a high quality center that currently benefits the children of employees of the House. This center offers the quality services that parents need, and this center should be made available for other employees of the Federal government.

I urge my Colleagues to support this measure. All children deserve quality care early in

life for a healthy start this bill will make these services available for more working families.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 3122.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of H.R. 3122, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF 4-H CLUBS

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 194) recognizing the contributions of 4-H Clubs and their members to voluntary community service.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 194

Whereas the American people have a tradition of philanthropy and volunteerism;

Whereas 4-H Clubs, an organization originally established by the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and land-grant colleges, provide young people in the United States with the opportunity to actively participate in volunteer services in their communities that can bridge the differences that separate people and help solve social problems;

Whereas there are more than 6,500,000 youth members of 4-H Clubs in the United States;

Whereas 4-H members touch and enhance the lives of others during the annual National 4-H Week and throughout the year by doing good, by giving where there is a need, by rebuilding what has been torn down, by teaching where there is a desire to learn, and by inspiring those who have lost hope;

Whereas 4-H Clubs and their members, as well as other volunteers and Cooperative Extension staff, have joined to promote the week of October 3 through 9, 1999, as an opportunity for national, collaborated voluntary community service; and

Whereas voluntary community service is an investment in the future all Americans must share: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress commends and recognizes 4-H Clubs and their members in the United States for their contributions to voluntary community service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from