

gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) from Ohio, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM). The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) is in charge of working on the demand side and has done a tremendous job in trying to put together community programs which, again, this administration has not adequately funded, to educate our young people, to work in our communities, to work with local organizations, to work with local organizations. He has done an outstanding job.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM), the Speaker has appointed him another cochair with me to the Speaker's Working Task Force on the Drug Problem for the House of Representatives.

Both have done an excellent job. I commend them. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) chairs the Subcommittee on Crime and works on criminal justice legislation.

So with those comments, I am pleased to conclude my remarks tonight, but I will be back as many times as it takes, as many hearings as it takes, and as much attention as we must give this problem that, again, I believe is the most important social problem facing our Nation, our Congress and the future of all Americans.

VICTIMS OF TORNADOS IN OHIO GET SUPPORT FROM NEIGHBORS AND OTHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the previous speaker for being willing to offer me some time, as well as our next speaker, and also to commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), who just gave an explanation of some of the tremendous problems we face fighting drugs in this country and in our hemisphere, for his hard work on this effort.

He chairs the subcommittee and committee that deals with this issue, not only in terms of reducing the supply of drugs into our country but also the demand, which is, as he said, where I focus more. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) has taken a strong and balanced approach on this that is going to lead, over time, I think, to a much more effective policy to save our young people from the scourge of drugs.

I want to thank him for what he does every day. He could be out enjoying dinner tonight, maybe be with his family. Instead, he is here on the floor, as he is so many evenings, talking about this issue as he does in his committee constantly.

Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to talk about something else. It has to do with a natural disaster. Last Friday, Mr. Speaker, a tornado ripped through the very heart of my district near where I live, near where my office is. The cities of Blue Ash, Ohio, Montgomery, Ohio, Loveland, Ohio, Symmes and Sycamore Townships were some of the communities hardest hit in Hamilton County where I live; also Deer-

field Township and several other townships, Hamilton, Salem and others in Warren County, Addyston in Western Hamilton County, were hit by these high winds and devastating storm.

The damage is extensive. I have spent the last few days visiting the area and meeting with victims and local officials trying to help out. Four people were killed, many injured. It is a miracle that more were not killed when one looks at the devastation.

Hundreds of southwest Ohio residents are tonight without homes. In some areas, entire neighborhoods were virtually wiped out. In other areas, individual houses have been destroyed and then the house right next to it stands unscathed.

Although the damage estimates are still under way, we know that there are about 900 homes that have been damaged by the storm; 200 of them have been so severely damaged that they probably will not be able to be rebuilt or they have been totally destroyed. Another couple of hundred have sustained very extensive damage. Dozens of businesses were damaged or destroyed.

Tonight our hearts go out to those families who are trying to put their lives back together. There are some people who lost everything. We have seen from other natural disasters in our area, particularly the flooding in 1997, how difficult it can be for a community to rebuild after a natural disaster; and our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in these hard-hit communities.

The good news is that the response to this storm has been decisive and quick. Truly, I have been overwhelmed by it. Victims are getting help. Neighbors are helping, friends are helping, total strangers are pitching in, all to get people back on their feet.

I spent the last few days working with local, State and Federal officials, working alongside Red Cross and so many other volunteers, police, fire fighters from every neighborhood in our region. It has been truly heartwarming to see people throughout southwest Ohio rally around these communities.

I had occasion on Saturday to tour some of the areas with the Federal Small Business Administration personnel who were sent in to evaluate the damage, and I asked them after some of our visits what they thought about this disaster and how they would compare it to the many others that they have seen around the country, earthquakes, floods, fires and so on.

They said, well, the big difference we see here is the fact that your community, Congressman, really has pulled together and people are helping in every way they possibly can, businesses, individuals and so on. That, again, was heartwarming for me to hear that in the area where I live, folks have come together in a way that is so effective at helping their fellow persons.

There are too many people to thank, so many people have done this, the po-

lice and fire departments in Blue Ash, Montgomery, Loveland; Sycamore and Symmes Townships, Deerfield Township, all the affected areas have been fantastic. I think they have done an outstanding job. The sheriffs' departments in Hamilton and Warren Counties provided rapid response. Emergency management throughout southwest Ohio were well prepared and well organized. Our Governor, Bob Taft, came down to the area immediately. His emergency management agency officials have been excellent, and I want to thank the Governor personally for his interest and personal concern for our area.

The Hamilton County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, so-called USAR team, has been great. They have been working along with elements of FEMA's Ohio Task Force One and they have really been a Godsend to the communities. They searched about 70 homes the morning of the tornado to make sure there was indeed an accurate count of those damaged and injured and those killed.

They also searched numerous businesses to look for survivors, and they have helped since then to be sure that as the clean-up is proceeding, people are entering these homes and businesses in a safe way. Dozens of other agencies throughout the area have lent their mutual support and assistance to these devastated communities.

The Red Cross, of course, and the Salvation Army have been on the scene since the start, offering help to victims and their families; and all of us owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to untold hundreds of volunteers, people who have come out to these communities, some neighbors again, some friends, some total strangers who have taken time and energy to help these folks who are in distress.

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Our prayers go out to the families, and our thanks and appreciation go to all the hardworking volunteers and emergency management personnel and local officials who I think have done an outstanding job at a difficult time.

This clean-up process is going to be long and hard. There is still more we need to do to help families get back on their feet. One area where we have made some progress is getting relief from the April 15th tax filing deadline for tornado victims. Victims have much too much to worry about on their minds right now to worry about whether or not they get their taxes in and to worry about the IRS.

We have worked with the IRS here 2 days before the April 15 deadline to get some relief, to get extensions. The IRS has had officials at my office on Montgomery Road to answer questions and help tornado victims right through April 15. People can stop by my office in Kenwood, or call us at 791-0381 to get filing extension information, to get expedited refund checks from the IRS, or

to expedite the process of their tax returns.

We have forms to be able to help people extend their tax filings and also to get expedited refunds. The IRS has also agreed to set up a special phone number for tornado-related problems in Cincinnati. That number is 241-2929, and after hours you can call the IRS Helpline at 1-800-829-1040.

We are making some progress, but we still need a lot more help. The Federal Small Business Administration had a disaster relief team again I joined in the district last week. FEMA officials arrived at the disaster scene to conduct a disaster assessment.

I understand from local and State and Federal officials that the area is likely to meet the threshold to be declared a Federal disaster area, and I urge President Clinton to give prompt consideration to a request that may come from Ohio Governor Bob Taft shortly.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, many of whom have come up to me to express their condolences and support as the area I represent recovers from this devastating storm. Now it is time for all of us to do all we can do to help these victims pull their lives back together.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR THE 106TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. HYDE, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Rules, I am submitting a copy of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on the Judiciary adopted February 4, 1999.

RULES OF PROCEDURE, 106TH CONGRESS, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 4, 1999

Rule I. The Rules of the House of Representatives are the rules of the Committee on the Judiciary and its subcommittees with the following specific additions thereto.

RULE II. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting day of the Committee on the Judiciary for the conduct of its business shall be on Tuesday of each week while the House is in session.

(b) Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman and a regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with when, in the judgment of the Chairman, there is no need therefor.

(c) At least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays when the House is not in session) before each scheduled Committee or subcommittee meeting, each Member of the Committee or subcommittee shall be furnished a list of the bill(s) and subject(s) to be considered and/or acted upon at the meeting. Bills or subjects not listed shall be subject to a point of order unless their consideration is agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the Committee or subcommittee.

(d) The Chairman, with such notice to the ranking Minority Member as is practicable, may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to that call of the Chairman.

(e) Committee and subcommittee meetings for the transaction of business, i.e. meetings other than those held for the purpose of taking testimony, shall be open to the public except when the Committee or subcommittee determines by majority vote to close the meeting because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House.

(f) Every motion made to the Committee and entertained by the Chairman shall be reduced to writing upon demand of any Member, and a copy made available to each Member present.

(g) For purposes of taking any action at a meeting of the full Committee or any subcommittee thereof, a quorum shall be constituted by the presence of not less than one-third of the Members of the Committee or subcommittee, except that a full majority of the Members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of reporting a measure or recommendation from the Committee or subcommittee, closing a meeting to the public, or authorizing the issuance of a subpoena.

RULE III. HEARINGS

(a) The Committee Chairman or any subcommittee chairman shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by it on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, with the concurrence of the ranking Minority Member, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee or subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman or subcommittee chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(b) Committee and subcommittee hearings shall be open to the public except when the Committee or subcommittee determines by majority vote to close the meeting because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House.

(c) For purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence before the Committee or any subcommittee, a quorum shall be constituted by the presence of two Members.

(d) In the course of any hearing each Member shall be allowed five minutes for the interrogation of a witness until such times as each Member who so desires has an opportunity to question the witness.

RULE IV. BROADCASTING

Whenever a hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio and still photography except when the hearing or meeting is closed pursuant to the Committee Rules of Procedure.

RULE V. STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) The full Committee shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: anti-trust law, tort liability, including medical malpractice and product liability, legal reform generally, and such other matters as determined by the Chairman.

(b) There shall be five standing subcommittees of the Committee on the Judiciary, with jurisdictions as follows:

(1) Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property: copyright, patent and trademark law, administration of U.S. courts,

Federal Rules of Evidence, Civil and Appellate Procedure, judicial ethics, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

(2) Subcommittee on the Constitution: constitutional amendments, constitutional rights, federal civil rights laws, ethics in government, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

(3) Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law: bankruptcy and commercial law, bankruptcy judgeships, administrative law, independent counsel, state taxation affecting interstate commerce, interstate compacts, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

(4) Subcommittee on Crime: Federal Criminal Code, drug enforcement, sentencing, parole and pardons, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, prisons, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

(5) Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims: immigration and naturalization, admission of refugees, treaties, conventions and international agreements, claims against the United States, federal charters of incorporation, private immigration and claims bills, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee and ranking Minority Member thereof shall be ex officio Members, but not voting Members, of each subcommittee which such Chairman or ranking Minority Member has not been assigned by resolution of the Committee. Ex officio Members shall not be counted as present for purposes of constituting a quorum at any hearing or meeting of such subcommittee.

RULE VI. 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 or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the Chairman and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of full Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

RULE VII. NON-LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

No report of the Committee or subcommittee which does not accompany a measure or matter for consideration by the House shall be published unless all Members of the Committee or subcommittee issuing the report shall have been apprised of such report and given the opportunity to give notice of intention to file supplemental, additional, or dissenting views as part of the report. In no case shall the time in which to file such views be less than three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays when the House is not in session).

RULE VIII. COMMITTEE RECORDS

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use according to the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the ranking Minority Member of any decision to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any Member of the Committee.