

Hastings (WA)	McCrary	Sabo
Hayes	McGovern	Sanchez
Hill (IN)	McHugh	Sandlin
Hilliard	McInnis	Sawyer
Hinchey	McIntyre	Saxton
Hinojosa	McKeon	Schakowsky
Hobson	Meehan	Scott
Hoeffel	Meek (FL)	Shaw
Holden	Meeks (NY)	Shays
Holt	Menendez	Sherman
Hooley	Mica	Sherwood
Horn	Millender-McDonald	Shimkus
Houghton	Miller (FL)	Shows
Hoyer	Miller, Gary	Simpson
Hunter	Minge	Sisisky
Hutchinson	Moakley	Skeen
Hyde	Mollohan	Skelton
Inslee	Moore	Smith (NJ)
Isakson	Moran (VA)	Smith (WA)
Jackson-Lee (TX)	Morella	Snyder
Jefferson	Murtha	Spence
Jenkins	Nadler	Spratt
John	Napolitano	Stabenow
Johnson (CT)	Neal	Stearns
Johnson, E. B.	Nethercutt	Stenholm
Jones (OH)	Northup	Strickland
Kanjorski	Nussle	Stupak
Kaptur	Oberstar	Sweeney
Kelly	Obey	Tanner
Kennedy	Olver	Tauscher
Kildee	Ortiz	Taylor (MS)
Kilpatrick	Owens	Terry
Kind (WI)	Oxley	Thomas
Kingston	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Klink	Pascarella	Thompson (MS)
Knollenberg	Pastor	Thornberry
Kolbe	Payne	Thurman
LaFalce	Pelosi	Tierney
LaHood	Peterson (PA)	Toomey
Lampson	Phelps	Traficant
Lantos	Pickering	Turner
Larson	Pickett	Udall (CO)
Latham	Pomeroy	Udall (NM)
LaTourette	Porter	Velazquez
Lazio	Portman	Vento
Leach	Price (NC)	Visclosky
Levin	Pryce (OH)	Walden
Lewis (CA)	Quinn	Walsh
Lewis (KY)	Radanovich	Waters
Lipinski	Rahall	Watt (NC)
Lofgren	Rangel	Watts (OK)
Lowey	Regula	Waxman
Lucas (KY)	Reyes	Weiner
Luther	Reynolds	Weller
Maloney (CT)	Riley	Wexler
Maloney (NY)	Rodriguez	Weygand
Markey	Roemer	Whitfield
Martinez	Rogers	Wicker
Mascara	Rothman	Wilson
Matsui	Roukema	Wise
McCarthy (MO)	Royal-Allard	Woolsey
McCarthy (NY)	Rush	Wu
McCullum	Ryun (KS)	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Bereuter	Green (TX)	Packard
Berman	Greenwood	Slaughter
Blyle	King (NY)	Tiahrt
Brown (CA)	Kuykendall	Wynn
Cooksey	Lewis (GA)	
Cox	McNulty	

□ 1903

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I was unable to cast a vote on the amendment to H.R. 1664 due to a family emergency. However, had I been present I would have voted "no."

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) assumed the Chair.

SUNDY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr.

Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

KOSOVO AND SOUTHWEST ASIA EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there further amendments?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FARR OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. Farr of California:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. . (a) AUTHORITY TO MAKE PAYMENTS.—Subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to enter into agreements to make payments for the settlement of the claims arising from the deaths caused by the accident involving a United States Air Force CT-43 aircraft on April 3, 1996, near Dubrovnik, Croatia.

(b) DEADLINE FOR EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall make the decision to exercise the authority under subsection (a) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.—Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of the Air Force for operation and maintenance for fiscal year 1999 or other unexpended balances for prior years shall be available for payments under subsection (a).

(d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The amount of the payment under this section in settlement of the claims arising from the death of any person associated with the accident described in subsection (a) may not exceed \$2,000,000.

(e) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—Any amount paid to a person under this section is intended to supplement any amount subsequently determined to be payable to the person under section 127 or chapter 163 of title 10, United States Code, or any other provision of law for administrative settlement of claims against the United States with respect to damages arising from the accident described in subsection (a).

(f) CONSTRUCTION.—The payment of an amount under this section may not be considered to constitute a statement of legal liability on the part of the United States or otherwise as evidence of any material fact in any judicial proceeding or investigation arising from the accident described in subsection (a).

Mr. FARR of California (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD..

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order against the gentleman's amendment.

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I respect the gentleman's right, the right to object, but this bill that we are dealing

with, the underlying bill, is a spending bill, an emergency spending bill, and we have a legal emergency that has to be taken care of. They are the families of our constituents who were killed on a United States mission on a United States aircraft while approaching Dubrovnik Airport.

The families of the Ron Brown Trade Mission have no place to turn. They cannot use tort law as a remedy, they cannot use the Foreign Claims Act as a remedy, they cannot have any other redress because they were flying on a military aircraft. The Senate has used this supplemental bill on their side to pay for the families affected by the gondola accident at Cavalese, Italy. If the Senate can help the families who lost their loved ones in an accident caused by an U.S. Marine Corps aircraft, then the families of the Ron Brown crash should also have remedy.

Mr. Chairman, the only way they can have remedy is for this Congress to authorize the Department of Defense to help those families, and that is what this amendment does.

Mr. Chairman, I introduced this amendment for a very simple reason: justice.

The bill in an "emergency appropriation." We have legal problem that can only be solved by Congress. I think that qualifies as an "emergency."

The problem is that all the families of the civilians who lost their lives on a U.S. Air Force plane on the mountain side while approaching the Dubrovnik airport in foul weather, have no legal place to turn.

They can't use tort law nor the foreign claims act nor other redress—nor does the military have the authority to help the families.

The crash occurred on a "military aircraft" that was not properly equipped with standard navigational and safety equipment.

Flight protocols had been violated!

The Dubrovnik airport map was incorrectly drawn!

If any of these factors had changed, the 35 people aboard flight CT-43 would not have died.

The Air Force's own Accident Investigation Board Report plainly states: (quote) "the CT-43 accident was caused by a failure of command, aircrew error, and an improperly designed instrument approach procedure." (Unquote)

Since the crash, the families have been dismissed by the U.S. Government because the government generally lacks the authority to give restitution for the families' loss.

This amendment fixes that. It gives the DOD the authority to enter into settlements with the families who had victims on CT-43 if the DOD finds their claims worthwhile.

This House should also note that the in Senate version of the supplemental bill is language very similar to mine. In the Senate bill money is set aside to pay the families affected by the Calavese gondola accident. It seems to me that if we can consider giving Europeans families who lost loved ones in the gondola accident—caused by a U.S. Marine Corps flyer—restitution for their pain, then we can give equal consideration to American families similar treatment.

Mr. Chairman, I include the following for the RECORD:

FAMILIES OF THE CT-43

We the undersigned are family members of the citizens of the United States who were killed on USAF CT-43 on April 3, 1996, near Dubrovnik, Croatia. They died while engaged in a journey for peace and restoration of the war ravaged countries of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. No citizen of the United States should lose his or her Constitutional rights to seek justice simply by virtue of being a public servant, traveling abroad on US government business, or traveling aboard US government vehicles or on US government property. The United States government employer should not be exempt from its own principles of justice as law maker.

No one on that plane would have been so cavalier or reckless with their lives or family responsibilities to have knowingly boarded a plane that USAFE (United States Air Force European) had given direct orders not to fly, into an airport USAFE had ordered Air Force personnel not to land in by instrumentation, flown by a flight crew USAFE had ordered not to fly without the ater specific training, using erroneous missed approach plans USAFE had declared were not approved. Nor would any government employees have stepped on a government plane knowing that in the event of injury or death resulting from acknowledged gross negligence by Air Force personnel they or their families would have no standing before any court of law in the United States, criminal, civil, or military, and therefore no means of redress or compensation. Nor would they have flown knowing that in the event of a crash by a military plane or foreign soil their insurance might be canceled (some were), or that individuals in the private as well as public sector would have no guaranteed basis for claim under any United States statute.

(Signatories to the Families of the CT-43 letter)

Sheila Christian, Darrell Darling, Karen Darling, Kelvin Farrington, Douglas Farrington, Ina Ray Farrington, James Warbasse, Kenneth Dobert, Maureen Dobert, Patricia Conrad, Nora Poling, Edward Kaminski, Michael Kellogg, Char Kellogg, Mary Schelle, Alicia Branley, Paul Cushman, Jr., Paulette Cushman, Donna Shafer, Phil Shafer, Marilyn Pieroni, Deborah Davis, Nettie Jackson, Jane Hoffman Davenport, Emma Williams, Dona Hamilton, Charles Hamilton, Jean Whittaker, Susan Elia, Deirdre English, Leonard Pieroni III.

May 5, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESS MEMBER SAM FARR:

Thank you for your tireless efforts to seek corrections and compensation for the causes of the unnecessary loss of 35 brilliant lives on April 3, 1996, including our own bright son, Adam.

We are the families of those men and women who died on April 3, three years ago in Croatia on a mission of peace through trade. The President in his memorial remarks said, "They are all patriots." Their mission was that of beginning to help rebuild the infrastructure and the economic underpinnings of a land decimated by war. They were entirely willing to take eyes-open personal risks which are concomitant with any travel and work in areas of hostility and violent conflict.

They were not prepared for nor informed of the risks, of flying aboard United States governmental aircraft. Quoting USAF Brig. Gen. Charles H. Coolidge, Jr., President of the CT-43 Accident Investigation Board: "The CT-43 accident was caused by a failure of command, aircrew error, and an improperly de-

signed instrument approach procedure" (p. 65, ¶3, Causes, April 3, 1996 Accident Report).

The risks unknown to anyone aboard the CT-43 were:

Flying illegally with a flawed missed-approach map which showed St. John's Mountain to be 200 feet lower than it actually was. They struck the mountain 70 feet below the summit.

Flying into an airport (considered by many commercial pilots to be one of the three most notoriously dangerous airports in the world) which had not been previously inspected and approved by US Air Force inspection personnel. An inspection would have disclosed that the missed-approach beacon was inadequate, the map was inaccurate, the flight control system had been sabotaged, the winds are violently capricious.

Flying into one of the 30-40 airports previously behind the Iron Curtain into which USAF European command had ordered no USAF crew may fly without first taking training flights into those specific airports, April 3, 1996, the CT-43 was the very first flight of any US military aircraft into Dubrovnik.

Flying into bad weather with extremely low visibility requiring instrument approach, in direct violation of specific USAF orders to fly into the Dubrovnik (Cilipi) airport only under visual landing conditions, without the assistance of instrumentation. The flight crew could not see the mountain in front of them through the clouds until the instant they struck it.

Flying an aircraft into an airport equipped with no guidance instrumentation except two non-directional beacons for which two radio receivers are required on board the aircraft. It is illegal and a violation of USAF regulations to switch from one radio frequency to another. The plane was equipped with only one radio with which to remain on course. In fact, the operable navigation system of the CT-43 was inferior to that of the Enola Gay, 50 years ago. The Air Force would not have been able to rent its own CT-43 as a charter because it did not meet minimum navigation and safety standards.

Flying a Boeing 737 which was old, known to veer off course erratically, without a black box, carrying a crash locator with a depleted battery and innumerable other flaws. When questioned why the CT-43 flew a straight line nine degrees to the left off course, the head of the investigating team simply said, "We cannot figure out why these two capable, experienced pilots would do that." The report provides no further in-depth analysis of possible equipment failure approaching the thorough reconstruction of the TWA 800 and other similar crashes. The pilot who flew the CT-43 to Europe before the Department of Commerce trade mission reported that the plane was drifting to the left. According to the 7,000-page investigation report that pilot was never called to testify.

General William E. Stevens appealed for a waiver of all the above flight restrictions November, 1995. In January 1996 USAF European Command denied General Stevens' appeal. General Stevens continued to order flights in direct violation to direct commands. In March he ordered the flight of First Lady Hillary Clinton on the same CT-43 over the same terrain. He got lucky. On April 3, General Stevens' luck ran out and 35 people died as a direct result of his disobedience and disregard for the most basic safety.

On April 4, early in the morning General Stevens ordered all such disobedient missions cease. Today General Stevens is at the Pentagon without a single day's loss of pay, demotion, or loss of benefits. Our family members are dead.

For the last year and a half the families of CT-43 victims have consistently worked together to:

Provide for legislation which would begin to close the gap between death benefits from commercial aircraft crashes, and the private sector compensation ranging from \$3 million to \$16 million to CT-43 private sector families, and the paltry \$10,000 value the US government places on the lives of its own single employees, even in instances of gross negligence.

Advocate for regulations in the Administrative Departments which ensure all passenger-carrying government aircraft without exception meet FAA safety equipment and procedure standards and in event of a crash are investigated under NTSB or comparable independent jurisdiction.

Provide every civilian and employee traveling aboard government aircraft with a clear and unambiguous statement of disclosure that until corrections 1 and 2 above are fully implemented, government aircraft may not meet FAA standards of safety, life insurance may be made null and void, any death benefits which families receive in the event of death will be limited to a maximum of \$10,000 for government employees without dependents, their families, will have no standing in any US court of law, and no legal redress.

If the US Government does not conform to the standards and ensure the rights and benefits which that same government requires every commercial airline to provide, and if the government makes itself immune from a citizen's rights of redress regardless of how egregiously or grossly negligent its agencies may be, at least the government of the people has the moral obligation to warn its citizens of potential harm.

A patriot is one who values the well-being of the nation and fellow citizens above his or her own life or well-being. It is a very small thing to ask of these patriots' representatives that they protect their own lives, the lives of their employees, and the lives of others who serve the country. Enough lives have been lost without their foreknowledge. Now that we know the potential loss, it is unconscionable that we would not act to eliminate future deaths and that restitution for prior gross negligence would not be made.

Sincerely,

DARRELL AND KAREN DARLING,
Parents of Adam Noel Darling For the
Families of the CT-43.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the committee

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a point of order against the amendment. It proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill. Therefore it violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw the amendment, but I urge all the people in this room who have the responsibility for finding a remedy when there is no other remedy to seek redress wherever we may be able to possibly to do it. I appreciate the time allowed.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROHRABACHER

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. ROHRABACHER:

At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. 503. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be available for the use of United States Armed Forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, this debate has been spirited, it has been heartfelt, and let me say that I appreciate the sincerity as well as the hard work that has gone into this, but the sincerity on both sides of this issue, and one note of which I am just a little bit upset about, and I will just state it for the record:

I think it is disconcerting to me that today this body is being forced to vote on two separate issues, and I am not just condemning the President, but I am also going to put this on the House leadership, which is Republican. When we are talking about issues of life and death, of peace and war, we should not be linking together two separate issues. This is not right.

Mr. Chairman, the American people deserve an accountability, deserve us to vote up and down on whether or not we should improve the readiness of our troops without having to know that we are being forced to vote on it because, if we do not, that we will not have some other issue come through, and this is whether we vote for war in the Balkans or whether we vote for readiness. These are two different issues.

So I am a little upset about that, and I think the American people deserve better.

Finally let me just say about this debate, because this is the last time I am going to have a chance to talk on this, and I will make it very brief: We are debating something that goes far beyond micromanaging. Mr. Chairman, we should recognize what this debate is really about, and it is not micromanaging our troops. What we are debating is far from that. It is just the opposite.

In fact, what we are debating is the biggest issue of all. It is what the strategy should be for the United States of America in the post-Cold War world. Are we going to have the same kind of involvement?

Now we postured, there was a lot of posturing going on last week in those votes. But it is these votes today that really determine where we are at, where Congress is at. If we continue to carry the burden of Europe, if we continue to be the policemen of the world as we were during the Cold War, if we permit the President to continue having and exercising these expanded powers that we gave him during the Cold War, our country will not be a safer place, and we will put our troops in jeopardy because we cannot afford to carry that burden anymore.

So while I would like to present my amendment, I recognize that those people who voted against the Istook amendment would not be voting for my amendment because it actually goes a step further, but I ask the people in

voting on the final vote today to consider that we are not just voting for the Balkan war and to upgrade our readiness in other parts of the world, but we are also voting on what our policies are going to be, whether or not we are going to have this expanded role in the world anymore, which I do not believe the United States can afford to do.

So, with that said, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is withdrawn.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I do this to try to avoid having to take a lot of time on a recommittal motion, and let me say this about final passage of this bill:

I have frankly gotten whiplash from watching the majority party reverse its position on military action in Yugoslavia during the past week.

□ 1915

First we had a vote to withdraw troops, and they voted 127 to 92 in favor. Then on the Gejdenson amendment, the one originally offered in the Senate by Senators MCCAIN and WARNER to support current policy in Yugoslavia, namely the air war, they voted 31 to 187 against. Of the 97 Republicans who voted against the withdrawal, 62 voted against the air war.

They then voted for a resolution restricting the use of ground troops 203 to 16, but that was last week. Now, we have had the Istook amendment on this bill, which tried to make real last week's restriction on ground troops, and the same leadership which lobbied their Members to restrict the use of ground troops last week lobbied them against a restriction on ground troops this week. This time they voted against the restriction 116 to 97. A total of 101 reversed their vote from a week earlier.

Now, finally, undoubtedly they will vote overwhelmingly for final passage of an appropriation that more than doubles the amount of money requested by the President for the war which they voted against last week.

I respect every individual decision made in this House. I simply want to express the hope that the conference will produce a more consistent product, a more disciplined product, and a product that more effectively and accurately does reflect the true costs of the operation that we are now engaged in.

I would ask each and every Member of this House on final passage to disregard the desires of either party leadership and simply vote their consciences.

I will intend to vote no. I vote no not because I do not believe we ought to be involved in Yugoslavia. I do, and I passionately support the efforts there and

the efforts of our troops. I simply believe that this bill is one that has engaged in excess. I do not want to prolong the debate by offering a motion to recommit, which could take more time, but I wanted to say that now so that we can put in some perspective what the final vote will represent in the context of what has happened in this House the last 2 weeks.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF MICHIGAN.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. SMITH of Michigan:

At the end (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. 502. Such funds borrowed from the Social Security Trust Fund Surplus to finance this Act shall be repaid.

Whenever there is an on-budget surplus for a fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to use such funds to retire public debt until \$12,947,495,000 of such debt is retired.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida reserves a point of order.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I also reserve a point of order on the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin reserves a point of order.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I know my colleagues are restless. I will try to make this brief. I have been waiting 9 hours to talk about a point that I think is very important.

The motion, the amendment, says that since we are borrowing this money, since we are taking the surplus from the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for this bill, that this amendment says that when there is an on-budget surplus, we should use that money and put it in the same kind of lockbox that we passed in the budget resolution that would go to pay down the debt.

I just plead with my colleagues that something as important as this kind of funding for our military, does it not justify increasing taxes to pay for it, or cutting other government spending to pay for it, instead of just increasing borrowing that our kids and our grandkids are going to have to pay back?

Listen to this: For almost every year out of the last 40 years, we have used the Social Security Trust Fund surplus for government spending. This year, in a historic vote, this Chamber voted a budget resolution that says starting next year we are not going to do that

the final vote on H.R. 1664, the Kosovo Supplemental bill. If I had been present, I would have voted yes on final passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on H. Res. 159 because I was attending my son's college graduation. However, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on the Coburn-Toomey-Sanford amendment because I was attending my son's college graduation. However, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on the Obey substitute amendment because I was attending my son's college graduation. However, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on the Istook amendment because I was attending my son's college graduation. However, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on final passage of H.R. 1664, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill, because I was attending my son's college graduation. However, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 116, 117, 118, 119, and 120.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye" on rollcall votes 118 and 120 and "no" or "nay" on rollcall votes 116, 117, and 119.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 984

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 984.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING LIMITATIONS ON AND PROCEDURES FOR FILING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 775, YEAR 2000 READINESS AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at 3 o'clock this afternoon a Dear Colleague letter was sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of May 10 to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 775, the Year 2000 Readiness and Responsibility Act.

The Committee on the Judiciary ordered H.R. 775 reported on Tuesday, May 4, and is expected to file its committee report on Friday, May 7. Any Member wishing to offer an amend-

ment should submit 55 copies and a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules up in H-312 of the Capitol by 3 p.m. on Monday, May 10; and let me repeat that, by Monday, 3 p.m.

Amendments should be drafted to the amendment in the nature of a substitute ordered reported by the Committee on the Judiciary. Copies of this amendment may be obtained from the Committee on the Judiciary. It is also expected to be posted on their web site.

Members should also use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted, and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 979

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as cosponsor of H.R. 979. My name was inadvertently added to the bill.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1999 TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 1555, THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence have until midnight, May 7, 1999, to file its report on the bill, H.R. 1555.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING FILING OF H.R. 1555, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000, AND AVAILABILITY TO MEMBERS OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE AUTHORIZATIONS IN CLASSIFIED ANNEX

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce to all Members of the House that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence ordered the bill, H.R. 1555, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, reported favorably to the House. That report will be filed tomorrow, Friday, May 7, under the unanimous consent just agreed to.

I would also like to announce that the classified schedule authorizations in the classified annex that accom-

panies H.R. 1555 will be available for review by Members at the offices of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which is room H-405 of the Capitol, beginning any time after the bill is filed.

The committee office will be open during regular business hours for the convenience of any Member who wishes to review this material prior to its consideration by the House.

I anticipate that H.R. 1555 will be considered on the floor probably next week, but no sooner than Thursday, I am advised, and possibly later than that.

□ 1945

I would recommend that Members wishing to review the Classified Annex contact the committee's Director of Security and Registry to arrange a time and date for that viewing. The number is on everybody's telephone chart. This will assure the availability of committee staff to assist Members who desire that assistance during their review of these classified materials. I urge Members to take some time to review these classified documents before the bill is brought to the floor, if they have an interest, in order to better understand the recommendations of the committee.

The Classified Annex to the committee's report contains the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's recommendations on the intelligence budget for fiscal year 2000 and related classified information that cannot be disclosed publicly. There are procedures.

It is important that Members keep in mind the requirements of Rule 24 of the House, clause 13. That rule only permits access to classified information by those Members of the House who have signed the oath set out in Rule 24.

I would advise Members wishing to review the Classified Annex and its Classified Schedule of Authorizations that they must bring with them a copy of the Rule 24 oath signed by them when they come to the committee office to review that material. If they do not have a copy of the oath or cannot get one and wish to review the Classified Annex, the committee staff can administer the oath and see to it that it is executed in proper form and sent to the Clerk's office. We are happy to provide that service.

Additionally, the committee will require that Members execute an acknowledgment form indicating that they have been granted access to the Classified Annex and Classified Schedule of Authorizations and that they are familiar with both the Rules of the House and the committee with respect to the classified nature of information contained in the Classified Annex and the limitations on disclosure of that information.

That is a standard operating procedure for our committee. Nothing unusual. And we urge all who are interested to come to the committee and take a look at the material.