

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1654, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 174 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 174

Resolved. That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1654) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. The rule provides for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII, requiring a three-day layover of the committee report. Additionally, the rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. The rule provides that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be open for amendment at any point. The rule further waives points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 7 of rule XVI, prohibiting nongermane amendments. The Chair is authorized by the rule to grant priority and recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the Congressional RECORD prior to their consideration. The rule allows for the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 174 is a fair and open rule for consideration of H.R. 1654, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act. It is my understanding that some Members may wish to offer germane amendments to this bill, and under this open rule, they will have every opportunity to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this seems an appropriate week for us to consider this rule and its underlying bill, H.R. 1654. Across our Nation, Americans from every age group and every walk of life have shown our Nation's continuing fascination with the mysteries of space. Last night as the clock struck 12 o'clock, thousands upon thousands of people took part in an unprecedented phenomena across these United States, lining up to see the sequel to the 22-year-old movie, Star Wars. But our country's fascination with space and space exploration is rooted as much in science as it is in science fiction.

Long before anyone heard of George Lucas or Darth Vader, Americans were fixated on the small screen in their living rooms to bear witness to Alan

Sheppard's first manned Mercury space flight and Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon. And, baby boomers and generation-Xers alike shared in two historic flights, John Glenn's first orbit of the Earth aboard Friendship VII in 1962, and his return to space 36 years later aboard the Shuttle Discovery.

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000, 2001 and 2002 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and for other purposes.

The rule provides for one hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. The rule waives points of orders against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII, requiring a three-day layover of the committee report.

Additionally, the rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. The rule provides that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be open for amendment at any point. The rule further waives points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 7 of rule XVI, prohibiting nongermane amendments.

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The rule allows for the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

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Sheppard's first manned Mercury space flight and Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon. And, baby boomers and generation-Xers alike shared in two historic flights, John Glenn's first orbit of the Earth aboard Friendship VII in 1962, and his return to space 36 years later aboard the Shuttle Discovery.

This rule and its underlying bill will allow NASA and America's space program to move forward with a multi-national space station.

In addition to our Nation's contribution, 15 other countries have invested \$5 billion in the International Space Station program, and continued U.S. support will show the world our commitment to the international science projects. Further, the ISS means over 75,000 American jobs. With this space station, with moving our space program forward, young Americans will continue to be attracted to fields and job markets like science and engineering, areas that are key to making American industry more competitive across the globe.

□ 1030

I would like to commend the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SEN-SEN BRENNER) and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for their hard work on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to both support this open rule and the underlying bill.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 174 is an open rule, and I urge its adoption.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1654, which will authorize NASA for the next fiscal year.

Although I support the bill, Mr. Speaker, I do not support waiving the requirement that committee reports lay over for 3 days. Even though this is a good bill, I think Members should have a chance to examine it before they have to vote on it. The Committee on Science report was not even given to the Democratic members of the Committee on Rules before our meeting yesterday to report this rule to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the House has not exactly been working at a breakneck pace over the last few weeks, so I really cannot understand why my Republican colleagues decided not to let us see this bill in advance.

Lately this seems to be part of the pattern. Since this Congress began 5 months ago, 12 of the 34 rules we have considered have contained waivers of the 3-day layover requirement. That is one-third of all the rules in the 106th Congress waiving the 3-day layover requirement.

And, the committee report that we received in the Committee on Rules did not even contain some of the things it

was supposed to contain. It was supposed to contain the Ramsayer and the proceedings of the full committee markup. Mr. Speaker, it did not. I am sure they are probably contained somewhere in the printed version of the report, but I still think they should have been given to the Committee on Rules before it began its deliberations.

Mr. Speaker, nearly all of NASA reauthorizations are bipartisan, and that is the way they should be. Americans have always been pioneers, and NASA is agency of the pioneers. They expand our frontiers into space. They perform research in the heavens to benefit us here on Earth.

Thirty years ago, NASA put Neal Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin on the moon. Three years ago NASA set up the Mars Pathfinder, which has expanded knowledge of our close neighbors and given us an idea of the possibilities of life off of Earth. This March NASA finishes a project mapping Mars.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has discovered new galaxies and planets in our solar system.

NASA's Hubble Telescope gave us incredible color pictures of space. They discover new worlds, enrich our minds, and stir our spirits.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that NASA is partly to thank for the long, long lines referred to by my dear friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) that are now currently outside the new Star Wars Phantom Menace.

So I am disappointed that my Republican colleagues have decided to make it partisan. They singled out one particular project for elimination, one out of all the projects, Mr. Speaker. That project has been championed by Vice President GORE. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no reason for the elimination of this particular project except partisan politics.

In the future, Mr. Speaker, I hope my Republican colleagues will allow us to see the bills before we actually vote on them. I urge my colleagues to support this open rule and to support this bill. NASA does provide the research for the future and the explanations for the past.

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

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1553, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I

call up House Resolution 175 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 175

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1553) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service, Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may:

(1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During the consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 175 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999.

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service, Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII requiring a 3-day layover of the committee report.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Science.

The rule further provides that it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science and now printed in the bill.

The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be open for amendment at any point. The Chair is authorized by the rule to grant priority to recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration.

The rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that House Resolution 175 is a fair rule. It is an open rule for the consideration of H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999.

It is my understanding that some Members may wish to offer germane amendments on this bill, and under this open rule they will have every opportunity to do so. H.R. 1553 authorizes funding for several very important weather service programs in the United States. In fact, funding for the National Weather Service alone is about one-third of the total annual National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration budget.

Mr. Speaker, as the events of Monday, May 3, in Oklahoma showed us, we are still often powerless against the fury of Mother Nature. An outbreak of more than 40 tornadoes claimed 44 lives, destroyed or heavily damaged 5,200 homes, and left more than \$1 billion in property damage in its wake. The damage to life, property, and community was devastating, but it could have been even worse without the National Weather Service's first tornado warning at 4:45 p.m.

This rule, and its underlying bill, will help improve, modernize and automate