

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 434

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as an original cosponsor of H.R. 434. My name was inadvertently included as a cosponsor of that bill.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill just passed, H.R. 514.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 669, AMENDING PEACE CORPS ACT TO AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2000 THROUGH 2003 TO CARRY OUT THAT ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 83 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 83

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. 669) to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that Act. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. 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 International Relations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill 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. 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. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. 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 consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 83, Mr. Speaker, is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 669, the Peace Corps Re-authorization Act. The purpose of the bill is to authorize funds for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2000 through 2003, expanding the Peace Corps from the current number of volunteers to the goal of 10,000 by the year 2003.

The rule provides for the customary 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. In addition, the rule provides the bill shall be considered as read. The rule permits the Chair to grant priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments and consider them as read.

Further, as has become standard practice for open rules, the Chair is allowed to postpone votes and to reduce the time for electronic voting on postponed votes.

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

Mr. Speaker, to keep our record of fair rules for the 106th Congress, I am pleased to report to the House that House Resolution 83 is another open rule that affords any Member the opportunity to offer any germane amendments.

H.R. 669, the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act, is in line with an effort started by President Reagan in 1985 to expand the Peace Corps to 10,000 volunteers. Since the Peace Corps was established, first by President Kennedy and affirmed by the 87th Congress, over 150,000 Americans have served in 134 countries and have learned 180 languages and dialects.

We are fortunate to have five former Peace Corps volunteers working with us in the U.S. House of Representatives: The gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

I commend these gentlemen as well as the thousands of other volunteers for their tireless efforts in providing basic health and agriculture education, working so communities have access to clean water, as well as teaching English and other skills to extraordinarily needy populations.

I am honored to serve on the Committee on Rules with my esteemed and distinguished colleague from Ohio (Mr.

HALL), whose Peace Corps experience, no doubt, had much to do with his clear and long-time commitment to fighting hunger throughout the world.

H.R. 669 fulfills the effort which President Reagan proposed in 1985 to expand the number of volunteers, and this expansion has been requested by President Clinton. I urge my colleagues to support this open rule, this fair rule, and hope that they will give careful consideration to supporting the underlying positive legislation as well.

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for yielding me the time and certainly his many kind words about me.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule. It will allow for full and fair debate on H.R. 669. As my colleague from Florida has described, this rule provides for 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member on the Committee on International Relations.

The rule permits amendments under the 5-minute rule. This is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer germane amendments.

In 1985, President Reagan set a goal for the Peace Corps of 10,000 volunteers and, unfortunately, low levels of funding have prevented us from getting there. The bill before us would finally accomplish that goal. The bill would also expand the work of the Crisis Corps, a group of experienced Peace Corps volunteers who assist in emergencies.

Since it was founded by President Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps has been one of our most important tools of international diplomacy. The people-to-people style of the Peace Corps has won friends for America all over the world, and I know this because I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand in 1966 and 1967.

In the rural villages and urban communities where they serve, Peace Corps volunteers are educating the children, they are caring for the sick, and they are teaching the poorest of the poor how to help themselves. They are on the front lines every day fighting the major health threats to young children.

□ 1200

But, most importantly, these volunteers are the face of America for people all across the globe.

The Peace Corps' exciting new Crisis Corps initiative is well under way, in which experienced volunteers and return volunteers provide short-term assistance during humanitarian crises and natural disasters. Crisis Corps volunteers were recently dispatched to Central America to aid in recovery from the Hurricane Mitch disaster.

They have also worked with refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone in Guinea and the Ivory Coast.

The Peace Corps represents the best that our country has to offer, I think. It brings together bright, dedicated, energetic people and arms them with the tools to work in foreign countries as ambassadors of peace.

The Peace Corps is one of the best known and loved of our foreign aid programs. Its budget represents only a tiny fraction, about 1 percent, of our international affairs accounts. It is a remarkable return from a very modest investment.

Last month, I had the opportunity to visit the town in Thailand where I served as a Peace Corps volunteer. It is no longer this sleepy rural village I remembered but a very large urban center of a million people. The old school where I taught English was not only still standing but was thriving, and so were the lasting bonds of friendship that I established with so many wonderful people in that community.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation. I urge adoption of the rule and the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the open rule that will govern the debate for the Peace Corps Act (H.R. 669). This bill authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2000 through 2003. This organization has a legacy of service that has become an important part of American history.

President John F. Kennedy first proposed the idea of the Peace Corps during a campaign stop at the University of Michigan in 1960. He challenged the students to give two years of their lives to help people in the developing world.

Since its inception, the Peace Corps has trained 150,000 volunteers to work in 134 countries. Some of these volunteers include members who have served here in the House: Representative SAM FARR of California, Representative TONY HALL of Ohio, Representative THOMAS PETRI of Wisconsin, Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut and Representative JAMES WALSH of New York.

Currently there are 6,700 volunteers serving in 80 countries. The increased funding would allow the Peace Corps to expand to its goal of 10,000 volunteers. It would also allow the Peace Corps programs to expand to South Africa, Jordan, China, Bangladesh, Mozambique and other countries in Central Asia, the Middle East, South America, Eastern Europe and Africa.

The Peace Corps is an important part of our foreign assistance program. It helps communities gain access to clean water, grow food, prevent the spread of AIDS and work with to protect the environment.

I look forward to the improvements on this bill via the amendment process on the floor of the House. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the rule on this bill.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was traveling with the Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa and was unavoidably absent from debate on the rule on H.R. 669. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of agreeing to the rule.

APPOINTMENT TO TRADE DEFICIT REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c)(3) of the Trade Deficit Review Commission Act (Division A of Public Law 105-277) the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following person on the part of the House to the Trade Deficit Review Commission:

Mrs. Carla Anderson Hills, Washington D.C.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 6(B) of the National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 as amended by section 346(e) of Public Law 105-83, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the National Council on the Arts:

Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina.

There was no objection.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H.DOC. 106-30)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 1999, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

BIENNIAL REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the Biennial Report to Congress on the Administration of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for fiscal years 1996 and 1997. This report is submitted as required by section 316 of the CZMA of 1972 as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1451, *et seq.*).

The report discusses progress made at the national and State level in administering the Coastal Zone Management and Estuarine Research Reserve Programs during these years, and spotlights the accomplishments of NOAA's State coastal management and estuarine research reserve program partners under the CZMA.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 24, 1999.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, January 27, 1999.
Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed please find a copy of a letter to the Louisiana Secretary of State announcing my intention to resign from the U.S. House of Representatives on February 28, 1999. Upon receipt of this letter, I expect the Governor to notice and call an election to fill my vacancy. My hope is that it will occur as quickly as possible so as to result in as little inconvenience as possible to the Republican Conference.

Sincerely,
ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON,
Member of Congress.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1999

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.