

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 3062.

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

There was no objection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of Senate bill (S. 3062) to modify the date on which the Mayor of the District of Columbia submits a performance accountability plan to Congress, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, but I do not plan to object. I take this time to engage the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) in a colloquy for a brief explanation of his unanimous consent request.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3062, the District of Columbia Performance Accountability Plan Amendments Act of 2000. This bill contains technical amendments to the District of Columbia's performance plan requirements, which will allow the city to reform its management system more effectively.

Mr. Speaker, just as the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 redesigned the management practices and accountability at Federal agencies, the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995 requires that the city submit performance accountability plans to Congress preceding each fiscal year.

These plans set objective and measurable goals for the District's agencies and the departments, and establish a system of accountability in the city's daily operations.

Mr. Speaker, it also requires that after each fiscal year, the city must submit to Congress a performance accountability report evaluating its ability to meet the performance goals of the prior fiscal year.

This act has provided the city with the means to establish a system of performance budgeting. However, the Mayor of the District of Columbia requested that Congress make some minor changes to the law to improve

the efficiency of this process. Therefore, S. 3062 changes the submission deadline for the annual performance accountability plan from March 1 of each year to be concurrent with the submission of the District's budget to Congress.

This change will tie the District of Columbia's budget to its performance accountability measures. This bill also streamlines the performance goal submission requirements set out in the act so that there is one set of measurable and ambitious goals.

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This is critical to ensuring that the managers of the District of Columbia government have a clear understanding of the goals which they are expected to meet.

Furthermore, this bill will impose no additional regulatory burdens on the District, and will eventually reduce the paperwork burden by creating a single integrated document as a result of the performance budgeting process.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting in support of this legislation to help the District of Columbia move closer to an effective budgeting process.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, S. 3062 was introduced on September 18, 2000, by Senators VOINOVICH and DURBIN. Together, these two Senators worked with the Mayor's Office to draft the technical changes to the performance plan submission requirements, and bipartisan support appears to exist in both houses for this legislation.

The legislative changes include, one, changing the deadline for submission from March 1 of each year to be concurrent with the submission of the D.C. budget to Congress each year; and two, getting rid of the multiple performance goals for each measure in exchange for one ambitious goal per performance measure.

With this, Mr. Speaker, I do urge the House to adopt this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 3062

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN.

Section 456 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (section 47-231 et seq. of the District of Columbia Code) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "Not later than March 1 of each year (beginning with 1998)" and inserting "Concurrent with the submission of the District of Columbia budget to Congress each year (beginning with 2001)"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking "that describe an acceptable level of performance

by the government and a superior level of performance by the government"; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "1999" and inserting "2001"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking "for an acceptable level of performance by the government and a superior level of performance by the government".

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS PRESERVATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5157) to amend title 44, United States Code, to ensure preservation of the records of the Freedmen's Bureau, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not by any means plan to object, but I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) for a brief explanation of the bill.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5157, the Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000, represents a bipartisan effort to safeguard important links to the past. These records document how the 38th Congress responded to the enormous social and economic upheaval in the aftermath of the Civil War.

The Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, which I chair, held a hearing on this bill on October 18, 2000. The subcommittee heard testimony from a number of very distinguished scholars and witnesses, including the President of Howard University, H. Patrick Swygert.

President Swygert testified about the importance of safeguarding these uniquely valuable records, which are deteriorating due to the passage of time.

From 1865 to 1872, the Freedmen's Bureau helped better the lives of former slaves and others who had been impoverished by the war. These Bureau records are in many instances the only link many Americans have with their past and our past, especially those who are descended from former slaves.

H.R. 5157 would require the Archivist of the United States to preserve these irreplaceable documents. The bill would also require the Archivist of the United States to develop partnerships with educational institutions such as Howard University and others to index the records so they may be more readily accessible to anyone who is interested in this important period of the Nation's history.

I congratulate the authors of this legislation, my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), chairman of the House Republican Conference, for bringing this important issue to the forefront.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is an important first step toward ensuring that a momentous part of America's history will be protected, preserved, and never forgotten.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I would like to simply thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), and tonight I introduce H.R. 5157, introduced along with my dear friend and colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

This bill is known as the Freedmen's Bureau Preservation Act of 2000. The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, properly called the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in the War Department by an act of this government on March 3, 1865.

This act was the culmination of several years of efforts as the U.S. Government, embroiled in Civil War, sought to settle "the slave problem" for the United States.

From 1619 to 1800, more than 660,000 African men, women, and children were torn from their homelands in West Africa, herded onto ships, and brought to North America as slaves. While the southern economy was flourishing from slave labor, the country simultaneously was building a new democracy based on the principles of liberty and individual freedom.

As the democracy debate clarified issues of government and citizenship, grave contradictions were drawn between slavery and our Nation's first principle of individual freedom. As President Lincoln said, the government could not endure permanently half slave and half free.

On July 4 of 1861, President Lincoln, in a speech to Congress, said that the war was " * * * a people's contest * * * a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form and substance of government, whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men. * * *" And this war between the States was, among other things, a war about the condition of the slaves.

This very body was engaged in the overwhelming challenge of moving millions of slaves from bondage to freedom. In March of 1864, the House passed a bill by a slender majority of two that established a Bureau of Freedmen in the War Department.

The Senate reported a substitute bill to the House too late for action attaching the Bureau to the Treasury Department. After the 1864 elections, the House and Senate conferred and proposed a bureau independent of either War or Treasury.

In the political machinations between these elected representatives, the Senate could not agree with the

House. A new conference committee was appointed which finally in 1865 established in the War Department a Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. Thus, the War Department set about the enormous task of documenting, supervising, and managing the transition of slaves from bondage to freedom.

The Bureau deployed field offices in Alabama, Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Delaware, Mississippi, Missouri, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

These offices were responsible for all relief and educational activities relating to refugees and freedmen, including issuing rations, clothing, and medicine. The Bureau also assumed custody of confiscated lands or property in the former Confederate States, border States, the District of Columbia, and Indian territory.

The Bureau records that were created and maintained became the documented history of the greatest social undertaking in this country's history. During this tumultuous period of transformation between 1865 and 1872, the Freedmen's Bureau recorded the movements of slaves from community to community and States to States. For historians and genealogists, these records provided the critical link between the Civil War and the 1870 census, the first one to list African-Americans by name.

Former slaves, recognized formally in government records only by sex, age, and color, were named in the Bureau records as individuals in marriage, government ration lists, lists of colored persons, labor contracts, indentured contracts for minors, medical records, and as victims of violence.

Many historical and genealogical associations like the African-American Historical and Genealogical Society, the African-American Research Project, the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, the Internet-based Afrigenes, and annual gatherings like the family reunions have popularized African-American genealogy and historical research.

African-Americans, like many other Americans, look to official records for their ancestors. As ship manifests are the vital link between European-Americans and their European ancestors, the Freedmen's Bureau records are the link for African-Americans to their slave and African ancestors.

The original Freedmen's Bureau records presently are preserved at the National Archives and Records Administration here in Washington. Greater access to these records is a high priority for millions of Americans interested in Civil War and post-Civil War history, and millions of African-Americans interested in their family genealogy. There are many historians, genealogists, and family researchers interested in exploring the vast contents of these records.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5157 calls on the Archivist to microfilm the Freedmen's Bureau records, create a surname index, and put the index online. Innovative imaging and indexing technologies can make these records easily accessible to the public, including historians, genealogists, novice genealogy enthusiasts, and students.

With that, Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House of Representatives, a descendant of slaves, and a genealogy enthusiast, I urge the passage of this legislation so that the period in our history can become known even further to American citizens interested in our past.

Let me thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), my colleague and friend, for his sensitivity and support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 5157

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) From 1619 to 1800 more than 660,000 African men, women, and children were torn from their homelands in west Africa and herded onto ships for transport to North America as slaves.

(2) Between 10 and 15 percent of these Africans died during the journey across the Atlantic Ocean.

(3) The institution of slavery robbed Africans of their natural rights and divided this Nation over the meaning of freedom, the principle upon which this Nation was founded.

(4) Paraphrasing President Abraham Lincoln, the Government could not endure permanently half slave and half free.

(5) The United States waged the Civil War to free the Nation's slaves, preserve the Nation, and embrace all people as citizens regardless of race in a system of inclusive freedom for all.

(6) On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that individuals held as slaves within the rebellious States "are, and henceforward shall be free".

(7) On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army to General Ulysses S. Grant, thereby ending the Civil War.

(8) In 1865, the Congress established in the War Department the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly referred to as the "Freedmen's Bureau", to supervise and manage all matters relating to refugees and freedmen, and to supervise abandoned and confiscated property.

(9) The records of the Freedmen's Bureau are a vital source of information for historians and genealogists.

(10) These records contain a wide range of data about the African-American experience during slavery and freedom, including in marriage records, labor contracts, Government rations and back pay records, and indentured contracts for minors.

(11) These records are maintained in Alabama, Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Delaware, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

(12) All of these records are originals and, because they are deteriorating, require immediate attention.

(13) These records are an important link for African-Americans to their slave and African ancestors.

(14) Preserving the records of the Freedmen's Bureau is a high priority for millions of Americans interested in Civil War and post-Civil War era history.

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§2910. Preservation of Freedmen's Bureau Records

“The Archivist shall preserve the records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly referred to as the ‘Freedmen's Bureau’, by using—

“(1) available technology for restoration of the documents comprising these records so that they can be maintained for future generations; and

“(2) innovative imaging and indexing technologies to make these records easily accessible to the public, including historians, genealogists, novice genealogy enthusiasts, and students.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 29 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“2910. Preservation of freedmen's bureau records.”.

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
OFFERED BY MR. HORN

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. HORN:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000”.

SEC. 2. PRESERVATION OF FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§2910. Preservation of Freedmen's Bureau records

“The Archivist shall preserve the records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly referred to as the ‘Freedmen's Bureau’, by using—

“(1) microfilm technology for preservation of the documents comprising these records so that they can be maintained for future generations; and

“(2) the results of the pilot project with the University of Florida to create future partnerships with Howard University and other institutions for the purposes of indexing these records and making them more easily accessible to the public, including historians, genealogists, and students, and for any other purposes determined by the Archivist.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 29 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“2910. Preservation of Freedmen's Bureau records.”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 2910 of title 44, United States Code (as added by section 2), a total of \$3,000,000 for fiscal years 2001 through 2005.

Mr. HORN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS CENTERED IN COLOMBIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-303)

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 to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect for 1 year beyond October 21, 2000.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain economic pressures on significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia by blocking their property subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and by de-

priving them of access to the United States market and financial system.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 19, 2000.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 1998 REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES—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 Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Commerce:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Department of Transportation's Calendar Year 1998 reports on Activities Under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, the Highway Safety Act of 1966, and the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act of 1972, as amended.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 18, 2000.

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VICE PRESIDENT JEOPARDIZES NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply troubled today to learn that Vice President GORE may have broken the law and jeopardized United States national security.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. weapons proliferation law requires that the Congress be notified of the terms of the letter of agreement which Mr. GORE signed with Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin regarding Russia's nuclear cooperation with Iran, a known terrorist nation.

What is worse is that, as a direct result of the secret agreement between Mr. GORE and the Prime Minister of Russia, Russia evaded U.S. sanctions against weapons proliferation.

Even the Secretary of State admitted that without this signed agreement, “Russia's conventional arms sales to Iran would have been subject to sanctions based on various provisions of our laws.”

Mr. Speaker, it is appalling to me and to the American people that this type of deception and deceit has become so commonplace in this administration.

The flagrant deceit and illegal agreement made by the Vice President may have put our national security in deep jeopardy.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and