

Meehan of Massachusetts, Mr. Underwood of Guam, Mr. Blagojevich of Illinois, Mr. Reyes of Texas, Mr. Allen of Maine, Mr. Snyder of Arkansas, Mr. Turner of Texas, Mr. Smith of Washington, Ms. Sanchez of California, Mr. Maloney of Connecticut, Mr. McIntyre of North Carolina, Mr. Rodriguez of Texas, Ms. McKinney of Georgia, Ms. Tauscher of California, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania, Mr. Andrews of New Jersey, Mr. Hill of Indiana, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Ms. Davis of California, and Mr. Langevin of Rhode Island;

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Spratt of South Carolina, Mr. McDermott of Washington, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Mr. Bentzen of Texas, Mr. Davis of Florida, Mrs. Clayton of North Carolina, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Mr. Markey of Massachusetts, Mr. Kleczka of Wisconsin, Mr. Clement of Tennessee, Mr. Moran of Virginia, Ms. Hooley of Oregon, Mr. Holt of New Jersey, Mr. Hoeffel of Pennsylvania, and Ms. Baldwin of Wisconsin;

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Mr. Dingell of Michigan, Mr. Waxman of California, Mr. Markey of Massachusetts, Mr. Hall of Texas, Mr. Boucher of Virginia, Mr. Towns of New York, Mr. Pallone of New Jersey, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mr. Gordon of Tennessee, Mr. Deutsch of Florida, Mr. Rush of Illinois, Ms. Eshoo of California, Mr. Stupak of Michigan, Mr. Engel of New York, Mr. Sawyer of Ohio, Mr. Wynn of Maryland, Mr. Green of Texas, Ms. McCarthy of Missouri, Mr. Strickland of Ohio, Ms. DeGette of Colorado, Mr. Barrett of Wisconsin, Mr. Luther of Minnesota, and Ms. Capps of California;

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Mr. Miller of California, Mr. Kildee of Michigan, Mr. Owens of New York, Mr. Payne of New Jersey, Ms. Mink of Hawaii, Mr. Andrews of New Jersey, Mr. Roemer of Indiana, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Ms. Woolsey of California, Ms. Rivers of Michigan, Mr. Fattah of Pennsylvania, Mr. Hinojosa, Ms. McCarthy of New York, Mr. Tierney of Massachusetts, Mr. Kind of Wisconsin, Ms. Sanchez of California, Mr. Ford of Tennessee, Mr. Kucinich of Ohio, Mr. Wu of Oregon, Mr. Holt of New Jersey, Ms. McCollum of Minnesota, and Ms. Solis of California.

Committee on Financial Services: Mr. LaFalce of New York, Mr. Frank of Massachusetts, Mr. Kanjorski of Pennsylvania, Ms. Waters of California, Ms. Maloney of New York, Mr. Gutierrez of Illinois, Ms. Velazquez of New York, Mr. Watt of North Carolina, Mr. Ackerman of New York, Mr. Bentzen of Texas, Mr. Maloney of Connecticut, Ms. Hooley of Oregon, Mrs. Carson of Indiana, Mr. Sherman of California, Mr. Sandlin of Texas, Mr. Meeks of New York, Ms. Lee of California, Mr. Mascara of Pennsylvania, Mr. Inslee of Washington, Ms. Schakowsky of Illinois, Mr. Moore of Kansas, Mr. Gonzalez of Texas, Ms. Tubbs Jones of Ohio, and Mr. Capuano of Massachusetts;

Committee on Government Reform: Mr. Waxman of California, Mr. Lantos of California, Mr. Owens of New York, Mr. Towns of New York, Mr. Kanjorski of Pennsylvania, Ms. Mink of Hawaii, Ms. Maloney of New York, Ms. Norton of the District of Columbia, Mr. Fattah of Pennsylvania, Mr. Cummings of Maryland, Mr. Kucinich of Ohio, Mr. Blagojevich of Illinois, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Tierney of Massachusetts, Mr. Turner of Texas, Mr. Allen of Maine, Mr. Ford of Tennessee, and Ms. Schakowsky of Illinois;

Committee on House Administration: Mr. Fattah of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Davis of Florida;

Committee on International Relations: Mr. Lantos of California, Mr. Berman of California, Mr. Ackerman of New York, Mr. Faleomavaega of American Samoa, Mr.

Payne of New Jersey, Mr. Menendez of New Jersey, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Ms. McKinney of Georgia, Mr. Hastings of Florida, Mr. Hilliard of Alabama, Mr. Sherman of California, Mr. Wexler of Florida, Mr. Rothman of New Jersey, Mr. Davis of Florida, Mr. Delahunt of Massachusetts, Mr. Meeks of New York, Ms. Lee of California, Mr. Crowley of New York and Mr. Hoeffel of Pennsylvania.

Committee on the Judiciary: Mr. Conyers of Michigan, Mr. Frank of Massachusetts, Mr. Berman of California, Mr. Boucher of Virginia, Mr. Nadler of New York, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Watt of North Carolina, Ms. Lofgren of California, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Ms. Waters of California, Mr. Meehan of Massachusetts, Mr. Delahunt of Massachusetts, Mr. Wexler of Florida, Mr. Rothman of New Jersey, Ms. Baldwin of Wisconsin, and Mr. Weiner of New York;

Committee on Science: Mr. Hall of Texas, Mr. Gordon of Tennessee, Mr. Costello of Illinois, Mr. Barcia of Michigan, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Ms. Woolsey of California, Ms. Rivers of Michigan, Ms. Lofgren of California, Mr. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Mr. Etheridge of North Carolina, Mr. Lampson of Texas, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Udall of Colorado, Mr. Wu of Oregon, Mr. Weiner of New York, Mr. Capuano of Massachusetts, Mr. Baird of Washington, Mr. Hoeffel of Pennsylvania, Mr. Moore of Kansas, and Mr. Baca of California;

Committee on Small Business: Ms. Velazquez of New York, Ms. Millender-McDonald of California, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Ms. McCarthy of New York, Mr. Pascrell of New Jersey, Mr. Hinojosa of Texas, Ms. Christensen of the Virgin Islands, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania, Mr. Udall of New Mexico, Mr. Moore of Kansas, Ms. Tubbs-Jones, Mr. Gonzalez of Texas, Mr. Phelps of Illinois, Ms. Molipano of California, Mr. Baird of Washington, Ms. Berkley of Nevada, and Mr. Udall of Colorado;

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Oberstar of Minnesota, Mr. Rahall of West Virginia, Mr. Borski of Pennsylvania, Mr. Lipinski of Illinois, Mr. DeFazio of Oregon, Mr. Clement of Tennessee, Mr. Costello of Illinois, Ms. Norton of the District of Columbia, Mr. Nadler of New York, Mr. Menendez of New Jersey, Ms. Brown of Florida, Mr. Barcia of Michigan, Mr. Filner of California, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Mr. Mascara of Pennsylvania, Mr. Taylor of Mississippi, Ms. Millender-McDonald of California, Mr. Cummings of Maryland, Mr. Blumenauer of Oregon, Mr. Sandlin of Texas, Ms. Tauscher of California, Mr. Pascrell of New Jersey, Mr. Boswell of Iowa, Mr. McGovern of Massachusetts, Mr. Holden of Pennsylvania, Mr. Lampson of Texas, Mr. Baldacci of Maine, Mr. Berry of Arkansas, Mr. Baird of Washington, Ms. Berkley of Nevada, Mr. Carson of Oklahoma, Mr. Matheson of Utah, Mr. Honda of California, and Mr. Larsen of Washington;

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Mr. Evans of Illinois, Mr. Filner of California, Mr. Gutierrez of Illinois, Ms. Brown of Florida, Mr. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Peterson of Minnesota, Mrs. Carson of Indiana, Mr. Reyes of Texas, Mr. Snyder of Arkansas, Mr. Rodriguez of Texas, Mr. Shows of Mississippi, Ms. Berkley of Nevada, Mr. Hill of Indiana, and Mr. Udall of New Mexico;

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Rangel of New York, Mr. Stark of California, Mr. Matsui of California, Mr. Coyne of Pennsylvania, Mr. Levin of Michigan, Mr. Cardin of Maryland, Mr. McDermott of Washington, Mr. Kleczka of Wisconsin, Mr. Lewis of Georgia, Mr. Neal of Massachusetts, Mr. McNulty of New York, Mr. Jefferson of Louisiana, Mr. Tanner of Tennessee, Mr. Becerra of California, Ms. Thurman of Florida, Mr. Doggett of Texas, and Mr. Pomeroy of North Dakota.

Mr. FROST (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 29, 2001.

Speaker J. DENNIS HASTERT,
*The U.S. House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, Attached herewith is a copy of my letter to Governor Tom Ridge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania stating that my retirement and resignation from the United States Congress shall be effective at 2400 hours, Friday, February 2, 2001.

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 29, 2001.

Governor TOM RIDGE,
*Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Office of the Governor, Harrisburg, PA.*

DEAR GOVERNOR RIDGE, I hereby submit my letter of retirement and resignation from the United States Congress, effective at 2400 hours, Friday, February 2, 2001.

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Member of Congress.

WISHING THE HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House be on record as wishing the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) a happy birthday and many happy returns.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MAKING CALIFORNIA WHOLE AGAIN

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about my City of San

Diego in the State of California and the incredible energy crisis that we are going through. Yes, we are still experiencing it. We have not yet solved it. I have heard comments from Members of this body and the other body, comments from the White House, which seem to indicate an unwillingness to take action to work with California through this crisis.

I say to my colleagues in the Senate and I say to the administration, we are all in this together. If California falls, the rest of the Nation cannot be far behind.

We are the largest State in the union. We have experienced rolling blackouts, utilities on the verge of bankruptcy. If my colleagues do not think this has had an impact on our national economy, listen to Alan Greenspan, as he testified to the Senate just last week. He said that California's crisis is not isolated. It is not an aberration, and it is a problem that the whole Nation must address and must address quickly.

We should pay heed to Mr. Greenspan. And I say to the President, I think the President is going in the wrong direction on this issue. A hands-off approach by the Federal Government, as the President has suggested, is not going to solve this problem.

Yes, we are increasing our generating capacity. Yes, we are redoubling and retripling our efforts to conserve, but an important piece of this problem has been the wholesale prices that have been charged to our utilities and our consumers. The obscene wholesale prices that have been charged.

And only the Federal Government, I say to the President, only the Federal Government, through our Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has the authority to regulate this wholesale price.

For the President to say that California must solve its own problems ignores the fact that the generators and marketers of electricity, a seven-member monopoly, in fact, that is based in States like Texas, have run up huge, huge profits, 800 percent, 900 percent in their latest reports.

While California, and soon other parts of the Nation, will suffer. Sacramento alone, California alone cannot regulate these wholesalers, I say to the President. This is Washington's responsibility, and it is that responsibility that we must take.

I have a bill just introduced today, the California Electrical Consumers Relief Act of 2001, to take that responsibility head on. In a case like San Diego and California, where FERC has already found, through its investigation, our wholesale rates to be unjust and unreasonable, and, therefore, illegal, illegal, I say to the President, in that situation, my bill would establish what is called cost-based rates. That is the costs of generation plus a reasonable profit, for wholesale electricity, not just in California, but throughout the western States.

This is a regional problem. We must tackle it regionally. It sets those prices retroactively back to last June when this crisis started. This is not a cap. This is not an arbitrary figure.

This is a reasonable rate based on a market-based formula which allows the generators to make a profit, but protects the consumers.

Mr. Speaker, FERC knows how to set those rates. They have the rationale. They have the procedure. They should do it, and we should order it.

For those rates, under my legislation, that were charged above the legal cost-based rates that we have in California and San Diego and have been paying since last June, my bill requires the refund of those obscene profits, the difference between what was charged us and the cost-based rates that FERC determines should be refunded, a billion dollars to the consumers of San Diego, Mr. Speaker. \$12 billion to the State of California.

These were ill-gotten gains by a cartel of the large energy generators and marketers, and that money must be returned to the Californians who are suffering. And as we watch the news and as we listen to what is going on, please remember the Governor of California and the California legislature can do a lot about our State's problems, but they cannot order refunds. They cannot set wholesale prices.

We are stuck in California with the economic disaster that that implies, a billion dollars worth of debt in San Diego, \$12 billion sucked out of our State by these power generators. We cannot look to Sacramento to solve that; only we can do it. I ask President Bush to act, and act quickly. The President cannot take a hands-off approach.

WHY DOES THE MEDIA INSIST UPON REPORTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICAN MAJORITY AND GIVING THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION CREDIT?

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, late last year, a constituent asked me "why do newspapers and TV networks insist upon not reporting the accomplishments of the Congressional Republican majority, or if it is reported, the Clinton administration is given the credit?"

I replied, some do accurately report the facts, but the national media, printed and electronic, with rare exceptions, tilts noticeably to the left.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans, if not most Americans, prefer fair, objective reporting. All too often, again, with rare exceptions, double standards are applied to the detriment of conservative Republicans.

An example of this double-standard mentality is the recently-revealed

Jesse Jackson saga. Had a nationally known conservative Republican religionist fathered a child out of wedlock, a universal firestorm would have likely erupted and, in lieu of a three-day story, it would have endured for several weeks with front page dissemination.

Ironically, Mr. Speaker, African American reporters have been more critical of Mr. Jackson than have many nonblack reporters.

This is an appropriate time, as we begin a new year, it seems to me, for the media to scrap the double standard it has nurtured for so long and embrace a single standard of reporting. If conservative Republicans are taken to the woodshed by the media, then so should liberal Democrats.

The Jesse Jackson case involves not insignificant amounts of money changing hands to the benefit of the mother of Reverend Jackson's child. If the father of this child, in my opinion, were a conservative Republican, media sleuths likely would be developing a money trail to determine the source of these funds. Is such a trail being pursued in the Jackson case? Unlikely.

When this story broke, I heard it said time and again that this story will be summarily dismissed, because Jesse Jackson is too powerful, and no one wants to annoy Reverend Jackson.

While I am attempting to annoy no one, Mr. Speaker, I, however, am employing the national media to submit to a New Year's resolution that, henceforth, conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats be objectively fed from the same journalistic spoon and the Jesse Jackson case is one of several that can serve as a springboard for this purpose.

My criticism of double standard reporting, Mr. Speaker, is directed to the mainstream media, or what is commonly known as the big markets. I am the beneficiary of fair and objective reporting by the media in my congressional district. But fairness and objective political reporting need to be practiced more fully at the national level. If my activities can be reported fairly and objectively within the boundaries of my congressional district, why can it not be done nationally?

I hope this will be forthcoming. Should I hold my breath? I fear that would be ill-advised. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, I will patiently wait and hope.

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

[Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

□ 1230

POULTRY FARMERS' EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the