

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER, AUGUST 8, 1984, RELATIVE TO RECOGNITION FOR ONE-MINUTE SPEECHES

The SPEAKER. After consultation with and concurrence by the Minority Leader, the Chair announces that he will institute a new policy of recognition for "one-minute" speeches and for special order requests. The Chair will alternate recognition for one-minute speeches between majority and minority Members, in the order in which they seek recognition in the well under present practice from the Chair's right to the Chair's left, with possible exceptions for Members of the leadership and Members having business requests. The Chair, of course, reserves the right to limit one-minute speeches to a certain period of time or to a special place in the program on any given day, with notice to the leadership.

Upon consultation with the Minority Leader, the Speaker's policy, which began on February 23, 1994 and was reiterated on January 4, 1995, will continue to apply in the 107th Congress as outlined below:

On Tuesdays, following legislative business, the Chair may recognize Members for special-order speeches up to midnight, and such speeches may not extend beyond midnight. On all other days of the week, the Chair may recognize Members for special-order speeches up to four hours after the conclusion of five-minute special-order speeches. Such speeches may not extend beyond the four-hour limit without the permission of the Chair, which may be granted only with advance consultation between the leaderships and notification to the House. However, at no time shall the Chair recognize for any special-order speeches beyond midnight.

The Chair will first recognize Members for five-minute special-order speeches, alternating initially and subsequently between the parties regardless of the date the order was granted by the House. The Chair will then recognize longer special order speeches. A Member recognized for a five-minute special-order speech may not be recognized for a longer special-order speech. The four-hour limitation will be divided between the majority and minority parties. Each party is entitled to reserve its first hour for respective leaderships or their designees. Recognition will alternate initially and subsequently between the parties each day.

The allocation of time within each party's two-hour period (or shorter period if prorated to end by midnight) is to be determined by a list submitted to the Chair by the respective leaderships. Members may not sign up with their leadership for any special-order speeches earlier than one week prior to the special order, and additional guidelines may be established for such sign-ups by the respective leaderships.

Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule V, the television cameras will not pan the Chamber, but a "crawl" indicating morning hour or that the House has completed its legislative business and is proceeding with special-order speeches will appear on the screen. Other television camera adaptations during this period may be announced by the Chair.

The continuation of this format for recognition by the Speaker is without prejudice to the Speaker's ultimate power of recognition under clause 2 of rule XVII should circumstances so warrant.

5. DECORUM IN DEBATE

The Speaker's policies with respect to decorum in debate announced on January 3, 1991, and January 4, 1995, will apply during the 107th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER, JANUARY 3, 1991

The SPEAKER. It is essential that the dignity of the proceedings of the House be pre-

served, not only to assure that the House conducts its business in an orderly fashion but to permit Members to properly comprehend and participate in the business of the House. To this end, and in order to permit the Chair to understand and to correctly put the question on the numerous requests that are made by Members, the Chair requests that Members and others who have the privileges of the floor desist from audible conversation in the Chamber while the business of the House is being conducted. The Chair would encourage all Members to review rule XVII to gain a better understanding of the proper rules of decorum expected of them, and especially: First, to avoid "personalities" in debate with respect to references to other Members, the Senate, and the President; second, to address the Chair while standing and only when and not beyond the time recognized, and not to address the television or other imagined audience; third, to refrain from passing between the Chair and the Member speaking, or directly in front of a Member speaking from the well; fourth, to refrain from smoking in the Chamber; and generally to display the same degree of respect to the Chair and other members that every Member is due.

The Speaker's announcement of January 4, 1995, will continue to apply in the 107th Congress as follows:

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like all Members to be on notice that the Chair intends to strictly enforce time limitations on debate. Furthermore, the Chair has the authority to immediately interrupt Members in debate who transgress rule XVII by failing to avoid "personalities" in debate with respect to references to the Senate, the President, and other Members, rather than wait for Members to complete their remarks.

Finally, it is not in order to speak disrespectfully of the Speaker; and under the precedents the sanctions for such violations transcend the ordinary requirements for timeliness of challenges. This separate treatment is recorded in volume 2 of Hinds' Precedents, at section 1248 and was reiterated on January 19, 1995.

6. CONDUCT OF VOTES BY ELECTRONIC DEVICE

The Speaker's policy announced on January 4, 1995, will continue through the 107th Congress.

The SPEAKER. The Chair wishes to enunciate a clear policy with respect to the conduct of electronic votes.

As Members are aware, clause 2(a) of rule XX provides that Members shall have not less than 15 minutes in which to answer an ordinary [rollcall] record vote or quorum call. The rule obviously establishes 15 minutes as a minimum. Still, with the cooperation of the Members, a vote can easily be completed in that time. The events of October 30, 1991, stand out as proof of this point. On that occasion, the House was considering a bill in the Committee of the Whole under a special rule that placed an overall time limit on the amendment process, including the time consumed by [rollcalls] record votes. The Chair announced, and then strictly enforced, a policy of closing electronic votes as soon as possible after the guaranteed period of 15 minutes. Members appreciated and cooperated with the Chair's enforcement of the policy on that occasion.

The Chair desires that the example of October 30, 1991, be made the regular practice of the House. To that end, the Chair enlists the assistance of all Members in avoiding the unnecessary loss of time in conducting the business of the House. The Chair encourages all Members to depart for the Chamber promptly upon the appropriate bell and light signal. As in recent Congresses, the cloakrooms should not forward to the Chair re-

quests to hold a vote by electronic device, but should simply apprise inquiring Members of the time remaining on the voting clock.

Although no occupant of the Chair would prevent a Member who is in the well of the Chamber before the announcement of the result from casting his or her vote, each occupant of the Chair will have the full support of the Speaker in striving to close each electronic vote at the earliest opportunity. Members should not rely on signals relayed from outside the Chamber to assume that votes will be held open until they arrive in the Chamber.

7. USE OF HANDOUTS ON HOUSE FLOOR

The Speaker's policy announced on September 27, 1995, will continue through 107th Congress.

The SPEAKER. A recent misuse of handouts on the floor of the House has been called to the attention of the Chair and the House. At the bipartisan request of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the Chair announces that all handouts distributed on or adjacent to the House floor by Members during House proceedings must bear the name of the Member authorizing their distribution. In addition, the content of those materials must comport with standards of propriety applicable to words spoken in debate or inserted in the Record. Failure to comply with this admonition may constitute a breach of decorum and may give rise to a question of privilege.

The Chair would also remind Members that, pursuant to clause 5 of rule IV, staff are prohibited from engaging in efforts in the Hall of the House or rooms leading there to influence Members with regard to the legislation being amended. Staff cannot distribute handouts.

In order to enhance the quality of debate in the House, the Chair would ask Members to minimize the use of handouts.

8. USE OF PERSONAL, ELECTRONIC OFFICE EQUIPMENT ON HOUSE FLOOR

The Speaker's policy announced on January 27, 2000, will continue through the 107th Congress.

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to take this occasion to remind all Members and staff of the absolute prohibition contained in the last sentence of clause 5 of rule XVII against the use of any personal electronic office equipment, including cellular phones and computers, upon the floor of the House at any time.

The Chair requests all Members and staff wishing to receive or send cellular telephone messages to do so outside of the Chamber, and to deactivate, which means to turn off, any audible ring of cellular phones before entering the Chamber. To this end, the Chair insists upon the cooperation of all Members and staff and instructs the Sergeant-at-Arms, pursuant to Clause 3(a) of rule II, to enforce this prohibition.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of 40 United States Code, 175 and 176, the Chair, without objection, announces the Speaker's appointment of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) as members of the House Office Building Commission to serve with the Speaker.

There was no objection.

ON THE BEGINNING OF THE 107TH
CONGRESS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, today we begin the 107th Congress, and much work lies ahead of us. It is my hope that we will be able to join together to do the work of the American people who have entrusted us to do just that. The American people want a government which rises above partisan bickering and makes a real commitment to empowering individuals and communities. Our parents, teachers, and schools need the ability and resources to make their own decisions on educating America's children so that no child is left behind and every child has the chance to succeed.

Madam Speaker, this Congress must also work to ensure that every American has access to affordable and quality health care. And this Congress should grant the hardworking people of America real relief from overbearing tax burdens they currently face, starting with the elimination of the marriage penalty tax and the death tax.

I am confident that we will rise to these challenges and pass responsible legislation which will meet the needs of not only Nevadans but every American.

CONGRATULATING GALE NORTON
ON HER NOMINATION AS
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Madam Speaker, I would like to welcome everyone back and also to congratulate the Governor of Texas, the President-elect of the United States, not only for inspiring and earning the confidence of the country but in particular for the selection and nomination announcement early on about the Secretary of the Interior. Gale Norton, from Colorado, is the past attorney general for the great State of Colorado; and I am thoroughly excited and convinced that our colleagues, Madam Speaker, will be thrilled as well with the skill, expertise and attributes that Gale Norton will bring to the office of Secretary of the Interior. Her record in the State of Colorado is one that is clearly in the best interests of maintaining the integrity of our environment and doing so in a way that honors and respects western values and realizes the integral link between economic livelihoods of Westerners and also the maintenance and preservation of our most precious natural resources.

It is going to be an exciting time for us to work closely with the Department of the Interior under that new leadership, and I am anxious to move ahead and look forward to working hard with the new secretary.

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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEP OUR
PROMISE TO AMERICA'S MILI-
TARY RETIREES ACT IN 107TH
CONGRESS

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

Mr. SHOWS. Madam Speaker, today the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) and I are introducing the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. This is the successor bill to H.R. 2966 and H.R. 3573 which we introduced in the 106th Congress.

Madam Speaker, the United States is the greatest military power in the world. We could never have achieved such superiority without the millions of Americans who risked all to serve this great country. These patriots put the security of home and family on the line to defend the freedoms of all Americans. We do not hesitate to ask American men and women to make military service a career. And what do they ask for in return? All they ask is that the promises made when they entered the service are fulfilled when they retire.

Americans who agreed to serve a military career, at least 20 years, to protect our democracy were promised lifetime health care benefits by recruiters. But for many, the promised health care was not delivered. The Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act would restore adequate health care to our military retirees by enabling them to elect coverage under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program.

Last year, Congress responded to overwhelming grassroots support for the Keep Our Promise Act by including portions of the bill in the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act. Congress took the historic step of extending TRICARE, the military health care program, to military retirees beyond the age of 65 beginning in FY 2002. Finally, elderly military retirees will be able to keep TRICARE as a supplement to Medicare just like elderly civilian Federal retirees can keep their FEHBP as a supplement to Medicare.

Unfortunately, Congress did not address the pressing health care needs of military retirees under age 65 who must continue coverage under a TRICARE program that is woefully inadequate for many of them. TRICARE essentially offers health care benefits to retirees at military treatment facilities on a space-available basis. That is, they can pay for treatment if there is room for them at a military base. But with downsizing and base closures, access to military health care is dif-

ficult. It is impossible for those who cannot travel even short distances. And many retirees who do not live near bases cannot find a civilian doctor who participates in TRICARE. The Promise Act will allow retirees who are not well served by TRICARE to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan.

Madam Speaker, retirees who entered the service prior to June 7, 1956, when the program now known as TRICARE was enacted actually saw much of their promised and earned benefits taken away. Under the Keep Our Promise Act, the United States Government would keep its word to this most elderly group of retirees by paying the full cost of FEHBP enrollment. Military retirees across the country will tell you that this is landmark legislation to fulfill the government's broken promise for which they have been fighting for years. Madam Speaker, when you or I or anyone else buys something on the open market, we are always warned to let the buyer beware. But military recruiters are not salesmen. Recruiters are agents of the United States Government, the American people.

Should Americans doubt their own government? We owe it to our military retirees who were led to believe they would receive lifetime health care that the government will be there for them. Madam Speaker, it is up to Congress to adequately fund TRICARE so it can provide the level of health care we owe our military retirees. And we must make sure that the Defense Department administers TRICARE in a manner consistent with that goal. Right now TRICARE does not properly serve many of our military retirees. They need to be treated fairly and compassionately. This is what the Keep Our Promise Act does.

Passing this bill will let America's military retirees who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf know that we honor and respect them by keeping our word to them. And passing this bill will get the attention of the next generation of Americans who must not be discouraged from military service.

Madam Speaker, we should keep our promise to America's Military retirees. We should pass the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act.

VACATING HOUSE RESOLUTION 11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the proceedings whereby House Resolution 11 was considered and adopted are vacated since the same resolution had been previously adopted as H. Res. 10.

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles: