

accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than \$10,952,787 for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATION.

Of the amount provided for in section 1, not more than \$5,366,866 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2003, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2004.

SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATION.

Of the amount provided for in section 1, not more than \$5,585,921 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2004, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2005.

SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Select Committee on Homeland Security, signed by the chairman of such Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in the amount under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any reduction in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 684

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 684.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday on May 7, 2003, I had to miss several rollcall votes because of official business in my hometown of Houston, Texas, attending the honoring of Earl Loggins and the opening of a very important service in my constituency. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 167, H.R. 766, the nanotechnology bill; I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 168, H. Con. Res. 53; and I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 169, H.R. 866.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1738

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 5 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 108TH CONGRESS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 148) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Eighth Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to the order of the House today, the resolution is considered read for amendment.

The text of House Resolution 148 is as follows:

H. RES. 148

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred Eighth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in subsection.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$10,623,640; Committee on Armed Services, \$12,377,680; Committee on the Budget, \$11,869,572; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$14,922,183; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$19,117,623; Committee on Financial Services, \$16,995,487; Committee on Government Reform, \$20,400,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$11,028,787; Committee on House Administration, \$10,374,974; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$7,809,730; Committee on International Relations, \$16,037,995; Committee on the Judiciary, \$17,248,067; Committee on Resources, \$14,910,527; Committee on Rules, \$5,669,311; Committee on Science, \$12,301,690; Committee on Small Business, \$6,372,008; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$3,443,150; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$17,682,505; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$6,776,617; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$16,521,319.

SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2003, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2004.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$5,292,225; Committee on Armed Services, \$5,943,675; Committee on the Budget, \$5,894,018; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$7,398,237; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$9,385,902; Committee on Financial Services, \$8,144,280; Committee on Government Reform, \$10,000,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$5,657,656; Committee on House Administration, \$5,028,573; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$3,773,567; Committee on International Relations, \$7,693,249; Committee on the Judiciary, \$8,422,720; Committee on Resources, \$7,360,564; Committee on Rules, \$2,816,332; Committee on Science, \$6,072,465; Committee on Small Business, \$3,080,591; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,636,825; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$8,722,428; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$3,225,344; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$8,063,151.

SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2004, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2005.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$5,331,415; Committee on Armed Services, \$6,434,005; Committee on the Budget, \$5,975,554; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$7,523,946; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$9,731,721; Committee on Financial Services, \$8,851,207; Committee on Government Reform, \$10,400,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$5,371,131; Committee on House Administration, \$5,346,401; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$4,036,163; Committee on International Relations, \$8,344,746; Committee on the Judiciary, \$8,825,346; Committee on Resources, \$7,549,963; Committee on Rules, \$2,852,979; Committee on Science, \$6,229,225; Committee on Small Business, \$3,291,417; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,806,325; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$8,960,077; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$3,551,273; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$8,458,168.

SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chairman of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any reduction in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment printed in the resolution, modified by the amendment reported by the Clerk in conjunction with that previous order, is adopted.

The text of House Resolution 148, as amended, is as follows:

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—With respect to the One Hundred Eighth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in such subsection.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.*—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$10,327,531; Committee on Armed Services, \$11,931,357; Committee on the Budget, \$11,869,572; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$14,673,371; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$18,622,138; Committee on Financial Services, \$13,696,487; Committee on Government Reform, \$19,614,435; Committee on House Administration, \$8,527,057; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$7,809,730; Committee on International Relations, \$14,552,695; Committee on the Judiciary, \$14,048,616; Committee on Resources, \$13,509,424; Committee on Rules, \$5,669,311; Committee on Science, \$11,690,845; Committee on Small Business, \$5,120,301; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$3,071,250; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$16,461,893; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,486,795; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$15,976,288.

SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2003, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2004.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.*—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$5,084,900; Committee on Armed Services, \$5,871,876; Committee on the Budget, \$5,856,333; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$7,047,896; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$9,101,042; Committee on Financial Services, \$6,601,085; Committee on Government Reform, \$9,740,963; Committee on House Administration, \$4,122,092; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$3,780,487; Committee on International Relations, \$6,993,645; Committee on the Judiciary, \$6,957,554; Committee on Resources, \$6,492,029; Committee on Rules, \$2,797,898; Committee on Science, \$5,711,401; Committee on Small Business, \$2,535,261; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,527,825; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$7,982,558; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$2,703,328; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$7,828,037.

SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2004, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2005.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.*—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$5,242,632; Committee on Armed Services, \$6,059,481; Committee on the Budget, \$6,013,239; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$7,625,475; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$9,521,097; Committee on Financial Services, \$7,095,402; Committee on Government Reform, \$9,873,472; Committee on House Administration, \$4,404,965; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$4,029,243; Committee on International Relations, \$7,559,050; Committee on the Judiciary, \$7,091,062; Committee on Resources, \$7,017,395; Committee on Rules, \$2,871,413; Committee on Science, \$5,979,444; Committee on Small Business, \$2,585,041; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,543,425; Committee on Transpor-

tation and Infrastructure, \$8,479,334; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$2,783,466; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$8,148,251.

SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chairman of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any reduction in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

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

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to consider H. Res. 148, an omnibus funding resolution providing for the expenses of certain committees of the United States House of Representatives in the 108th Congress.

In February of this year, the Chair, myself, and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), ranking member, reviewed what was presented to us by each Chair and ranking member of each committee. They presented a budget request to the Committee on House Administration and introduced individual resolutions to support their funding requests. This resolution, H. Res. 148, the omnibus primary expense resolution, combines all of the individual resolutions that came from those committees into one bill, excluding the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

I am pleased to put before the House a bipartisan resolution that can be supported by a majority of Members on both sides of the aisle. I feel that both chairmen and ranking members will agree that this carefully crafted agreement will provide sufficient funding for them to carry out the duties and responsibilities for which they are charged.

As we all know, the Select Committee on Homeland Security was created at the beginning of this Congress. That committee will provide an important oversight function, overseeing the newly created Department of Homeland Security and ensuring that the combined agencies are doing the job we all expect of them with regards to protecting our homeland and its security. However, due to the fact that the Homeland Security Budget represents a special situation with regard to this funding cycle, we have not included them in this omnibus funding resolution, but they will instead be considered separately. During this cycle com-

mittees requested from the Committee on House Administration a total of \$252.5 million in spending. This is \$49 million more than what was authorized in the 107th Congress and represents a 24.1 percent requested increase.

In removing Homeland Security from the equation, the request by committees total \$241.5 million, which is a \$37.9 million increase over the 107th authorized levels and an 18.6 percent increase. This resolution reduces the amount requested by committees by \$18.6 million, or a 7.7 percent decrease.

House Resolution 148, as amended, provides for expenses of all committees other than Homeland Security and authorizes \$222.8 million, a 9.4 percent increase, and that is 9.4 percent over a 2-year period. This is a \$19.3 million increase over the 107th congressional authorized levels.

It should be noted that the 108th Congress funding level of \$222.8 million in this resolution is still lower than the funding levels in the 103rd Congress in both constant and actual dollars. The mark for the 103rd Congress was \$223.3 million and when adjusted for inflation amounts to \$284.7 million in 2003 dollars. This means that while 10 years have lapsed since the beginning of the 103rd Congress, our funding levels are just now reaching the levels authorized in that Congress on a real dollar business basis because of the drastic costs instituted in the 104th Congress. On a constant dollar basis, we are significantly under the adjusted amount by approximately \$62 million.

The reason I mention this, Mr. Speaker, is it shows, I think, prudent history on the part of the House for the committees to continue to do their job. Yet if we look back at the 103rd Congress, we are living I think within a very reasonable presented budget. I am proud of the numbers we are putting forward with this resolution. As I stated earlier, I feel that most, not all, but most Members will be able to widely support this measure.

This resolution also carries forward a goal that we have reached in the 107th Congress whereby committees allocated at least one third of their resources to the minority. Since the 104th Congress, we have strived to reach the goal of dividing committee resources on a two-thirds/one-third basis between the majority and minority of each committee. I am proud to say that committee chairmen have worked with their respective ranking members and produced agreements that provide for a two-thirds/one-third split of resources. And it is important to note that if not for the leadership of Speaker HASTERT in cooperation with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), our ranking member, this goal absolutely would never have been reached nor would we have been able to continue to ensure the fair division of the resources in this resolution.

Also I want to thank both the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and the gentleman from

Maryland (Mr. HOYER), minority whip, for their work on this issue while in their previous assignments in setting this into motion.

When the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) was the ranking member of the committee and I became the Chair 2 years ago, we decided this was going to absolutely finally be completed, and we did that. And when the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) became our ranking member, which we are so happy to have him in that position of leadership, he was insistent with the tenacity that I think his ranking members need to be aware of to make sure that goal that was attained should be kept and would be kept. So this is an argument that went right off the table because we completely agree with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) that that is the only fair way to do it, and I hope this sets a precedent that after we are not in these positions it continues to be two-thirds/one-third split always.

I also want to thank the chairmen of each committee and their ranking member on their cooperation with each other on this matter.

In addition to the funding issues that are part of this process, the committee identified two special categories of requests that we feel need to be addressed separately from the regular funding process. I believe it is important to ensure that we put forth the most accurate reflection of the amounts we are providing to committees and those numbers should not be distorted and inflated with other special needs.

Here I refer to requests to upgrade committee hearings rooms and requests for disaster recovery equipment. In the 107th Congress, we removed hearing room upgrade requests from the normal committee funding process, as those costs would have severely distorted the actual amounts it cost to run each committee.

□ 1745

It was also felt that the hearing room served an institutional function and, therefore, upgrades should be paid for out of a centralized House fund where appropriate.

Hearing rooms were in desperate need of refurbishing. Most have not seen an upgrade in decades. Having removed the upgrades from the committee funding process, we were able to make significant progress towards bringing our hearing rooms up to 21st century standards. While we have not finished all of our main and subcommittee hearing rooms as yet, we are well on our way to making the proceedings of committees more accessible and user-friendly to the general public.

In the 104th Congress when the switch was flipped and Thomas became online and brought the Congress to the world and the world was able to view Congress, we then had to embark on the technological upgrades. I mention this because it would be very, very un-

fair for the first time really in our Nation's history to embark on these technical upgrades, it would be unrealistic to ask these committees to be able to do their function and to pay for this.

The beauty of this Congress as this continues, and we are going to work with our ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), and all the other members of the committee, the beauty of it is if you cannot get to Washington, D.C., you do not have to be shut out of the process. The public will be able to watch their Congress and know what the Congress is doing; and I think this is a very, very laudable, good goal that we have to, again, encourage the upgrades to continue.

On a different, but related, note, the 108th Congress has seen a substantial, but understandable, amount of requests from committees with regard to disaster recovery equipment directly related to the events of September 11 and the subsequent biological attacks directed at this Capitol complex with the anthrax brought into our complex.

Like the hearing room upgrades, the protection of committee data was thought to serve an institutional function. Therefore, the cost of providing the mechanism that gives committees an alternative off-site storage site for data in the event of a catastrophic event should be borne by the House, and, again, not by committees individually.

Further, providing an enterprise solution for off-site data storage ensures that a common standard will be applied for the equipment purchased and used to provide back-up storage for committee data. The committee will continue to work with the proper entities in the House and consult with other committees to ensure that a secure, standard enterprise system is instituted that will satisfy the needs of committees.

In conclusion, I again would like to thank from my end of it the Speaker for his leadership, and also the Democratic leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). I would like to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), for his efforts in working with the ranking members and with the majority in order to assist us in fashioning an agreeable bipartisan resolution that could be supported by minority Members on the floor and majority Members. I appreciate the patience and cooperation, and I will stress patience, that the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) has shown. Without that, we would not be here today on the floor with this resolution.

Thanks also should go out to the chairmen of the committees and the ranking members who submitted, for the most part, very fair and reasonable budget requests.

I would also like to thank the staff of the majority and minority on the committee, both sides, who have worked diligently to make sure this institution

can continue and can service the constituents across this Nation, as the committees do and should.

I also want to note in closing that there has been a spirit on this committee, and it has been noted in the media, a spirit in this committee that was in the last Congress and has continued with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) and also the minority members being able to express their view, push their point of view, and fight the good fight for what they believe in and for us to be able to also weigh in on the opinions. But at the end of the day, we realized that working together for the good of the committees and this institution is something that is working for the people of the Nation.

So I am very proud of the committee members, and I am very proud of our ranking member, his integrity and diligence, due diligence, for not only the ranking members, but for the good of the whole of the committees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members support this carefully crafted bipartisan resolution.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my support for House Resolution 148, which provides an overall average of a 9.4 percent increase in funding for the 19 committees under the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration; and I want to thank, again, the chairman of this committee for his outstanding work and effort. This is, after all, an extraordinarily important action that we are taking today. This funds the work of our committees, so in essence it funds the work of the people of this country.

The process through which this resolution was developed and the majority's commitment to ensuring equitable treatment for the minority indicates the healthy respect for the work of this institution and the vital contributions that both sides of the aisle make in enacting and overseeing public policy.

The committee chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and his staff must be commended for their commitment to equity and bipartisanship.

I also want to express my gratitude to my leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), and her staff. Her leadership was critical to the progression towards fairness in the allocation of committee resources between the majority and the minority. As any outstanding leader would, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) early on chose to focus on the legitimate institutional needs of the House committee system. I thank her for that; and I thank her for her vision, her clarity, and her focus on the continued need for diversity in our committees, technological enhancement, and an

outreach to Members, so that they are able to perform their tasks to their utmost ability. She reached out to the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and to his staff to make sure that the committee funding for the House of Representatives did not get caught up in the same partisan bickering that previous Congresses had.

Without question, her leadership and decision to put politics aside has made my job much easier. I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) for working in conjunction to aid and abet the cause of this great institution of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I think all of our colleagues will agree that the proposed 9.4 percent increase in committee funding from the 107th Congress level is fiscally responsible and in fact quite thrifty, especially when three factors are considered: the committee workload, the committee staff compensation, and the mission-critical technological upgrades that the chairman so adequately addressed in his remarks.

Let me say as a person who is enjoying the experience of serving on this committee for the first time, we had the chairmen come before us and enunciate their specific concerns about the workload that they now possess, their desire to reach out beyond the Beltway, their specific concern as it relates to events that have transpired since September 11, and the new kind of pressure that so many of our committees find themselves under with expanding jurisdictions and issues that heretofore were not part of the day-to-day business of this institution. The Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Veterans Affairs, and the Committee on International Relations all were particularly impacted in this past legislative session, so I am pleased that we were able to provide adequate funding for those specific committees.

Congress will confront many issues, including the heightened policing needed for the Nation's accounting, financial and pension systems, which will impose new demands on the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce, as well the investigation of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* tragedy, all important issues that fall squarely on the shoulders of our various committees impacted by this decision.

As to the committee staff itself, again I want to thank the various Chairs who came before our committee, to a person all concerned that there be equity. Since COLAs are already in place for the United States Senate and the executive branch, it is increasingly important that staffers who work for our House committees get the same kind of just reward and equity they richly deserve. They carry out the great work of our various committees here. The work this institution's committee staffs conduct on be-

half of the American people is no less important than the work conducted by their peers in the Senate and the executive branch, and their monthly paychecks must reflect that.

Again, I thank the chairmen of the various committees who came forward and made that one of their top concerns as well.

As the chairman has pointed out, mission-critical technology upgrades equally are important as we continue to reach out to our constituents to make sure that they receive the most up-to-date data in a timely fashion. This can be a costly, but essential, activity; and we expect that a separate vehicle will be used to meet some of the essential institutional needs, but many technological needs cannot wait for later action. Again, I appreciate the great efforts that were put forward in the committee.

Most of all, I would like to focus on the great equity that this chairman has brought to the committee. I am a new ranking member to this committee, but I am well aware of its past history. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) reminded me in subcommittee that it was not always the practice of the Democratic majority to provide the same kind of equity that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) has pursued and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) along with him in the previous session, and I am proud to join in this session. Repeatedly and with the support of the Democratic leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), and the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), the issue of two-thirds/one-third funding has been uppermost in my concern and those of the Members of the minority, and also the way that those dollars are handled equitably within the committee process.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) has continually stepped forward, not only in words, but in deeds, to insist upon that kind of equity within our committees, and I thank him for that. It has been especially important to our Committee on Small Business. The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) has made this issue important, and I thank the chairman for stepping forward and aiding and abetting her cause and the concerns of that committee.

Lastly, I would like to conclude by saying that I do think that it is important that when you are working in a bipartisan nature like this that you have an esprit de corps.

I want to thank my members of the minority on our committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), who have submitted remarks for the RECORD. Both bring great value to this committee process, and especially in carrying out the mission of our leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my support for House Resolution 148, which pro-

vides for an overall average 9.4 percent increase in funding for the 19 committees under the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration from the level set in the 107th Congress.

The process through which this resolution was developed, and the Majority's commitment to ensuring equitable treatment for the Minority, indicate a healthy respect for the work of this institution and the vital contributions that both sides of the aisle make in enacting and overseeing public policy. The Committee Chairman, Rep. BOB NEY, and his staff must be commended for their commitment to comity and bipartisanship.

I also want to express my gratitude to my Leader, NANCY PELOSI, and her staff. Her leadership was critical to the progress toward fairness in the allocation of committee resources between the Majority and Minority which this resolution represents. As any outstanding leader would, Leader PELOSI early on chose to focus on the legitimate institutional needs of the House committee system. She reached out to Speaker HASTERT and his staff to make sure that the committee funding work of House Administration did not get caught up in the same partisan bickering that had plagued committee funding in previous Congresses. Without question, her leadership and decision to put politics aside made my job much, much easier. I commend Leader PELOSI and Speaker HASTERT.

I think my colleagues will agree that the proposed 9.4 percent increase in committee funding from the 107th Congress level is a fiscally responsible and in fact quite thrifty, especially when three key factors are considered: Factor #1: Increased committee workload: September 11, 2001 cast into sharp focus the need for the U.S. House of Representatives to examine the gaps and deficiencies in this nation's military and security apparatus. While I expect the new House Select Committee on Homeland Security to lead the charge in this area in the 108th Congress, virtually no House committee has been spared responsibilities because the issue of security extends to the jurisdiction of virtually every House committee. In addition, the recent military action in Iraq, combined with the immense diplomatic and reconstruction challenges associated with its successful resolution, will impose new oversight and legislative demands on several House committees, particularly the Committees on Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations.

Other significant committee duties that were never contemplated at the beginning of the 107th Congress but will confront the committee system in 108th Congress include heightened policing of the nation's accounting, financial, and pension systems, which will impose new demands on the Committees on Ways & Means, Financial Services, Education & the Workforce, and Energy & Commerce, and investigating the Space Shuttle *Columbia* tragedy, a critical mission that will fall largely to the Science Committee.

Factor #2 Committee staff compensation/cost-of-living adjustments. I was greatly encouraged that virtually all the committee chairs sought cost-of-living adjustments for their committee staff personnel on par with COLAs already in place in the U.S. Senate, the Executive Branch, House MRA's and House support offices like the Chief Administrative Office. If House committees are to attract and retain the

best and brightest staffers the market has to offer, committees must properly compensate them. The work this institution's committee staff conduct on behalf of the American people is no less important than the work conducted by their peers in the Senate and Executive Branch. Their monthly paychecks must reflect that.

Factor #3 Mission-critical technology upgrades: Virtually every committee chairman and his ranking Minority member told us that they confront the immediate need of implementing disaster-recovery programs in the event that their committee is unable to conduct regular business in its House office space. Central to meeting this need is developing off-campus computer systems to store mission-critical data—a costly but essential activity. We expect that a separate vehicle will be used to meet this essential institutional need. But many technology needs cannot wait for later action.

I am pleased to report that in most instances, the 9.4 percent increase accounts for cost-of-living increases since the 107th funding resolution.

Managed properly by committee chairmen and their ranking minority members, I am confident that the proposed average 9.4 percent increase will provide most House committees adequate resources over the next two years to match the 4.1 percent pay increase that President Bush has provided to federal employees in the Executive Branch under the Federal Pay Comparability Act of 1990, a decision that the U.S. Senate quickly followed with respect to its committee staff compensation policies and that House Committees would be wise to follow.

It is my view that the proposed 9.4 percent increase is modest. One question is whether the proposed 9.4 percent increase is enough to permit the Chairmen and their ranking minority members to carry out the ambitious agendas they described to the Committee of House Administration in March, perform crucial oversight and legislative responsibilities as they relate to the post-September 11 environment, and respond to exigencies that no amount of planning can predict.

Mitigating my concern about the adequacy of the proposed 9.4 percent increase is the Majority's oft-repeated commitment to the "2/3-1/3 principle."

This common-sense principle will provide ranking minority members and the Minority committee staffs a minimum of 1/3 of the total funds, 1/3 of the total staff positions, and the discretion to expend those funds within appropriate administrative guidelines, with no unusual constraints on the Minority.

Because the principle sets only a floor, not a ceiling, committee chairmen can always grant additional spending and hiring authority to their ranking minority members. It is my fervent hope that chairmen will be favorably disposed to grant such authority as circumstances may require.

Were this a previous era in committee funding, I would be concerned that in cases where committee resources are just enough to cover basic committee needs, chairmen might be inclined to deprive the Minority of 1/3 of the resources. Fortunately, it is not a previous era. In two days of committee funding hearings in March, I specifically asked each chairman if he intended to honor this important principle in the 108th Congress. The answer, to my satisfaction, was "yes."

In the spirit of "trust but verify," I will monitor closely the distribution of resources to the ranking minority members of each committee during the 108th Congress. I expect no problems, however. Practiced faithfully, 1/3-2/3 principle will help ensure that the House committee operate in as non-partisan a manner as possible. The American people deserve nothing less.

I thank the distinguished Chairman for bringing House Resolution 148 to the floor.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I do not have additional speakers; but I do want to say one thing, too, in closing from my end of it. I thanked our Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), but I also want to thank Scott Palmer and Ted Van Der Meid of the Speaker's staff, who have helped us throughout this process. I think it is important to recognize them.

Mr. Speaker, I again stress that we have tremendous committees that have important obligations, and that is why this budget is important for our Members to support.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss as well if I did not thank my staff personally for the hard work that they have put forward in putting these deliberations together. I would also like to acknowledge Bill Cable, who was a valued member of this staff who is moving on, as well, and who we had a small party for today. His help in assisting George Shevlin was invaluable.

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

□ 1800

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

One thing I wanted to express, I do appreciate, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is here, but I do appreciate that the gentleman from Maryland and the gentleman from Connecticut both indicated if, in fact, the body would change here in the numbers of who controls the Chamber they in fact will keep this ratio. I just want to add though in all sincerity on behalf of the majority, let us not put that to the test.

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

Mr. NEY. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I felt compelled to come to the floor because I wanted to thank the gentlemen for the very kind comments that they had to say about my working on the Committee on House Administration. I know the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), the former President of the Connecticut Senate, and I both had that honor having been selected by our colleagues to

head our State Senates. He is more than a worthy successor and I am very proud of the work that he is doing on this committee and I want to congratulate him.

The Committee on House Administration is uniquely an institutional committee that tries to provide the resources to Members, to staff so that we can serve our constituents better and so that staff will have an environment and the ability to serve well. I congratulate the gentleman from Connecticut for his work.

I know that the gentleman from Connecticut, like myself, has found the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), the chairman of the Committee on House Administration, to be an extraordinarily positive leader in this House and one who wants to do things and do things right and does not care about the politics, does not care about partisanship, is extraordinarily easy to work with, and I want to again say how much I enjoyed working with him.

If there is one downside to my "promotion" to the position of Democratic whip, it was that I left the Committee on House Administration on which I had served for I think approximately 14 years. And serving with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), when I look back on the congressional career, whenever it ends, I want the gentleman to know when I look back on my career, one of the highlights will be the opportunity to serve with the gentleman from Ohio, to serve this institution and, indeed, in the cosponsorship of the Help America Vote Act, to serve our country as well.

I thank the gentleman for his kind words but, more than that, I want to thank him for his service to this institution and to this country. He does a great job. I know that the gentleman will enjoy and is enjoying working with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), who is also, like the gentleman from Ohio and like me, committed to making sure that we operate in a way that will bring credit not to Republicans, not to Democrats, but to the House of Representatives and facilitate the work on behalf of the American people. I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his kind words and I thank the gentleman from Connecticut as well.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I want to thank the gentleman. Prior to his arrival I had praised the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the minority whip, but I also want to mention something, and I have said this a lot of times. We have a homeland security bill coming up. It was a pleasure having the relationship with the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) on that committee and members on that side of the aisle making the institution work. But during 9/11, when we had very, very tough decisions to make in this body that involved the Speaker's Office and at that time Leader GEPHARDT, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and myself and members of that committee, there was not one single time

that the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) ever, ever injected one ounce of politics in tough decisions which an individual could have done, and he never did it, and neither did the members of that committee on either side of the aisle. They hung together with what I call our Capitol family. We appreciate that. I will never forget it. We also hated to lose the gentleman, but we like the gentleman from Connecticut, too.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just like to add that in the presence of a great leader like the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and, as he indicated, also a former President of the Maryland legislative Senate, what an outstanding job that he has done in this committee. It is always great when one is able to stand on the shoulders of those who came before you, and the work that he has done for this committee has set a very important and exemplary example of how we should conduct ourselves here on the floor and in the committee. On behalf of all of those committee members and the committee staff who especially appreciate the gentleman's commitment to the one-third/two-thirds ratio, we extend our great thanks, love and devotion. In a word, the gentleman is a class act, as is the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and as we continue this love fest here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers on our side, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, Chairman NEY and Ranking Member LARSON, I am pleased to offer my support today in favor of H. Res. 148 to fund committees of the House of Representatives during the 108th Congress.

As the Committee on House Administration moves forward with its mission of overseeing the functions of the House, I want to make sure that as opportunities arise for companies to do business with the House, African American, Women and other minority-owned firms are included in the awarding of contracts. With the construction of the Visitors Center offering up to \$100 million in contracts for Sequence 1, and \$125 million in contracts to be awarded for Sequence 2, it is imperative that African American, Women and minority owned businesses have as much opportunity to submit and win bids as do majority-owned firms. Along these lines, I sent a letter to the Architect of the Capitol Alan Hantman on April 16 stating my interest in being informed regarding the status of the House's outreach efforts to include eligible women and minority-owned firms in ongoing construction projects.

As of 2001, we know that according to the Small Business Administration, 259,143 contracts totaling \$15.6 billion were awarded to small disadvantaged firms nationwide. Overall, small disadvantaged businesses won 7.12 percent of contracts awarded across the country in 2001 according to the Congressional Research Service. Given this information, we

must do all we can to ensure that minority-owned firms, which frequently come under the heading of small disadvantaged businesses are able to bid on and win contracts awarded by the House. I have a keen interest in this matter, given that my home State of California is one of four states across the country accounting for 35 percent of all businesses owned by African Americans as documented by the U.S. Census Bureau. Right here, the District of Columbia is home to the nation's highest percentage of African American-owned firms at 24 percent, yet only 2.5 percent of the District's business receipts come from these companies as reported by the U.S. Census. Further, the State of Maryland ranks second with 12 percent of the country's African American-owned businesses which generate 1.4 percent of Maryland's business tax receipts. It is clear from these numbers that as Members of the House, we can do more to assure African American, Women and other minority-owned firms greater access to contracts under our jurisdiction.

I wholeheartedly support the bipartisan nature of the funding resolution put forth by this committee, and I applaud the Chairman and Ranking Member as they continue to make efforts to make contracting opportunities controlled by the House more available to minority business owners.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered on the resolution, as amended.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 148.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 110) providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security in the One Hundred Eighth Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the resolution is considered read for amendment.

The text of House Resolution 110 is as follows:

H. RES. 110

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than \$11,028,787 for the One Hundred Eighth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than \$5,657,656 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2003, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2004; and

(2) not more than \$5,371,131 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2004, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2005.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment printed in the resolution is adopted.

The text of House Resolution 110, as amended, is as follows:

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EXPENSES FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS.

With respect to the One Hundred Eighth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than \$10,952,787 for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATION.

Of the amount provided for in section 1, not more than \$5,366,866 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2003, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2004.

SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATION.

Of the amount provided for in section 1, not more than \$5,585,921 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2004, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2005.

SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Select Committee on Homeland Security, signed by the chairman of such Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in the amount under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any reduction in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the