

not pass both Chambers, has been an approach we have taken so we can get bits and pieces of bills that are good bills.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much, and I agree with almost everything he said today, but only almost. I would still like to see an omnibus bill.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time, we can still work an omnibus bill, and we can still continue to do these. These are probably going a little faster, I hope. But an omnibus will keep us all busy.

With that, I urge support of the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1985, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANSFER TO PUBLIC PRINTER OF AUTHORITY OVER INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING CONGRESSIONAL RECORD INDEXES

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3229) to amend title 44, United States Code, to transfer to the Public Printer the authority over the individuals responsible for preparing indexes of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3229

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

SECTION 1. TRANSFER TO PUBLIC PRINTER OF AUTHORITY OVER INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING CONGRESSIONAL RECORD INDEXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 902 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 902. Congressional Record: Indexes

“The Public Printer shall prepare the semimonthly and the session index to the Congressional Record. The Joint Committee on Printing shall direct the form and manner of its publication and distribution.”.

(b) TRANSITION RULE FOR CURRENT EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who is an employee of the Congressional Record Index Office as of the effective date of this Act shall be transferred to the Government Printing Office, subject to the provisions of this title governing the selection and appointment of employees of the Government Printing Office and any applicable regulations.

(2) TREATMENT OF ACCRUED LEAVE.—Any annual and sick leave accrued by such an individual prior to such date shall be transferred and made available to the individual as an employee of the Government Printing Office, subject to applicable regulations of the Government Printing Office governing the use of such leave.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to pay periods beginning on or after October 1, 2003 (or, if later, the first day of the first month which begins after the date of the enactment of this Act).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here today with my colleague, our esteemed ranking member of the Committee on House Administration.

I rise here today in support of H.R. 3229, a bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to transfer to the Public Printer the authority over the individuals responsible for preparing indexes of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The indexes create the semimonthly and session indexes to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Under the Printing Act of 1895, the Joint Committee on Printing, known as JCP, designates to the Public Printer persons to prepare the index and fixes the compensation to be paid by the Public Printer for their work. Their compensation, benefits, and related office expenses are charged directly to the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation.

Although the indexers have long been recognized as Congressional employees, their daily work is supervised by the GPO, the Government Printing Office. Therefore, we are here today to make this change to title 44.

GPO provides administrative support for the indexers; pays the indexers from the GPO revolving fund, which is then reimbursed by the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation; and maintains employment records for the indexers. The indexers are housed in buildings under GPO's control and subject to GPO's rules and regulations regarding security and other related matters. GPO provides equipment for the indexers, who work on a day-to-day basis directly with GPO's production staff in compiling and publishing the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index.

Prior to 1999, the JCP managed the indexers. However, in 1999 the funding for the JCP ended. The employee transfer that this legislation will provide will relieve the JCP of the administrative burden of managing a daily production activity that more appropriately belongs, frankly, in the Government Printing Office. At the same time, it will preserve the JCP's control over the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index itself, which is important.

Most importantly, however, it will correct an employment situation. The JCP, in conjunction with GPO, has crafted legislative language to accomplish the transfer with minimal impact on office employees. The JCP and the GPO have ensured that despite the transfer accomplished by this legislation, the format and substance of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will remain the same as before, which, of course, is very important to many people in the country.

With the transfer, the employees will be placed in the civil service and will be covered by the laws and regulations covering GPO employment. Their contributions and service time accumulated under retirement systems as Congressional employees will be fully credited. They will retain their current rates of pay and their future pay will be subject to pay systems governing other GPO employees. They will be allowed to carry accumulated annual and sick leave with them, with subsequent use subject to GPO regulations.

The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index Office will be assigned to the appropriate GPO organization, subject to GPO management direction, although any future changes to the form and production of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index will be subject to the review and approval of the JCP.

The indexers will continue to be funded by the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation. This change will not interrupt their work on the index. Consequently, the effects of the transfer will have no impact to CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index users in Congress, the government or the public.

As a request from the JCP, the GPO has briefed the Index Office employees on this legislative proposal. No objection was raised to the JCP.

The indexer employment situation has been in flux since 1999, and I commend the JCP and the GPO for working through this fluid situation and also for helping us bring this resolution to the floor.

The Public Printer, Bruce James, is to be commended also. He has done an excellent job and I think has really brought the Government Printing Office into the 21st century. I am going to be urging full support of this resolution.

I look forward to our ranking member, who is a definite student of history, and I am sure he is going to provide, Madam Speaker, a historical perspective to this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the chairman for his historical reference.

I am pleased to join with the chairman in support of this legislation to transfer control of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index Office to the Government Printing Office.

The gentleman has ably explained the bill. The Public Printer, who asked

for this legislation, has submitted a detailed justification that the chairman has included in the RECORD.

I want to thank the chairman and the Joint Committee on Printing and particularly the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) for his thorough explanation of the bill, the staff director of our joint committee, Maria Robinson, for her hard work, and my joint committee staff director, who I am pleased to have back, Michael Harrison, for his detailed work on this job.

I would also like to thank the director of the Office of Congressional Affairs at the GPO, Mr. Andrew Sherman, who was so helpful in putting this legislation together, as well as so many other projects.

I am pleased to join the distinguished chairman in support of this legislation to transfer control of the Congressional Record Index Office to the Government Printing Office. The gentleman has ably explained the bill. The Public Printer, who asked for this legislation, has submitted a detailed justification that the chairman will include in the RECORD.

Suffice it to say that circumstances have changed in recent years, creating a need for the modification recommended in this bill. A law dating back to the mid-19th Century, now codified as Section 902 of Title 44, United States Code, gives the Joint Committee on Printing the duty to appoint and fix the pay of "competent persons" to prepare a periodic index to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In addition to appointing the indexers and fixing their pay, the joint committee for many years actively supervised and directed the indexers' day-to-day work.

The indexers have been treated as congressional employees for leave and retirement purposes. However, unlike other congressional staff, whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Administrative Officer of the House, the Public Printer pays the indexers out of the GPO revolving fund, and is reimbursed from the Congress's appropriation for its own printing and binding. The Public Printer provides supplies and equipment for the indexers' use, also on a reimbursable basis. The indexers perform their work on GPO premises, some distance from the Capitol, and naturally their work is closely linked to the production of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD itself.

Madam Speaker, if it ever made sense for the Joint Committee on Printing to have the responsibility to appoint the indexers, set their pay, and provide day-to-day supervision for the Index Office, that day ended in 1998 when the 105th Congress chose not to provide further appropriations for the JCP. That decision deprived the JCP of its separate professional staff, which had previously supported the joint committee in the discharge of its responsibilities, including management of the Index Office. Now those responsibilities fall upon our Committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, both of which are responsible for many matters in addition to printing. Under these circumstances, it makes sense to transfer the Index Office to the Public Printer, as he has proposed, leaving the JCP to establish policy to guide the Public Printer's exercise of his responsibility.

The bill does that and nothing else. The Public Printer has assured our committee that

the transfer's effect on those now employed as indexers will be minimal, and on the thousands who use the index, invisible. For me, this is key. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is a linchpin of Congress's ongoing effort to "keep America informed," which phrase is GPO's slogan. Readers of the RECORD know it is the Index that makes the RECORD a truly useful research tool. Congress could not properly keep America informed without the dedicated professionals of the Congressional Record Index Office. It is fitting that upon enactment of this bill, they will join the many dedicated professionals of the GPO.

□ 1545

Madam Speaker, I know of no opposition to this bill, and I urge a "yes" vote.

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

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I want to again thank my colleague, our ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), for handling this bill with me on the floor today. This is a very important bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3229.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Madam 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 the subject of this bill.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE DR. SAMUEL D. HARRIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY AS THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) recognizing the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 52

Whereas the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is an international resource with the primary mission of educating people, especially children, about the history of dentistry and the importance of good oral care;

Whereas the museum is the most comprehensive museum of dentistry in the Na-

tion, showcasing the people, objects, and events that have created and defined the dental profession;

Whereas the museum is located on the campus of the University of Maryland in Baltimore, home of the world's first dental school, founded in 1840;

Whereas the museum educates the public about the importance of oral health in overall health through exciting, interactive exhibitions and the careful preservation and creative presentation of significant dental artifacts;

Whereas the museum is a national center for both the public and the profession to obtain information concerning historical aspects of oral health and preventive care, for scholars to study the evolution of dental treatment, and for dental practitioners to take pride in the accomplishments of their profession: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the museum, known as the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, located at 31 South Greene Street in Baltimore, Maryland, is recognized as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

I am pleased to rise today to offer for this body's consideration House Joint Resolution 52 to recognize the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry located in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States. I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for introducing the bill.

This museum is the most comprehensive dental museum in the world. It is a resource whose primary mission is to educate people, especially children, about the history of dentistry and the importance of good oral hygiene. It uses state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions and expert presentations to deliver the message that oral health is important to achieve overall health.

The museum is affiliated with the University of Maryland at Baltimore, home of the world's first dental school, founded in 1840. It contains hundreds of interesting and significant dental artifacts, including George Washington's dentures. It also serves as a national center of learning with an extensive library from which scholars may study the evolution of dental treatment and learn of the numerous accomplishments of the dental treatment and learn of the numerous accomplishments of the dental profession over the years.

Most importantly, this museum is a reminder to all of us that oral and general health are inseparable and that good dental care is critical to our overall physical health and well-being. While oral health in America has improved dramatically over the last 50