

will be remembered for their sense of adventure and courage. Space exploration is America's marvelous mission that will continue to be our dream and our goal.

These seven brothers and sisters of space and their enduring legacy are part of that goal to conquer and to challenge space. That's just the way it is.

RONALD REAGAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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

Mr. GOODE. Madam Speaker, first I want to say it is a pleasure to be here with Reverend Don Davidson today. Reverend Davidson used to live in the Fifth District of Virginia, and I want to wish him the best in his new location in Alexandria.

Days before we observe Ronald Reagan's birthday, I think it important to share some of the achievements of Ronald Reagan's Oral History Project developed by the Miller Center at the University of Virginia.

This project began in August 2001. In 45 interviews, it has recorded volumes about President Reagan's political career. The purpose of the Oral History Project is to record recollections of persons apart from the pressures of incumbency.

A majority of the almost 3,000 pages of transcripts will be released later this month, and the Miller Center will hold a three-part forum to celebrate their release.

Nancy Reagan commented that the Miller Center has become a valuable part of our lives, as it works closely with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library to create a definitive oral history of the Reagan presidency.

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 2006

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, first I would like to thank the Nation and my fellow West Virginians for their prayers during our month of sorrow caused by our coal mining accidents. As you know, two major mining accidents took place in West Virginia, killing 12 miners at Sago mine in Upshur County and 2 at the Alma mine in Logan County. Today the West Virginia Congressional delegation, on a bipartisan basis, will introduce the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006. This mine safety legislation will require the Mine Safety and Health Administration to issue regulations to provide for immediate notification of mine accidents, new regulations for mine safety teams, and to ensure a quick response and improve technology to keep miners safe.

This legislation creates an MSHA Office of Science and Technology and ex-

amine mine safety and rescue technologies, including refuge chambers. The world watched as tragedy was averted in Canada this past weekend because 72 trapped miners were able to escape to a designated safe haven. American miners deserve to have the best safety equipment as well.

It is important that this House act on legislation to improve the safety of our coal mines. I spent time with the friends and family of the Sago mine victims, both as we awaited the news of the rescue efforts and after we heard the tragic result. I do not want to watch more families endure what the families of the Sago victims have gone through.

I urge my colleagues, whether your State is a major producer of coal or not, to join the West Virginia delegation in helping to prevent future mine tragedies.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

(Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that I introduced yesterday to delay penalties to local governments who are unable to meet the May deadlines imposed by the Help America Vote Act of 2002. As a former county commissioner with firsthand experience with local voting boards, I know how hard it is to maintain the high standards we hold for our democratic process while meeting prescribed Federal guidelines and deadlines. I know that many local governments across the Nation right now are struggling to meet HAVA's requirements at the risk of losing all of their Federal funding.

The "Help America Vote Act" was written to strengthen our election process, and to bring it up to date nationwide. For many areas this means buying new voting machines. This is no easy task, Madam Speaker, for many areas that are still using the same reliable machines that had been in use for many decades. Local governments need time to make such an important decision, not a deadline with a threat of Federal penalties.

My legislation buys more time for local governments who are acting in good faith to follow the letter of the law by extending HAVA's deadlines from May to the general election in November. This is commonsense reform of necessary legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

(Mr. YOUNG of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, last night in this Chamber, as the President of the United States was encouraging Americans to support our troops, my wife was sitting in this gallery right over here, and she was or-

dered to leave the gallery because she was doing, and this was in the middle of the President's speech, what the President said we should all do.

She had on this shirt, a very conservative shirt, long sleeves, high neck. But it says "Support our Troops." Someone at this door in the gallery ordered her to leave. When she got into the corridor, they explained to her that she was a demonstrator, that she was a protester. Besides that they lied about what she did. They said she had on a jacket, she flashed open the jacket and exposed this shirt. Not true. She did not have a jacket on. Then they called her a demonstrator and a protester.

When asked about this incident by a reporter from the St. Petersburg Times in my home district, they denied, denied, and said she left on her own volition.

My wife supports our troops on every day, every hour, every waking hour. It is with a passion, because of a passion that comes from the hours and the days and the weeks and the months that she has spent in our military hospitals ministering to those who have been wounded in the line of duties, helping with their families.

Yes, she has a real passion for our troops, and she shows it in many, many ways. Most members in this House know that. But because she had on a shirt that someone did not like that said "Support our Troops," she was kicked out of this gallery while the President was speaking and encouraging Americans to support our troops. Shame, shame.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1305

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

ELIMINATING FLOOR PRIVILEGES OF FORMER MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H.Res. 648) to eliminate floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former Members or officers of the House.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 648

Resolved,

SECTION 1. FLOOR PRIVILEGES OF FORMER MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.

Clause 4 of rule IV of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended to read as follows:

“(4) (a) A former Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner; a former Parliamentarian of the House; or a former elected officer of the House or former minority employee nominated as an elected officer of the House shall not be entitled to the privilege of admission to the Hall of the House and rooms leading thereto if he or she—

“(1) is a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal as those terms are defined in clause 5 of rule XXV;

“(2) has any direct personal or pecuniary interest in any legislative measure pending before the House or reported by a committee; or

“(3) is in the employ of or represents any party or organization for the purpose of influencing, directly or indirectly, the passage, defeat, or amendment of any legislative proposal.

“(b) The Speaker may promulgate regulations that exempt ceremonial or educational functions from the restrictions of this clause.”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITING ACCESS TO MEMBER EXERCISE FACILITIES FOR LOBBYISTS WHO ARE FORMER MEMBERS OR OFFICERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The House of Representatives may not provide access to any exercise facility which is made available exclusively to Members and former Members, officers and former officers of the House of Representatives, and their spouses to any former Member, former officer, or spouse who is a lobbyist registered under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 or any successor statute or agent of a foreign principal as defined in clause 5 of rule XXV. For purposes of this section, the term “Member of the House of Representatives” includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry, if I might. Because of the State of the Union last night, and we always have the tradition of lots of former Members, I have two or three parliamentary inquiries that I would like to ask about the rules of the House governing this debate today.

Under rule IV, clause 4, if I might read it, because I think most Members may not have looked at this in a while: “former Members, Delegates and Resi-

dent Commissioners; former Parliamentarians of the House; and former elected officers and minority employees nominated and elected as officers of the House shall be entitled to the privileges of admission to the Hall of the House and rooms leading thereto only if,

“(1) they do not have any direct personal or pecuniary interest in any legislative measure pending before the House or reported by a committee; and,

“(2) they are not in the employ of or do not represent any party or organization for the purpose of influencing, directly or indirectly, the passage, defeat or amendment of any legislative measure pending before the House reported by a committee or under consideration in any of its committees or subcommittees.”

In Mr. DREIER’s proposal today, it specifically includes all registered lobbyists, any former Members that are registered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. What is the gentleman’s inquiry?

Mr. SNYDER. My inquiry is this: Under the current rules that we are operating under today, do the rules prohibit any registered lobbyist who is a former Member from being on the floor of the House today or in the rooms adjoining thereto?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under certain circumstances, yes.

Does the gentleman have another inquiry?

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like a further amplification on that. Clearly, a registered lobbyist, since Mr. DREIER’s legislation specifically refers to registered lobbyists, who are former Members, have a direct personal interest in this legislation pending today. I am not sure how that application, perhaps I have not been clear in my question, how a registered lobbyist who is a former Member could be on the House floor today when Mr. DREIER’s legislation specifically involves registered lobbyists who are former Members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. What is the gentleman’s inquiry?

Mr. SNYDER. My inquiry is: Are those Members, former Members, who are registered lobbyists, are they not under current rules prohibited from being on the floor today because they would have, obviously, a personal interest in this, the intent of Mr. DREIER’s bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Would the gentleman restate his question.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, my question is: If a former Member, who is currently a registered lobbyist, may that former Member, who is currently a former lobbyist, be on the floor today during the consideration of this bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Such a former Member should not be on the floor given the pendency of this motion.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, that is what my understanding was.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman have another inquiry?

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I do. Under the rules that I just read, it refers to the Hall of the House and rooms leading thereto. I assume that means the Speaker’s Lobby and the two cloakrooms. Is that the Speaker’s interpretation of that rule?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. It also includes the Rayburn Room, just off the House floor.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, my third parliamentary inquiry, under current rules, I see no exemption, under the current rule, for any kind of an educational function to occur during the consideration of this measure; is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, my fourth parliamentary inquiry, this bill is now under our suspension calendar. Is it the Speaker’s ruling that no amendments are allowed to broaden the application of this rule?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) may proceed.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking my friend from Arkansas for pointing to some of the important aspects of this legislation.

We are committed to bold, strong, dynamic reform for this institution. The Republican Party, Mr. Speaker, has stood for reform ever since I can remember. When I was in the minority, we had the privilege of working on the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, and that committee made a wide range of recommendations that would have focused on improving the deliberative nature of this institution, the transparency that is necessary, and the accountability. Unfortunately, when we Republicans were in the minority, they were not implemented. When we won the majority in 1994, we proceeded with very sweeping reforms which focused on lobbying and a wide range of other areas.

I have always argued, Mr. Speaker, that when we are completed with reforms, what we should do is proceed with more reform; and it needs to be done in a way in which we recognize the deliberative nature of this institution. I love this institution, Mr. Speaker. I proudly describe myself as an institutionalist. But we have a problem that needs to be addressed.

We have just begun this process of beginning the reforms for the Second Session of the 109th Congress. We have been working on reforms in the past session of Congress and in Congresses before that, but today we begin the work following the President’s great State of the Union message on the issue of reform; and that is why this measure that we are moving forward with is one that we believe is very important, very transparent and gets at a problem that does exist.