

the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty.”

Madison wrote: “The genius of republican liberty seems to demand, on one side, not only that all powers should be derived from the people, but that those entrusted with it should be kept in dependence by the people by a short duration of their appointments; and that even during this short period the trust should be placed not in a few but in a number of hands. Stability, on the contrary, requires that the hands in which the power is lodged shall continue for a length of time the same. A frequent change of men will result from a frequent return of electors, and the frequent change of measures from a frequent change of men. Whilst energy in government requires not only a certain duration of power, but the execution of it by a single hand.”

He knew what we take for granted today, one, that liberty is an essential ingredient for stability and prosperity; and, two, that if government does not see its foremost task is to preserve liberty for the people it serves, then it will soon fail.

In discussing the preamble we should pause to take note of the fact that our Constitution was the result, not of monarchical fiat or one man's scheme to craft a new government, but of a Constitutional Convention, a body overflowing with competing philosophies and conflicting viewpoints. But these founders found common ground in our Constitution. Madison was in awe of this reality. “The real wonder,” he wrote, “is that so many difficulties should have been surmounted and surmounted with a unanimity almost as unprecedented as it must have been unexpected. It is impossible for any man of candor to reflect on this circumstance without partaking of the astonishment. It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that almighty hand which had been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution.”

Madison notes that the Convention's end product, our Nation's Constitution, would not have been possible under the normal conditions that prevail in most political bodies. It makes me wonder if such an achievement could ever be possible in today's fractious climate. But Madison chalks this achievement up to two dynamics. He writes: “The first is that the Convention must have enjoyed in a very singular degree an exemption from the pestilential influence of party animosities, the diseases most incident to deliberative bodies and most apt to contaminate their proceedings. The second conclusion is that all the deputations composing the conventions were either satisfactorily accommodated by the final act or were induced to accede to it by deep conviction of the necessity of sacrificing private opinions and partial interest to the public good and by despair of seeing this necessity diminished by delays or by new experiments.”

His observations on the crafting of this great document which establishes our framework for government and secures the blessings of liberties to ourselves and our posterity should serve to remind us of how careful we must be to adhere to the boundaries it creates for the Federal Government. His insight into the process behind the framing of our Constitution might also remind the Members of this body of our duty to serve the people and to maintain, as Madison said, “a deep conviction of the necessity of sacrificing private opinions and partial interests to the public good.”

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PENCE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for March 19 through March 20 on account of family medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SARBANES, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CONAWAY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, today and March 21 and 22.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

896. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's initial report on the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, as required by Section 1402 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

897. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting on behalf of the Secretary of State and the U.S. Representative to the IAEA, a report detailing assistance to Iran from the International Atomic Energy Agency during calendar year 2006, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2021 note Public Law 107-228 section 1344(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

898. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations and to the Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS) Regulation [Docket No. 061212330-6330-01] (RIN: 0694-AD88) received February 28, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

899. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — North Korea: Imposition of New Foreign Policy Controls [Docket No. 070111012-7017-01] (RIN: 0694-AD97) received February 28, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

900. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2007-13, Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance with Respect to Chad; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

901. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Policy with respect to Libya and Venezuela — received February 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

902. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and the FREEDOM Support Act, pursuant to Public Law 103-160, section 1203(d) of Title XII Public Law 102-511, section 502; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

903. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, Weather Takeoff Minimums; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30523 Amdt. No. 3194] received March 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

904. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30522 ; Amdt. No. 3193] received March 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

905. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Societe de Motorisations Aeronautiques (SMA) SR305-230 and SR305-230-1 Reciprocating Engines [Docket No. FAA-2006-26102; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-36-AD; Amendment 39-14820; AD 2006-23-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

906. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Model DA 40 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26165; Directorate Identifier 2006-

CE-57-AD; Amendment 39-14816; AD 2006-23-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

907. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dowty Propellers R321/4-82-F/8; R324/4-82-F/9; R333/4-82-F/12; and R334/4-82-F/13 Propellers [Docket No. FAA-2006-26220; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-40-AD; Amendment 39-14822; AD 2006-23-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

908. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Notification of the determination that Haiti meets the eligibility requirements under section 213A(d)(1) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act and that Haiti is meeting the conditions regarding enforcement of circumvention under section 213A(e)(1); (H. Doc. No. —20); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

909. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting an Supplementary Agreement between the United States of America and Sweden on Social Security signed in Stockholm on June 24, 2004, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 433(d)(1); (H. Doc. No. —21); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

910. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Status Report on the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act Pilot Project for Fiscal Year 2005, pursuant to Public Law 108-7; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1433. A bill to provide for the treatment of the District of Columbia as a Congressional district for purposes of representation in the House of Representatives, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-52 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 802. A bill to amend the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships to implement MARPOL Annex VI; with amendments (Rept. 110-54). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FILNER: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 327. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans; with amendments (Rept. 110-55). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FILNER: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1284. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans (Rept. 110-56). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FILNER: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 797. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation benefits for veterans in certain cases of

impairment of vision involving both eyes, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 110-57). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 580. A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 28, United States Code, to provide for a 120-day limit to the term of a United States attorney appointed on an interim basis by the Attorney General, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-58). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1130. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to extend the authority to withhold from public availability a financial disclosure report filed by an individual who is a judicial officer or judicial employee, to the extent necessary to protect the safety of that individual or a family member of that individual, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-59). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OBEY: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 1591. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-60). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OBEY: Committee on Appropriations. Report on the Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2007 (Rept. 110-61). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

[Omitted from the Record of March 16, 2007]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1227 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SHAYS (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 1577. A bill to create a Department of Defense-wide program of patient navigators for wounded members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SHAYS (for himself, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 1578. A bill to establish and monitor medical holdover performance standards; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. SHAYS):

H.R. 1579. A bill to create a standard soldier patient tracking system; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. SHAYS):

H.R. 1580. A bill to create a Department of Defense-wide Ombudsman Office; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LANTOS:

H.R. 1581. A bill to improve coordination, implementation, and oversight of United States economic reconstruction assistance for Iraq, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mrs. BONO):

H.R. 1582. A bill to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

H.R. 1583. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend the Milk Income Loss Contract Program through fiscal year 2012 at the 45 percent payment rate, to establish a minimum price for Class I milk under Federal milk marketing orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. POMEROY (for himself, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOODE, and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas):

H.R. 1584. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SKELTON (for himself and Mr. HUNTER) (both by request):

H.R. 1585. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 1586. A bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 1587. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to carry out programs and activities to enhance the safety of levees in the United States; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. CUBIN (for herself, Mr. GORDON, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. GILLMOR):

H.R. 1588. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 1589. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as dependency and indemnity compensation, to repeal the optional annuity authority for the dependent children of a member when there is an eligible surviving spouse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. SHEAPORTER, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HONDA, Ms.