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No. 2

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2007, at 11:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2007

The House met at 9:30 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

“Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress
so our eyes are on the Lord our God,
till He shows us His mercy.”

Lord, giver of all good gifts, You know as an institution the House of Representatives is served by many staffers and workers. As the 110th Congress begins its work, bless all who labor here on Capitol Hill. From police to parliamentarian to painter, recording clerk to reporter, both physician and political adviser, all are a blessing to the Members who are here to serve You and Your people by governance.

Assist them in their daily tasks, for all contribute to the common undertaking and serve this country. Be present to them in the midst of routine and show them Your mercy, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 11 of rule X and clause 11 of rule I, the Chair appoints the following members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. REYES, Texas, Chairman
Mr. HOEKSTRA, Michigan

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair customarily takes this occasion at the outset of a Congress to announce her policies with respect to particular aspects of the legislative process. The Chair will insert in the RECORD announcements concerning:

- first, privileges of the floor;
- second, introduction of bills and resolutions;
- third, unanimous-consent requests for the consideration of legislation;
- fourth, recognition for 1-minute speeches;
- fifth, decorum in debate;
- sixth, conduct of votes by electronic device;
- seventh, use of handouts on the House floor; and
- eight, use of electronic equipment on the House floor.

These announcements, where appropriate, will reiterate the origins of the

stated policies. The Chair intends to continue in the 110th Congress the policies reflected in these statements. The policy announced in the 102nd Congress with respect to jurisdictional concepts related to clause 5(a) of rule XXI—tax and tariff measures—will continue to govern but need not be reiterated, as it is adequately documented as precedent in the House Rules and Manual.

Without objection, the announcements will be printed in the RECORD.

There was no objection.

1. PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

The Chair will make the following announcements regarding floor privileges, which will apply during the 110th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER WITH RESPECT TO STAFF

Rule IV strictly limits those persons to whom the privileges of the floor during sessions of the House are extended, and that rule prohibits the Chair from entertaining requests for suspension or waiver of that rule. As reiterated by the Chair on January 21, 1986, January 3, 1985, January 25, 1983, and August 22, 1974, and as stated in Chapter 10, section 2, of House Practice, the rule strictly limits the number of committee staff on the floor at one time during the consideration of measures reported from their committees. This permission does not extend to Members’ personal staff except when a Member’s amendment is actually pending during the five-minute rule. It also does not extend to personal staff of Members who are sponsors of pending bills or who are engaging in special orders. The Chair requests the cooperation of all Members and committee staff to assure that only the proper number of staff are on the floor, and then only during the consideration of measures within the jurisdiction of their committees. The Chair is making this statement and reiterating this policy because of Members’ past insistence

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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upon strict enforcement of the rule. The Chair requests each chairman, and each ranking minority member, to submit to the Speaker a list of those staff who are allowed on the floor during the consideration of a measure reported by their committee. The Sergeant-at-Arms, who has been directed to assure proper enforcement of rule IV, will keep the list. Each staff person should exchange his or her ID for a "committee staff" badge, which is to be worn while on the floor. The Chair has consulted with the Minority Leader and will continue to consult with him.

Furthermore, as the Chair announced on January 7, 2003, in accordance with the change in the 108th Congress of clause 2(a) of rule IV regarding leadership staff floor access, only designated staff approved by the Speaker shall be granted the privilege of the floor. The Speaker intends that her approval be narrowly granted on a bipartisan basis to staff from the majority and minority side and only to those staff essential to floor activities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER WITH RESPECT TO FORMER MEMBERS

The Speaker's policy announced on February 1, 2006, will continue to apply in the 110th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

The SPEAKER. The House has adopted a revision to the rule regarding the admission to the floor and the rooms leading thereto. Clause 4 of rule IV provides that a former Member, Delegate or Resident Commissioner or a former Parliamentarian of the House, or a former elected officer of the House or a 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 the rooms extending thereto if he or she is a registered lobbyist or an agent of a foreign principal; has any direct personal pecuniary interest in any legislative measure pending before the House, or reported by a committee; or 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.

This restriction extends not only to the House floor but adjacent rooms, the cloakrooms and the Speaker's lobby.

Clause 4 of rule IV also allows the Speaker to exempt ceremonial and educational functions from the restrictions of this clause. These restrictions shall not apply to attendance at joint meetings or joint sessions, Former Members' Day proceedings, educational tours, and other occasions as the Speaker may designate.

Members who have reason to know that a person is on the floor inconsistent with clause 4 of rule IV should notify the Sergeant at Arms promptly.

2. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The policy that the Chair announced on January 3, 1983, with respect to the introduction and reference of bills and resolutions will continue to apply in the 110th Congress. The Chair has advised all officers and employees of the House that are involved in the processing of bills that every bill, resolution, memorial, petition or other material that is placed in the hopper must bear the signature of a Member. Where a bill or resolution is jointly sponsored, the signature must be that of the Member first named thereon. The bill clerk is instructed to return to the Member any bill which appears in the hopper without an original signature. This procedure was inaugurated in the 92d Congress. It has worked well, and the Chair thinks that it is essential to continue this practice to in-

sure the integrity of the process by which legislation is introduced in the House.

3. UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUESTS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

The policy the Chair announced on January 6, 1999, with respect to recognition for unanimous consent requests for the consideration of certain legislative measures will continue to apply in the 110th Congress. The Speaker will continue to follow the guidelines recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual conferring recognition for unanimous-consent requests for the consideration of bills, resolutions, and other measures only when assured that the majority and minority floor leadership and committee chairmen and ranking minority members have no objection. Consistent with those guidelines, and with the Chair's inherent power of recognition under clause 2 of rule XVII, the Chair, and any occupant of the Chair appointed as Speaker pro tempore pursuant to clause 8 of rule I, will decline recognition for the unanimous-consent requests chronicled in section 956 without assurances that the request has been so cleared. This denial of recognition by the Chair will not reflect necessarily any personal opposition on the part of the Chair to orderly consideration of the matter in question, but will reflect the determination upon the part of the Chair that orderly procedures will be followed; that is, procedures involving consultation and agreement between floor and committee leadership on both sides of the aisle.

4. RECOGNITION FOR ONE-MINUTE SPEECHES

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER WITH RESPECT TO ONE-MINUTE SPEECHES

The Speaker's policy announced on August 8, 1984, with respect to recognition for one-minute speeches will apply during the 110th Congress. The Chair will alternate recognition for one-minute speeches between majority and minority Members, in the order in which they seek recognition in the well under present practice from the Chair's right to the Chair's left, with possible exceptions for Members of the leadership and Members having business requests. The Chair, of course, reserves the right to limit one-minute speeches to a certain period of time or to a special place in the program on any given day, with notice to the leadership.

5. DECORUM IN DEBATE

The Chair's announced policies of January 7, 2003, January 4, 1995, and January 3, 1991, will apply in the 110th Congress. It is essential that the dignity of the proceedings of the House be preserved, not only to assure that the House conducts its business in an orderly fashion but also to permit Members to properly comprehend and participate in the business of the House. To this end, and in order to permit the Chair to understand and to correctly put the question on the numerous requests that are made by Members, the Chair requests that Members and others who have the privileges of the floor desist from audible conversation in the Chamber while the business of the House is being conducted. The Chair would encourage all Members to review rule XVII to gain a better understanding of the proper rules of decorum expected of them, and especially: to avoid "personalities" in debate with respect to references to other Members, the Senate, and the President; to address the Chair while standing and only during, and not beyond, the time recognized, and not to address the television or other imagined audience; to refrain from passing between the Chair and a Member speaking, or directly in front of a Member speaking from the well; to refrain from smoking in the Chamber; to deactivate any audible ring of wireless telephones when

entering the Chamber; to wear appropriate business attire in the Chamber; and to generally display the same degree of respect to the Chair and other Members that every Member is due.

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

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

6. CONDUCT OF VOTES BY ELECTRONIC DEVICE

The Speaker's policy announced on January 4, 1995, with respect to the conduct of electronic votes will continue in the 110th Congress with modifications as follows.

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

The Chair desires that the example of October 30, 1991, be made the regular practice of the House. To that end, the Chair enlists the assistance of all Members in avoiding the unnecessary loss of time in conducting the business of the House. The Chair encourages all Members to depart for the Chamber promptly upon the appropriate bell and light signal. As in recent Congresses, the cloakrooms should not forward to the Chair requests to hold a vote by electronic device, but should simply apprise inquiring Members of the time remaining on the voting clock. Members should not rely on signals relayed from outside the Chamber to assume that votes will be held open until they arrive in the Chamber. Members will be given a reasonable amount of time in which to accurately record their votes. No occupant of the Chair would prevent a Member who is in the Well before the announcement of the result from casting his or her vote.

7. USE OF HANDOUTS ON HOUSE FLOOR

The Speaker's policy announced on September 27, 1995, which was prompted by a misuse of handouts on the House floor and made at the bipartisan request of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, will continue in the 110th Congress. All handouts distributed on or adjacent to the House floor by Members during House proceedings must bear the name of the Member authorizing their distribution. In addition, the content of those materials must comport with standards of propriety applicable to words spoken in debate or inserted in the Record. Failure to comply with this admonition may constitute a breach of decorum and may give rise to a question of privilege.

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

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

8. USE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT ON HOUSE FLOOR

The Speaker's policy announced on January 27, 2000, as modified by the change in clause 5 of rule XVII in the 108th Congress, will continue in the 110th Congress. All Members and staff are reminded of the absolute prohibition contained in clause 5 of rule XVII against the use of a wireless telephone or personal computer upon the floor of the House at any time.

The Chair requests all Members and staff wishing to receive or send wireless telephone messages to do so outside of the Chamber, and to deactivate, which means to turn off, any audible ring of wireless phones before entering the Chamber. To this end, the Chair insists upon the cooperation of all Members and staff and instructs the Sergeant-at-Arms, pursuant to clause 3(a) of rule II and clause 5 of rule XVII, to enforce this prohibition.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches on each side.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, the administration has turned a projected 10-year, \$5.6 billion surplus into a nearly \$3 trillion deficit. Over the past 6 years, America's debt has climbed 50 percent to more than \$28,000 per person. It is so bad that this administration has borrowed more money from foreign nations than all previous 42 U.S. Presidents combined. That is the fiscal mess that we inherit from the 109th Congress.

We believe it is time that we finally get our fiscal house in order. Today, we will restore the pay-as-you-go rules that were instrumental to the budget surpluses we experienced in the early 1990s. Pay-as-you-go budgeting with no new deficit spending is a key first step. This will reverse the budget deficits that are currently passing billions of dollars in debt to our children and our grandchildren.

It was wrong to eliminate pay-as-you-go in 2002. We need to begin to treat our Federal budget in the way that working families treat their budgets, and pay-as-you-go is a good first step.

Madam Speaker, I hope that this House can act in a bipartisan fashion to restore fiscal responsibility to Washington.

OLE NUMBER 48—GERALD FORD

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, when President Gerald Ford played football for Michigan, he was the team's center on offense. He touched the ball on every play. The play could not begin without Gerald Ford snapping the ball. Others on the team, however, the quarterback, running back and receivers, made all the headlines, but that was fine with Gerald Ford. As the center he was neither on the right nor the left but in the middle of the charge to move the ball over the goal line.

Gerald Ford and Michigan were successful. Michigan won two national championships. Gerald Ford was offered contracts with NFL teams, such as the Detroit Lions. He chose law school instead, served in World War II, fought in that great war, and was a Member of this very House.

When he became President, ole No. 48, President Ford, took the ball again, but this time on the field of American discontent about corruption and war. He stayed in the center and once again was successful in moving Team America across the goal line of healing and hope.

However, when entering a room, President Ford always preferred the band not play the traditional Hail to the Chief but, rather, the Michigan fight song.

Thank you, President Ford, for playing ball for Team America.

And that's just the way it is.

BRING THE TROOPS HOME

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, Congress as a coequal branch of government must be prepared to act to bring our troops home from Iraq. Congress must have an exit plan and take steps to implement it. President Bush has every intention of keeping the troops in Iraq through the end of his term. However, the money is there to bring the troops home now. If Congress appropriates more money for Iraq, the war will escalate and more troops and innocent civilians will die. The American people voted for a new direction. That direction is out of Iraq. Let us rescue our troops. Let us rescue a domestic agenda. Let us reverse policies which have created chaos, massive civilian casualties and destruction in Iraq. Let us reunite the community of nations in the cause of stabilizing Iraq.

The U.S. cannot do this as occupiers or as agents of contracting and oil interests. We can do this only once we have stated our intention to end the occupation. Next week I will be presenting to this Congress a workable plan which can enable our Nation to bring the troops home, assure an inter-

national peacekeeping force and begin to close this perilous chapter in our Nation's history.

CONGRESS IS ACTUALLY GOING TO WORK 5 DAYS A WEEK TO MAKE AMERICA BETTER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as Democrats take control of Congress this week, the American people are going to see some stark differences in how we run this institution compared to the way it has been run for the last 6 years.

First, the House is actually going to be in session 5 days a week most weeks. Last year, the Republican Congress was known as the do-nothing Congress because it met fewer days than any Congress in 6 decades.

Not only is this House going to be in session more often, it is actually going to do its job while we are here. For years, Republican Congresses refused to conduct proper oversight of the Bush administration, instead choosing to rubber-stamp its policies.

Democrats take oversight responsibility seriously, and are prepared to hold this administration accountable for its successes and its failures. In hearings, we're going to ask administration officials some tough questions so that we can make government work again for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our Nation is at war and with so many domestic and international issues that must be addressed, the American people rightly want us here doing our job. The new Democratic Congress will not disappoint.

On a personal note, as one of the new freshmen elected here, America, you have a great freshman class, a great deal of talent, and I think you can feel proud of your new Speaker, Madam PELOSI.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS PLAN TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Good morning, Mr. Speaker, and buenos dias.

You know, folks, this is the people's House, but for much of the last 6 years, House Republican leaders chose to run it with an iron hand—one where only the voices of the special interests were heard in this House. Opposing voices were always ignored.

House Democrats vowed to restore democracy in this House and today we live up to that promise by committing to a fair and democratic process and the end of the 2-day workweek. Our proposal specifically prohibits holding votes open for the sole purpose of affecting the outcome. We all remember the Medicare prescription drug vote. I