

Granted, many problems with our electoral system can be solved through better procedures and better enforcement of existing procedures, and do not require funding. But that is not true of issues related to the security and reliability of our voting equipment. That is why my Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act (H.R. 811) authorizes \$1 billion to help states transition to voting systems that provide a durable voter verified paper ballot for every vote cast, and \$100 million to reimburse states for conducting routine random audits.

As the situation now stands, in November 2008, six entire states and various counties in 13 more and the District of Columbia will conduct their elections on voting systems that neither produce nor require the use of voter verified paper ballots, and therefore will provide no means of conducting meaningful recounts or audits. In total, approximately 35 million voters will be casting votes that will be completely unverifiable. That is more than ten times the margin of victory in the last Presidential race. In 2008, if the outcome of the Presidential race hinges on Pennsylvania, or Georgia, or Tennessee, or anyone of the other unauditable jurisdictions, there will be nothing tangible left that the voters themselves created or verified; whatever they will have seen on the touch screen on election day, it will be gone forever and all that will remain is a software translation that may or may not reflect voter intent. And we will never know, unless we have strong new legislation and adequate funding.

As a country, we simply cannot afford to have un-resolvable election problems in 2008. Election anomalies can be corrected by funding measures to ensure that voting systems produce durable paper ballots and that jurisdictions conduct routine audits of those ballots. Therefore, I commend the Financial Services Committee for including \$300 million in HAVA funding, which may be used to meet and improve upon HAVA's requirement for permanent paper records with a manual audit capacity, in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ANDREWS) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2829, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 2829 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 517, notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no further amendments to the bill may be offered except:

Pro forma amendments offered at any point in the reading by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate;

An amendment by Mr. STEARNS regarding currency manipulation;

An amendment by Ms. HOOLEY regarding funding for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas;

An amendment by Mr. POE or Mr. CUELLAR regarding funding for the Federal district courts;

An amendment by Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia regarding funding for District of Columbia schools programs;

An amendment by Mr. KING of Iowa reducing funding for election reform programs;

An amendment by Mr. CARDOZA regarding funding for the General Services Administration;

An amendment by Mr. CARDOZA regarding funding for the General Services Administration;

An amendment by Mr. DEFAZIO regarding funding for the Selective Service System;

An amendment by Mr. SESSIONS striking section 738;

An amendment by Mr. BOOZMAN regarding High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas;

An amendment by Mr. BOSWELL regarding studies by the Office of National Drug Control Policy;

An amendment by Mr. CONAWAY regarding use of reductions made through amendment for deficit reduction;

An amendment by Mr. DEFAZIO regarding funding for the Selective Service System;

An amendment by Mr. ELLSWORTH prohibiting funds for certain contractors with tax debt;

An amendment by Mr. EMANUEL limiting funds for the Vice President's office;

An amendment by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey limiting funds to enforce certain requirements under section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act;

An amendment by Mr. GOODE limiting Federal funds for registration of unmarried couples in the District of Columbia;

An amendment by Mr. HULSHOF regarding funding for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas;

An amendment by Mr. JORDAN of Ohio reducing funds in the bill by 8.9 percent, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. KINGSTON limiting funds for contracts to entities that do not participate in a basic pilot program related to illegal immigration;

An amendment by Mr. LUCAS limiting funds to seize coins made or issued by the U.S. Government prior to 1933;

An amendment by Mr. MORAN of Kansas limiting funds to enforce certain regulations related to exports to Cuba;

An amendment by Mr. MILLER of North Carolina regarding Executive Order 13422;

An amendment by Mrs. MUSGRAVE reducing funds in the bill by 0.5 percent, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. NEUGEBAUER limiting funds for the Federal Election Commission regarding certain certifications for the Presidential Election Campaign Fund;

An amendment by Mr. NEUGEBAUER limiting the collection and distribution of funds from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund;

An amendment by Mr. PENCE limiting funds to implement the Fairness Doctrine, which shall be debatable for 40 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. PRICE of Georgia reducing funds in the bill by 1 percent, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. SOUDER limiting funds for needle exchange programs in the District of Columbia;

An amendment by Mr. SOUDER limiting funds for certain entities in the District of Columbia;

An amendment by Mr. STEARNS limiting funds for the IRS "Where's My Refund" program;

An amendment by Mr. UPTON regarding use of Energy Star certified light bulbs;

An amendment by Mr. WICKER limiting the use of funds to implement section 5112 of title 31, United States Code;

An amendment by Mr. WOLF regarding establishment and funding for a budget and entitlement reform commission;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for a project of the Barracks Row Main Street;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Fairplex Trade and Conference Center in Pomona, California;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Grace Johnstown Area Regional Industries Incubator and Workforce Development program;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Mitchell County Development Foundation, Inc. for the Home of the Perfect Christmas Tree project;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, SPUR Urban Center;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the West Virginia University Research Corporation for renovations of a small business incubator;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, Belvedere Business Park project;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Historic Downtown Retail project, Valley Economic Development Center;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Advantage West Economic Development Group Certified Entrepreneurial Community program;

An amendment by Mr. CAMPBELL of California limiting funds for Abraham Lincoln National Airport Commission;

An amendment by Mr. CAMPBELL of California limiting funds for the Wittenberg University East Asian Study Center;

An amendment by Mr. CAMPBELL of California limiting funds for 147 projects requested by Members of Congress and disclosed pursuant to the rules of the House;

An amendment by Mr. REGULA regarding the IRS;

An amendment by Mr. OBEY regarding earmarks; and

An amendment or amendments by Mr. SERRANO regarding funding levels.

Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member named in this request or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of debate; and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Except as otherwise specified, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. An amendment shall be considered to fit the description stated in this request if it addresses in whole or in part the object described.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, under my reservation I would like to simply bring a few facts of time to the House.

If we are not prepared to stay here and work until around 1 o'clock tonight, it is my estimation that if all of these amendments are offered tomorrow, even if a handful of them drop off, I think it will be virtually impossible for the House to finish its business by 6 or 7 o'clock tomorrow evening.

We have over 50 amendments. Each of them will take at least 10 minutes, plus the slippage that it takes to yield time and the rest. There are also three amendments which would take 30 minutes apiece, debating the very same

issues that we debated for an hour and 20 minutes earlier today. There would then be another amendment that requires 40 minutes of debate time to debate an issue which does not exist. Then we will have the added slippage that comes from yielding time in pieces to various Members of the House. Then finally we have to add to that the amount of time it takes for the votes themselves, the amount of time it takes on the recommittal motion and the amount of time it takes for final passage.

I do not intend to object to this request, but I want it understood that if we proceed with a unanimous consent request that is being propounded now, and if we do not stay and consider amendments until around 1 o'clock, then it is a "let's pretend" promise to every Member of this House when we are giving them the impression that they will be able to get out of here soon enough in order to catch planes tomorrow.

Now, I am not going anywhere. I am going to be here reading Members' earmark requests between now and next Wednesday. So I am not going anywhere. But for 90 percent of the Members, who I think would appreciate it if every Member of this place would sublimate their own egos just a mite for the good of the body, I would urge that both sides of the aisle demand that Members take up their amendments tonight, rather than waiting until tomorrow, at least enough to keep us here until 1 o'clock.

Now, it is not convenient to me. It is not convenient to the gentleman from New York. It certainly is not convenient to the ranking minority member from Ohio for us to stay this late. Nobody else has to, except the persons who asked to offer these amendments.

But if you ask to offer an amendment, then I think you have an obligation to offer it in a timely fashion and not wait so that everybody can be a TV star in prime time. Because, you know what? I participated in the debate today, and I watched the debate that I didn't participate in. It was, frankly, boring as all get out. With all due respect to everybody here who thinks they are Laurence Olivier or Daniel Webster, I "ain't" seen many of either lately.

So I would simply suggest, Members need to understand why they aren't going to get their planes tomorrow if we don't stay here until 1 o'clock tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 517 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2829.

□ 2130

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Florida in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, all time for general debate had expired. Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, no amendment to the bill may be offered except those specified in the previous order of the House of today, which is at the desk.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2829

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, namely:

#### TITLE I

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

#### DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

#### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Departmental Offices including operation and maintenance of the Treasury Building and Annex; hire of passenger motor vehicles; maintenance, repairs, and improvements of, and purchase of commercial insurance policies for, real properties leased or owned overseas, when necessary for the performance of official business, \$250,591,000, of which not to exceed \$10,115,000 is for executive direction program activities; not to exceed \$9,700,000 is for general counsel program activities; not to exceed \$45,450,000 is for economic policies and programs activities; not to exceed \$29,069,000 is for financial policies and programs activities; not to exceed \$56,475,000 is for terrorism and financial intelligence activities; not to exceed \$19,010,000 is for Treasury-wide management policies and programs activities; and not to exceed \$80,772,000 is for administration programs activities: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any program activity of the Departmental Offices to any other program activity of the Departmental Offices upon notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any program activity shall be increased or decreased by more than 2 percent by all such transfers: *Provided further*, That any change in funding greater than 2 percent shall be submitted for approval to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009, for information technology modernization requirements; not to exceed