

Therefore, be it *Resolved*, Upon adoption of this resolution and pending completion of the investigation into his affairs by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Representative Rangel is hereby removed as chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Texas will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida for the purpose of announcing next week's schedule.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my good friend from Georgia for yielding.

On Monday, the 9th of February, the House will meet at 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, the 10th, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and at 2 p.m. for legislative business. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business on Friday.

We also expect to consider S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009; and in addition, pending Senate action on H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we anticipate House action on that legislation.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, as to the public lands omnibus bill, I want to note for the gentleman: The bill that he has announced for next week, the public lands omnibus bill, is a bill that actually contains 130 separate bills, and it authorizes \$10 billion in taxpayer spending. Given our current economy, I would think that Congress should engage in the same belt-tightening that so many Americans, our constituents, are having to do every day.

□ 1630

Next week, we'll consider an almost \$1 trillion stimulus and a \$10 billion massive lands bill, and at some point in the near future, we're going to have to

understand that we are going to have to streamline the amount of spending that we're doing.

I'd like to ask the gentleman, will there be a bill on the floor next week to offset at least some of the massive spending the Congress is considering? And I'd yield to the gentleman for the response.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman knows, we're very focused on fiscal discipline, and we're very concerned about our ever-increasing deficit. Now, we look forward to working with Chairman SPRATT and our new President on a budget that's going to reduce spending and bring down our deficit, and we look forward to working with the gentleman and his colleagues on fiscal issues in the future.

As you well know, among other things, our goal continues to be to find a balance for the need for action during an economic crisis with our desire to go through the legislative process.

I could go at length with my good friend regarding how we got where we are, but in anticipation of the need to continue the rest of the business of the day, I'll leave it at that.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you. And reclaiming my time, I'd like to remind the gentleman that is a history lesson, and I think the people of our country and our constituents right now are looking to the future and what we're going to be doing in the future. And in particular, the history that you're talking about about the past administration and the past Congresses, let me just remind my friend that we're spending about \$100 million a minute in this Congress, and so I'm glad to hear that the gentleman from Florida, my friend, is aware of the amount of money and the amount of deficit and the amount of debt that we're piling up.

And I'd like to remind the gentleman, also, that just down the road we will be considering a \$410 billion omnibus spending bill and likely another supplemental of the amount of work that was not done in the last Congress about coming up with these appropriation bills, and we're having to do it in one bundle, and I think the American people certainly have a concern about that spending.

But let me comment on something that my friend from Florida said, and that was the bipartisanship here. And like our new President, your fellow Democrats in Congress and you have often spoken optimistically about bipartisanship and about including Republican ideas in the stimulus. Well, I'd like to remind my friend that only 4 percent of Republican ideas were even considered on the floor of this House, the people's House, a house for open debate about such issues, especially of the importance of the type of spending that we've been doing. And of the few Republican amendments adopted in committee, the majority of those were

either dropped or altered before the bill ever got to the floor, and to me, that's not acting in a spirit of bipartisanship.

And worse yet, the Speaker is yet to meet with the Republicans to hear our ideas. President Obama has had about three meetings with our leadership and listened to our ideas, but yet, the Speaker of this body, the body we're a part of, has not even met with Republicans yet to get some ideas.

So you've announced that we're moving the convening time next week from Tuesday to Monday and this will ensure that negotiations on a \$1 trillion spending bill occurs while most Members are not even going to be in town.

I'd like to ask the gentleman, what opportunities will Republicans be given next week or anytime in the future, but especially next week, to increase tax relief in the bill and cut wasteful spending before the stimulus is voted on again? And I'd yield to my friend from Florida to answer.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding. You have raised two issues at least that give me an opportunity to express the views of the leadership.

As I said before, our goals continue to be to find a balance between the need for action while we have this economic crisis and our desire to go through the legislative process. The leadership has urged our colleagues in the other body to complete action on the recovery bill in a timely fashion, even if it means they have to work through the weekend.

In addition, we've scheduled an additional day, as you point to, of legislative business next week so we can begin the process of conferencing with the Senate.

Also, I would remind the gentleman that the Appropriations, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce Committees all held full markups.

Per the gentleman's request during our last colloquy, the Rules Committee, as I'm sure the gentleman knows that I'm privileged and honored to serve on, waived PAYGO points of order and made a Republican substitute in order. In addition, Chairwoman SLAUGHTER of the Rules Committee put out a call for amendments.

Speaking of bipartisanship, there was an evenly balanced number, at least 6-5. There were six Democratic amendments made in order, four Republican amendments, and one bipartisan amendment were considered last week on the floor.

Now, we're going to continue to listen to Republican ideas throughout the conference process and look forward to working with the gentleman and his colleagues.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I reclaim my time, and I'd just like to say to the gentleman, I know that there was over 200 amendments offered.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. 206.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. 210 amendments offered, and about 95 of those were Republican, and so if I'm hearing

the gentleman correctly—and I will yield for an answer—only four of those were worth having a vote on the floor?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. No. Thank you for yielding. As I indicated to you, there were substantial mark-ups. For example, the Appropriations Committee met for over 8 hours, and Republicans as well as Democrats had an opportunity to offer their amendments.

You understand and your colleagues understand the process, and I can make this anecdotal and personal. My amendment was not made in order, and I serve on the Rules Committee. I would hope that the gentleman would understand the dynamics of the process.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Reclaiming my time, and I certainly do understand that and the rules process that y'all so patiently sit in. But I also understand the committee process and the part of process that the American people expect us to go through, and these bills did go through Ways and Means and I know the Energy and Commerce.

But I do know that in the Energy and Commerce Committee there were several amendments voted on in Energy and Commerce that were Republican amendments that passed and that the amendments were stripped out of the bill before it ever got to the Rules Committee before it ever got to the floor.

And I'd love to yield to the gentleman to see if he has some type of recollection that that did happen and to find out how these things got taken out of a bill that was passed through that committee.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. If the gentleman will yield, I am certainly not aware of that, and I speak constantly with the majority leader, and I'm not of the mind that the majority leader is aware either.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Well, reclaiming my time, I would hope that my friend would check into that for me so if we have this colloquy again we can do that.

And let me say that I'd like to tell the gentleman, that where the President has set an example, the congressional Democrats have not really followed that as far as acting bipartisan.

And one last question that I'd yield to the gentleman for an answer is you mentioned that there would be a conference on H.R. 1 if it comes back from the Senate this weekend perhaps. I don't know if the other body's going to work this weekend or not, but let's say they do and there's a conference that's set up for Monday on H.R. 1. Are there going to be any Republicans included in that conference committee?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. As is always the case, first, coming from the other body, as you well know, they're in the process now of dealing with a substantial number of amendments that are being offered by Republicans and Democrats. I can't speak to the conferencing numbers and to its breakdown as it were.

What I do know is that a conference is going to be scheduled, and on yesterday I personally visited Members of the Senate, and I have it on good information that they are going to work through a substantial portion of the weekend, and I suspect that those committees that are the committees of germane jurisdiction will contemplate the ideas of Republicans and Democrats in the conference.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Well, reclaiming my time, could the gentleman just tell me if there will be one Republican on the conference committee?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I cannot speak for those that are the Chairs and/or the appointment of members of the conference committee.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Well, reclaiming my time, I hope that our leadership in this House would work in a bipartisan manner, and even though we've been shut out of the process so far, if there is a conference committee, that we would at least be included.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday next, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF RAYMOND M. FITZGERALD

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to mourn the passing of a dear friend, Raymond M. Fitzgerald.

Although he lived in my congressional district in Naperville, Illinois, I got to know him best during his time here in Washington. He began his career as a legislative aid for our former Governor. He went on to work on the staff of the House Science and Technology Committee and as a legislative director to my good friend from Illinois, JOHN SHIMKUS. I know that today there are many still working here in Congress who knew him well and miss him as I do.

Just a few years ago, Ray moved to Naperville with his wife Kristen to raise their three beautiful daughters, Nora, Maggie, and Lucy. But having taken a job in government relations for a major company in my district, he made regular trips back here to see all his good friends and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Ray was a wonderful human being with a positive attitude and great talent for public service and

science policy. He was always full of life and cheer.

And in the short 37 years that he was with us before succumbing to cancer, he built a lasting legacy of friends, family, and professional success.

Mr. Speaker, I insert into the RECORD the Chicago Tribune article about Ray's life.

[From the Chicago Tribune, Jan. 26, 2009]

RAYMOND M. FITZGERALD, 1971–2009:

NAVISTAR LOBBYIST

(By Joan Giangrassie Kates)

You could take a South Sider and move him to Washington, but in the case of Raymond M. Fitzgerald, you couldn't take the South Side out of the man.

The youngest of six children and only son of a Chicago fireman, Mr. Fitzgerald carried with him the values of faith, family and friends when he moved in 1994 to Capitol Hill to serve as a legislative aide for five years to then-Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar. He later worked for a year as a member of the staff on the House Science and Technology Committee.

From 2000 to 2005, Mr. Fitzgerald served as the legislative director to U.S. Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL), who quickly took note of the quintessential South Sider's authenticity and unflappability.

"From the start, Ray was as honest and straightforward as they come," said Shimkus, from Downstate Collinsville. "He never lost his cool, and in our business, people respect that."

For four years, Mr. Fitzgerald worked in the Warrenville offices of commercial trucks and engines giant Navistar Inc., using his vast knowledge in the field of energy issues and technologies and making frequent trips to Washington.

Mr. Fitzgerald, 37, of Naperville, a former director of legislative affairs and government relations for Navistar, died Wednesday, Jan. 21, in Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, after a nine-month battle with stomach cancer.

"He had the respect of so many in Washington," said Tim Touhy, Navistar's director of corporate communications. "He knew a great deal about energy, and he knew his way around policymaking."

But perhaps Mr. Fitzgerald's biggest coup in Washington wasn't a piece of legislation, but scoring a visit to the White House when his beloved White Sox met President George Bush after winning the 2005 World Series.

"He was all smiles that day standing there next to his team," said longtime friend Paul Doucette.

Born in Evergreen Park and raised on the South Side, Mr. Fitzgerald was a graduate of Brother Rice High School in Chicago. He received a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Northern Illinois University.

In 2001, Mr. Fitzgerald married his wife, Kristin. He moved with his family to Naperville in 2005 after accepting a job with Navistar.

In addition to his wife, other survivors include three daughters, Nora, Maggie and Lucy; his mother, Kaye; and five sisters, Colleen Zientek, Mary O'Donnell, Debbie Noll, Linda Trinley and Maureen Harkala.

Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Monday in St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 2825 W. 81st St., Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, finally I'd like to offer my sincerest sympathies to Ray Fitzgerald's family, especially his wife, Kristen, his daughters, mother, and five loving sisters who grew up with him in Chicago's south side. They will all remain in our thoughts and prayers.