

"Can you imagine, in a court of law, if the prosecutor basically got completely taken off of the case, and suddenly the defense lawyer walked in, and there was somebody new? It's like bells and whistles would go off." This is from "AC 360," which is Anderson Cooper, CNN, 12/1/10.

"I am confident some of the folks on the committee are more political than anything else." That is from someone who has been very critical of me, Melanie Sloan of CREW, quoted in Talking Points Memo, 12/1/10.

"Rarely has the ethics process looked worse." This is by Dana Milbank, Washington Post, 12/4/10.

Unfortunately, if a resolution like the one I noticed passed, its authority, like the authority of the investigation against me, would expire at the end of this Congress, which could come as early as next week. The investigation and report called for by the resolution would have to be completed immediately, which apparently is not feasible now given the calendar.

Many colleagues who share the concerns I have raised about the disciplinary action of the committee are also concerned that a task force established now would have insufficient time to finish its work.

I share that concern and have been working with my colleagues over the last few days to find an alternative that would allow for the exploration of this important topic without further undermining the process by not allowing for adequate time and resources. Because news about the committee's activities just came to light last week, the options seem to be limited.

We all know how a vote on a privileged resolution plays out. The leadership, for reasons which are both practical and political, would use a parliamentary procedure, either a motion to table or a motion to refer, to essentially kill the bill.

This maneuver is not unique to this resolution. It is, as history shows us, seemingly standard practice. Functionally, that would be the end of this particular resolution, and it could have the unintended consequence of suggesting falsely to the public that the House as a whole is not concerned with the integrity of the ethics process.

In fact, during those conversations with colleagues, Members have come alive, and the basic concepts of justice and fairness have permeated every conversation. They have suggested that this issue is one that should be explored willingly, not just by the force of a vote by the whole House, and that parliamentary procedure should not thwart transparency.

Let me note that, while they expressed concern with some of the events that have occurred as related to my case and the implications for the broader institution, Members also indicated they believe that our colleagues who lead the Ethics Committee—ZOE LOFGREN and JO BONNER—fundamentally share our commitment to justice

and fairness despite the circumstances which have led us here today.

This is a view that I share as well.

Although the committee is built on secrecy and confidentiality, it should have the ability to be flexible and provide transparency in extraordinary circumstances. This is one such extraordinary circumstance when the House as a whole and the public need the committee to reveal information so we can have confidence in the process.

Those who know me know that I am aggressive by nature and philosophy. I believe that it is important that we be relentless about our constant search for truth and justice.

But here, upon the advice of my colleagues whom I trust and admire, I am not pushing for a vote on this resolution today. In doing so, however, I am requesting that the committee set the record straight, on its own accord, in a bipartisan manner, with a joint statement signed by the chair and ranking member, as provided by its rules, which both protects the confidentiality required by the committee and respects the public's and this body's right to know the circumstances of the events that led to the discipline of the two attorneys leading the case against me.

Today, I will again notice the House with my privileged resolution. I am hopeful it will not be necessary to take it up, because the Ethics Committee will, indeed, set the record straight.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time.

ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS FOR STATE SENTENCING COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 6412) to amend title 28, United States Code, to require the Attorney General to share criminal records with State sentencing commissions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 371, nays 1, not voting 61, as follows:

[Roll No. 627]

YEAS—371

Ackerman	Austria	Barton (TX)	Bilirakis	Garrett (NJ)	Marshall
Aderholt	Bachmann	Bean	Gerlach	Matheson	Matheson
Adler (NJ)	Baird	Becerra	Giffords	Matsui	Matsui
Akin	Baldwin	Berkley	Gingrey (GA)	McCarthy (CA)	McCarthy (NY)
Alexander	Barrett (SC)	Berman	Gohmert	McCaul	McCaul
Altire	Barrow	Biggert	Gonzalez	McClintock	McClintock
Andrews	Bartlett	Bilbray	Goodlatte	McCotter	McCotter
			Gordon (TN)	McDermott	McDermott
			Graves (GA)	McGovern	McGovern
			Grayson	McHenry	McHenry
			Green, Al	McIntyre	McIntyre
			Green, Gene	McMahon	McMahon
			Grijalva	McNerney	McNerney
			Guthrie	Meek (FL)	Meek (FL)
			Gutierrez	Meeks (NY)	Meeks (NY)
			Hall (NY)	Melancon	Melancon
			Hall (TX)	Mica	Mica
			Braley (IA)	Michaud	Michaud
			Boucher	Miller (FL)	Miller (FL)
			Boustany	Miller (MI)	Miller (MI)
			Brady (PA)	Miller (NC)	Miller (NC)
			Brady (TX)	Minnick	Minnick
			Braley (IA)	Mitchell	Mitchell
			Bright	Mollohan	Mollohan
			Brown (GA)	Moore (KS)	Moore (KS)
			Brown (SC)	Moore (WI)	Moore (WI)
			Brown, Corrine	Moran (VA)	Moran (VA)
			Brown-Waite,	Murphy (CT)	Murphy (CT)
			Ginny	Murphy (NY)	Murphy (NY)
			Buchanan	Murphy, Patrick	Murphy, Patrick
			Burgess	Murphy, Tim	Murphy, Tim
			Burton (IN)	Nadler (NY)	Nadler (NY)
			Butterfield	Neal (MA)	Neal (MA)
			Calvert	Neugebauer	Neugebauer
			Camp	Nunes	Nunes
			Campbell	Oberstar	Oberstar
			Cantor	Obey	Obey
			Cao	Olson	Olson
			Capito	Ortiz	Ortiz
			Capps	Paulsen	Paulsen
			Capuano	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Carney	Payne	Payne
			Carson (IN)	Pence	Pence
			Carter	Perlmutter	Perlmutter
			Cassidy	Perrinello	Perrinello
			Castle	Peterson	Peterson
			Castor (FL)	Pitts	Pitts
			Chaffetz	Platts	Platts
			Chandler	Poe (TX)	Poe (TX)
			Childers	Polis (CO)	Polis (CO)
			Chu	Pomerooy	Pomerooy
			Clarke	Pastor (AZ)	Pastor (AZ)
			Clay	Paulsen	Paulsen
			Cleaver	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Cole	Perrinello	Perrinello
			Conaway	Peterson	Peterson
			Conyers	Pitts	Pitts
			Cooper	Platts	Platts
			Costa	Poe (TX)	Poe (TX)
			Costello	Polis (CO)	Polis (CO)
			Courtney	Pomerooy	Pomerooy
			Critz	Pastor (AZ)	Pastor (AZ)
			Crowley	Paulsen	Paulsen
			Cuellar	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Culberson	Perrinello	Perrinello
			Cummings	Peterson	Peterson
			Dahlkemper	Pitts	Pitts
			Davis (AL)	Platts	Platts
			Davis (IL)	Poe (TX)	Poe (TX)
			Davis (KY)	Polis (CO)	Polis (CO)
			Davis (TN)	Pomerooy	Pomerooy
			DeFazio	Pastor (AZ)	Pastor (AZ)
			Dent	Paulsen	Paulsen
			Deutch	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Diaz-Balart, L.	Perrinello	Perrinello
			Diaz-Balart, M.	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Dicks	Perrinello	Perrinello
			Dingell	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Djou	Perrinello	Perrinello
			Doggett	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Donnelly (IN)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Doyle	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Dreier	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Duncan	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Edwards (MD)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Edwards (TX)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Ehlers	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Ellison	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Emerson	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Engel	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Eshoo	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Etheridge	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Farr	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Fattah	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Filner	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Fleming	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Forbes	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Fortenberry	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Foster	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Foxx	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Gohmert	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Gonzalez	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Goodlatte	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Gordon (TN)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Graves (GA)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Grayson	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Green, Al	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Green, Gene	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Grijalva	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Guthrie	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Gutierrez	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Hall (NY)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Hall (TX)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Braley (IA)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Boucher	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Boustany	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Brady (PA)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Brady (TX)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Brown (GA)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Brown (SC)	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Brown, Corrine	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Brown-Waite,	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Ginny	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Buchanan	Pelosi	Pelosi
			Burgess	Pelosi	Pelosi
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			Butterfield	Pelosi	Pelosi
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