

fact, took place before the committee commenced its inquiry.

I did at the very beginning of the committee's preliminary inquiry suggest—and, Mr. Chairman, I think this is very important—I acknowledge the Statement of Alleged Violations. In fact, much of what has been said today has been, in fact, true.

But what I want to make emphatically clear and what I want to emphasize is that I have never taken or threatened any action against any staffer who did not volunteer to work on my campaign.

There is no doubt that a number of staff felt compelled or coerced to do so. That was not my intent, and I deeply regret that this occurred. And because I want to make sure it is very clear to the committee, I will repeat that statement. There is no doubt that a number of staff felt compelled or coerced to do so, and that was not my intent, and I deeply do regret that this occurred. I never told any staff member that they would be out of a job if they did not work on the campaign. And it is undisputed that I was not present at the staff meeting at which time the statement was made.

With that context and these clarifications, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that my colleagues refer, as was stated by the committee, to my public reference to this matter, my statement of views, which are included in the report.

As I conclude, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, I look forward to the resolution of this matter. In fact, I have sought the resolution of this matter for well over a year.

□ 0950

And I have agreed to the items that were set forward; however, some of the details that were said in the language that was said today was not what had been discussed. And so, for the record, I wanted to clarify that.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may not reserve her time. The time is controlled by the gentleman from Alabama.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just feel it is important to point out several important issues that were raised by Ms. RICHARDSON in her comments on the floor today.

Much of what she has stated on the floor today was included in the views that she filed after reviewing the report that was issued. She raised these points in her views of the report. And I feel compelled to add that the committee took those views very seriously, and they responded and refuted those points in its response to her views, which is all included in the report which has been made publicly available.

Everything that has been stated on the floor today by any Member, but

most especially Mr. DENT, are statements that are already included in the report to which Representative RICHARDSON has responded. And again, many of the points that she raised we investigated, took very seriously, and included in response to those views.

I don't think that there is anything further to add other than she has been given an opportunity to voice her concerns at every step of the process, and we have scrupulously adhered to a process to try to take her views and her suggestions into account and we have arrived at the report which is unanimously agreed on by all of the committee members.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to close if the ranking member has no further speakers.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to once again thank members of the committee, as well as members of the pool, for their tremendous service that they render to this institution. And on behalf of the entire House, I want to again thank the nonpartisan, professional committee staff for their extraordinary hard work and commitment to the House of Representatives and to the American people that we all serve.

As it is often noted on the floor, especially during somber moments like this, public office is a public trust. And for the vast majority of Members who have been honored with the opportunity, the privilege to serve in this, the people's House, there is an unspoken duty to hold ourselves up to a higher standard.

Unfortunately, as Representative RICHARDSON has admitted, she did not live up to that higher standard. And as such, she did a disservice to her staff, to her colleagues. And while it is ultimately up to her constituents in California to be the final judge of her actions, I think it is safe to say she did a disservice to the hardworking taxpayers from all corners of this country who expect and deserve more from their elected leaders.

Throughout the course of this matter, the investigative subcommittee heard desperate, sometimes emotional pleas for help from members of Representative RICHARDSON's staff. Representative DENT has shared at least one of the stories with the body today. And even since word first broke yesterday of this resolution this morning, the committee has received calls from other staffers thanking us for bringing this matter to a public resolution.

As a former Hill staffer myself, I have great respect for those staffers who were willing to come to the Ethics Committee with their stories and heartfelt concerns. That is not an easy thing to do against a Member of Congress, particularly when that person claims to be your boss and you're made to feel that your job is in jeopardy. At

the end of the day, however, we must remember and never forget that the real employer for us all are the American people.

I was particularly moved by one of Representative RICHARDSON's former staffers who testified:

This certainly should not be an example as to the way an elected official for this country should conduct themselves under any circumstance.

And, Mr. Speaker, I am simply haunted by the statement of another staffer that Mr. DENT referenced, a lady who was part of the Wounded Warrior program, someone who was willing to risk her life in service to her country, and ended up coming home a disabled veteran. She told the committee, and it bears repeating:

It is sad to say that I would rather be at war in Afghanistan than work under people who are morally corrupt.

Mr. Speaker, while some might prefer a harsher sentence, perhaps a few might even think a reprimand is too severe. I urge my colleagues to support the unanimous recommendation of the only evenly divided committee in this House of Representatives.

And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 755.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles.

H.R. 1369. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1021 Pennsylvania Avenue in Hartshorne, Oklahoma, as the "Warren Lindley Post Office".

H.R. 1560. An act to amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe to determine blood quantum requirement for membership in that tribe.

H.R. 3276. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2810 East Hillsborough Avenue in Tampa, Florida, as the "Reverend Abe Brown Post Office Building".

H.R. 3412. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1421 Veterans Memorial Drive in Abbeville, Louisiana, as the "Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire Post Office Building".

H.R. 3501. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, as the "SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office".

H.R. 3772. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 150 South Union Street in Canton, Mississippi, as the "First Sergeant Landres Cheeks Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and agreed to a joint resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1409. An act to intensify efforts to identify, prevent, and recover payment error, waste, fraud, and abuse within Federal spending.

S.J. Res. 49. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1905) "An Act to strengthen Iran sanctions laws for the purpose of compelling Iran to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons and other threatening activities, and for other purposes".

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1005

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

EXTENDING CERTAIN TRADE PROGRAMS

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5986) to amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to extend the third-country fabric program and to add South Sudan to the list of countries eligible for designation under that Act, to make technical corrections to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States relating to the textile and apparel rules of origin for the Do-

minican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, to approve the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5986

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.

(a) EXTENSION OF THIRD-COUNTRY FABRIC PROGRAM.—Section 112(c)(1) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking "2012" and inserting "2015";

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking "2012" and inserting "2015"; and

(3) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "2012" and inserting "2015".

(b) ADDITION OF SOUTH SUDAN.—Section 107 of that Act (19 U.S.C. 3706) is amended by inserting after "Republic of South Africa (South Africa)," the following:

"Republic of South Sudan (South Sudan).";

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 102(2) of that Act (19 U.S.C. 3701(2)) is amended by striking "48".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO TEXTILE AND APPAREL RULES OF ORIGIN FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term "Agreement" has the meaning given the term in section 3(1) of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 109-53; 19 U.S.C. 4002(1)).

(2) CAFTA-DR COUNTRY.—The term "CAFTA-DR country" has the meaning given the term in section 3(2) of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 109-53; 19 U.S.C. 4002(2)).

(3) HTS.—The term "HTS" means the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(4) TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.—The term "Trade Representative" means the United States Trade Representative.

(b) MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL RULES OF ORIGIN.—

(1) INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF RULES OF ORIGIN.—Subdivision (m)(viii) of general note 29 of the HTS is amended as follows:

(A) The matter following subdivision (A)(2) is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "Any elastomeric yarn (except latex) contained in the originating yarns referred to in subdivision (A)(2) must be formed in the territory of one or more of the parties to the Agreement.".

(B) Subdivision (B) is amended—

(i) in the matter preceding subdivision (B)(1), by striking "exclusive of collars and cuffs where applicable," and inserting "exclusive of collars, cuffs and ribbed waistbands (only if the ribbed waistband is present in combination with cuffs and identical in fabric construction to the cuffs) where applicable,";

(ii) in subdivision (B)(2), by inserting "or knit to shape components" after "one or more fabrics";

(iii) by amending subdivision (B)(3) to read as follows:

"(3) any combination of the fabrics referred to in subdivision (B)(1), the fabrics or knit to shape components referred to in subdivision (B)(2), or one or more fabrics or knit to shape components originating under this note."; and

(iv) in the matter following subdivision (B)(3), by striking the last sentence and inserting the following: "Any elastomeric yarn (except latex) contained in an originating fabric or knit to shape component referred to in subdivision (B)(3) must be formed in the territory of one or more of the parties to the Agreement.".

(C) Subdivision (C) is amended—

(i) in subdivision (C)(2), by inserting "or knit to shape components" after "one or more fabrics";

(ii) by amending subdivision (C)(3) to read as follows:

"(3) any combination of the fabrics referred to in subdivision (C)(1), the fabrics or knit to shape components referred to in subdivision (C)(2) or one or more fabrics or knit to shape components originating under this note."; and

(iii) in the matter following subdivision (C)(3), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "Any elastomeric yarn (except latex) contained in an originating fabric or knit to shape component referred to in subdivision (C)(3) must be formed in the territory of one or more of the parties to the Agreement.".

(2) CHANGE IN TARIFF CLASSIFICATION RULES.—Subdivision (n) of general note 29 of the HTS is amended as follows:

(A) Chapter rule 4 to chapter 61 is amended—

(i) by striking "5401 or 5508" and inserting "5401, or 5508 or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread,"; and

(ii) by inserting "or yarn" after "only if such sewing thread".

(B) The chapter rules to chapter 61 are amended by inserting after chapter rule 5 the following:

"Chapter rule 6: Notwithstanding chapter rules 1, 3, 4 or 5 to this chapter, an apparel good of chapter 61 shall be considered originating regardless of the origin of any visible lining fabric described in chapter rule 1 to this chapter, narrow elastic fabrics as described in chapter rule 3 to this chapter, sewing thread or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread described in chapter rule 4 to this chapter or pocket bag fabric described in chapter rule 5 to this chapter, provided such material is listed in U.S. note 20 to subchapter XXII of chapter 98 and the good meets all other applicable requirements for preferential tariff treatment under this note.".

(C) Chapter rules 3, 4, and 5 to chapter 62 are each amended by striking "nightwear" each place it appears and inserting "sleepwear".

(D) Chapter rule 4 to chapter 62 is amended—

(i) by striking "5401 or 5508" and inserting "5401, or 5508 or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread,"; and

(ii) by inserting "or yarn" after "only if such sewing thread".

(E) The chapter rules to chapter 62 are amended by inserting after chapter rule 5 the following:

"Chapter rule 6: Notwithstanding chapter rules 1, 3, 4 or 5 to this chapter, an apparel good of chapter 62 shall be considered originating regardless of the origin of any visible lining fabric described in chapter rule 1 to this chapter, narrow elastic fabrics as described in chapter rule 3 to this chapter, sewing thread or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread described in chapter rule 4 to this chapter or pocket bag fabric described in