

I know what the Ohio and Erie National Heritage Canalway means to northeast Ohio, and I know what increased Federal support will do to help it continue serving our community and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on the previous question and on the rule.

The material referred to previously by Mr. HASTINGS of Washington is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 765 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. The House disagrees to the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2642, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference requested by the Senate thereon. The Speaker shall appoint conferees immediately, but may declare a recess under clause 12(a) of rule I for the purpose of consulting the Minority Leader prior to such appointment. The motion to instruct conferees otherwise in order pending the appointment of conferees instead shall be in order only at a time designated by the Speaker in the legislative schedule within two additional legislative days after adoption of this resolution.

(The information contained herein was provided by Democratic Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 109th Congress.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Democratic majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, (VI, 308-311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.”

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.” But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the Floor Procedures Manual published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress,

(page 56). Here's how the Rules Committee described the rule using information from Congressional Quarterly's “American Congressional Dictionary”: “If the previous question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business.”

Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1615

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 763, by the yeas and nays;

Adopting House Resolution 763, if ordered;

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 765, by the yeas and nays;

Adopting House Resolution 765, if ordered; and

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1955.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1011, VIRGINIA RIDGE AND VALLEY ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on order-

ing the previous question on House Resolution 763, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 190, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 990]

YEAS—225

Abercrombie	Green, Gene	Napolitano
Ackerman	Grijalva	Neal (MA)
Allen	Gutierrez	Obey
Altmire	Hall (NY)	Olver
Andrews	Hare	Ortiz
Arcuri	Harman	Pallone
Baca	Hastings (FL)	Pascarell
Baird	Herseht Sandlin	Pastor
Baldwin	Higgins	Payne
Bean	Hill	Perlmutter
Becerra	Hinchey	Peterson (MN)
Berkley	Hinojosa	Pomeroy
Berman	Hirono	Price (NC)
Berry	Hodes	Rahall
Bishop (GA)	Holden	Rangel
Bishop (NY)	Holt	Richardson
Blumenauer	Honda	Rodriguez
Boren	Hookey	Ross
Boswell	Hoyer	Rothman
Boucher	Insee	Roybal-Allard
Boyd (FL)	Israel	Ruppersberger
Boyd (KS)	Jackson (IL)	Rush
Brady (PA)	Jackson-Lee	Ryan (OH)
Braley (IA)	(TX)	Salazar
Brown, Corrine	Jefferson	Sánchez, Linda
Butterfield	Johnson (GA)	T.
Capps	Jones (OH)	Sanchez, Loretta
Capuano	Kagen	Sarbanes
Cardoza	Kanjorski	Schakowsky
Carnahan	Kaptur	Schiff
Carney	Kennedy	Schwartz
Castor	Kildee	Scott (GA)
Chandler	Kilpatrick	Scott (VA)
Clarke	Kind	Serrano
Clay	Klein (FL)	Sestak
Cleaver	Kucinich	Shea-Porter
Clyburn	Lampson	Sherman
Cohen	Langevin	Shuler
Conyers	Lantos	Sires
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Skelton
Costa	Larson (CT)	Slaughter
Costello	Lee	Smith (WA)
Courtney	Levin	Snyder
Cramer	Lewis (GA)	Solis
Crowley	Lipinski	Space
Cuellar	Loeback	Spratt
Cummings	Lofgren, Zoe	Stark
Davis (AL)	Lowey	Stupak
Davis (CA)	Lynch	Sutton
Davis (IL)	Mahoney (FL)	Tanner
Davis, Lincoln	Maloney (NY)	Tauscher
DeFazio	Markey	Taylor
DeGette	Marshall	Thompson (CA)
Delahunt	Matheson	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	Matsui	Tierney
Dicks	McCarthy (NY)	Towns
Dingell	McCollum (MN)	Tsongas
Doggett	McDermott	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McGovern	Udall (NM)
Doyle	McIntyre	Van Hollen
Edwards	McNerney	Velázquez
Ellison	McNulty	Vislosky
Ellsworth	Meek (FL)	Walz (MN)
Emanuel	Meeks (NY)	Wasserman
Engel	Melancon	Schultz
Eshoo	Michaud	Waters
Etheridge	Miller (NC)	Watson
Farr	Miller, George	Watt
Fattah	Mitchell	Waxman
Filner	Mollohan	Weiner
Frank (MA)	Moore (KS)	Welch (VT)
Giffords	Moran (VA)	Wexler
Gillibrand	Murphy (CT)	Woolsey
Gonzalez	Murphy, Patrick	Wu
Gordon	Murtha	Wynn
Green, Al	Nadler	Yarmuth

NAYS—190

Aderholt	Bachus	Bartlett (MD)
Akin	Baker	Barton (TX)
Alexander	Barrett (SC)	Biggert
Bachmann	Barrow	Bilirakis