

tive. This past year I have experienced some personal losses. I lost my father, and my mother lost her husband of 50 years. My mother, due to serious health problems, is being forced to move into assisted living. My mother has lost her home, her husband, and her life as she knew it.

This week before making this decision I visited my mother in her hospital in Harrisburg. I should say she is now out and is in the assisted living facility. I asked her how she could handle these setbacks with such a positive attitude. She said,

Newtie—she still calls me that. I do not think I am ever going to get to Mr. Speaker with my mother—she says, Newtie, you just have to get on with life.

Coming back from Harrisburg, I realized that she gave me strength and made me realize that for Marianne and myself, moving on with our lives, in the right way, by doing the right thing was our most important goal.

Let me make clear: We endure the difficulties, and the pain of the current political process, but we believe renewing America is the great challenge for our generation. I said on the day I became Speaker for the second time that we should focus on the challenges of race, drugs, ignorance and faith. Over the past few months, I have met with Americans of all backgrounds and all races as we discussed new approaches and new solutions. I am convinced that we can enter the 21st century with a renewed America of remarkable power and ability.

This is a great country, filled with good people. We do have the capacity to reform welfare and help every citizen move from welfare to work. We do have the potential to help our poorest citizens move from poverty to prosperity. We do have the potential to replace quotas with friendship and set-asides with volunteerism. We can reach out to every American child of every ethnic background, in every neighborhood, and help them achieve their Creator's endowed unalienable right to pursue happiness. We cannot guarantee happiness, but we can guarantee the right to pursue.

Recently, I had a chance to have breakfast with the fine young men and women of the 2d Infantry Division in Korea where my father had served. Today South Korea is free and prosperous because young Americans, for 47 years, have risked their lives in alliance with young Koreans.

I was reminded on that morning that freedom depends on courage and integrity; that honor, duty, country is not just a motto, it is a way of life. We in this House must live every day in that tradition. We have much to do to clean up our political and governmental processes. We have much to do to communicate with our citizens and with those around the world who believe in freedom and yearn for freedom. Everywhere I went recently, in Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul, and Tokyo, people talked about freedom of speech, free elections, the rule of law,

an independent judiciary, the right to own private property, and the right to pursue happiness through free markets.

We in this House are role models. People all over the world watch us and study us. When we fall short, they lose hope. When we fail, they despair.

To the degree I have made mistakes, they have been errors of implementation but never of intent. This House is at the center of freedom, and it deserves from all of us a commitment to be worthy of that honor.

Today, I am doing what I can to personally live up to that calling and that standard. I hope my colleagues will join me in that quest.

May God bless this House, and may God bless America.

¶34.13 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 400

Mr. MCINNIS, by direction of the Committee on Rules, called up the following resolution (H. Res. 116):

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 400) to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patents, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified as specified in section 2 of this resolution. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified, shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified, are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in H.R. 400 is modified as follows:

(a) page 14, line 19, after "at" insert "a rate not to exceed"; and

(b) page 46, line 15, strike "activities" and insert in lieu thereof "activities, subject to the submission of a plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 605 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 1997".

When said resolution was considered.

After debate,

On motion of Mr. MCINNIS, the previous question was ordered on the resolution to its adoption or rejection and under the operation thereof, the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶34.14 PATENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HOBSON, pursuant to House Resolution 116 and rule XXIII, declared the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 400) to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patents, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HOBSON, by unanimous consent, designated Mr. LAHOOD as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

The Acting Chairman, Mr. CAMP assumed the Chair; and after some time spent therein,

¶34.15 RECORDED VOTE

A recorded vote by electronic device was ordered in the Committee of the Whole on the following amendment in the nature of a substitute submitted by Mr. ROHRBACHER:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Patent Rights and Sovereignty Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) the right of an inventor to secure a patent is assured through the authorization powers of the Congress contained in Article I, section 8 of the Constitution, has been consistently upheld by the Congress, and has been the stimulus to the unique technological innovativeness of the United States;

(2) the right must be assured for a guaranteed length of time in the term of the issued patent and be further secured by maintaining absolute confidentiality of all patent application data until the patent is granted if the applicant is timely prosecuting the patent;

(3) the quality of United States patents is also an essential stimulus for preserving the technological lead and economic well-being of the United States in the next century;

(4) the process of examining and issuing patents is an inherently governmental function that must be performed by Federal employees acting in their quasi-judicial roles under regular executive and legislative oversight; and

(5) the quality of United States patents is inextricably linked to the professionalism of