

9108. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Coast Weakfish Fishery; Change in Regulations for the Exclusive Economic Zone [Docket No. 970829213-7213-01; I.D. 091696A] (RIN: 0648-AJ15) received May 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9109. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; 1998 Management Measures [Docket No. 980429110-8110-01; I.D. 042398B] (RIN: 0648-AK25) received May 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9110. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Retention of Undersized Halibut in Regulatory Area 4E [Docket No. 980225048-8099-03; I.D. 021898B] (RIN: 0648-AK58) received May 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9111. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, transmitting the Office's final rule—Maryland Regulatory Program [MD-041-FOR] received May 11, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

¶43.6 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, laid before the House a communication, which was read as follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 11, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives. I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 11, 1998 at 3:40 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the 1996 National Institute of Building Sciences annual report.

With warm regards,  
ROBIN H. CARLE,  
*Clerk.*

¶43.7 INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES

The Clerk then read the message from the President, as follows:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the requirements of section 809 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701j-2(j)), I transmit herewith the annual report of the National Institute of Building Sciences for fiscal year 1996.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 11, 1998.

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

¶43.8 GRANITE WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT

Mrs. CHENOWETH moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2886) to

provide for a demonstration project in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, under which a private contractor will perform multiple resource management activities for that unit of the National Forest System; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, recognized Mrs. CHENOWETH and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,  
Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered.* That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶43.9 MILES LAND EXCHANGE

Mrs. CHENOWETH moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1021) to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands within the Routt National Forest in the State of Colorado.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, recognized Mrs. CHENOWETH and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,  
Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered.* That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶43.10 COLORADO FERC PROJECT EXTENSION

Mr. Dan SCHAEFER of Colorado moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2217) to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 9248 in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, recognized Mr. Dan SCHAEFER of Colorado and Mr. HALL of Texas, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,  
Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered.* That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶43.11 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT EXTENSION

Mr. Dan SCHAEFER of Colorado moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2841) to extend the time required for the construction of a hydroelectric project; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, recognized Mr. Dan SCHAEFER of Colorado and Mr. HALL of Texas, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,  
Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered.* That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶43.12 WAR ON DRUGS

Mr. HASTERT moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 423):

Whereas drug abuse killed 14,218 Americans in 1995 and it is estimated that nearly 114,000 Americans—many of them our youth—will have died as a result of drug abuse by the end of the period between 1992 and 2001, and it is estimated that 13,000,000 Americans used illegal drugs in 1996;

Whereas American taxpayers footed a \$150,000,000,000 bill for drug-related criminal and medical costs in 1997, which is more than we spent in 1997's Federal budget for programs to fund education, transportation and infrastructure improvements, agriculture, energy, space and all foreign aid combined;

Whereas 34 percent of Americans see drug interdiction as a top priority foreign policy issue, above illegal immigration and the threat of terrorism, and 39 percent of Americans believe decreasing drug trafficking should be our primary objective in United States policy toward Latin America; and

Whereas the week of September 13 through 19, 1998 has been designated as the "Drug-Free America Blue Ribbon Campaign Week" to remind our children that they are not alone in the fight for a Drug-Free America: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That it is the sense of the House that—

(1) the House declares its commitment to create a Drug-Free America;

(2) the Members of the House should work personally to mobilize kids, parents, faith-based and community organizations, educators, local officials and law enforcement officers, as well as coaches and athletes to wage a winning war on drugs;

(3) the House pledges to pass legislation that provides the weapons and tools necessary to protect our children and our communities from the dangers of drug addiction and violence; and

(4) the United States will fight this war on drugs on three major battlefronts:

(A) Deterring demand.

(B) Stopping supply.

(C) Increasing accountability.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BERUETER, recognized Mr. HASTERT and Mr. BROWN of Ohio, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HASTERT demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

#### ¶43.13 PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. COBLE moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3723) to authorize funds for the payment of salaries and expenses of the Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, recognized Mr. COBLE and Mr. WEXLER, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered.* That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

#### ¶43.14 CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT DEFAULT PENALTIES

Mr. MCCOLLUM moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3811) to establish felony violations for the failure to pay legal child support obligations, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, recognized Mr. MCCOLLUM and Mr. WEXLER, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MCCOLLUM demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

#### ¶43.15 BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP

Mr. MCCOLLUM moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2829) to establish a matching grant program to help State and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement departments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, recognized Mr. MCCOLLUM and Mr. WEXLER, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HEFLEY, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MCCOLLUM demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HEFLEY, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

#### ¶43.16 POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. BURTON rose to a question of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HEFLEY, pursuant to rule IX, recognized Mr. BURTON for one hour.

Mr. BURTON made the following statement:

"Mr. Speaker, the question of privilege deals with statements made in three editorials published in newspapers within the last week. The editorials contain statements which reflect directly on my reputation and integrity and specifically allege deceptive actions on my part and impugn my character and motive."

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HEFLEY, spoke and said:

"The Chair has examined the press accounts which serve as the basis of the gentleman from Indiana's question of personal privilege and is satisfied that the gentleman states a proper question of personal privilege."

"Therefore, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 1 hour."

Mr. BURTON spoke and said:

"Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume."

"Mr. Speaker, I want to tell my colleagues that I regret having to take

this time out of our very busy schedule. I will not take the whole hour, but I think it is extremely important that the issues I am going to talk about be made available to my colleagues and to anyone else who is interested.

"I rise today to take a point of personal privilege and to discuss the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight's investigation into illegal campaign contributions and other crimes. My conduct as chairman has been criticized by many of my Democratic colleagues. Those criticisms have been echoed in the press so I am taking this point of personal privilege to lay out for the American people the facts about this investigation.

"The fact is that this committee has been subjected to a level of stonewalling and obstruction that has never been seen by a congressional investigation in the history of this country. This investigation has been stonewalled by the White House. This investigation has been stonewalled by the Democratic National Committee. This committee has seen over 90 witnesses, 90, either take the fifth amendment or flee the country to avoid testifying, more than 90.

"The fact that all of these people have invoked their fifth amendment right to avoid self-incrimination is a pretty strong indication that a lot of crimes have been committed. Tomorrow the committee will vote on immunity for four witnesses, all of whom have previously invoked their right against self-incrimination. The Democrats on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight have voted once to block immunity and keep these witnesses from testifying. I hope that tomorrow they will reconsider and vote to allow this investigation to move forward as it should.

"This investigation has seen enough obstruction and enough stonewalling for a lifetime. Before tomorrow's vote, I want to lay out for the American people and my colleagues what has happened in this investigation over the last year, the stalling and the delaying tactics that have been used against us and what has brought us to this point. I want to give a comprehensive summary of events so I am not going to yield to my colleagues during this speech.

"I became chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight in January of 1997. The President said he would give his full cooperation to all congressional investigations of illegal foreign fund-raising, including ours. So why are we conducting this investigation? Because there is very strong evidence that crimes were committed.

"Let us take a look at some of the allegations that compelled us to begin this investigation: that the DNC had accepted millions of dollars in illegal foreign campaign contributions; that \$3 million of the \$4.5 million in contributions attributed to John Huang had to be returned because of suspicions about their origins; that the Chinese Govern-