

McCarthy	Payne (VA)	Stark
McDermott	Pelosi	Stenholm
McHale	Peterson (FL)	Stokes
McKinney	Peterson (MN)	Studds
McNulty	Pickett	Stupak
Meehan	Pombo	Tanner
Meek	Pomeroy	Tauzin
Menendez	Porter	Thompson
Mfume	Poshard	Thornton
Miller (CA)	Rahall	Thurman
Mineta	Rangel	Towns
Minge	Reed	Upton
Mink	Reynolds	Velazquez
Mollohan	Richardson	Vento
Montgomery	Rivers	Visclosky
Moran	Roemer	Volkmer
Murtha	Rose	Ward
Nadler	Roybal-Allard	Waters
Neal	Rush	Watt (NC)
Oberstar	Sabo	Waxman
Obey	Sawyer	Williams
Olver	Schroeder	Wise
Orton	Scott	Woolsey
Owens	Sisisky	Wyden
Pallone	Skaggs	Wynn
Pastor	Slaughter	Yates
Payne (NJ)	Spratt	Zimmer

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Harman

NOT VOTING—24

Ackerman	Hunter	Serrano
Chapman	Laughlin	Taylor (MS)
Chenoweth	Levin	Tejeda
Cubin	Matsui	Torres
Diaz-Balart	Moakley	Torricelli
Doolittle	Ortiz	Tucker
Fazio	Sanders	Wilson
Gordon	Schumer	Young (AK)

□ 1037

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Messrs. GILCHREST, BALDACCI, JEFFERSON, and GONZALEZ, Ms. MCCARTHY, and Messrs. FIELDS of Louisiana, BEVILL, HAMILTON, CLEMENT, COYNE, DE LA GARZA, UPTON, COSTELLO, BISHOP, PAYNE of New Jersey, and MINGE changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOME TO PASTOR DAVID SIEVERT

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to thank Pastor David Sievert for opening Congress this morning with a prayer.

Pastor Sievert is from my home church—St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church—in Janesville, WI.

I met Pastor Sievert about 15 years ago and quickly came to understand that his message was one of faith in God, commitment to family, and love of country.

As my family got better acquainted with the Sievert family, it became very

clear that his message from the pulpit was carried out in his own daily life.

Pastor Sievert's continuous message of faith, love, and commitment has inspired me and helped me through the daily trials and tribulations while running for office and now as a Member of Congress.

I look forward to listening to his motivating words for many years to come.

Pastor Sievert, I would like to thank you for making the journey out to Washington and for your encouraging prayer to open today's session of Congress.

□ 1040

FAIRNESS IN HOUSE VOTING PROCEDURES

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, prior to making a unanimous-consent request, I have two comments to make about yesterday's vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] as amended during consideration of the legislative branch appropriations bill.

First, after viewing and reviewing the videotape of yesterday's proceedings, it is quite clear that the Chair, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER], was on solid parliamentary ground when he called the vote on the Fazio amendment. The clerk informs us that he called the vote after 17 minutes and 10 seconds. The videotape shows Mr. LINDER started to call the vote and refrained from completing the call to allow a Member on the minority side of the aisle to vote at the desk, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ACKERMAN]. The video then shows the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] called the vote with the well of the House empty of Members. The video then shows that after some time two Members from the minority party appeared at the desk and attempted to vote. The regular procedure of the House is that after the Chair has called the vote, it is too late for Members to cast a vote. The fact that Mr. LINDER paused to allow the gentleman from New York [Mr. ACKERMAN] to vote demonstrates that his intent was not to arbitrarily shut off Members from their right to vote, nor did the Chair cut off anyone in the well from their right to vote because there were no Members in the well at the time he announced the vote.

I would further point out to the House that the vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] followed two earlier series of parliamentary inquiries to the chair which were propounded to Members on the minority side. These Members asked the chair to be consistent in his respecting the 17-minute voting period. The Chair allowed that he had been, perhaps, too generous in allowing votes to stay open to accommodate

Members and that he would attempt to be more rigorous in abiding by the 17-minute vote policy, and with the vote on the Fazio amendment he did just that.

I would further point out that the two Members from the minority who entered the well to vote aye after the vote had already been announced were followed in seconds by another Member from the majority who also arrived too late to vote nay. Had all three of those Members voted, the amendment would still have been defeated on a tie vote, and I might point out, as is the custom, the Speaker did not cast a vote. In other words, Mr. Speaker, the outcome would not have changed even with an extra minute of voting time.

The disposition of the vote on the Fazio amendment was entirely appropriate and conducted within the proper parliamentary procedure of this Chamber.

Having said that, it is also true that many Members, most especially Members on this side of the aisle who supported the Houghton language earlier, felt that their victory had been snatched from them. They have made that clear to the leadership on this side of the aisle. Perhaps they did not have the chance to view the videotape, as I have had. I have that videotape in my office and will make it available to any Member who wishes to see it.

However, I know all too well that once the perception of unfairness and arbitrariness has set in, it is difficult to undo regardless of the facts of the matter. It is important to this Member that fairness govern this Chamber because this Member spent over a decade attempting to do the people's business under very unfair conditions. It is important to this Member that the victories we win are honest and that the defeats we endure are equally so.

For that reason I am about to make a unanimous-consent request to revisit the vote on the Fazio amendment, and, Mr. Speaker, before I make that request, if I may just speak very personally for a moment to my colleagues.

I have not been a Member of this body long, but I can think of few things in life beyond my wife and my children for which I have a greater deal of love than I have for this institution, and this body, and us as Members. I hope that we can set straight a perception of wrongdoing, errant behavior, unfairness, with this action today, and I hope we can all take time to pause and reflect, and remember this body in my estimation is the single most precious and unique institution of democracy in the world, perhaps in the history of the world, and we should all, in each and every act of conduct, no matter how small, always put the honor and the dignity of this body ahead of the politics or even, for that matter, the political subtlety of the moment.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can see this as an opportunity for all of us to regain a new understanding of how precious is this body, and how precious is