

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2854, FEDERAL AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT AND REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-502) on the resolution (H. Res. 393) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2854) to modify the operation of certain agricultural programs, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 956, COMMON SENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY LEGAL REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-503) on the resolution (H. Res. 394) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 956) to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REGARDING RADIATION CONTROL FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT OF 1968—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Commerce:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 540 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360qq) (previously section 360D of the Public Health Service Act), I am submitting the report of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the administration of the Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act of 1968 during calendar year 1994.

The report recommends the repeal of section 540 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that requires the completion of this annual report. All the information found in this report is available to the Congress on a more immediate basis through the Center for Devices and Radiological Health technical reports, the Radiological Health Bulletin, and other publicly available sources. The Agency resources devoted to the preparation of this report could be put to other, better uses.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 1996.

1996 TRADE POLICY AGENDA AND 1995 ANNUAL REPORT ON TRADE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 1996 Trade Policy Agenda and 1995 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 1996.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 27, 1996.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, as custodian of records for the Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, have been served with three grand jury subpoenas duces tecum issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that the Clerk's Office has no documents responsive to the subpoenas. Through counsel, I will so notify the appropriate Assistant U.S. Attorney.

Sincerely,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

FDA REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address my colleagues tonight on a very important topic. Today it was announced that legislation will be introduced this week on FDA reform. This is long overdue here in the Congress, to make sure we help protect the health and safety of our constituents.

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Today Congressman GREENWOOD, the task force chairman under Congress-

man BLILEY started out with a discussion of our mission and was followed with remarks from Chairman BILIRAKIS, Chairman BARTON, Congressman KLUG, Congressman BUYER, Congressman PALLONE, and Congressman RICHARDSON.

It is a bipartisan effort, Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of making sure that we stop the insidious problem we have had in the country with the FDA treatment delayed become FDA treatment denied. We need to save lives, extend the years, and improve quality of life for all of our constituents. An idea whose time has arrived is FDA reform, not just for food, but for medical devices and pharmaceuticals as well.

It may well be the most extensive and important piece of legislation we will deal with in the second session of the 104th Congress, that being FDA reform. If we can hasten the approval process for drugs and medical devices while patients await a cure or a vaccine, we will certainly have accomplished much as Congressman and Senators.

Mr. Speaker, lest anyone believe otherwise, we are certainly not going to reduce in any way the safety of drugs, the efficacy of those drugs, but we want to speed up the process of the approval. It can be done through streamlining the clinical research, through third-party review and through working with international harmonization, by accepting certified results of tests by other countries.

I am hopeful the many people who came to Washington today who had illnesses such as cancer, ALS, epilepsy, AIDS, and a myriad of other conditions they have come to us saying, look, we need to make sure we can live longer, please, do not stop us from getting the experimental drugs, the miracle drugs we need in order to live a little longer and hope for a cure.

I believe today, ladies and gentleman, that we have heard from the American people, that we can work together in a bipartisan fashion, House and Senate together, working with the White House and working with the FDA. Dr. Kessler has a very important organization that he heads. We need to work with him to make sure the reforms we need are ones that can be embraced by all, because what we are talking about is the health care and the life of all of our constituents across this United States, in the country where 85 percent of the new drugs to extend life and to sustain life are being created. We want to make sure those discoveries stay here and the jobs of the people who are, thankfully, making those discoveries every day.

I thank you for the opportunity to address my colleagues, and I hope that we will fast-track this important legislation and it does in fact become passed before the end of the session.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PACKARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Under a previous