

I am concerned that we do that. Would the gentleman agree to have unanimous consent that Mr. WELLER be able to take this up in general provisions tomorrow so we can finish with title II?

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, we would be pleased to cooperate with the chairman in that respect and let him offer it at that time.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. STOKES. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's interest in my amendment and his accommodating my opportunity to offer the amendment once again. I feel this is a very important amendment. The opportunity to accommodate, of course, the chairman of the subcommittee and working with the gentleman in his role as the ranking member, I do appreciate the opportunity to offer the amendment. I am anxious to work with them. I ask for the gentleman's support tomorrow when we have the opportunity to once again offer the amendment.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to the gentleman's amendment. I just want to protect those Members. This accommodation will be fine with me if it is fine with the gentleman.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment for the purpose of offering it tomorrow during general provisions debate on this particular bill, title IV.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise tonight in anticipation of the Weller amendment being before the House tomorrow in general debate. I rise in support of that amendment that we will be discussing tomorrow at length because it is going to expand homeownership opportunities.

There are many Americans who are one downpayment or one closing cost away from becoming first-time home buyers. And by having more homeowners in our communities, it will strengthen those communities. By having more homes built, we create more jobs. There, after all, is the American dream.

Alan Greenspan has told us about having a balanced budget. Interest rates for the mortgages on those new homes will decrease. So I would ask the Members, when they hear about further debate on the Weller amendment tomorrow, that they will support it. Republicans, Democrats together, House and Senate working together,

this will strengthen our communities. This will strengthen our families and, by reducing the cost, Mr. Chairman, of the FHA mortgage insurance premium, the first-time home buyers who receive ownership counseling by going from 2.25 percent to 2 percent, we would save the average FHA homeowner at least \$200 annually. This is a step in the right direction for first-time home buyers.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH].

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding to me.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois for offering the amendment. The notion is empowering first-time home buyers. I would suggest, echoing the comments of my good friend from Pennsylvania, when we think about the fact that this amendment would save the average FHA homeowner about \$200 in savings on an annual basis and, while we are here talking about billions and indeed trillions of dollars, the fact is sometimes lost upon us, I would suggest, that \$200 is a significant amount of money for first-time home buyers. And indeed, if the notion of what we are here to do in this 104th Congress is to expand opportunity, to empower first-time home buyers to lead to more home sales and to expand homeownership opportunities, then I am glad to rise in support of the amendment. I, too, look forward to its offering tomorrow during the later debate on this amendment.

I look forward to supporting the amendment.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for his supportive comments of the Weller amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read. The Clerk read as follows:

"TITLE III—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES"
Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to. Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MICA) having assumed the chair, Mr. COMBEST, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 2245

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MICA) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on International Relations:

U.S. CONGRESS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 12, 1996.

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

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: I am writing to officially resign from my seat on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight in order to be seated on the Committee on International Relations.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

JON D. FOX,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution, House Resolution 462, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 462

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and they are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on International Relations: Mr. Fox of Pennsylvania.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Frisa of New York and Mr. Tiahrt of Kansas.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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.

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

[Mr. HASTERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]