

having assumed the chair, Mr. DREIER, 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. 3756) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 475, had come to no resolution thereon.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3756, TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during the further consideration of H.R. 3756, in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 475:

First, the bill be considered as having been read; and

Second, no amendment shall be in order except for the following amendments, which shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment or to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole, and shall be debatable for the time specified, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and a Member opposed:

An amendment by Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, regarding Customs Service, for 10 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. DURBIN, regarding firearms disabilities, for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, regarding IRS funding for 10 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. TRAFICANT, for 10 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. HOYER or Mrs. LOWEY, to strike sections 518 and 519, for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. HOYER, regarding buyouts, for 10 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. WOLF, regarding buyouts, for 10 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. KINGSTON, regarding customs ports of entry, for 9 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. GUTKNECHT, regarding an across-the-board cut, for 20 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. SANDERS, regarding health maintenance organizations, for 20 minutes;

An amendment by Ms. KAPTUR, regarding China tariffs, for 10 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. SOLOMON, regarding a limitation on the Comptroller of the Currency, for 10 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. SALMON, regarding the White House Travel Office, for 10 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. HOYER, for 10 minutes; and

An amendment by Mr. GEKAS, for 10 minutes.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

Mr. HOYER. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, and I do not intend to object, this agreement is intending, as I understand it, to give all the amendments that we know about the opportunity to be offered.

In addition, it gives us an opportunity to further discuss the points raised by the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] in my amendment, and will then provide for the consideration of the balance of the bill?

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. If the gentleman will yield, that is correct.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the unanimous consent request offered by the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LIGHTFOOT] is agreed to.

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3814, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-678) on the resolution (H. Res. 479) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3814) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HOYER. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I presume the answer to my question, but the Chair did not say the unanimous-consent request was adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair did say that. The Chair in a very soft voice said "without objection."

Mr. HOYER. If the Speaker said that, then we are confident that it is done.

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 475 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3756.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3756) making appropriations for the

Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. DREIER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose just a few moments ago, pending was the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON].

The bill had been read through page 31, line 14. At the conclusion of the Johnson amendment the Chair will announce the further procedures pursuant to the order of the House.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] for 5 minutes in support of her amendment.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, this amendment strikes language in title I of the bill.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HOYER. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I want to know where we are now. I would not have agreed to the unanimous-consent request if I did not think we were going to terminate proceedings of the bill at this time. That was the understanding that I had, and that was the understanding under which I gave unanimous consent.

If that is not the case, I cannot withdraw my unanimous-consent agreement, but that was my understanding, and the bill would proceed much more slowly tonight if my understanding was incorrect.

The CHAIRMAN. The Johnson amendment was pending when the Committee rose.

Mr. HOYER. I understand that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. There was so much confusion.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 1 minute out of order to determine what we are doing.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] controls 5 minutes in support of her amendment. Does she wish to yield for the purpose of a colloquy?

Ms. JOHNSON of Connecticut. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LIGHTFOOT].

The CHAIRMAN. To whom does the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] yield?

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LIGHTFOOT] for a colloquy with the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

The CHAIRMAN. Would the gentlewoman yield to the gentleman from Maryland?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].