

THE ERA OF BIG GOVERNMENT  
CONTINUES TO LIVE IN INFAMY

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we seem to be living in a Humpty Dumpty world today. Humpty Dumpty says, "When I use a word, it means what I mean it to mean." I think that applies to the person who announced in his State of the Union address 2 years ago the era of big government is over.

I guess the question that all America would like to know is what the President meant when he said that. Does he mean that the government will not continue proposing huge programs to achieve social goals? Does he mean that government spending will decline or even the spending as a percentage of GDP will decline? Does he mean that the trend towards ever more control and micromanagement from Washington will end? Does he mean local control will be given preference over Federal bureaucratic control from Washington?

The Humpty Dumpty truth is that the President's budget answers no, no, no, to all of these questions. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the era of big government continues to live in infamy.

RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON  
NATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 344 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 344

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2625) to redesignate Washington National Airport as "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport". The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule for a period not to exceed two hours. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a re-

corded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I might consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 344 is a modified open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2625, the Ronald Reagan National Airport bill.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule also provides a 2-hour overall limitation on the amendment process.

The rule also makes in order the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for the purpose of amendment, which shall be considered as read.

The rule additionally authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and it allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

And, finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, this rule strikes an appropriate balance between the majority's interest in moving its legislation through the House expeditiously and the minority's interest in being allowed to offer amendments to the bill. An overall time limitation in this case seemed to be a fair way for the Committee on Rules to address both sides' interest in the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor Ronald Reagan through the passage of a bill to rename National Airport the Ronald Reagan National Airport. Why should we bestow this honor on President Ronald Reagan?

As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, we cannot honor Ronald Reagan enough. His leadership brought pros-

perity and pride back to America and freedom to much of the rest of the world, and I will discuss that maybe perhaps a little bit later in the debate.

Mr. Speaker, in order to fully appreciate President Reagan's lasting impact and the rationale for naming the airport, let me remind Members of the world landscape when he took office back in 1980, and I was here then. In 1981, the Soviet Union was continuing a massive arms buildup and attempting to spread its hegemony into Afghanistan. They had invaded Afghanistan back in 1979. Eastern Europe suffered under the boot of totalitarian regimes, and the Berlin Wall scarred the face of Europe, enslaving millions and millions of people.

In America, we were experiencing something called "stagflation." I just wonder if many of my colleagues can remember back that far. That dreadful combination of unconscionable 13 percent inflation. Can we imagine what that did to senior citizens living on a fixed income? Thirteen percent annual inflation and interest rates of 22 percent, and 24 percent prime if one happened to be a small businessman like I was, borrowing money to keep our businesses going and paying 24 percent interest. That brought on a recession, my colleagues, that created massive unemployment in almost every industry in America. And that was back in 1980, before President Reagan took office.

In fact, our country's morale was so low that then President Carter even declared the American people to be in a state of malaise. Imagine that, we proud Americans being in a state of malaise. But President Reagan saw the moral and financial flaws inherent in that Soviet system that was enslaving half the world population. He had the courage to call communism by its rightful name, the Evil Empire, and insist on human rights and proper treatment of human beings, dissidents, behind the Iron Curtain.

And his peace through strength policies, Mr. Speaker, ultimately resulted in the collapse of the Soviet Union and freedom for the captured nations of Eastern Europe so that today, instead of deadly atheistic communism spreading its tentacles throughout this world, we now have democracy breaking out all over the world, and these people now have sovereign nations to live in and they enjoy the freedoms that we have enjoyed for so many years now.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs all during President Reagan's two terms, it was a great honor for me to support President Reagan's foreign policies here in the House and on the floor of Congress. It makes me so proud to know that those policies for which President Reagan was berated at the time have led to an explosion of that freedom I just talked about of democracy and prosperity all around this globe and in this country of ours.

Domestically, President Reagan's economic policies not only pulled this