

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

R.R. WESTON,
Chief, Office of Legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do look forward to next year working with the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) and the staff on both sides of the committee. I think we can further spread the idea that our coastal waters are worth saving. The Coast Guard does a great job in dealing with the fisheries issue, the illegal immigrants issue, the whole maritime safety issue, the environmental pollution areas that they work hard on on a very daily, regular basis, and the issue of the interdiction of drugs. I think on every facet of this legislation, we have worked in an atmosphere of cooperation, and we certainly appreciate that on our side of the aisle.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 602.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 602.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 168(b) of Public Law 102-138 and clause 8 of rule I, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the British-American Inter-parliamentary Group:

Mr. BEREUTER, Nebraska, chairman
Mr. REGULA, Ohio, vice chairman
Mr. BOEHLERT, New York
Mr. BATEMAN, Virginia
Mr. GILLMOR, Ohio
Mrs. ROUKEMA, New Jersey
Mr. BALLENGER, North Carolina
Mr. BLUNT, Missouri

Mr. SISISKY, Virginia
Mr. PICKETT, Virginia
Mr. WISE, West Virginia
Mr. TANNER, Tennessee
There was no objection.

HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, we have Federal investment in roads, bridges and prisons, but when it comes to schools for our kids this is a loss of home rule all of a sudden. Bunk. For the Federal Government to help local communities pay the interest on capital bonding for school construction which would provide relief for our kids and relief for parents who pay the bill whether or not they have kids in those schools or not, this is our opportunity for better schools. This is our opportunity, and we need more teachers to help reduce class size, particularly for kids between the grades of pre-K and fourth and fifth grades. We need property tax relief in many States in this union, and this is the way to do it.

One suggestion in conclusion: Why do we not give up the words, the simplistic liberal and conservative words? Mr. Speaker, the jig is up. They do not work any longer.

We all know that the environment in which our children learn plays a direct role in the education that they receive. If we want our children to succeed in a modern economy, we must provide them with modern schools. That is why I adamantly support school construction and modernization funds.

Unfortunately, the majority party does not want to provide our schools with these much needed construction and modernization funds. Instead, the Republicans believe that we should block grant our education funds to the states. Unfortunately, we have already found out what happens when we block grant these funds. In the 1980s, the federal commitment for these grants decreased by 52 percent.

I am afraid that we are headed in the wrong direction on our elementary and secondary education policies. Every day, we see a new study which shows just how important it is to educate our children in an adequate facility, with a well-trained teacher and a class size of about 18.

Block grants do not provide the solutions. The Democratic education agenda does.

We must fix our crumbling schools by helping states and local school districts afford the costs of modernizing and building more than 5,000 schools.

In my district in New Jersey I found that almost one quarter of the schools were built prior to the completion of World War I. More than half of the schools were built before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The old age of these schools is leading to problems with their physical condition and 88 percent of them say they need at least one significant repair.

The facts are clear. Our schools are old and they are overcrowded. The average class size in these schools is an astounding 23.9 students.

And if that is not enough, the problem is sure to get worse as we experience the projected increase in enrollment.

Our children can't learn when their desks are in hallways and overcrowded cafeterias. We know that smaller class sizes are the key to raising academic achievement and improving classroom discipline.

THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OWES AMERICANS AN APOLOGY AND AN EXPLANATION

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Shame, shame, shame. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership in Congress owes the American people an explanation and an apology.

In articles in the Washington Post and Rollcall newspapers Republican leaders are bragging that they held up two major international treaties in this House. Why? Because they demanded that the Electronics Industry Association fire its new president simply because he is a Democrat. Let me repeat. The Republicans in Congress held up legislation that was going to benefit millions of American citizens because they wanted to force a private association to fire a private citizen because simply he was a Democrat. That is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, the American people and press should be outraged at this arrogant, arrogant abuse of power. In a free society to stop the business of this Congress to punish a private citizen for his political affiliation is outrageous, mean-spirited and, most likely, illegal. The American people deserve an apology and an explanation.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 14, 1998]

NO DEMOCRAT NEED APPLY, HOUSE GOP

TELLS LOBBY

(By Juliet Eilperin)

Electronics industry lobbyist John Palafoutas told the Electronic Industries Alliance weeks ago it shouldn't hire former Democratic representative David McCurdy (Okla.) as its new president, but the industry association he belongs to didn't listen.

In an August meeting, Arne Christenson, chief of staff for House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA.), had made it clear to Palafoutas, a fellow Republican, that the House leadership would not look kindly upon seeing another Democrat promoted to a key job at a business lobbying group.

"He said, Tell EIA they ought to be careful about Dave McCurdy," recalled Palafoutas, a lobbyist for AMP Inc. who dutifully relayed the message to EIA vice president John Kelly. "It's fair [to say] that the leadership is angry."

In fact, House GOP leaders became so enraged when the EIA announced McCurdy's selection last week that Gingrich declared in a closed-door meeting that he would not discuss legislation with the former lawmaker, according to Republicans who attended. Gingrich and most other top Republicans also instructed their staffs not to meet with any EIA officials. Republican leaders, who had hoped the group would select retiring Rep. Bill Paxon (R-N.Y.), also delayed passage of noncontroversial legislation concerning international copyrights, a bill the EIA supports, for four days in an effort to send a