

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 434

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as an original cosponsor of H.R. 434. My name was inadvertently included as a cosponsor of that bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill just passed, H.R. 514.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 669, AMENDING PEACE
CORPS ACT TO AUTHORIZE AP-
PROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2000
THROUGH 2003 TO CARRY OUT
THAT ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 83 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 83

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that Act. 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 International Relations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill 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 8 of rule XVIII. 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 recorded 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 15 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. 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 Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 83, Mr. Speaker, is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 669, the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act. The purpose of the bill is to authorize funds for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2000 through 2003, expanding the Peace Corps from the current number of volunteers to the goal of 10,000 by the year 2003.

The rule provides for the customary 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. In addition, the rule provides the bill shall be considered as read. The rule permits the Chair to grant priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments and consider them as read.

Further, as has become standard practice for open rules, the Chair is allowed to postpone votes and to reduce the time for electronic voting on postponed votes.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit with our without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, to keep our record of fair rules for the 106th Congress, I am pleased to report to the House that House Resolution 83 is another open rule that affords any Member the opportunity to offer any germane amendments.

H.R. 669, the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act, is in line with an effort started by President Reagan in 1985 to expand the Peace Corps to 10,000 volunteers. Since the Peace Corps was established, first by President Kennedy and affirmed by the 87th Congress, over 150,000 Americans have served in 134 countries and have learned 180 languages and dialects.

We are fortunate to have five former Peace Corps volunteers working with us in the U.S. House of Representatives: The gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

I commend these gentlemen as well as the thousands of other volunteers for their tireless efforts in providing basic health and agriculture education, working so communities have access to clean water, as well as teaching English and other skills to extraordinarily needy populations.

I am honored to serve on the Committee on Rules with my esteemed and distinguished colleague from Ohio (Mr.

HALL), whose Peace Corps experience, no doubt, had much to do with his clear and long-time commitment to fighting hunger throughout the world.

H.R. 669 fulfills the effort which President Reagan proposed in 1985 to expand the number of volunteers, and this expansion has been requested by President Clinton. I urge my colleagues to support this open rule, this fair rule, and hope that they will give careful consideration to supporting the underlying positive legislation as well.

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for yielding me the time and certainly his many kind words about me.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule. It will allow for full and fair debate on H.R. 669. As my colleague from Florida has described, this rule provides for 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member on the Committee on International Relations.

The rule permits amendments under the 5-minute rule. This is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer germane amendments.

In 1985, President Reagan set a goal for the Peace Corps of 10,000 volunteers and, unfortunately, low levels of funding have prevented us from getting there. The bill before us would finally accomplish that goal. The bill would also expand the work of the Crisis Corps, a group of experienced Peace Corps volunteers who assist in emergencies.

Since it was founded by President Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps has been one of our most important tools of international diplomacy. The people-to-people style of the Peace Corps has won friends for America all over the world, and I know this because I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand in 1966 and 1967.

In the rural villages and urban communities where they serve, Peace Corps volunteers are educating the children, they are caring for the sick, and they are teaching the poorest of the poor how to help themselves. They are on the front lines every day fighting the major health threats to young children.

□ 1200

But, most importantly, these volunteers are the face of America for people all across the globe.

The Peace Corps' exciting new Crisis Corps initiative is well under way, in which experienced volunteers and return volunteers provide short-term assistance during humanitarian crises and natural disasters. Crisis Corps volunteers were recently dispatched to Central America to aid in recovery from the Hurricane Mitch disaster.