

Lipinski Payne Tiberi  
Pascrell Sanchez, Loretta Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining to record their votes.

□ 1900

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation in my district.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 27, "yea" on rollcall No. 28, "yea" on rollcall No. 29, "no" on rollcall No. 30, "yea" on rollcall No. 31, and "yea" on rollcall No. 32.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I will be unable to vote during the following rollcall votes this afternoon because I am departing on the Speaker's CODEL to visit our troops in the Middle East. However, if I had been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 29 (Motion to recommit H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2003, with instructions)—"nay"; rollcall No. 30 (Final Passage of H.R. 4)—"yea"; rollcall No. 31 (Motion to recommit H.J. Res. 2, Making Further Continuing Appropriations For The Fiscal Year 2003)—"nay"; rollcall No. 32 (Final Passage of H.J. Res. 2)—"yea".

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, for security reasons our delegation trip departed prior to the conclusion of legislative business. Had I been present for the conclusion of legislative business, I would have voted "nay" on the Motion to Recommit (rollcall No. 29), and "yea" on Final Passage (rollcall No. 30) of H.R. 4—Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2003.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would have voted "nay" on the Motion to Recommit (rollcall No. 31), and "yea" on Final Passage (rollcall No. 32) of H.J. Res. 2—the Fiscal Year 2003 appropriations Conference Report.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, due to an official congressional delegation trip to Afghanistan, I was unable to cast votes on rollcall Votes 29, 30, 31, and 32. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 29, "nay" on rollcall 30, and "yea" on rollcall 31, and "nay" on rollcall 32.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Pursuant to House Resolution 71, the House is considered to

have adopted House Concurrent Resolution 35.

The text of House Concurrent Resolution 35 is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 35

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That, in the enrollment of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction:

Amend the title so as to read: "Joint Resolution making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes."

#### REQUEST TO DISCHARGE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in order to allow ample time for the House to move this bill now to the Senate and for the Senate to debate it, pass it, and to engross the bills and get them to the President and give him a little time to review this bill, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, (H.J. Res. 23), making further appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to consideration of the joint resolution?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized under his reservation.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, in a democratic institution, when we have nothing else, the only protections that remain for individual Members and for the constituents that we represent lie in the normal processes of the House. We have just passed a bill in which 90 percent of the dollars contained in that bill were dollars that were never debated on their merits on the House floor. For the last year, this House has engaged in a process of refusing to allow the democratic process that is fundamental to this Nation to manifest itself on the floor of this institution. And as a result, we have never had an opportunity to debate the wisdom of, for instance, cutting the first responders below the President's budget or doing a number of other outrageous things that happened in this bill tonight.

Because I take my institutional responsibilities seriously, I, in the end, most reluctantly voted for the bill that just passed, despite the fact that I am outraged by the process that produced it; I am outraged by the rigidity with which the White House has dealt with these issues; I am outraged that the

White House, especially the Office of Management and Budget, have seemed to have determined that it is their way or the highway on all occasions.

I am used to give-and-take and I have had a cooperative relationship, not necessarily a loving relationship, but a cooperative relationship with virtually every President I have served under, including this President's father, and I want to have the same kind of relationship with the White House under these circumstances. But now we are being asked to provide for consideration of a motion tonight which, under the Rules of the House, ought to be brought up tomorrow; and we are being asked to pass a continuing resolution which gives the President more time to consider the very items that we were given no time whatsoever to consider on this floor today. I find that double standard both interesting and quaint and outrageous.

And so I have great respect for the job the gentleman has tried to do, but there are two ways to handle massive legislation like this on the House floor. One is to try to work out differences; and in working out those differences, it is important that one keeps to his or her word. Secondly, the other way to deal with it is just to ram the other side. And in too many instances, including the conference that took place, the full conference that took place the night before last, issues were rammed rather than working out an honest give-and-take arrangement.

So, in my view, if this body believes that the President needs more time to continue to study the document which we were not allowed to study before we voted on it, I am only the ranking Democrat on the committee and I have no idea of the impact of dozens of provisions in this bill; and I simply want to say that because of that, I think that the White House ought to have to exist under the same conditions that we have been forced to exist under. If we have to consider legislation without having an understanding of what is in it, and incidentally I know that Mr. Daniels, the OMB director, told his staff that he was going to be in charge of the conference.

Now, if he has not told the President of the United States what is in this bill, it is a little late, because they have imposed this product on us. So with all due respect, if the House wants to consider a continuing resolution, then it ought to do so under the regular processes of the House by bringing it up tomorrow.

Now, that is going to inconvenience me in a major way. I know it is going to inconvenience a number of my colleagues. But once in a while we have to put duty ahead of convenience, and I intend to do so in this instance.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. Now, under my reservation, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding; and