

is going to oppose it. Maybe there are some. And I am sure that there are certainly sufficient Members on your side of the aisle to ensure 218 votes to pass such a unanimously and supported recommendation to make America safer.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Wisconsin under my reservation.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I will be very brief. I would just like to make one point. A fair amount has been written about how the responsibility for this mistake lies with congressional staff. I want to simply make the point that the staff was ordered to produce an appropriation bill by a certain deadline. And so they performed in an astoundingly enervating way in trying to meet the deadlines that they were ordered to meet and they worked to the point of exhaustion. And when people do that, there are going to be mistakes made.

The reason we have rules is because it enables not just the minority but the majority as well to catch mistakes and correct them before they embarrass the institution and do damage to our system. The way to avoid mistakes like this is to prevent hundreds of pages of appropriations from coming to the floor without ever having been considered in both bodies. The way to avoid problems like this in the future is to see to it that the necessary political compromises are made at the beginning of the process in the budget resolution so that you do not have such an unrealistic set of marching orders to the Appropriations Committee that the leadership is forced to conclude that they cannot get the votes from their own troops in the other body until after they are safely past the election.

So a little less rigidity, a little less ideological zeal, a little more willingness to compromise, and a little more recognition that every Member of this body has a right to do his or her job and they can best do it when they are given the time to do it. That will mean that in the end we remake this body into what it is supposed to be, which is 435 people who are legitimate representatives of their constituents, rather than rubber stamps for whatever the leadership front office wants them to vote for on a particular day.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time under my reservation, I thank the gentleman for his comments and would join him in reiterating the fact that the fault lies not in the staff. The fault lies not in the objective in this particular provision that was trying to be attained. It was that a significant, very harmful mistake was made. Whoever made it made it, as the gentleman from Wisconsin has pointed out, in the press of a process which did not give time for reflection, so that, having been caught at a time when we did not then have time to correct it because the rush to judgment was in place, we now have taken that time, and I think that is a good thing. I appreciate the staffs helping us get to that point on both sides of the aisle.

I want to say, secondly, that our Founding Fathers set up a process, Mr. Speaker, that was not as efficient as authoritarian regimes claim to be. If you have the votes and you can jam something through, so be it; but our Founding Fathers, Mr. Speaker, wanted a reflective process, a process where there was full and fair consideration in both Houses, because their concern was that democracy would work if everybody had the opportunity to see it and to participate in it.

This process of thousands of pages of bills being passed within hours under a martial-law rule did not allow that process to occur, and the result was inevitable, that things would be passed unknown to this body, unknown to the American public and of great concern to them which would not have enjoyed a majority of support in this House or the Senate if they had been fully aired.

Hopefully, this will be an object lesson which will lead us to a process more open, more open to minority views, with time given to staff and Members to digest, to reflect, and to make wise judgments.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I regret that some have misinterpreted section 222 in the omnibus bill. The administration had requested an unprecedented increase to hire additional staff for the IRS's processing and enforcement activities. Because of this more than \$500 million increase in funds, the subcommittee felt it necessary to conduct proper oversight. The provision was simply an attempt to exercise our constitutional stewardship of the IRS's budget request, with no intention to review or investigate individual tax returns. This intent was clearly communicated in a colloquy with the chairman of Ways and Means Committee during Saturday's floor debate.

In order to allow oversight of these funds without infringing upon individual's privacy, the subcommittee requested that IRS draft the language. Two days prior to the bill being considered by the House, 17 staff members from the House and the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, read through every word of the subcommittee's bill and report. Clearly, there was never any desire to access personal information and it's unfortunate that some have misrepresented and exaggerated the purpose of this language. Nevertheless, I support the removal of the provision to end the confusion surrounding the issue.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H.J. RES. 115

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 108-309 is further amended by striking the date specified in section 107(c) and inserting the following: "December 8, 2004".

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a

motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House concur in the Senate amendment to House Concurrent Resolution 529 with the amendment that I have placed at the desk.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 1, line 2, strike from "That" through the end of page 2, line 9 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

when the House adjourns on Wednesday, November 24, 2004, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 2004, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and when the Senate recesses or adjourns from Saturday, November 20, 2004, through Wednesday, November 24, 2004, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, December 6, 2004, or Tuesday, December 7, 2004, or until such other time as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

The Clerk read the House amendment to the Senate amendment, as follows:

House amendment to Senate amendment:

On page 1, line 2, before "on a motion" insert "or on Saturday, November 27, 2004,".

On page 1, line 8, strike "Wednesday, November 24" and insert in lieu thereof "Saturday, November 27".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House amendment to the Senate amendment is agreed to.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 27, 2004, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to House Concurrent Resolution 529, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3184

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3184, the Streamlined Sales and