

Mr. Bilirakis; Mr. Spence; Mr. Everett; Mr. Buyer; Mr. Quinn; Mr. Bachus; Mr. Stearns; Mr. Moran of Kansas; Mr. Hayworth; Mrs. Chenoweth; Mr. LaHood; and Mr. Simpson.

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Archer, Chairman; Mr. Crane; Mr. Thomas; Mr. Shaw; Mrs. Johnson of Connecticut; Mr. Houghton; Mr. Herger; Mr. McCrery; Mr. Camp; Mr. Ramstad; Mr. Nussle; Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas; Ms. Dunn; Mr. Collins; Mr. Portman; Mr. English; Mr. Watkins; Mr. Hayworth; Mr. Weller; Mr. Hulshof; Mr. McInnis; Mr. Lewis of Kentucky; and Mr. Foley.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS, DELEGATES, AND RESIDENT COMMISSIONER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 7) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 7

Resolved, That the following named Members, Delegates and the Resident Commissioner be, and are hereby, elected to serve on standing committees as follows:

Committee on Agriculture: Mr. Stenholm, Texas; Mr. Brown, California; Mr. Condit, California; Mr. Peterson, Minnesota; Mr. Dooley, California; Mrs. Clayton, North Carolina; Mr. Minge, Minnesota; Mr. Hillard, Alabama; Mr. Pomeroy, North Dakota; Mr. Holden, Pennsylvania; Mr. Bishop, Georgia; Mr. Thompson, Mississippi; Mr. Baldacci, Maine; Mr. Berry, Arkansas; Mr. Goode, Virginia; Mr. McIntyre, North Carolina; Ms. Stabenow, Michigan; Mr. Etheridge, North Carolina; Mr. John, Louisiana; Mr. Boswell, Iowa; Mr. Phelps, Illinois; Mr. Lucas, Kentucky; and Mr. Thompson, California.

Committee on Appropriations: Mr. Obey, Wisconsin; Mr. Murtha, Pennsylvania; Mr. Dicks, Washington; Mr. Sabo, Minnesota; Mr. Dixon, California; Mr. Hoyer, Maryland (When Sworn); Mr. Mollohan, West Virginia (When Sworn); Ms. Kaptur, Ohio; Ms. Pelosi, California; Mr. Visco, Indiana; Mrs. Lowey, New York; Mr. Serrano, New York; Ms. DeLauro, Connecticut; Mr. Moran, Virginia; Mr. Olver, Massachusetts; Mr. Pastor, Arizona; Mrs. Meek, Florida; Mr. Price, North Carolina; Mr. Edwards, Texas; Mr. Cramer, Alabama; Mr. Clyburn, South Carolina; Mr. Hinchey, New York; Ms. Roybal-Allard, California; Mr. Farr, California (When Sworn); Mr. Jackson, Illinois; Ms. Kilpatrick, Michigan; Mr. Boyd, Florida.

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Mr. LaFalce, New York; Mr. Vento, Minnesota; Mr. Frank, Massachusetts; Mr. Kanjorski, Pennsylvania; Ms. Waters, California; Mrs. Maloney, New York; Mr. Gutierrez, Illinois; Ms. Velázquez, New York; Mr.

Watt, North Carolina; Mr. Ackerman, New York; Mr. Bentsen, Texas; Mr. Maloney, Connecticut; Ms. Hooley, Oregon; Ms. Carson, Indiana; Mr. Weyand, Rhode Island; Mr. Sherman, California; Mr. Sandlin, Texas; Mr. Meeks, New York; Ms. Lee, California; Mr. Virgil Goode, Virginia; Mr. Mascara, Pennsylvania; Mr. Inslee, Washington; Ms. Schakowsky, Illinois; Mr. Moore, Kansas; Mr. Gonzalez, Texas; Ms. Tubbs Jones, Ohio; Mr. Capuano, Massachusetts.

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Spratt, South Carolina; Mr. McDermott, Washington; Ms. Rivers, Michigan; Mr. Thompson, Mississippi; Mr. Minge, Minnesota; Mr. Bentsen, Texas; Mr. Davis, Florida; Mr. Weyand, Rhode Island; Mrs. Clayton, North Carolina; Mr. Price, North Carolina; Mr. Markey, Massachusetts; Mr. Kleczka, Wisconsin; Mr. Clement, Tennessee; Mr. Moran, Virginia; Ms. Hooley, Oregon; Mr. Lucas, Kentucky; Mr. Holt, New Jersey; Mr. Hoeffel, Pennsylvania; Ms. Baldwin, Wisconsin.

Committee on Commerce: Mr. Dingell, Michigan; Mr. Waxman, California; Mr. Markey, Massachusetts; Mr. Hall, Texas; Mr. Boucher, Virginia; Mr. Towns, New York; Mr. Pallone, New Jersey; Mr. Brown, Ohio; Mr. Gordon, Tennessee; Mr. Deutch, Florida; Mr. Rush, Illinois; Ms. Eshoo, California; Mr. Klink, Pennsylvania; Mr. Stupak, Michigan; Mr. Engel, New York; Mr. Sawyer, Ohio; Mr. Wynn, Maryland; Mr. Green, Texas; Ms. McCarthy, Missouri; Mr. Strickland, Ohio; Ms. DeGette, Colorado; Mr. Barrett, Wisconsin; Mr. Luther, Minnesota; Mrs. Capps, California.

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Mr. Clay, Missouri; Mr. George Miller, California (when sworn); Mr. Kildee, Michigan; Mr. Martinez, California; Mr. Owens, New York; Mr. Payne, New Jersey; Mrs. Mink, Hawaii; Mr. Andrews, New Jersey; Mr. Roemer, Indiana; Mr. Scott, Virginia; Ms. Woolsey, California; Mr. Romero-Barcelo, Puerto Rico; Mr. Fattah, Pennsylvania; Mr. Hinojosa, Texas; Mrs. McCarthy, New York; Mr. Tierney, Massachusetts; Mr. Kind, Wisconsin; Ms. Sanchez, California; Mr. Ford, Tennessee; Mr. Kucinich, Ohio; Mr. Wu, Oregon; Mr. Holt, New Jersey.

Committee on Government Reform (and Oversight): Mr. Waxman, California; Mr. Lantos, California; Mr. Wise, West Virginia; Mr. Owens, New York; Mr. Towns, New York; Mr. Kanjorski, Pennsylvania; Mr. Condit, California; Mrs. Mink, Hawaii; Mrs. Maloney, New York; Mrs. Norton, District of Columbia; Mr. Fattah, Pennsylvania; Mr. Cummings, Maryland; Mr. Kucinich, Ohio; Mr. Blagojevich, Illinois; Mr. Davis, Illinois; Mr. Tierney, Massachusetts; Mr. Turner, Texas; Mr. Allen, Maine; Mr. Ford, Tennessee.

Committee on House Administration: Mr. Hoyer, Maryland (When Sworn).

Committee on International Relations: Mr. Gejdenson, Connecticut; Mr. Lantos, California; Mr. Berman, California; Mr. Ackerman, New York; Mr. Faleomavaega, American Samoa; Mr. Martinez, California; Mr. Payne, New Jersey; Mr. Menendez, New Jersey; Mr. Brown, Ohio; Ms. McKinney, Georgia; Mr. Hastings, Florida; Ms. Danner, Missouri; Mr. Hillard, Alabama; Mr. Sherman, California; Mr. Wexler, Florida; Mr. Rothman, New Jersey; Mr. Davis, Florida; Mr. Crowley, New York; Mr. Hoeffel, Pennsylvania.

Committee on the Judiciary: Mr. Conyers, Michigan; Mr. Frank, Massachusetts; Mr. Berman, California; Mr. Boucher, Virginia; Mr. Nadler, New York; Mr. Scott, Virginia; Mr. Watt, North Carolina; Ms. Lofgren, Cali-

fornia; Ms. Jackson-Lee, Texas; Mrs. Waters, California; Mr. Meehan, Massachusetts; Mr. Delahunt, Massachusetts; Mr. Wexler, Florida; Mr. Rothman, New Jersey; Ms. Baldwin, Wisconsin; Mr. Weiner, New York.

Committee on National Security: Mr. Skelton, Missouri; Mr. Sisisky, Virginia; Mr. Spratt, South Carolina; Mr. Ortiz, Texas; Mr. Pickett, Virginia; Mr. Evans, Illinois; Mr. Taylor, Mississippi; Mr. Abercrombie, Hawaii; Mr. Meehan, Massachusetts; Mr. Underwood, Guam; Mr. Kennedy, Rhode Island; Mr. Blagojevich, Illinois; Mr. Reyes, Texas; Mr. Allen, Maine; Mr. Snyder, Arkansas; Mr. Turner, Texas; Mr. Smith, Washington; Ms. Sanchez, California; Mr. Maloney, Connecticut; Mr. McIntyre, North Carolina; Mr. Rodriguez, Texas; Ms. McKinney, Georgia; Ms. Tauscher, California; Mr. Brady, Pennsylvania; Mr. Andrews, New Jersey; Mr. Hill, Indiana; Mr. Thompson, California.

Committee on Resources: Mr. George Miller, California (When Sworn); Mr. Rahall, West Virginia; Mr. Vento, Minnesota; Mr. Kildee, Michigan; Mr. DeFazio, Oregon; Mr. Faleomavaega, American Samoa; Mr. Abercrombie, Hawaii; Mr. Ortiz, Texas; Mr. Pickett, Virginia; Mr. Pallone, New Jersey; Mr. Dooley, California; Mr. Romero-Barcelo, Puerto Rico; Mr. Underwood, Guam; Mr. Kennedy, Rhode Island; Mr. Smith, Washington; Mr. Delahunt, Massachusetts; Mr. John, Louisiana; Ms. Christian-Green, Virgin Islands; Mr. Kind, Wisconsin; Mr. Inslee, Washington; Ms. Napolitano, California; Mr. Udall, New Mexico; Mr. Udall, Colorado; Mr. Crowley, New York.

Committee on Rules: Mr. Moakley, Massachusetts; Mr. Frost, Texas; Mr. Hall, Ohio; Mrs. Slaughter, New York.

Committee on Science: Mr. Brown, California; Mr. Hall, Texas; Mr. Gordon, Tennessee; Mr. Traficant, Ohio; Mr. Costello, Illinois; Mr. Roemer, Indiana; Mr. Barcia, Michigan; Ms. Johnson, Texas; Ms. Woolsey, California; Mr. Hastings, Florida; Ms. Rivers, Michigan; Ms. Lofgren, California; Mr. Doyle, Pennsylvania; Ms. Jackson-Lee, Texas; Ms. Stabenow, Michigan; Mr. Etheridge, North Carolina; Mr. Lampson, Texas; Ms. Lee, California; Mr. Larson, Connecticut; Mr. Udall, Colorado; Mr. Wu, Oregon.

Committee on Small Business: Ms. Velázquez, New York; Mr. Sisisky, Virginia; Ms. Millender-McDonald, California; Mr. Davis, Illinois; Mrs. McCarthy, New York; Mr. Pascrell, New Jersey; Mr. Hinojosa, Texas; Ms. Christian-Green, Virgin Islands; Mr. Brady, Pennsylvania; Mr. Udall, New Mexico; Mr. Moore, Kansas; Ms. Tubbs Jones, Ohio; Mr. Gonzalez, Texas; Mr. Phelps, Illinois; Ms. Napolitano, California.

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct: Mr. Berman, California; Mr. Sabo, Minnesota; Mr. Pastor, Arizona; Mr. Fattah, Pennsylvania; Ms. Lofgren, California.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Oberstar, Minnesota; Mr. Rahall, West Virginia; Mr. Borski, Pennsylvania; Mr. Lipinski, Illinois; Mr. Wise, West Virginia; Mr. Traficant, Ohio; Mr. DeFazio, Oregon; Mr. Clement, Tennessee; Mr. Costello, Illinois; Ms. Norton, District of Columbia; Mr. Nadler, New York; Ms. Danner, Missouri; Mr. Menendez, New Jersey; Ms. Brown, Florida; Mr. Barcia, Michigan; Mr. Filner, California; Ms. Johnson, Texas; Mr. Mascara, Pennsylvania; Mr. Taylor, Mississippi; Ms. Millender-McDonald, California; Mr. Cummings, Maryland; Mr. Blumenauer, Oregon; Mr. Sandlin, Texas; Ms. Tauscher, California; Mr. Pascrell, New Jersey; Mr. Boswell, Iowa; Mr. McGovern, Massachusetts; Mr. Holden, Pennsylvania; Mr.

Lampson, Texas; Mr. Baldacci, Maine; Mr. Berry, Arkansas; Mr. Shows, Mississippi; Mr. Baird, Washington; Ms. Berkley, Nevada.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Mr. Evans, Illinois; Mr. Filner, California; Mr. Gutierrez, Illinois; Ms. Brown, Florida; Mr. Doyle, Pennsylvania; Mr. Peterson, Minnesota; Mrs. Carson, Indiana; Mr. Reyes, Texas; Mr. Snyder, Arkansas; Mr. Rodriguez, Texas; Mr. Shows, Mississippi.

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Rangel, New York; Mr. Stark (When Sworn); California; Mr. Matsui, California; Mr. Coyne, Pennsylvania; Mr. Levin, Michigan; Mr. Cardin, Maryland; Mr. McDermott, Washington; Mr. Kleczka, Wisconsin; Mr. Lewis, Georgia; Mr. Neal, Massachusetts; Mr. McNulty, New York; Mr. Jefferson, Louisiana; Mr. Tanner, Tennessee; Mr. Becerra, California; Ms. Thurman, Florida; Mr. Doggett, Texas.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Mr. Dixon, California.

Mr. FROST (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 8) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 8

Resolved, That the following named Member is, and is hereby, elected to serve on standing committees as follows:

Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions: Mr. Sanders.

Committee on Government Reform (and Oversight): Mr. Sanders.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE GIFT RULE AMENDMENT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 5 and as the designee of the majority leader, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 9) amending clause 5 of rule XXVI, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 9

Resolved, That subparagraph (1) of clause 5(a) of rule XXVI is amended—

(1) by inserting "(A)" before "A Member"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subdivision:

"(B) A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House may accept a gift (other than cash or cash

equivalent) that the Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee reasonably and in good faith believes to have a value of less than \$50 and a cumulative value from one source during a calendar year of less than \$100. A gift having a value of less than \$10 does not count toward the \$100 annual limit. Formal recordkeeping is not required by this subdivision, but a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House shall make a good faith effort to comply with this subdivision."

Mr. HANSEN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 5, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 30 minutes as the designee of their respective leaders.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution which would amend the House gift rule so as to conform to the gift rule that has been in effect in the Senate since the beginning of 1996.

Specifically, this resolution would amend the rule so as to allow Members and staff to accept any gift having a value of less than \$50 and a cumulative value from any one source in the calendar year of less than \$100. Gifts having a value of less than \$10 would not count toward the annual \$100 limit. Formal recordkeeping is not required by the provision, but Members and staff are required to, in a good faith effort, comply with the provision.

As chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the past 2 years, I have learned more than I ever wanted to know about the gift rule that the House approved in 1995.

□ 1630

Based on my experience, I am entirely convinced of the need of the House to make this change, and I think just about everyone else who has had to deal with this rule would feel the same way.

The purpose of this resolution is straightforward. It is to simplify the gift rule and to make it clear and easier to apply, while still prohibiting the acceptance of gifts that raise genuine ethical concerns. The complexity of the current rule is apparent on its face, especially by comparison with the previous House gift rules. The current rule contains about 50 clauses and covers about 14 pages in the official House rules book. In contrast, the previous gift rule had only one clause.

In my judgment, the most serious flaw in the current gift rule is this: The

fact is that under the current rule, modest and inexpensive gifts, the gifts that raise the least ethical concern, are governed by the most vague and complex provision of the rule. I think all of us have had this experience. Someone gives you something or sends you some small thing, like a pen, a framed picture, a box of candy, and the first question that pops in your mind is, can I accept this under the gift rule?

The gift rule sets out roughly 23 categories of acceptable gifts, but the problem is that all of these are descriptive categories. None of them is keyed to a particular dollar amount. What is more, many of these categories include multiple requirements, including many things that call for a subjective judgment. For example, depending on the number of circumstances, a member or staffer can violate the rule by accepting a free hamburger or hot dog at an event. Other provisions of the rule require Members and staff to make a recent determination on, for example, whether an item offered is "nominal value" or "commemorative in nature," or whether a gift has been offered to them on the basis of a personal friendship, rather than because of one's position with the House.

The overall result of the current rule is that Members and staff spend a grossly disproportionate amount of time and effort trying to decide whether these relatively modest, inexpensive gifts are acceptable under the rule. I think all of us, Members as well as staff, have a whole lot more important things to do than sit around deciding whether or not a gift of a pie or a can of popcorn is acceptable.

Furthermore, inadvertent violations of these provisions of the gift rule are practically inevitable, and it is only a matter of time before someone will be hauled before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for violating one of these principles when they are totally innocent.

The committee and its staff have always been available to answer questions on the gift rule. We have given briefings on the rule, we have issued pink sheets, and the committee staff has taken literally thousands and thousands of calls on the gift rule over the last few years. Also, in the last Congress alone, the Congress issued over 1,500 private advisory opinions to Members and staff and others dealing with the gift rule.

The point here is not the way the ethics rules should work. One should not need to have a lawyer at one's side at the time to tell us what is and what is not allowable under the gift rule. Each of us has a solemn obligation to know and adhere to the ethics rules and standards of the House, and this is no matter how complex these rules and standards may be. Each of us also has an obligation to see that our staff know and adhere to the rules.