

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to take this occasion to make an announcement regarding proper decorum during debate in the House in the 106th Congress, including 1-minute and Special Order speeches, specifically with regard to references to the President of the United States and references to the Senate. A further statement on decorum will be inserted into the RECORD.

As indicated, in section 17 of Jefferson's Manual, which under rule XXVIII is incorporated as a part of the Rules of the House for the 106th Congress as adopted today, Members engaged in debate must abstain from language that is personally critical of the President. This restriction extends to referencing extraneous material personally critical of the President that would be improper if spoken as the Member's own words.

As the Chair stated, with the concurrence of the minority leader on September 10, 1998, it is only during the actual pendency of proceedings in impeachment as the pending business on the floor of the House that remarks in debate may include references to personal misconduct on the part of the President.

While the rulings by the Chair in the 105th Congress may have preceded adoption of articles of impeachment against the President by the House, it is essential that the constraints against such remarks in debate continue to apply in the House in the 106th Congress.

The Chair will reiterate the bounds of permissible debate announced on September 10, 1998. Debate may include expressions of opinion about executive policy or competence to hold office. Members may continue to challenge the President on matters of policy. The line drawn by the rule of decorum remains one between political criticism and personal criticism.

What the rule of decorum requires is that the oratory remain above personality and refrain from terms personally offensive.

When an impeachment measure is not pending on the floor, a Member who feels a need to dwell on the personal, factual bases underlying the rationale on which he might question the fitness or competence of an incumbent President must do so in other forums, while confining his remarks in debate to the more rigorous standard of decorum that must prevail in this Chamber.

It is a general principle of comity that certain references to the Senate are to be avoided in debate in the House. Rule XVII specifically provides that debate in the House may not include characterizations of Senate action or inaction. As the Chair most recently ruled on October 10, 1997, and as recorded in section 371 of the House

Rules and Manual, Members are also prohibited from urging the Senate to undertake a certain action. The Chair would remind all Members to refrain from such references on the floor of the House in the event of an impeachment trial in the Senate.

The Chair will enforce these rules of decorum with respect to references to the President and the Senate, and asks and expects the cooperation of all Members in maintaining a level of decorum that properly dignifies the proceedings of the House.

COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN  
MINORITY EMPLOYEES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 11) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 11

*Resolved*, That pursuant to the Legislative Pay Act of 1929, as amended, the six minority employees authorized therein shall be the following named persons, effective January 3, 1999, until otherwise ordered by the House, to-wit: Steve Elmendorf, George Kundanis, Craig Hanna, Sharon Daniels, Dan Turton, and Laura Nichols, each to receive gross compensation pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 119, Ninety-fifth Congress, as enacted into permanent law by section 115 of Public Law 95-94. In addition, the Minority Leader may appoint and set the annual rate of pay for up to three further minority employees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Pease). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER OR  
HIS DEPUTY TO ADMINISTER  
THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE  
HONORABLE GEORGE MILLER OF  
CALIFORNIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 12) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 12

*Resolved*, Whereas, George Miller, a Representative-elect from the Seventh District of the State of California, has been unable from illness to appear in person to be sworn as a Member of the House, and there being no contest or question as to his election; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Speaker, or deputy named by him, is hereby authorized to administer the oath of office to the Honorable George Miller at Martinez, California, and that such oath be accepted and received by the House as the oath of office of the Honorable George Miller.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. ELLEN  
SICKLES JAMES TO ADMINISTER  
OATH OF OFFICE TO HON.  
GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Without objection and pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 12, 106th Congress, the Chair appoints the Honorable Ellen Sickles James, retired, Contra Costa County, California Superior Court Judge, to administer the oath of office to the Honorable George Miller.

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER OR  
HIS DEPUTY TO ADMINISTER  
THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE  
HONORABLE SAM FARR OF CALI-  
FORNIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 13) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 13

*Resolved*, Whereas, Sam Farr, a Representative-elect from the Seventeenth District of the State of California, has been unable from illness to appear in person to be sworn as a Member of the House, and there being no contest or question as to his election; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Speaker, or deputy named by him, is hereby authorized to administer the oath of office to the Honorable Sam Farr at Carmel, California, and that such oath be accepted and received by the House as the oath of office of the Honorable Sam Farr.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF HONORABLE  
MARC POCHE TO ADMINISTER  
OATH OF OFFICE TO HONORABLE  
SAM FARR OF CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection and pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 13, 106th Congress, the Chair appoints the Honorable Marc Poche, Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeals, to administer the oath of office to the Honorable SAM FARR of California.

There was no objection.

## DAILY HOUR OF MEETING

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 14) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 14

*Resolved*, That unless otherwise ordered, before Monday, May 10, 1999, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; 11 a.m. on Tuesdays; and 10 a.m. on all other days of the week; and from Monday, May 10, 1999, until the end of the second session, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be noon on Mondays; 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.