

by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and 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. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

□ 1745

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During the consideration of this amendment, all time is yielded for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us is a modified open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1074, the Regulatory Right-To-Know Act of 1999.

This open rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform.

The rule provides that it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purposes of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Government Reform now printed in the bill.

The bill provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be open for amendment at any point.

The rule provides for the consideration of only those amendments preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or that designee, and pro forma amendments offered for the purpose of debate only.

The rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation, the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act is important legislation. The pur-

pose of this legislation is to increase public awareness about the costs and benefits of Federal regulations to increase accountability of the government and to improve the Federal program and rules.

The bill achieves these goals by requiring the Office of Management and Budget to prepare an annual accounting statement containing cost and benefit estimates of Federal regulatory programs.

Furthermore, this report would require an analysis of the cumulative impact of regulations on various sectors and functional areas, including the private sector.

The Regulatory Right-To-Know Act is yet another significant step towards making this government more efficient and more accountable. A more efficient and accountable government provides us with a Nation with more freedom, liberty, and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, since 1995, Congress has changed the direction of the Federal Government from the endless burden of more taxes and spending to the new fiscal discipline of balance and responsibility and accountability.

Congress has passed legislation to prevent unfunded mandates from being passed from the Federal Government to State and local governments. This legislation is now law.

Congress has passed the Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act as another incremental step toward relieving governmental burdens on small businesses and their employees.

The Regulatory Right-To-Know Act builds on these successes and provides a straight cost benefit analysis of Federal regulations.

Finally, a full and accurate accounting of regulations and their impact on the economy will now be readily available. The United States has become the global leader in technological development which, in turn, has created efficiencies in our economy and made life better for all of us.

But the Federal Government remains the largest impediment to continued growth and development. Federal regulatory programs impose tremendous cost and restrictions on innovation in the private sector and on State and local governments. That is why this legislation is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue the bipartisan manner in which this legislation was crafted and support this rule.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was refused.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will count for a quorum.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my objection.

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1074, REGULATORY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) for yielding me the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is an almost open rule, for the majority has again relied on a preprinting requirement for amendments which may affect some Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1074 is a bill which sorely needs improvement. Amendments to protect taxpayers from runaway spending and to analyze the cost/benefit ratio of corporate welfare were not included in the bill during its consideration in the Committee on Government Reform.

My friends on the other side are more than willing to belabor the value of and insist on a bottom line for rules which protect the life, the health, and the safety of the American people.

But when the question is restated to ask how much corporate America benefits from Federal programs, the majority is far less interested in the answer. I expect we will see that issue revisited when we take up the Hoeffel-Kucinich amendment.

H.R. 1074, the Regulatory Right-To-Know Act, has a "feel good" title to disguise the potential harm buried in its details.

As envisioned by my friends on the other side, every time the Federal Government proposes to take even the most routine action, it would be viewed through 1,000 different green eye shades.

There is little if any leeway given for action which is clearly necessary, decisions which are "no-brainers."

It is like the pedestrian whose reflex is to leap from the crosswalk to avoid a car running a red light, but first he asks how many calories will be burned and how much shoe leather will be used and how the impact of the car would impact their productivity at the office.

Now, if our pedestrian is faced with a different set of circumstances, such as deciding whether to buy a car so that they do not have to walk to work, then