

President will sign it and the States will ratify it and make it illegal.

Now, the amendment is not self-enacting, Mr. Speaker. It will have to go through the ratification of States. It will have to have a statute which will define the actions taken with the desecration of a flag. It will be refined. So this is not a self-enacting amendment, and that process will go through each of the States so that they can ratify their own decisions, which most of us support the States' statutes.

Would a flag amendment reduce our freedoms under the Bill of Rights? Would this be the first time in our 200-year history that an amendment has limited the rights guaranteed under the first amendment?

No, on both accounts. The proposed amendment would not reduce our freedoms under the Bill of Rights. Rather than posing a fundamental threat to our freedom under the Bill of Rights, the proposed amendment would mature constitutional freedoms. The Bill of Rights is a listing of the great freedoms our citizens enjoy today. It is not a license to engage in any type of behavior.

The proposed amendment affirms the most basic conditions of our freedom, our bond to one another and our aspirations of national unity. That is what the American flag means to most of us, national unity and what brings us together, especially in a time of need, whether it is in combat or whether in civil strife within the boundaries of these United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California, if he has additional comments.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say to my friend that I think he has stated the issue very well, and I look forward to hundreds of our colleagues coming on board this effort, as many of them already have, and making sure that we succeed.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I thank the gentleman from California.

Does the gentleman from New York have any closing comments?

Mr. SWEENEY. I just want to say to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), as one of my first pieces of legislation that I have been able to cosponsor, I am honored to be here, honored to be here as part of the gentleman's effort to push forward. The flag is a part of my family's heritage, and I feel very honored to be here.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I thank my colleagues. God bless America.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CAPPS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and tomorrow, February 23rd and 24th, on account of family illness.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, February

23rd, on account of business in the district.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. NORTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. SOUDER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, on February 24.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, on February 24.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NETHERCUTT, for 5 minutes, on February 24.

Mr. COBLE, for 5 minutes, on February 24.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, on February 24.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. OWENS) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

539. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Agency Responsibilities, Organization, and Terminology [Docket No. 97-045F] received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

540. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Implementation of Preferred Lender Program and Streamlining of Guaranteed Regulations (RIN: 0560-AF38) received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

541. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health

Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Fruits and Vegetables [Docket No. 97-107-3] received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

542. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Saleable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 1999-2000 Marketing Year [Docket No. FV-99-985-1 FR] received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

543. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tobacco—Importer Assessments (RIN: 0560-AF 52) received February 4, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

544. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Performance Standards for the Production of Certain Meat and Poultry Products [Docket No. 95-033F] received February 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

545. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Olives Grown in California; Modification to Handler Membership in the California Olive Committee [Docket No. FV99-932-2 IFR] received February 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

546. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment [No. LS-98-002] received February 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

547. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Limiting the Volume of Small Red Seedless Grapefruit [Docket No. FV98-905-4 FIR] received February 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

548. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Dried Prunes Produced in California; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV99-993-1 FR] received February 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

549. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fenbuconazole; Reestablishment of Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300789; FRL 6059-7] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received February 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

550. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cinnamaldehyde; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-300769; FRL-6049-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received February 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.