

Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for yielding me the time and certainly his many kind words about me.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule. It will allow for full and fair debate on H.R. 669. As my colleague from Florida has described, this rule provides for 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member on the Committee on International Relations.

The rule permits amendments under the 5-minute rule. This is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer germane amendments.

In 1985, President Reagan set a goal for the Peace Corps of 10,000 volunteers and, unfortunately, low levels of funding have prevented us from getting there. The bill before us would finally accomplish that goal. The bill would also expand the work of the Crisis Corps, a group of experienced Peace Corps volunteers who assist in emergencies.

Since it was founded by President Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps has been one of our most important tools of international diplomacy. The people-to-people style of the Peace Corps has won friends for America all over the world, and I know this because I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand in 1966 and 1967.

In the rural villages and urban communities where they serve, Peace Corps volunteers are educating the children, they are caring for the sick, and they are teaching the poorest of the poor how to help themselves. They are on the front lines every day fighting the major health threats to young children.

□ 1200

But, most importantly, these volunteers are the face of America for people all across the globe.

The Peace Corps' exciting new Crisis Corps initiative is well under way, in which experienced volunteers and return volunteers provide short-term assistance during humanitarian crises and natural disasters. Crisis Corps volunteers were recently dispatched to Central America to aid in recovery from the Hurricane Mitch disaster. They have also worked with refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone in Guinea and the Ivory Coast.

The Peace Corps represents the best that our country has to offer, I think. It brings together bright, dedicated, energetic people and arms them with the tools to work in foreign countries as ambassadors of peace.

The Peace Corps is one of the best known and loved of our foreign aid programs. Its budget represents only a tiny fraction, about 1 percent, of our international affairs accounts. It is a remarkable return from a very modest investment.

Last month, I had the opportunity to visit the town in Thailand where I served as a Peace Corps volunteer. It is no longer this sleepy rural village I remembered but a very large urban center of a million people. The old school where I taught English was not only still standing but was thriving, and so were the lasting bonds of friendship that I established with so many wonderful people in that community.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation. I urge adoption of the rule and the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the open rule that will govern the debate for the Peace Corps Act (H.R. 669). This bill authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2000 through 2003. This organization has a legacy of service that has become an important part of American history.

President John F. Kennedy first proposed the idea of the Peace Corps during a campaign stop at the University of Michigan in 1960. He challenged the students to give two years of their lives to help people in the developing world.

Since its inception, the Peace Corps has trained 150,000 volunteers to work in 134 countries. Some of these volunteers include members who have served here in the House: Representative SAM FARR of California, Representative TONY HALL of Ohio, Representative THOMAS PETRI of Wisconsin, Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut and Representative JAMES WALSH of New York.

Currently there are 6,700 volunteers serving in 80 countries. The increased funding would allow the Peace Corps to expand to its goal of 10,000 volunteers. It would also allow the Peace Corps programs to expand to South Africa, Jordan, China, Bangladesh, Mozambique and other countries in Central Asia, the Middle East, South America, Eastern Europe and Africa.

The Peace Corps is an important part of our foreign assistance program. It helps communities gain access to clean water, grow food, prevent the spread of AIDS and work with to protect the environment.

I look forward to the improvements on this bill via the amendment process on the floor of the House. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the rule on this bill.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was traveling with the Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa and was unavoidably absent from debate on the rule on H.R. 669. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of agreeing to the rule.

APPOINTMENT TO TRADE DEFICIT REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c)(3) of the Trade Deficit Review Commission Act (Division A of Public Law 105-277) the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following person on the part of the House to the Trade Deficit Review Commission:

Mrs. Carla Anderson Hills, Washington D.C.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 6(B) of the National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 as amended by section 346(e) of Public Law 105-83, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the National Council on the Arts:

Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina.

There was no objection.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H.DOC. 106-30)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 1999, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 24, 1999.

BIENNIAL REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the Biennial Report to Congress on the Administration of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for fiscal years 1996 and 1997. This report is submitted as required by section 316 of the CZMA of 1972 as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1451, *et seq.*).

The report discusses progress made at the national and State level in administering the Coastal Zone Management and Estuarine Research Reserve Programs during these years, and spotlights the accomplishments of NOAA's State coastal management and estuarine research reserve program partners under the CZMA.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 24, 1999.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, January 27, 1999.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed please find a copy of a letter to the Louisiana Secretary of State announcing my intention to resign from the U.S. House of Representatives on February 28, 1999. Upon receipt of this letter, I expect the Governor to notice and call an election to fill my vacancy. My hope is that it will occur as quickly as possible so as to result in as little inconvenience as possible to the Republican Conference.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON,
Member of Congress.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1999

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1999

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 1, 1999, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

TASK FORCE AGUILA

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, General George Patton once said, "There is no limit to what you can accomplish, if you don't care who gets the credit."

This quote is very fitting for the 5,000 men and women of Task Force Aguila, who left their homes and loved ones during the holidays last year to provide humanitarian relief to the victims of Hurricane Mitch.

As members of the Task Force prepare to end their mission, I feel it is important to take note of the following. Mr. Speaker, there are many accomplishments of our U.S. military in Central America that are not known by my colleagues here or, for that matter, most Americans; like the over 15,000 sick and injured people that were treated and cared for, the delivery of almost 2,000 tons of food and other humanitarian aid, millions of gallons of water purified, and the miles and miles of roads repaired and washed out bridges rebuilt.

All of these will be lasting reminders of the goodwill and ambassadorship provided by every airman, soldier and Marine as part of our U.S. diplomacy there.

I rise today to express my thanks and give national recognition to our Armed Forces for a job well done.

COMPARABLE TREATMENT OF FEDERAL WORKERS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND THE PRESI- DENT DURING FEDERAL GOV- ERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in the past when we shut the Federal Government down, the government employees were not paid but Members of Congress and the President and the Senate of

course were. So today I am introducing legislation to provide for comparable treatment of Federal employees, Members of Congress, and the President if there is a Federal Government shutdown.

I think, in good conscience, if we are asking our Federal employees to suffer the consequences, then we in this House should, too. Maybe we would think more carefully about shutting this place down. If my colleagues believe, as I do, that it is only right and just that we also forgo our paychecks, then I hope they will join with me in asking Congress and the President to put our paychecks where our values are and not expect special treatment in the event we shut the Federal Government down. Show their support for Federal workers by cosponsoring my bill, which I intend to drop this morning. I look forward to the support of my colleagues.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET REGARDING IN- TERIM BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES FOR FISCAL YEARS 1999-2003

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. KASICH, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 2 of House Resolution 5, I submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD interim budget aggregates and allocations for fiscal year 1999 and for the period of fiscal years 1999 through fiscal year 2003.

These interim levels will be used to enforce sections 302(f), 303(a) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Section 303(a) prohibits the consideration of legislation that provides new budget authority or changes in revenues until Congress has agreed to a budget resolution for the appropriate fiscal year. Sections 302(f) and 311(a) prohibit the consideration of legislation that exceeds the appropriate budgetary levels set forth in budget resolution and the accompanying report.

Without these interim levels, the House would be prohibited under section 303(a) of the Budget Act from considering legislation with even negligible budgetary effects in certain fiscal years because a budget resolution is not in effect for the current fiscal year. There would be no levels to make determinations under sections 302(f) and 311(a) for fiscal year 1999 and such determinations for the five year period would be based on the now-obsolete levels set forth under H. Con. Res. 84 (H. Rept. 105-116) in 1997.

The interim allocations and aggregates are essentially based on current status levels.