

shall establish and assign their duties and responsibilities, delegate such authority as he deems appropriate, fix and adjust staff salaries (in accordance with House Rule X, clause 9(c)) and job titles, and, in his discretion, arrange for their specialized training.

(b) Staff assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the minority members of the committee, who may delegate such authority as they deem appropriate.

RECORDS

Rule 21—Preparation and Maintenance of Committee Records

(a) An accurate stenographic record shall be made of all hearings and business meetings.

(b) The proceedings of the committee shall be recorded in a journal which shall, among other things, include a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded.

(c) Members of the committee shall correct and return transcripts of hearings as soon as practicable after receipt thereof, except that any changes shall be limited to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections.

(d) Any witness may examine the transcript of his own testimony and make grammatical, technical, and typographical corrections.

(e) The chairman may order the printing of a hearing record without the corrections of any member or witness if he determines that such a member or witness has been afforded a reasonable time for correction, and that further delay would seriously impede the committee's responsibility for meeting its deadlines under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(f) Transcripts of hearings and meeting may be printed if the chairman decides it is appropriate, or if a majority of the members so request.

Rule 22—Access to Committee Records

(a)(1) The chairman shall promulgate regulations to provide for public inspection of rollcall votes and to provide access by members to committee records (in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(e)).

(2) Access to classified testimony and information shall be limited to Members of Congress and to House Budget Committee staff and stenographic reporters who have appropriate security clearance.

(3) Notice of the receipt of such information shall be sent to the committee members. Such information shall be kept in the committee safe, and shall be available to members in the committee office.

(b) The records of the committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the committee.

OVERSIGHT

Rule 23—General Oversight

(a) The committee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject of which is within its jurisdiction.

(b) The committee is authorized at any time to conduct such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or ap-

propriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under clause (1)(e) of rule X of the Rules of the House, and, subject to the adoption of expense resolutions as required by clause 6 of rule X, to incur expenses (including travel expenses) in connection therewith.

(c) Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the committee shall meet in open session, with a quorum present, to adopt its oversight plans for that Congress for submission to the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Government Reform in accordance with the provisions of clause (2)(d) of House Rule X.

REPORTS

Rule 24—Availability Before Filing

(a) Any report accompanying any bill or resolution ordered reported to the House by the committee shall be available to all committee members at least 36 hours prior to filing with the House.

(b) No material change shall be made in any report made available to members pursuant to section (a) without the concurrence of the ranking minority member or by a majority vote of the committee.

(c) Notwithstanding any other rule of the committee, either or both subsections (a) and (b) may be waived by the chairman or with a majority vote by the committee.

Rule 25—Report on the Budget Resolution

The report of the committee to accompany a concurrent resolution on the budget shall include a comparison of the estimated or actual levels for the year preceding the budget year with the proposed spending and revenue levels for the budget year and each out year along with the appropriate percentage increase or decrease for each budget function and aggregate. The report shall include any rollcall vote on any motion to amend or report any measure.

Rule 26—Parliamentarian's Status Report and Section 302 Status Report

(a)(1) In order to carry out its duty under section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act to advise the House of Representatives as to the current level of spending and revenues as compared to the levels set forth in the latest agreed-upon concurrent resolution on the budget, the committee shall advise the Speaker on at least a monthly basis when the House is in session as to its estimate of the current level of spending and revenue. Such estimates shall be prepared by the staff of the committee, transmitted to the Speaker in the form of a Parliamentarian's Status Report, and printed in the Congressional Record.

(2) The committee authorizes the chairman, in consultation with the ranking minority member, to transmit to the Speaker the Parliamentarian's Status Report described above.

(b)(1) In order to carry out its duty under section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act to advise the House of Representatives as to the current level of spending within the jurisdiction of committees as compared to the appropriate allocations made pursuant to the Budget Act in conformity with the latest agreed-upon concurrent resolution on the budget, the committee shall, as necessary, advise the Speaker as to its estimate of the current level of spending within the jurisdiction of appropriate committees. Such estimates shall be prepared by the staff of the committee and transmitted to the Speaker in the form of a Section 302 Status Report.

(2) The committee authorizes the chairman, in consultation with the ranking minority member, to transmit to the Speaker the Section 302 Status Report described above.

Rule 27—Activity Report

After an adjournment of the last regular session of a Congress sine die, the chair of the committee may file any time with the Clerk the committee's activity report for that Congress pursuant to clause (1)(d)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the House without the approval of the committee, if a copy of the report has been available to each member of the committee for at least 7 calendar days and the report includes any supplemental, minority, or additional views submitted by a member of the committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rule 28—Broadcasting of Meetings and Hearings

(a) It shall be the policy of the committee to give all news media access to open hearings of the committee, subject to the requirements and limitations set forth in House Rule XI, clause 4.

(b) Whenever any committee business meeting is open to the public, that meeting may be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4.

Rule 29—Appointment of Conferees

(a) Majority party members recommended to the Speaker as conferees shall be recommended by the chairman subject to the approval of the majority party members of the committee.

(b) The chairman shall recommend such minority party members as conferees as shall be determined by the minority party; the recommended party representation shall be in approximately the same proportion as that in the committee.

Rule 30—Waivers

When a reported bill or joint resolution, conference report, or anticipated floor amendment violates any provision of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the chairman may, if practical, consult with the committee members on whether the chairman should recommend, in writing, that the Committee on Rules report a special rule that enforces the act by not waiving the applicable points of order during the consideration of such measure.

OPERATIONS IN KOSOVO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the American people understand separation. They understand the tragedy, the human tragedy, of moving families, women and children, and the elderly away from their homes.

One of the things that American people are good at is coming to the aid of those who cannot help themselves. The tragedy in Kosovo over the last weeks and months has developed into an enormous tragedy, like the 13-year-old girl who was moved from her home, started out with her family, came to a fork in the road, and her father and brother went in one direction and she and her mother went another. They came to an encampment or a camp area and she was separated from her mother.

The American people understand that a sustained air strike is imperative if we are to relieve the pain of separation and the crisis that is going on in the former Yugoslavia. This weekend I spent time with my constituents, many of whom expressed extreme concern about this crisis, questioning, of course, what we should do, but being supportive of the idea that Americans had to do something, as we failed to do in Rwanda and Burundi. I think now we are aware that ethnic cleansing, the murder of innocent civilians, has to stop and cannot be tolerated by the world family.

This weekend I joined the clerical community of my city and and prayed for peace. In fact, we have made this week in Houston a week of prayer, and we have asked for the respective institutions of religious concerns to offer up prayers or callings for peace. We did that this weekend, and I enjoyed and welcomed the opportunity to worship at the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church this past Sunday, along with members of the Muslim community and other faiths, in calling upon and praying for peace.

I believe that as we sustain these air strikes, we should still be calling for return to the peace table. Although we must stand firm in what we require of Mr. Milosevic, and that is, of course, to allow the refugees to return to their homes, to remove the Serbian troops from that area, and to allow for peacekeeping troops to go into that area, we, part of the NATO allies, must not silence our voices from asking for return to the peace tables.

Seven hundred thousand have been removed from Kosovo. We now hear tell of the possibility of enormous atrocities, the killing of very many. But I believe that it is extremely important that we do not give up on the sustained air strikes, that we stay focused and unified; that the American people must be educated and informed about how we need to proceed.

Nothing should be excluded or precluded, but we certainly should not move precipitously into the use of ground troops. We have to recognize the importance of bringing along a unified position against Mr. Milosevic. And certainly we must continue to press for the release of the POWs, three young men who should not have been taken in the first place, who were part of a U.N. peacekeeping operation, who have been taken inappropriately and wrongly by the Serbians.

I would simply say that the American people can rise to the occasion. They have always come to the aid of those in need. This conflict is a serious conflict, and any determination on using ground troops should be one that is done with the support and cooperation of the American people. NATO must remain unified.

I would ask that our NATO allies would engage all of us in the ultimate

decisions that are made, and that we, as part of the NATO ally operations, be unified in our discussions so that there is not division, but there is unification and unity.

Most of all, I say, we must protect the children and families. We cannot afford to have the elderly march miles and miles and miles, tormented by being removed from their homes and getting finally to the border and dropping dead, which has happened to many of those refugees who have been sent from their homes. We cannot have the fathers and husbands and brothers being killed randomly, such that they are not even having a decent burial.

America is doing the right thing in joining with its allies in this sustained air strike, and we must stand united together as we move to make determinations, Madam Speaker, that will help bring peace to that region.

But I do say and call upon the national organizations of religion to call for a week of prayer, and also to call for a return to the peace talks so we can have peace in the Balkans.

Madam Speaker, I rise to address the ongoing situation in Kosovo. After 20 days of an intensive air war on Yugoslavia, I am pleased that the campaign is beginning to see results.

In its 20th day, the air war has produced results. Serb troops are beginning to feel the weight of the NATO air strikes. The air war has been successful in hitting both command and control structures and inflicting damage on Serb troops in the field. I feel that this body must stay the course and make Milosevic capitulate the NATO's terms. We must ensure that Milosevic pays a heavy price for his present policy of repression against the Kosovar Albanians, to alter his calculation about continuing on this course; and seriously, diminish his military capacity to exert his will over Kosovo.

This House has sent an invaluable message to Milosevic that aggression does not pay. In using air power we signal our willingness to establish a lasting peace in the region.

Many in this House were critical of the President when he sent our troops to Bosnia for peacekeeping operations. But today I feel that this was one of the best votes I ever made. Bosnia today is a nation on the way to recovery. Its people both Muslim and Christian live in peace and security and this is in tshanks in no small part to the men and women of our armed forces. It takes courage to make tough decisions and stand by one's convictions. We as a nation must be willing to stand against oppression and horrible atrocities being committed in the Balkans.

If this House fails to stay the course it would be interpreted as a vote of no confidence for our foreign policy in the Balkans. It would send confusing signals about our national resolve to persevere to friend and foe alike.

The conflict in Kosovo has caused great human suffering and if left unchecked this conflict threatens the peace and stability of Europe. Already there is evidence of massive graves in Kosovo and I fear that they contain many of the missing ethnic Albanian men.

Tension in this ethnic Albanian region has been increasing since the government of

Yugoslavia removed Kosovo's autonomous status. Belgrade's decision came without the approval of the people of Kosovo, which has a population consisting of 90% ethnic Albanians. Several human rights groups report of Serbian forces conducting abductions and summary executions. These reprisal killings and the continued human rights violations confirm many of our fears.

The United States and its allies have taken concrete steps to ensure that this continued violence in the Kosovo region does not spread to Albania, Macedonia, Greece, and Turkey. We must continue the sustained airstrikes to protect the people of Kosovo from this siege of terror by Milosevic.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stay the course in our effort to provide a peaceful multi-ethnic democratic Kosovo in which all its people live in security.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO SELL IMF GOLD RESERVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to speak against the Clinton administration's recent proposal to dump a large portion of the International Monetary Fund's gold reserve on the open market, just to wipe off the books some of the debt of nations under the Heavily-Indebted Poor Countries initiative, or HIPC.

Since Congress must initially approve such a transaction, I rise to state my clear opposition to such a sale. This proposal is wrong and misguided for at least the following reasons.

First, the IMF gold sales could harm, yes, harm, the very nations it is intended to help. Gold mining is a viable and productive part of the economies of well over half of the 41 countries included in the HIPC initiative. In 10 of those countries, gold mining accounts for between 5 and 40 percent of the exports, and in most of the other identified and indebted countries that currently do not mine gold, there are advanced plans for significant gold development.

It would be unfortunate and, yes, ironic if potential investment in gold mining were deterred by the adverse impact of IMF gold sales on the gold price and the economies of this industry.

Secondly, the sale of IMF gold reserves would further depress the gold price in America. The gold price is at its lowest place in 20 years. Mere discussion of a possible IMF gold sale has already depressed the price of gold by more than 3½ percent in the last 2 weeks, and outright sale would have a devastating impact on gold prices.

Finally, such gold sales would substantially harm the U.S. gold mining industry. Gold is a viable U.S. export commodity that substantially benefits