

Most importantly, he and I are both musicians. He is going to go back and start playing the upright base again in his band. He is going to have a lot of fun, I know. We are going to miss the gentleman. He has done a great job. I know I speak for all of us in saying the best of luck to him, and have fun on the other side.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota, for those kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 632.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just adopted.

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

There was no objection.

AMENDING INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1707) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to provide that certain designated Federal entities shall be establishments under such Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1707

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY AS AN ESTABLISHMENT UNDER THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Inspectors General serve an important function in preventing and eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Government; and

(2) independence is vital for an Inspector General to function effectively.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in section 8G(a)(2) by striking “the Tennessee Valley Authority,”; and

(2) in section 11—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “or the Commissioner of Social Security, Social Security Administration;” and inserting “the Commissioner of Social Security, Social Security Administration; or the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority;”;

and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking “or the Social Security Administration;” and inserting “the Social Security Administration, or the Tennessee Valley Authority;”.

(c) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE POSITION.—Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration the following:

“Inspector General, Tennessee Valley Authority.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The person serving as Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority on the effective date of this section—

(A) may continue such service until the President makes an appointment under section 3(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) consistent with the amendments made by this section; and

(B) shall be subject to section 8G (c) and (d) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) as applicable to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, unless that person is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to be Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTORS GENERAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR ACADEMY AND INSPECTORS GENERAL FORENSIC LABORATORY.

(a) INSPECTORS GENERAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR ACADEMY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Criminal Investigator Academy within the Department of the Treasury. The Criminal Investigator Academy is established for the purpose of performing investigator training services for offices of inspectors general created under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Criminal Investigator Academy shall be administered by an Executive Director who shall report to an inspector general for an establishment as defined in section 11 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)—

(A) designated by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency; or

(B) if that council is eliminated, by a majority vote of the inspector generals created under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(b) INSPECTORS GENERAL FORENSIC LABORATORY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Inspectors General Forensic Laboratory within the Department of the Treasury. The Inspector General Forensic Laboratory is established for the purpose of performing forensic services for offices of inspectors general created under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Inspectors General Forensic Laboratory shall be administered by an Executive Director who shall report to an inspector general for an establishment as defined in section 11 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)—

(A) designated by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency; or

(B) if that council is eliminated, by a majority vote of the inspector generals created under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(c) SEPARATE APPROPRIATIONS ACCOUNT.—Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(33) a separate appropriation account for appropriations for the Inspectors General Criminal Investigator Academy and the Inspectors General Forensic Laboratory of the Department of the Treasury.”

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2001 and each fiscal year thereafter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1707.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1707 would make the position of Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority a presidential appointment. The bill would also authorize a Criminal Investigator Academy and Forensic Laboratory for the Inspector General community.

Offices of Inspector General are independent, nonpartisan, and objective units that exist in nearly 60 Federal departments and agencies, including all Cabinet departments, major executive branch agencies, and many smaller boards, commissions, corporations, and foundations.

The primary distinction between the offices of Inspector General in the larger Federal agencies and those in smaller government entities is the method by which the Inspector General is appointed. Inspectors General at larger agencies are appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Inspectors General at smaller Federal entities are appointed, and can be removed from office by the head of the agency.

Regardless of the process, however, the mission of all Inspectors General is the same: to conduct audits and investigations of agency programs in order to promote an economic and efficient operation, and to combat any waste, fraud, or misuse of public money.

The Tennessee Valley Authority's board of directors currently appoints and can remove its Inspector General. S. 1707 would turn that responsibility over to the President.

With an annual budget of more than \$7 million and a staff of more than 80

full-time equivalent employees, the Tennessee Valley Authority is larger than some government entities whose Inspectors General are appointed by the President. S. 1707 would elevate the status of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Inspector General, and would further enhance the independence of this important office.

S. 1707 would also establish a Criminal Investigator Academy and General Forensic Laboratory for all Federal Inspectors General. These facilities would be housed in the Department of the Treasury and would provide high caliber investigative training and forensic services for Inspectors General at all departments, agencies, and government entities, regardless of size.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1707, as has been mentioned, is intended to enhance the independence of the Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority by making the position presidentially-appointed. Under current law, the Inspector General of the TVA is appointed by the agency head.

As all of us understand, the Inspectors General in all of our agencies perform a very important watchdog function. In order to be able to carry that out effectively, they need to be independent. Therefore, this bill would make the Inspector General of this agency similar to all agencies of the Federal government and require that the President appoint the Inspector General, rather than the agency head.

In addition, this bill authorizes such funds as are necessary to establish a criminal investigator academy and a forensic laboratory for the Inspector General community. It is clear that the Inspectors General need to have adequate and continuous criminal investigative training, and this academy will provide such training.

Also, the Inspectors General have a need for forensic lab capability, which this bill authorizes.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I commend Senator THOMPSON and Senator LIEBERMAN for their bipartisan work on the matter. I believe the bill will enhance the Inspector General of the TVA and promote economy, effectiveness, and efficiency within that important Federal agency, and I urge adoption of the measure.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to first of all thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) for yielding me this time and for his support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which I think can fairly be described as noncontroversial, common-sense legislation. S. 1707 is a bill that was introduced by my colleague from Tennessee, Senator FRED THOMPSON, and I want to salute him for his work on this legislation.

This bill, S. 1707, is the companion to a bill that I originally introduced in the House, H.R. 2013. Simply put, S. 1707 will require that the Inspector General for the Tennessee Valley Authority be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Currently, the Inspector General for the TVA is appointed by the TVA board, the very board which it is expected to oversee. This legislation will guarantee that this Inspector General is guaranteed independence, so that any waste, fraud, and abuse can be fully and adequately and properly investigated. Almost everyone agrees that Inspectors General can do much better jobs if they are not controlled by the agency or department which they are expected to oversee.

The bill which was originally introduced would apply to all 33 Federal agencies where the Inspectors General are not truly independent and are presently appointed by the department or agency which they are expected to investigate and oversee. While S. 1707 applies only to TVA, I certainly think it is a step in the right direction, and it is a very significant first step toward my goal of making all 33 of these agency Inspectors General truly independent.

I am also pleased that this bill has provisions that the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) just mentioned to establish an academy for Inspectors General that all Inspectors General can attend, so that this bill will start a process that will have ramifications far beyond TVA.

This proposal has bipartisan support, and it has been endorsed by the Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors. It has already passed the other body by unanimous consent. In addition, the Knoxville News Sentinel, which is published in the city where TVA's headquarters are located, has recommended passage of this legislation.

Finally, I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and his staff for their hard work on this bill, and for helping me bring this bill to the floor today. Mr. Speaker, I will say that this is a modest proposal which will certainly help improve the oversight of the Tennessee Valley Authority. I urge passage of S. 1707.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for S. 1707, legislation that requires the TVA Inspector General to be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, as is the practice at other large federal agencies. S. 1707 also provides that the President has the authority to remove the TVA IG.

As a cosponsor of similar legislation in the House introduced by Representative JIMMY DUNCAN, I am very pleased that Congress is moving to pass this legislation before we adjourn for the year. S. 1707, like H.R. 2013, amends the Inspector General Act of 1978 to provide for the Presidential appointment of and Senate confirmation of the Inspector General for TVA.

As a former member of TVA's Board of Directors and a former chairman of the TVA Caucus in Congress, I believe this bill will greatly help assure the independence between the IG's office and TVA management. It is critically important to reaffirm the independence of the TVA IG, and thus Congress should amend the Inspector General Act. Most will agree that making TVA's IG a Presidential appointee will strengthen the IG's office. I applaud Senator THOMPSON and Representative DUNCAN for their leadership on this legislation. It is my hope the President will act promptly and sign this bill into law.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1707.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ICCVAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4281) to establish, wherever feasible, guidelines, recommendations, and regulations that promote the regulatory acceptance of new and revised toxicological tests that protect human and animal health and the environment while reducing, refining, or replacing animal tests and ensuring human safety and product effectiveness, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4281

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *ALTERNATIVE TEST METHOD.*—The term "alternative test method" means a test method that—

(A) *includes any new or revised test method; and*

(B)(i) *reduces the number of animals required; (ii) refines procedures to lessen or eliminate pain or distress to animals, or enhances animal well-being; or*

(iii) *replaces animals with non-animal systems or 1 animal species with a phylogenetically lower animal species, such as replacing a mammal with an invertebrate.*