

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

TODD TIAHRT,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE HONORABLE TODD TIAHRT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Robert Noland, District Director, Office of the Honorable TODD TIAHRT, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2000.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the Municipal Court for the City of Wichita, Kansas.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

ROBERT NOLAND,
District Director.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 29, 2000.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents issued by the Supreme Court of New York, County of Onondaga.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that it is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House to comply with the subpoena.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT,
Member of Congress.

SWEETHEART NUCLEAR WASTE DEALS

(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, today I rise dismayed and appalled by the illegal sweetheart deals being made by the Department of Energy and the nuclear power industry.

These backroom agreements between the Clinton-Gore administration and the nuclear industry ignore the public

safety and health of millions of Americans, and run completely contrary to the laws passed by Congress.

This Congress has always maintained that any nuclear waste repository project must be based on sound science and safety. However, documents recently released by the DOE show that the Department is not concerned at all with safety or science. Their prime concern is "selling" Nevada's Yucca Mountain project as a permanent nuclear waste dump, even though the final suitability studies have not been completed.

The DOE has chosen to risk the health and safety of millions of Americans and expose them to a devastating environmental disaster because it is an expedient answer to a problem faced by the nuclear industry.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, this administration has misled Congress, ignored the law, and jeopardized the safety of America.

TIME TO CERTIFY GEORGE W. BUSH AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Josef Stalin once said: Those who cast the ballots decide nothing; those who count the ballots decide everything.

How true it is. The wrinkled, dimpled, even pregnant chads have been counted several times. The Florida Supreme Court went beyond its bounds in changing the intent of Florida law.

It is time for the courts and the lawyers to get out of the way and to certify George W. Bush as the 43rd President of the United States of America.

Enough is enough. The division and stratification must stop. I yield back the need to begin a transition to a George W. Bush administration.

VICE PRESIDENT GORE SHOULD CONCEDE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND ALLOW THE PRESIDENT-ELECT TO BEGIN THE TRANSITION TO OFFICE

(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, almost 4 weeks ago the American people went to the polls to elect a new president. This election was close, but the election is over. Governor George Bush is the certified winner of 271 electoral votes. He is the president-elect.

However, Vice President GORE has taken the unprecedented step of contesting a presidential election in court. Governor Bush won the original vote in Florida. He then won the required recount vote and won again, and won

again when the overseas ballots were included. He won a fourth time when the counties submitted the results of their hand counts and the Secretary of State certified the results.

For the first time in history, the party currently in control of the White House is refusing to cooperate with the transition to a new administration. Vice President GORE should concede, end his legal challenges, and allow the President-elect to prepare to take on the awesome responsibilities of the office.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas or nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

JAMES MADISON COMMEMORATION COMMISSION ACT

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3137) to establish a commission to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of James Madison. The Clerk read as follows:

S. 3137

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "James Madison Commemoration Commission Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Congressional findings.
- Sec. 3. Establishment.
- Sec. 4. Duties.
- Sec. 5. Membership.
- Sec. 6. Powers.
- Sec. 7. Staffing and support.
- Sec. 8. Contributions.
- Sec. 9. Reports.
- Sec. 10. Audit of financial transactions.
- Sec. 11. Termination.
- Sec. 12. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (1) March 16, 2001, marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of James Madison;
- (2) as a delegate to the Continental Congress, and to the Annapolis Convention of 1786, James Madison foresaw the need for a more effective national government and was a persuasive advocate for such a government at the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention of 1787;
- (3) James Madison worked tirelessly and successfully at the Constitutional Convention to mold a national charter, the United

States Constitution, that combined both energy and restraint, empowering the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary, within a framework of limited government, separated powers, and a system of federalism;

(4) James Madison was an eloquent proponent of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights;

(5) James Madison faithfully served his country as a Representative in Congress from 1789 to 1797, as Secretary of State from 1801 to 1809, and as President of the United States from 1809 to 1817;

(6) as President, James Madison showed courage and resolute will in leading the United States to victory over Great Britain in the War of 1812;

(7) James Madison's political writings, as exemplified by his Notes on the Federal Convention and his contributions to The Federalist Papers, are among the most distinguished of American state papers;

(8) by his learning, his devotion to ordered liberty, and by the force of his intellect, James Madison made an indispensable contribution to the American tradition of democratic constitutional republicanism embodied in the Constitution of the United States, and is justifiably acclaimed as father of the Constitution;

(9) it is appropriate to remember, honor, and renew the legacy of James Madison for the American people and, indeed for all mankind; and

(10) as the Nation approaches March 16, 2001, marking the anniversary of the birth of James Madison, it is appropriate to establish a commission for the commemoration of that anniversary.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

A commission to be known as the James Madison Commemoration Commission (in this Act referred to as the "Commission") and a committee to be known as the James Madison Commemoration Advisory Committee (in this Act referred to as the "Advisory Committee") are established.

SEC. 4. DUTIES.

(a) COMMISSION.—The Commission shall—

(1) in cooperation with the Advisory Committee and the Library of Congress, direct the Government Printing Office to compile and publish a substantial number of copies of a book (as directed by the Commission) containing a selection of the most important writings of James Madison and tributes to him by members of the Commission and other persons that the Commission deems appropriate;

(2) in cooperation with the Advisory Committee and the Library of Congress, plan and coordinate 1 or more symposia, at least 1 of which will be held on March 16, 2001, and all of which will be devoted to providing a better understanding of James Madison's contribution to American political culture;

(3) in cooperation with the Advisory Committee recognize such other events celebrating James Madison's birth and life as official events of the Commission;

(4) develop and coordinate any other activities relating to the anniversary of the birth of James Madison as may be appropriate;

(5) accept essay papers (via the Internet or otherwise) from students attending public and private institutions of elementary and secondary education in any State regarding James Madison's life and contributions to America and award certificates to students who author exceptional papers on this subject; and

(6) bestow honorary memberships to the Commission or to the Advisory Committee upon such persons as it deems appropriate.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Advisory Committee shall—

(1) submit a suggested selection of James Madison's most important writings to the Commission for the Commission to consider for inclusion in the book printed as provided in subsection (a)(1);

(2) submit a list and description of events concerning the birth and life of James Madison to the Commission for the Commission's consideration in recognizing such events as official "Commission Events"; and

(3) make such other recommendations to the Commission as a majority of its members deem appropriate.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be composed of 19 members, as follows:

(A) The Chief Justice of the United States or such individual's delegate who is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

(B) The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate or each such individual's delegate who is a Member of the Senate.

(C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives or each such individual's delegate who is a Member of the House of Representatives.

(D) The Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate or each such individual's delegate who is a member of such committee.

(E) The Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives or each such individual's delegate who is a member of such committee.

(F) Two Members of the Senate selected by the Majority Leader of the Senate and 2 Members of the Senate selected by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(G) Two members of the House of Representatives selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 2 Members of the House of Representatives selected by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(H) Two members of the executive branch selected by the President of the United States.

(2) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Chief Justice of the United States shall serve as Chairman of the Commission and the members of the Commission shall select a vice chairman from its members, unless the Chief Justice appoints a delegate to serve in his stead, in which circumstance, the members of the Commission shall select a chairman and vice chairman from its members.

(b) MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 14 members, as follows:

(A) The Archivist of the United States or such individual's delegate.

(B) The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution or such individual's delegate.

(C) The Executive Director of Montpelier, the home of James Madison, and the 2001 Planning Committee of Montpelier or such individual's delegate.

(D) The President of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia or such individual's delegate.

(E) The Director of the James Madison Center, James Madison University in Harri-

sonburg, Virginia or such individual's delegate.

(F) The President of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation or such individual's delegate.

(G) Two members, who are not Members of Congress but have expertise on the legal and historical significance of James Madison, selected by the Majority Leader of the Senate, and 2 members, who are not Members of Congress but have expertise on the legal and historical significance of James Madison, selected by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(H) Two members, who are not Members of Congress but who have expertise on the legal and historical significance of James Madison, selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and 2 members, who are not Members of Congress but who have expertise on the legal and historical significance of James Madison, selected by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(2) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall select a chairman and vice chairman from its members.

(c) TERMS.—Each member of the Commission shall be selected and each member of the Advisory Committee shall be selected not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and shall serve for the life of the Commission and the Advisory Committee, respectively.

(d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made in subsection (a). A vacancy in the Advisory Committee shall be filled by the person holding the office named in subsection (b) or his designate.

(e) COMPENSATION.—

(1) RATES OF PAY.—Members of the Commission and the Advisory Committee shall serve without pay.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Commission and the Advisory Committee may receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of its chairman or a majority of its members. The Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the chairman or a majority of its members.

(g) APPROVAL OF ACTIONS.—All official actions of the Commission under this Act shall be approved by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the members. All official actions of the Advisory Committee under this Act shall be approved by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the members.

SEC. 6. POWERS.

(a) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—Any member or staff person of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take by this Act.

(b) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may procure services and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements, in order to carry out this Act.

(2) RESTRICTION.—The contracts, leases, or other legal agreements made or entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of termination of the Commission.

(3) TERMINATION.—All supplies and property acquired by the Commission under this Act that remain in the possession of the Commission on the date of termination of the Commission shall become the property of the General Services Administration upon the date of the termination.

(c) INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal agency information necessary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of the Federal agency shall furnish the information to the Commission.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any information that the Commission is prohibited to secure or request by another law.

(d) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The Commission may adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to conduct meetings and carry out its duties under this Act. The Commission may also adopt such rules for the Advisory Committee.

(e) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal agencies, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate may mail items on behalf of the Commission.

(f) NECESSARY AND PROPER POWERS.—The Commission may exercise such other powers as are necessary and proper in carrying out and effecting the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 7. STAFFING AND SUPPORT.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Librarian of Congress shall provide the Commission and the Advisory Committee with such assistance, including staff support, facilities, and supplies at no charge, as may be necessary to carry out its duties.

SEC. 8. CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) DONATIONS.—The Commission may accept donations of money, personal services, and property, both real and personal, including books, manuscripts, miscellaneous printed matter, memorabilia, relics, and other materials related to James Madison.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any funds donated to the Commission may be used by the Commission to carry out this Act. The source and amount of such funds shall be listed in the interim and final reports required under section 9.

(2) PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any procurement requirement otherwise applicable to the Commission, the Commission shall conduct procurements of property or services involving donated funds pursuant to the small purchase procedures required by section 303(g) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253(g)). Section 15(j) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(j)) shall not apply to such procurements.

(B) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term “donated funds” means any funds of which 50 percent or more derive from funds donated to the Commission.

(c) VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(d) REMAINING FUNDS.—Funds remaining upon the date of termination of the Commission shall be used to ensure the proper disposition of property donated to the Commission as specified in the final report required by section 9.

SEC. 9. REPORTS.

(a) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than February 15, 2001, the Commission shall prepare and submit to the President and Congress an interim report detailing the activities of the

Commission, including an accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2000.

(b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than February 15, 2002, the Commission shall submit to the President and to Congress a final report containing—

(1) a summary of the activities of the Commission;

(2) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission;

(3) the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission;

(4) specific recommendations concerning the final disposition of historically significant items donated to the Commission under section 8(a), if any; and

(5) any additional views of any member of the Commission concerning the Commission's recommendations that such member requests to be included in the final report.

SEC. 10. AUDIT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the General Services Administration shall audit financial transactions of the Commission, including financial transactions involving donated funds, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. In conducting an audit pursuant to this section, the Inspector General shall have access to all books, accounts, financial records, reports, files, and other papers, items, or property in use by the Commission, as necessary to facilitate the audit, and shall be afforded full facilities for verifying transactions with the balances or securities held by depositories, fiscal agents, and custodians.

(b) AUDIT REPORTS.—Not later than March 15, 2001, the Inspector General of the General Services Administration shall submit to the President and to Congress a report detailing the results of any audit of the financial transactions of the Commission conducted before January 1, 2001. Not later than March 15, 2002, such Inspector General shall submit to the President and to Congress a report detailing the results of any audit of the financial transactions of the Commission conducted during the period beginning on January 1, 2001, and ending on December 31, 2001.

SEC. 11. TERMINATION.

The Commission and the Advisory Committee shall terminate not later than 60 days following submission of the final report required by section 9.

SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$250,000 for fiscal year 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 3137.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer for consideration by the House S. 3137, the

James Madison Commemoration Commission Act, introduced by Senator JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama. S. 3137, which was passed unanimously by the Senate on October 25, 2000, establishes a commission to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of James Madison, which falls on March 16, 2001.

Born in 1751, James Madison was raised in Orange County, Virginia. He later attended Princeton University, then called the College of New Jersey, where he was a student of history and government.

Drawing from his studies, Madison served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and to the Annapolis Convention of 1786. More important, he was a fervent supporter of the bill of rights and an instrumental force in creating the United States Constitution, which is why he is often referred to as the Father of the Constitution.

James Madison also served as a representative in Congress from 1789 to 1797; the United States Secretary of State under President Thomas Jefferson from 1801 to 1809; and President of the United States from 1809 to 1817.

As President, James Madison led our young Nation in a war against Great Britain. While considered by many to be a draw, the war did serve to draw a diverse country closer together and to demonstrate to the world the strong resolve and will of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to advancing the interests of a growing Nation, Madison's written works have had a lasting impact. Historians acknowledge that among the most distinguished of American state papers are James Madison's notes on the Federal Convention and his contributions to The Federalist Papers, many of which are now housed at the University of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, in order to honor this great American hero on the 250th anniversary of his birth, S. 3137 establishes a commission that will be charged with planning and coordinating activities to celebrate the life of James Madison.

This is the least we can do to recognize a man whose devotion to liberty made a lasting contribution to our system of government and to freedom-loving people around the world.

Mr. Speaker, like the bill to create the Abraham Lincoln Commission before it, I am proud to offer this legislation to my colleagues for consideration. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues' support.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, two resolutions previously passed by the House commemorated the life and achievements of James Madison, one of our Nation's Founding Fathers.

The act before us today, S. 3137, provides for a bipartisan and balanced selection of individuals to a commission

that will direct the Government Printing Office to compile and publish a book containing important writings of James Madison.

In addition, S. 3137 establishes an advisory committee to work with the commission to identify writings to include in a book on James Madison.

The advisory committee is also tasked with compiling a list of events celebrating the birth and life of James Madison. The commission will consider the list in recognizing such events as official commission events.

In 1776, Madison was a member of the Virginia Constitutional Committee, the body that drafted Virginia's first constitution and a bill of rights which later would welcome a model for the Bill of Rights amending the United States Constitution.

When Madison was elected to the United States House of Representatives, he became the primary author of the first 12 proposed amendments to the Constitution. Ten of these, the Bill of Rights, were adopted.

At the Constitutional Convention, which opened on May 25th, 1787, Madison set the tone by introducing a document he authored, called The Virginia Plan. The plan called for strong central government consisting of a supreme legislature, executive and judiciary. It provided for a national legislature consisting of two houses: one elected by the people, and the other appointed by the first from a body of nominees submitted by State legislatures.

Representation in these bodies would be based on the population of States. It provided for an executive to be elected by the national legislature. The plan also defined a national judiciary and a Council of Revision charged with reviewing the constitutionality of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge all of our colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the driving force in the formation of the Constitution, James Madison organized the Convention, set the agenda, and worked through obstacles that threatened the process. The notes he took throughout the Convention constitute this country's best and most complete record of the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Madison's notes, which comprised a third of the Federalist papers, were published in the 1830s. Accordingly, I urge the approval of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as we have touched upon this afternoon, James Madison

was a man who strongly embodied and advanced the principles that our government represents: economic freedom, limited government, the rule of law, individual liberty, and personal responsibility.

James Madison also was a man who believed in the greatness of the United States and hoped to see it always remain as a whole. In a note that was opened after his death in 1836, Madison wrote that, I quote, "the advice nearest to my heart and deepest in my convictions is that the union of the States be cherished and perpetuated."

At a time when we face unprecedented challenges to our electoral challenge, James Madison's words are something we should all heed.

Before I close, let me thank Senator SESSIONS for introducing this fine bill. Let me also thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for his thoughts and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) for allowing this bill to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, let me also thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this bill.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the James Madison Commemoration Commission Act secure in the belief that were James Madison on the floor today, he would share my opposition to this bill. Congress has no constitutional authority to use taxpayer funds to promote the life and thought of any individual. Congressional actions exceeding the limitations on congressional power contained in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution undermine the very principles of limited government to which James Madison devoted his life. In fact, few have been as eloquent in pointing out how liberty is threatened when Congress exceeds its enumerated powers:

If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the General Welfare, the Government is no longer a limited one, possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one, subject to particular exceptions.—Letter to Edmund Pendleton, January 21, 1792 (Madison, 1865, I, page 546)

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly endorse the goals of promoting public awareness and appreciation of, the life and thought of James Madison. In fact, through my work with various educational organizations, I have probably done as much as any member to promote the thought of James Madison and the other Founding Fathers. James Madison's writings provide an excellent guide to the principles underlying the true nature of the American government. In addition, Madison's writings address many issues of concern to friends of limited government today, such as the need for each branch of government to respect the Separation of Powers, the threat posed to individual liberty by an interventionist foreign policy, and the differences between a Republic and a pure Democracy.

However, the continuing growth of the federal government and Congress' refusal to abide by its constitutional limits suggest that the people most in need of familiarization with the thought of James Madison are those who would support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3137 exceeds the constitutional limits on Congressional power, and thus violates the principles of limited government upon which our constitutional system was based. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to pay appropriate tribute to James Madison by rejecting this unconstitutional bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3137.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY WATER RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1761) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conserve and enhance the water supplies of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1761

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 "Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSIONER.—The term "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner.

(3) STATE.—The term "State" means the Texas Water Development Board and any other authorized entity of the State of Texas.

(4) PROGRAM AREA.—The term "program area" means—

(A) the counties in the State of Texas in the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Area known as Region "M" as designated by the Texas Water Development Board; and

(B) the counties of Hudspeth and El Paso, Texas.

SEC. 3. LOWER RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting pursuant to the Reclamation Act of 1902 (Act