

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, December 11, 2000

The House met at 5 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 11, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

In the time of our testing, prove us, O Lord, Your faith-filled people.

In the day of justice, guide us with restraint and wisdom.

In the end, it is Your judgment of us all and how we react to our circumstances that we must fear.

When we are overwhelmed with confusion or when we are seared by harsh words, calm the soul of this Nation.

Speak to us as once You spoke to Isaiah.

“Who created you and formed you?
“Fear not for I have redeemed you;
“I have called you by name; you are mine.

“When you pass through the water, I will be with you;

“in the rivers you shall not drown.

“When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned;

“the flames shall not consume you.

“For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior.”

This we believe now and forever.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MOAKLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain one-minute at the end of business today.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 129, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 670 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 670

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 670 is a closed rule providing for consideration of House Joint Resolution 129, which makes further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001 through December 15.

H. Res. 670 provides for 1 hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of this joint resolution.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, as is the right of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, because the President refuses to sign continuing resolutions

of any longer duration, the joint resolution covered by this rule simply extends the provisions of our current continuing resolution by 4 days.

Mr. Speaker, after months of hard work, the House has just a few issues left to resolve. Like my Republican colleagues, I am determined to pass fair and fiscally responsible appropriations bills, and I will stay here as long as it takes to achieve this goal for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the President will join us in our good-faith efforts to negotiate a fair, bipartisan solution to the disagreements still before us. I am hopeful that the fair, clean continuing resolution covered by this rule will give us the time we need to complete the appropriations process in a thoughtful and judicious manner.

The rule was unanimously approved by the Committee on Rules, and I urge my colleagues to support it so that we may proceed with general debate and consideration of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and my friend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) for yielding me the customary time.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is the 20th continuing resolution this year. That means that 20 times we have had to pass stop-gap spending measures, these measures to keep the Federal Government running, despite my Republican colleagues' inability to finish the appropriations bills on time.

Mr. Speaker, it is about time my Republican colleagues finished.

The fiscal year began October 1, which means that Congress was to have finished the 13 appropriations bills and have them signed into law by that day some 2½ months ago.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues continue to make virtually no progress on the unfinished appropriations bills and, instead, pass continuing resolution after continuing resolution.

But it really does not have to be that way, Mr. Speaker. Republican and Democratic appropriators and the President have reached bipartisan agreement. That agreement could have made record increases in educational funding, would have helped local school districts hire 12,000 more teachers to reduce class size, it would have provided money to repair thousands of schools that are falling apart, it would

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have also expanded after-school programs for nearly one million children, and it would have improved Pell Grants and Head Start.

But the Republican leadership does not want us to continue that agreement at this time. Instead, they want to go back to the drawing board.

But, Mr. Speaker. I have to say that patience is growing short. If this 4-day continuing resolution does not settle the issues once and for all, I suspect that Members will be less likely to agree to another continuing resolution.

So I wish my Republican and Democratic colleagues good luck in the negotiations.

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

Mr. LINDER. 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.

□ 1715

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 129, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 670, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 129 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 129

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 106-275, is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(c) and inserting "December 15, 2000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 670, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.J. Res. 129 extends the continuing resolution that we have been passing on a regular basis until Friday of this week. I come to the floor today with more optimism than I have in quite a while, Mr. Speaker. There was another meeting with the President this afternoon with the bicameral leadership, Republicans and Democrats, and I have reason to believe that much progress was made. I really believe that by Thursday morning, if Members are able to be back by Thursday morning, we will have a package to vote on.

So I hope that we will pass this CR to give us time to accomplish that.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. This is the 20th time, two-zero, the 20th time that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and I have been forced to come to the floor and ask the Congress for an extension to keep the Government open while others in this institution and in the other body and folks in the administration decide what the budget ought to eventually look like by considering only macroeconomic numbers. After there is agreement between the leadership and the White House, I assume that we will be asked to work out how that money is allocated.

So, in my view, the House leadership will be able to talk in very bright terms about what they have accomplished in macroeconomic terms, and then we will be asked to make the impossible choices within the dollar limits that are being suggested by the leadership around here. I cannot begin to tell the House how many times I have received letters from Members of this House, including the leadership on both sides of the aisle, asking that we increase funding for AIDS, special education, National Institutes of Health, title VI block grants, LIHEAP, Low-Income Heating Assistance Program. I cannot tell you how many times I have received letters asking us to vote for increases in those programs and demanding that we bring to this floor what they refer to as full funding for some of these programs, while at the same time those same Members vote and those same leaders demand that we provide an overall number for the bill which makes our ability to produce what they ask for at the micro-level an almost impossible act. That in my view is what is happening here.

I am not going to vote for this continuing resolution. Not because the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) has not done his job, he and I were here all weekend, but because I believe that the numbers that will be produced in the end will have virtually no room for some of the main priorities which a lot of Members in this body claim that they have. I think that when people

put together an agreement about what the overall spending number ought to be in the Labor-Health-Education bill, for instance, that they ought to have some idea what that number will really mean in terms of its impact on low-income heating assistance, its impact on the National Institutes of Health, its impact on Pell grants, its impact on special education, its impact on Head Start, its impact on child care, and its impact on a whole range of programs.

Yet I think the way that this is proceeding, we are going to have a take-it-or-leave-it proposition, where the overall number is going to be agreed to, and then people like the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and I are then going to have to take Members aside one by one and explain to them why we cannot provide the increases for NIH that we promised the country in the campaign we were going to provide, why we cannot provide the increases in the Pell grants that we told people we were going to provide, why we cannot provide the funding for special education that we told people we were going to provide. We have got a winter coming where the Federal contribution to help low-income elderly pay their home heating bills will drop by about 50 percent as a percentage of those folks' income because of the rapidly rising energy costs; and yet this bill is going to be asked to savage that program in the out years.

And this has all come about because we are told by a number of Members on that side of the aisle that the agreement that was reached before the election is somehow too rich. I want to compare what that agreement would have done with Labor-H, with all the health and education and job programs, what that would have done with what we did in some other bills.

This Congress passed an agriculture bill which was 2 percent above the President's request. This Congress passed an energy and water bill which was almost a billion dollars above the President's request. It passed an Interior appropriations bill which was \$2.5 billion above the President's request, 15 percent above the President's request. It passed a transportation bill which is \$2.3 billion above the President's request.

And now we are being told that we have committed a mortal sin and we are all going to go to hell because we passed a Labor-Health-Education program that was a few billion dollars above the President's request. I make no apology for that. I make no apology for that. I think that those increases when compared to the increases in the energy and water bill or in the transportation bill are eminently defensible. Yet we are being told now, oh, we don't have enough room. We may add 7 or \$800 million in more money for the Middle East; but, no, if we do, we have