

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4655

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the name of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) as a cosponsor of H.R. 4655, my bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4609, DEPARTMENTS OF
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND
STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules I call up House Resolution 529 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 529

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: page 102, lines 15 through 17. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1315

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), my colleague and my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During the consideration of this resolution, all time is yielded for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us is an open rule that will allow us to have a full and open and fair debate of the issues contained within H.R. 4690, the Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for Fiscal Year 2001.

This open rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate to be equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule provides that the bill shall be considered for amendment by paragraph.

The rule waives clause 2 of the rule XXI against provisions in the bill, except as clarified by the rule. Clause 2 of rule XXI prohibits unauthorized or legislative provisions or transfers of funds in an appropriations bill.

The rule authorizes the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The rule permits the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation is very important. H.R. 4690 provides funding for the Departments of Justice, Commerce, and State, as well as funding for the Federal Judiciary.

Very briefly, the Department of Justice is tasked with providing American citizens protection through effective law enforcement.

The Department of Commerce has four basic missions: promoting the development of American business, increasing foreign trade, improving the Nation's technological competitiveness, and encouraging economic development.

The State Department has a mission to advance and protect the worldwide interests and assets of the United States.

Finally, appropriations for the Judiciary cover the Supreme Court as well as lower Federal district courts.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this rule and the underlying legislation will ensure

our Government has adequate funding to fight the war on drugs and crime.

This Republican Congress has a record of success on drug and crime prevention programs contained within this legislation. Under the funding priorities set by these yearly appropriations, our Nation's violent crime rate has decreased for 5 straight years.

In fact, the bill provides an increase of \$1.75 billion over last year's level for the Department of Justice. That is \$128 million more than the President requested.

The total funding for the Department of Justice under this legislation is more than \$20 billion. That number is far too large for us to comprehend. However, each one of us is affected by these programs that are funded by and within this Department.

The program within the Department of Justice that immediately comes to my mind is the "weed and seed" program. Through this program, law enforcement officers receive community-policing training with a special emphasis on mediation skills. Officers are taught to literally pull the weeds, the troublemakers, out of communities and replace them with seeds, law-abiding citizens, which will help a community grow and prosper.

Vicki Martin, a friend of mine, who heads the Ferguson Road Initiative in Dallas, Texas, is our team leader using the weed and seed dollars provided by the Department of Justice. By using this Federal money, Vicki Martin and the Ferguson Road Initiative have successfully increased the quality of life for persons within my congressional district.

Not only does this legislation fund the agencies that make Americans safer at home, it also provides security for Americans serving abroad.

All of us were troubled by the bombings of United States embassies in Africa just a few years ago. A report after those bombings revealed severe security lapses at other U.S. Government facilities abroad also.

This legislation will demonstrate Congress's commitment to protect our overseas posts and employees by providing \$1.06 billion for worldwide security improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take 1 minute to comment on one issue within this bill that is also very important to me.

In light of recent attacks to private sector Web sites, I have become increasingly aware and concerned about the vulnerability of the Federal Government's computer systems to terrorist attack. Tragically, the current administration has failed to address this as a significant threat.

Recently the United States General Accounting Office reported that almost every Government agency is plagued by poor computer security. Specifically, the GAO reports that weaknesses