LIMITATION ON AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2590, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 2590 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 206 no further amendment to the bill may be offered except:

Pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate.

The amendment numbered 8, which shall be debatable for 40 minutes.

Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member designated in this request, the Member who caused it to be printed, or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment, except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or a designee, each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of further debate on any pending amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FILNER

At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

Sec. 6. None of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Office of Management and Budget may be used for the purpose of implementing the final report of the President's Commission on Federal Election Reform.

Mr. ISTOOK (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I think there was a unanimous agreement that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) would go next. We have the chairman here who wants to participate and others, if that is okay. I think it is okay with the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER). We increased his time.

Mr. ISTOOK. Any such unanimous consent is fine with me. I believe it is necessary before we return to Committee that we do this.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I make a unanimous consent request that the order of the amendments be the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), then a gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. We are still on the unanimous consent request of the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK).

The Clerk will continue to report the amendment.

The Clerk continued to report the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to House Resolution 206 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2590.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, my amendment proposes an additional $900 million to the Federal Elections Commission for the purpose of assisting State and local officials in updating their voting systems.

240 days have passed since last year's embarrassment of an election. Congress should have acted by now. Aside from 1 minute speeches and special orders, press conferences, and hearings, this is the first time election reform has even been discussed in a meaningful way on the floor of the House, or in either of our legislative bodies.

The simple fact is the absence of a real debate on election reform is an embarrassment to the last election. Following last year's election, Florida's failing election system became the punch line of nearly every political joke around.

However, Florida took the criticism, bounced back and passed what I consider up to this point to be the most comprehensive election reform package in the country, albeit still deficient. It is not perfect by any means.

Florida's new election law seeks to redress some of the core problems that occurred last year, particularly in the area of updating voting technology. However, as counties throughout Florida begin to update their voting systems, they are finding themselves unprepared to pay for the new systems, and this is true across America.

In my home county, Broward, it will cost more than $20 million to purchase the state-of-the-art voting system. The State is providing Broward County with a mere $5 million, leaving the county with the remaining tab.

Broward County, ground zero during the election debate, may not purchase...