

LIMITATION ON AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2950, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 2950 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 30 minutes.

The amendment by Representative FILNER of California that I have placed at the desk 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. ____ . 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 To Strengthen Social Security.

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 the 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. 2950.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2950) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. DREIER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on the amendment by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), had been postponed and the bill was open for amendment from page 68, line 3, through page 95, line 16.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, 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 30 minutes; the amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that has been placed at the desk, which shall be debatable for 40 minutes.

Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member designated in the 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

Add at the end before the short title the following:

SEC. 6 ____ . The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by increasing the amount provided for "FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION—SALARIES AND EXPENSES" by \$600,000,000 and by decreasing each other amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act which is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law by such equivalent percentage as is necessary to reduce the aggregate amount appropriated for all such amounts by the amount of the increase provided under this section.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I claim the 15 minutes in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3½ minutes to myself.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment provides an additional \$600 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 as much of an embarrassment as was 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 remedy 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 unable to fund their needs, 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 \$2.3 million, leaving the county with the remaining tab.

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