

(d) Trip Reports

(1) Generally. A full report of all issues discussed during any Committee travel shall be submitted to the Chief Clerk of the Committee within a reasonable period of time following the completion of such trip.

(2) Availability of Reports. Such report shall be:

(A) available for the review of any Member or Committee Staff; and

(B) considered executive session material for purposes of these rules.

(e) Limitations on Travel

(1) Generally. The Chairman is not authorized to permit travel on Committee business of Committee Staff who have not satisfied the requirements of subsection (d) of this rule.

(2) Exception. The Chairman may authorize Committee Staff to travel on Committee business, notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (d) and (e) of this rule—

(A) at the specific request of a Member of the Committee; or

(B) in the event there are circumstances beyond the control of the Committee Staff hindering compliance with such requirements.

(f) Definitions

For purposes of this rule the term "reasonable period of time" means:

(1) no later than 60 days after returning from a foreign trip; and

(2) no later than 30 days after returning from a domestic trip.

17. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

(a) Generally

The Committee shall immediately consider whether disciplinary action shall be taken in the case of any member of the Committee Staff alleged to have failed to conform to any Rule of the House of Representatives or to these rules.

(b) Exception

In the event the House of Representatives is:

(1) in a recess period in excess of 3 days; or

(2) has adjourned sine die; the Chairman on the full Committee, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may take such immediate disciplinary actions deemed necessary.

(c) Available Actions

Such disciplinary action may include immediate dismissal from the Committee Staff.

(d) Notice to Members

All Members shall be notified as soon as practicable, either by facsimile transmission or regular mail, of any disciplinary action taken by the Chairman pursuant to subsection (b).

(e) Reconsideration of Chairman's Actions

A majority of the Members of the full Committee may vote to overturn the decision of the Chairman to take disciplinary action pursuant to subsection (b).

18. BROADCASTING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, a majority of the Committee may permit that hearing or meeting to be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, subject to the provisions and in accordance with the spirit of the purposes enumerated in the Rules of the House.

19. COMMITTEE RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

(a) Generally

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration

shall be made available for public use in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) Notice of withholding

The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the full Committee for a determination of the question of public availability on the written request of any Member of the Committee.

20. CHANGES IN RULES

(a) Generally

These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by vote of the full Committee.

(b) Notice of Proposed Changes

A notice, in writing, of the proposed change shall be given to each Member at least 48 hours prior to any meeting at which action on the proposed rule change is to be taken.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the women's caucus to add my strong support to the struggle against domestic violence.

It is important for all Americans to understand we are all impacted by this violence, even if we are not directly victims. Domestic violence undermines the very foundation of our American society, the family. And it undermines our quality of life of all of us because in one way or another our society pays the price, through the increased homelessness, substance abuse, dependence on welfare, juvenile delinquency, and lower productivity in our workplaces that often results from domestic violence.

These negative effects are documented by research which shows that domestic violence dramatically affects a woman's ability to work and support herself and her children. This often forces her to rely on welfare, or even worse, to return to her batterer for financial support.

To help stop this cycle of violence, I will once again introduce the Battered Women's Employment Protection Act, which will help abused women retain their jobs and the financial independence necessary to escape a violent environment.

This act achieves these goals by allowing employed victims of domestic violence, without penalty, access to reasonable time off from work in order to seek legal and medical assistance, make necessary court appearances, and attend to personal security.

Further, to ensure that battered women can remain financially independent, it requires states to provide unemployment benefits to women who are forced to leave their work as a result of domestic violence.

For women attempting to escape abuse, these safeguards are often a matter of life and death. Our society cannot afford to ignore this crisis of violence in so many of our families. Nor can we afford to continue paying the price of its ultimate consequences. I will continue to fight in the 107th Congress to get these provi-

sions enacted into law, and I hope my colleagues and all Americans will join me.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because Sunday marks the 180th anniversary of the revolution that earned the independence of the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire. Nearly 400 years ago, after the fall of Constantinople, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at Agia Lavras, sparking a powerful revolution against the Ottoman oppressors.

Citing the values and priorities that led to the establishment of our own country here in the United States, the Greek commander chief, Petros Mavromichalis, once proclaimed that "in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you . . . it is for you, citizens of America, to crown this glory."

Following the triumphs of 1821, Greece continued to prove itself as a loyal ally of the United States and an internationally recognized advocate of democracy. Greece is one of only three nations in the world beyond those of the former British Empire to be allied with the United States in every major international conflict of the 20th century.

From the trenches of World War I to the barren fields of Desert Storm, Greece remains faithful to the implementation and sustainment of democracy. Most recently in the Balkans, Greece has played a steady hand of democracy in the face of regional unrest and instability.

Mr. Speaker, we depend on Greece more than ever today. As conflict spreads in the neighboring former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece's role as a stable democracy and key NATO ally becomes more important. All eyes now turn to young leaders in the Mediterranean like Greece's Foreign Minister Papandreou to advise us on the path of peace.

A path to peace. Would that we could have one in Cyprus, divided by a cold war barrier that is as ugly as it is outdated.

We look with hope at the new Bush administration and their role in bringing together the leaders from Ankara, Nicosia, Athens to find peace.

Greece is a special jewel of beauty in the Mediterranean from the ecology of Patmos to the vibrant Rembetiko of the Plaka.

I want to wish a hearty congratulations to the Greek people and pay special regards to one of the leading Greek-Americans of northern Illinois, State Senator Adeline Geo-Karis of Zion, who is one of our true leaders. I

am sure she will correct all of my pronunciation in the Greek language.

We wish the Greek people well. To Greece, we say to a free and democratic ally: Cronia polla hellas.

AIDS PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to begin by thanking Minority Leader GEPHARDT for allowing tonight's Special Orders to be held to increase the awareness of the AIDS pandemic which is reeking havoc on Africa, the Caribbean, and many other developing nations throughout the world. Africa, however, is the epicenter of this human tragedy.

I rise tonight to express my strong opposition to the lawsuit filed against the South African government by 39 pharmaceutical companies. In 1997, the South African government passed the Medicines Act which would allow the manufacturing and the importation of generic life-saving AIDS medicines. Through this lawsuit, however, the pharmaceuticals would all but halt those opportunities; and this is just downright wrong.

While this suit has been postponed at the request of the pharmaceutical companies, it is slated to be heard by the South African Justice Department in the near future. Should this lawsuit proceed, there is a dangerous potential for life-saving AIDS medicines to be pushed further out of reach for AIDS patients and communities throughout the world and for those who need them the most.

While some pharmaceutical companies have taken steps to lower the costs of these medications, and I applaud their initiatives, life-saving medications still remain far out of reach for millions of people living with AIDS. Ninety percent of the world's 36 million people with HIV face a death sentence, a death sentence because they cannot afford medication because they are poor and because they live in the developing world.

For example, in countries like Zimbabwe and Swaziland, the average life expectancy was 65 to 70 years of age. As a direct impact of AIDS, those rates have decreased to 30 to 35 years of

age. This is staggering. In Zimbabwe, it is estimated that one-quarter of all Zimbabweans are infected with HIV. In Botswana, there is a 50 percent chance that teenage girls and boys will contract HIV if a sustained strategy to prevent new HIV infections is not instituted.

In wealthy countries, including the United States, people living with AIDS is treatable. In all of Africa, where more than 70 percent of HIV cases are concentrated and where more than 70 percent of AIDS deaths have already occurred, HIV-infected people face painful, painful death, with no hope of treatment because the essential AIDS medications are just too expensive. They want the drugs but cannot afford the prices set by drug companies.

We must not tolerate the current policy which dictates that life with a manageable illness is possible if one is wealthy or if one has money; however, death from AIDS is certain if one is poor.

The African AIDS crisis has spurred a tremendous public outcry for relief, and AIDS patients are demanding the right to live and demanding the basic human right to affordable treatment.

The South Africa Medicines Act provides the crucial legal clearance required for South Africa to obtain affordable life-extending generic HIV drugs. But the drug companies claim that the South African Medicines Act is criminal and unfairly robs them of their rights to unfettered patent monopoly. But I say that this lawsuit is criminal.

Everyone from international patent experts to the World Health Organization agrees that the South African Medicine Act is perfectly legally sound. While drug companies paralyze the Medicines Act in court, South Africans face preventable deaths.

According to UNAIDS, every day, 6,000, 6,000 more South Africans die from AIDS. The continent of Africa accounts for only 1.3 percent of the global pharmaceutical market in part because the average person lives on less than \$300 per year. That is \$300 per year, while the average AIDS treatment may cost as much as \$15,000 per year.

The multinational pharmaceutical industry is not concerned with African profits. But the drug industry fears the growing awareness on the part of American taxpayers that pills cost pennies to manufacture. The drug industry also fears that the growing awareness that a large percentage of research and development costs are born by United States taxpayers, and the taxpayer-funded inventions are often licensed for a pittance to the world's most profitable industry.

The drug industry fears that this growing awareness will reduce the willingness of United States consumers and public programs to continue to pay the extraordinarily high prices in our own country.

While I call on the United States Congress to stand with the South African government and with people living with AIDS fighting this lawsuit, we must also redouble our efforts in ending this devastating crisis in South Africa, in the Caribbean, everywhere where drug company profiteering keeps essential drugs out of reach of the poor.

We must oppose the lawsuit in South Africa, instead offer concrete support to countries committed to curtailing the AIDS crisis through access to affordable treatment.

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We need life-saving action, not litigation, not lawsuits.

HIV-infected persons have a basic right to vital medicines for prevention and treatment of AIDS and must have access to drugs for treatment of opportunistic infections. These are infections related to HIV and AIDS such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, shingles and to anti-retroviral agents.

In this debate, it is extremely important to recognize that access to HIV and AIDS medications is only one part of the solution to our devastating human tragedy in Africa and throughout the world. The United Nations' program on HIV and AIDS estimates that it will cost \$3 billion to address HIV prevention in sub-Saharan Africa alone. That is \$3 billion in 1 year only.

We need a comprehensive effort to address HIV and AIDS throughout the developing world. While we provide some support for HIV-AIDS education and prevention initiatives, we must increase development and infrastructure building, particularly as it relates to health care delivery systems and long-term health management strategies.

A severe lack of basic health and economic infrastructure does impede our ability to combat the HIV and AIDS crisis in Africa, the Caribbean and throughout the world. Building the bridge between public and private sectors and bringing foreign investors to the table is also central to our strategy in eradicating this disease. These are the crucial elements that are called for in the AIDS Marshall Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my predecessor, Congressman Ron Dellums, for his clarity on this issue and his vision in determining a comprehensive response, and for beating the drug in every village, in every community and on every continent.

This bridge must be built swiftly, otherwise our efforts will be for naught. The AIDS Marshall Plan and the World Bank AIDS trust fund provide a road map that leads to that bridge.

Finally, heavily affected HIV and AIDS countries must receive complete multilateral and bilateral debt cancellation this year so they can respond to this crisis effectively. AIDS is decimating the continent of Africa and