

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, I hereby resign from the House Committee on Science to accept one of the three vacant seats on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. My service on the Science Committee has been worthwhile and rewarding, but as you know, members cannot serve on four committees, so I must step down to change my committee assignment. My highest local legislative priority is to help expand the Katy Freeway in west Houston, and I need to serve on the Transportation Committee to expedite the expansion of this vital freeway.

Thank you for supporting my request to change committees, but above all, thank you for your principled conservative leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

JOHN CULBERSON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1345

PRESIDENT BUSH AND INCRED-
IBLE WHITE HOUSE FORM LET-
TER COMPUTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable automated and superbly efficient computer system in the Capital of this Nation. Madam Speaker, this computer network is extraordinary. It tracks and it responds to the correspondence of more than 500 people. I would note that it is so powerful it is able to keep track of not only the incoming mail from these people on a wide variety of issues but it is also able to respond to each and every one of the people and each and every one of the letters with an identical form letter, which, if you will note, is changed only with regard to the subject matter.

I am not describing a top-secret computer lab at CIA, nor am I describing NASA's computer network at Cape Canaveral. No, Madam Speaker, this computer is located at 1600 Pennsylvania

Avenue. This afternoon I rise to discuss this computer and the remarkable White House form letter that it generates.

I share with my colleagues the opportunity to have interacted with this amazing machine on more than a dozen occasions. Each time I have written to President Bush, I have received an identical response. Whether the topic is the energy crisis or election reform, I get the same letter back. More than a dozen letters to date, each faithfully signed by the President's aide, Nicholas Calio, unless Mr. Calio has used an autopen.

I wrote the President about HMO reform, I received the following: "Thank you for your recent letter regarding a bipartisan Patient Protection Act. I have shared your letter with the President's advisers and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention. Thanks again, Nicholas Calio."

I wrote the President on education, veterans, environment, trade and foreign affairs. I again received the same letter. I say to President Bush, "Thank you." And to you, Nicholas Calio, "Thank you. Your computer serves you well. It has moved the science of computers forward to newer and higher levels."

I would note that with such close attention to detail, it is hard to fathom how the United States ever lost our seat on the United Nations Human Rights Commission. How on earth could our allies be unsatisfied with diplomatic dispatches such as, "I have shared your letter with the President's advisers. Your comments are receiving close and careful attention."

Indeed, the existence of such a superior computer system response makes the departure of Senator JEFFORDS from the Republican Party all the more puzzling. How is it possible that that distinguished Senator from Vermont could become so disenchanted with the White House when it uses such an advanced computer system to communicate with Members of the House and the Senate? How could Mr. JEFFORDS or any other Member of the Congress become disenchanted with such careful and precise personal attention from President Bush? Were the words, "Your comments are receiving the close and careful attention of the appropriate agencies" simply not enough?

I would like to point out one of the examples of this splendid computer's responses to Members of Congress. I would note, however, that my policy since I was elected to the Congress a number of years ago has been to personally respond to each letter I receive from over half a million citizens of the 16th District of Michigan and to give as substantive a response as is possible to

do. Clearly, that idea is out of date at the Bush White House.

Well, thank you, President Bush. You have shown us a new way. Thank you for changing the tone in office and your tone in Washington. Thank you for identical form letters from your amazing computer. At least when I write the White House I know I will get a response. It may be unresponsive, but I will get it nonetheless.

Seventy days ago, on March 28, I wrote Administrator Whitman of the Environmental Protection Agency seeking information about her decision to weaken the new protective standard for arsenic in drinking water. This is a health issue affecting millions of Americans. I would note I received no answer. A month ago I sent a similar letter seeking additional information from Ms. Whitman about her arsenic decision. Again, no answer. No information, no acknowledgment has been received.

Now, it would appear that the White House could inform Administrator Whitman that stonewalling Congress is bad policy and that she should be responding if only with a form letter. In any event, it appears the Bush administration has this wonderful policy which needs to be chronicled here. It is either a form letter or no response at all.

Madam Speaker, I will place in the RECORD these wonderful examples of computer science in the hope that my colleagues will be able to share perhaps their thoughts on similar events.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, March 14, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your letter regarding the Montgomery GI Bill program.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thank you for your interest in writing.

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, May 29, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your letter regarding funding in the FY 2002 budget for the pediatric graduate medical education (GME) program.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.