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RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) laid before the House the following resignation from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: Effective immediately I am resigning my position on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Committee, and I will continue to support the Committee to achieve its legislative goals. However, because of my recent appointment to the House Financial Services Committee and the House Homeland Security Committee as well as my continued service on the House Resources Committee, it is necessary for me to resign from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for appointing me to the House Financial Services and Homeland Security Committees. I look forward to these new Committee assignments and working to advance the Majority agenda. Your help was critical and I greatly appreciate your effort on my behalf.

Thank you for your support and for accepting my resignation from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

STEVAN PEARCE,
Member of Congress.

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

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the Committee on Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Office of the Speaker,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I respectfully resign from the Committee on Government Reform, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

KATHERINE HARRIS,
Member of Congress.

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

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 73) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 73

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives (with previously elected members restated for the purpose of ranking):

Committee on Homeland Security: Mr. Young of Alaska; Mr. Smith of Texas; Mr. Weldon of Pennsylvania; Mr. Shays; Mr. King of New York; Mr. Linder; Mr. Souder; Mr. Tom Davis of Virginia; Mr. Lungren; Mr. Gibbons; Mr. Simmons; Mr. Rogers of Alabama; Mr. Pearce; Ms. Harris; Mr. Jindal; Mr. Reichert; Mr. McCaul; and Mr. Dent.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas or nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken later today.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS AUTHORITY SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 6) expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 6

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and received a Federal charter on June 15, 1916, which is currently codified as chapter 309 of title 36, United States Code;

Whereas section 30902 of title 36, United States Code, states that it is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in scoutercraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues;

Whereas, since its inception, millions of Americans of every race, creed, and religion have participated in the Boy Scouts, and the Boy Scouts of America, as of October 1, 2004, utilizes more than 1,200,000 adult volunteers to serve 2,863,000 youth members organized in 121,051 units;

Whereas the Department of Defense and members of the Armed Forces have a long history of supporting the activities of the

Boy Scouts of America and individual Boy Scout troops inside the United States, and section 2606 of title 10, United States Code, enacted in 1988, specifically authorizes the Department of Defense to cooperate with and assist the Boy Scouts of America in establishing and providing facilities and services for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and civilian employees of the Department of Defense and their dependents, at locations outside the United States;

Whereas sections 4682, 7541, and 9682 of title 10, United States Code, authorize the Department of Defense to sell and, in certain cases, donate obsolete or excess material to the Boy Scouts of America to support its activities; and

Whereas since Public Law 92-249, enacted on March 10, 1972, and codified as section 2554 of title 10, United States Code, the Department of Defense has been specifically authorized to make military installations available to, and to provide equipment, transportation, and other services to, the Boy Scouts of America to support national and world gatherings of Boy Scouts at events known as Boy Scout Jamborees: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its long-standing statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, once again we find the Boy Scouts of America under attack from the American Civil Liberties Union. This time the ACLU has set its sights on the Department of Defense, challenging its longstanding support of the Boy Scouts.

In 1999 the ACLU of Illinois sued the DOD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Chicago Board of Education for sponsoring Boy Scout programs because participation in Boy Scouts includes an oath to God. Ultimately, the Chicago Board of Education suspended its sponsorship of scouting activities, and on Tuesday, November 16, 2004, the Department of Defense agreed to issue a worldwide directive to all its military facilities that the Department and its personnel may not sponsor Boy Scout units in an official manner.