

subcommittee, they shall not be counted in determining a subcommittee quorum other than a quorum for taking testimony.

RULE 10. STAFF

Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the chairman of the full committee shall have the authority to hire and discharge employees of the professional and clerical staff of the full committee and of subcommittees.

RULE 11. STAFF DIRECTION

Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the staff of the committee shall be subject to the direction of the chairman of the full committee and shall perform such duties as he may assign.

RULE 12. HEARING DATES AND WITNESSES

(a) Each subcommittee of the Committee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the full Committee on any measure or matter referred to it.

(b) No subcommittee of the Committee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the Committee.

(c) The chairman of each subcommittee shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the Chairman with a view toward assuring the availability of meeting rooms and avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings.

(d) Each subcommittee chairman shall notify the Chairman of any hearing plans at least two weeks before the date of commencement of hearings, including the date, place, subject matter, and the names of witnesses, willing and unwilling, who would be called to testify, including, to the extent he is advised thereof, witnesses whom the minority members may request.

(e) Witnesses appearing before the committee shall so far as practicable, submit written statements at least 24 hours before their appearance and, when appearing in a non governmental capacity, provide a curriculum vitae and a listing of any Federal Government grants and contracts received in the previous fiscal year.

RULE 13. OPEN MEETINGS

Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the committee shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with Rule XI of the House of Representatives.

RULE 14. FIVE-MINUTE RULE

(a) A committee member may question a witness only when recognized by the chairman for that purpose. In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(j)(2), each committee member may request up to five minutes to question a witness until each member who so desires has had such opportunity. Until all such requests have been satisfied, the chairman shall, so far as practicable, recognize alternately based on seniority of those majority and minority members present at the time the hearing was called to order and others based on their arrival at the hearing. After that, additional time may be extended at the direction of the chairman.

(b) The chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the committee by motion, may permit an equal number of majority and minority members to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(c) The chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the committee by motion, may permit committee staff of the majority and minority to question a witness for a specified, total period

that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(d) Nothing in paragraph (b) or (c) affects the rights of a Member (other than a Member designated under paragraph (b)) to question a witness for 5 minutes in accordance with paragraph (a) after the questioning permitted under paragraph (b) or (c). In any extended questioning permitted under paragraph (b) or (c), the chairman shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by majority members or majority committee staff and the ranking minority member shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by minority members or minority committee staff. The chairman or the ranking minority member, as applicable, may allocate the time for any extended questioning permitted to staff under paragraph (c) to members.

RULE 15. INVESTIGATIVE HEARING PROCEDURES

Investigative hearings shall be conducted according to the procedures in House Rule XI, clause 2(k). All questions put to witnesses before the committee shall be relevant to the subject matter before the committee for consideration, and the chairman shall rule on the relevance of any questions put to the witnesses.

RULE 16. STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

A stenographic record of all testimony shall be kept of public hearings and shall be made available on such conditions as the chairman may prescribe.

RULE 17. AUDIO AND VISUAL COVERAGE OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) An open meeting or hearing of the committee or a subcommittee may be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, Internet broadcast, and still photography, unless closed subject to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 2(g). Any such coverage shall conform with the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 4.

(b) Use of the Committee Broadcast System shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4(b), and all other applicable rules of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Government Reform. Members of the committee shall have prompt access to a copy of coverage by the Committee Broadcast System, to the extent that such coverage is maintained.

(c) Personnel providing coverage of an open meeting or hearing of the committee or a subcommittee by Internet broadcast, other than through the Committee Broadcast System, shall be currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

RULE 18. ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the full committee shall:

(a) Make available to other committees the findings and recommendations resulting from the investigations of the committee or its subcommittees as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(2);

(b) Direct such review and studies on the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within the committee's jurisdiction as required by House Rule X, clause 2(c);

(c) Submit to the Committee on the Budget views and estimates required by House Rule X, clause 4(f), and to file reports with the House as required by the Congressional Budget Act;

(d) Authorize and issue subpoenas as provided in House Rule XI, clause 2(m), in the

conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities within the jurisdiction of the committee;

(e) Prepare, after consultation with subcommittee chairmen and the minority, a budget for the committee, which shall include an adequate budget for the subcommittees to discharge their responsibilities;

(f) Make any necessary technical and conforming changes to legislation reported by the committee upon unanimous consent; and

(g) Designate a vice chairman from the majority party.

(h) The Chairman is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

RULE 19. SUBJECTS OF STAMPS

The committee has adopted the policy that the determination of the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues is properly for consideration by the Postmaster General and that the committee will not give consideration to legislative proposals specifying the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues. It is suggested that recommendations for the subject matter of stamps be submitted to the Postmaster General.

RULE 20. PANELS AND TASK FORCES

(a) The chairman of the committee is authorized to appoint panels or task forces to carry out the duties and functions of the committee.

(b) The chairman and ranking minority member of the committee may serve as ex-officio members of each panel or task force.

(c) The chairman of any panel or task force shall be appointed by the chairman of the committee. The ranking minority member shall select a ranking minority member for each panel or task force.

(d) The House and committee rules applicable to subcommittee meetings, hearings, recommendations and reports shall apply to the meetings, hearings, recommendations and reports of panels and task forces.

(e) No panel or task force so appointed shall continue in existence for more than six months. A panel or task force so appointed may, upon the expiration of six months, be reappointed by the chairman.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE HONORABLE SHIRLEY CHISOLM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, I am honored to share my thoughts with you about this amazing lady.

Upon her passing, let's pause to reflect upon her life and times, and how she has influenced our world today. During her hard fought rise to the halls of Congress and her permanent place in the history of our Nation; she was on time to fight for truth, justice, humanity, and the rights of the have-nots; she was where she needed to be to raise the consciousness of a nation, and shed light on the plight of others.

She led a battle that was personal, one that was rooted deep in the soul of the oppressed, the forgotten and the disenfranchised. Hers was a fight to make this Nation live up to its promise—liberty and equality for all. This great

battle was more than just politics—it was a fight to garner the hopes of the few and infuse them with the dreams of the many. This was the struggle for the humanity of human kind; the reminder that the prize was always in view, yet denied by those who sought to keep their dreams squandered.

As a founding Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Shirley Chisholm was a driving force behind the Caucus' mission to serve as the 'Conscience of the Congress,' and the fight to include women, children, and people of color in the public policy debate that so deeply affects their own lives. It is from her example and spirit that we continue to fight for the ideals that she held so close.

Shirley Chisholm joins the ranks of countless other civil rights leaders to whom we owe our strength. Today, we bless and honor her by keeping her struggle, and our struggle, alive. I will miss her dearly, and both she and her family will always remain in my thoughts and prayers.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again it is an honor to be before the House of Representatives to speak directly to our colleagues. I think it is important for us to remember that in this democracy of ours it is important that we share good information and accurate information on the issues that are being debated here in this Chamber and in the capital city, and I think it is also important for us to remember that many Americans counts on us to represent them in a way that is an honorable way, a way that will give them good information so when they stand in time of judgment on who their leadership will be here in Washington, D.C., that they can make a sound decision.

There have been a lot of things that have been going on in the last couple of weeks. We have heard reference by other Members on both sides of the aisle to the President's budget and also to the President's State of the Union, but we also have a great deal of responsibility to the American people to make sure that we represent this branch of the government, which is the legislative branch.

This is our 30-something Hour that has been designated by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), Democratic leader. This is now going on our third year of putting voice to many of the issues that are not only facing young people in America but also facing their parents and their grandparents. We try to make the direct connection between those that are trying to help themselves, that go to work every day, go to school every day, to those parents that know what it means to punch in and punch out every

day to supply the necessary resources for their family to have a better opportunity than what they have had; all the way to the grandparents that, of course, their hope and prayer is to make sure that their grandchildren and their children are able to provide for future generations.

And so this brings us to Social Security, and in the 30-something Hour I am so glad to be here once again with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), whom I admire quite a bit, who serves with me on the Committee on Armed Services.

I just want to briefly say, as it relates to Social Security, when people think of Social Security they think of silver and blue hair. That is not necessarily what Social Security is all about. There are millions of Americans, I must add, that count on that Social Security promise that they were made in their years of working and providing for this great country of ours. And I must say that there are 48 million people that are receiving benefits, and they are not all over the age of 60, and they are not over the age of 55. They go all the way down into the younger years, and 17 percent of our young people are benefactors of survivor benefits of Social Security.

Also, when we look at it, there are 33 million retirees that are receiving Social Security, and we also have seniors that are looking at an average of \$955 from their Social Security benefits every month.

So when we talk about Social Security, we are talking about the real backbone, the real backbone of what we do and what we are all about here in the U.S. Congress in providing the leadership to make sure that it is solvent. We do know that it will be solvent for another 47 years, and we even know that after that period, 80 percent of the benefits that are being paid out now will still be able to be paid out. So the fact that there is a three-alarm fire on Social Security, that is not necessarily the case.

But to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), it is just such a pleasure. I was really looking forward to this. Last week when we left, I just could not wait until Tuesday night when we could get back in this Chamber again and share very good information with our colleagues and hopefully continue to stay in the fight to make sure that Social Security is here not only now but also for future generations.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding to me, and I would like to say how much I enjoy this as well.

And those of us who ran for these positions and had to ask 700,000 American citizens to give us their blessing to

come here and represent them, there is nothing better than having a vigorous, honest debate about an issue that faces the whole country and do it in a way that is not personal. I am sure the President in many ways thinks that his plan is the best plan, and we in many ways think it is not and in the long term it will end up hurting many of these 48 million people, the 48 million people that this program lifts out of poverty.

I would like to take this opportunity tonight here in Congress to talk a little bit about the situation that the country is in right now. I do not think we can have this Social Security debate in a vacuum, just saying here is the little program and it has no effect on anything else that is going on around it. So we have some charts here that many of our colleagues have been using, and I think they are going to be very important to impress upon the American people exactly where we are fiscally in the United States of America. So I have this chart here that talks about the deficit that we are in, and then we will get into the plan later, and we will discuss the different approaches.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, what plan?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. The blueprint.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I mean, we need to make sure the American people understand there is no plan. There is no plan. We said last week that I have not received a bound copy from the President's office or from the majority about a plan on Social Security. There is no plan. So we need to make sure that people understand. I mean, people can talk concepts and philosophy all day; but it is important that once we start talking about a plan, then we can have a true debate, especially if it is a plan from both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans.

And the last time we dealt with this, Mr. Speaker, before our time here in the Congress, Democrats were in control and worked with Ronald Reagan, God bless his soul, in coming up and saving Social Security. And it was a true crisis then. They had to act right then. They did not have an opportunity to play around and dance around a tree and do the old Potomac two-step with the American people. They made it happen and they made it solvent, and that is the reason why beneficiaries, young and old, are able to celebrate that here today. But right now I just want to make sure that people understand, because I had an opportunity to check the different reports that are around. We get the Congressional Daily a.m. and the p.m. and the Congressional Quarterly, and there are a lot of publications that are around.

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I can tell you that with administration, this is not about the President;