Provide Copies to the Public and Increases in Certain Penalties (Notice 96–48) received September 12, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5110. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Railroad Retirement Act to conform the statute of limitations with respect to the creditability of compensation under that act to the statute of limitations with respect to the payment of taxes under the Railroad Retirement Tax Act and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5111. A letter from the Chair of the Board, Office of Compliance, transmitting notice of issuance of final regulations for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, pursuant to Public Law 104–1, section 304(d)(1) (109 Stat. 30); jointly, to the Committees on House Oversight and Economic and Educational Opportunities.

¶106.3 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WISE during one minute speeches addressed the House and, during the course of his remarks,

Mr. LINDER made a point of order, and said:

''Mr. Speaker, is it not correct that the rules of the House under regular order prevent people from speaking on the floor of the House with respect to matters before the Ethics Committee?''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, sustained the point of order, and said:

''The gentleman is correct.

''The gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] may proceed in order.''.

¶106.4 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WISE further addressed the House and, during the course of his remarks,

Mr. WALKER made a point of order, and said:

''Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from West Virginia continues to proceed out of order of the House and should be called to order by the Chair.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, sustained the point of order, and said:

''The Chair at this time will repeat the admonition from the Chair of June 26, 1996.

''It is an essential rule of decorum in debate that Members should refrain from references in debate to the conduct of other Members where such conduct is not the question actually pending before the House by way of a report from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct or by way of another question of the privileges of the House. This principle is documented on pages 168 and 526 of the House Rules and Manual and reflects the consistent rulings of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses and applies to 1-minute and special order speeches.

''Neither the filing of a complaint before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, nor the publication in another forum, of charges that are personally critical of another Member, justify the references to such charges on the floor of the House. This includes references to the motivations of Members who file complaints and to members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

''Clause 1 of rule XIV is a prohibition against engaging in personality in debate. It derives from article I, section 5 of the Constitution, which authorizes each House to make its own rules and to punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and has been part of the rules of the House in some relevant form since 1789. This rule supersedes any claim of a Member to be free from questioning in any other place.

''On January 27, 1909, the House adopted a report that stated the following: 'It is the duty of the House to require its members in speech or debate to preserve that proper restraint which will permit the House to conduct its business in an orderly manner and without unnecessarily and unduly exciting animosity among its Members.' (Cannon's Precedents, volume 8, at section 2497). This report was in response to improper references in debate to the President, but clearly reiterated a principle that all occupants of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses have held to be equally applicable to Members' remarks in debate toward each other.

'''The Chair asks and expects the cooperation of all Members in maintaining a level of decorum that properly dignifies the proceedings of the House.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, recognized Mr. WISE to proceed in order.

¶106.5 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia during one minute speeches addressed the House and, during the course of his remarks,

Mr. WALKER made a point of order, and said:

''Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia is engaging in debate which is outside the rules of the House and should be admonished by the Chair.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, sustained the point of order, and said:

''The gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] is correct. Consistent with prior rulings, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] is advised to proceed in order.''.

¶106.6 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia further addressed the House and, during the course of his remarks,

Mr. WALKER made a point of order, and said:

''Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia continues to proceed out of order, and the Chair should require that the gentleman observe the regular order of the House.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, sustained the point of order, and said:

''That is correct. The gentleman continues to refer to a pending investigation before the Standards Committee. * * *

''The gentleman from Georgia is again advised to please proceed in regular order or be seated.''.

¶106.7 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia further addressed the House and, during the course of his remarks,

Mr. WALKER made a point of order, and said:

''Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia continues to proceed out of order in the House. The gentleman is not following the Chair's admonishment that Members have an obligation to the House and to the institution to proceed in order.

''The point of order is that the gentleman is out of order.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, sustained the point of order, and said:

''The point of order is again sustained, and the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] is again advised to please proceed in regular order or be seated.''.

¶106.8 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia further addressed the House and, during the course of his remarks,

Mr. LINDER made a point of order, and said:

''Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth time that the gentleman has referred to matters on the floor that were in the Ethics Committee and ignored the admonition of the Chair. Maybe it is perhaps time for him to be seated.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, sustained the point of order, and said:

''The gentleman's point of order for the fourth time is sustained and correct and the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] is again invited to proceed in regular order.''.

¶106.9 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. STUPAK during one minute speeches addressed the House and, during the course of his remarks,

Mr. LINDER made a point of order, and said:

''Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is referring to matters again before the Standards Committee and the Speaker has ruled again and again that that is out of order. The gentleman should either continue in order or sit down.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, sustained the point of order, and said:

''The point of order is well taken. To the extent that the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. STUPAK] refers to a pending matter before the Standards Committee, he is asked to refrain from those observations and proceed in order.''.

¶106.10 POINT OF ORDER

Ms. DELAURO during one minute speeches addressed the House and, during the course of her remarks,

Mr. LINDER made a point of order, and said:

''Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Connecticut is referring directly to