

"Now, what my point of order is, is the Chair now saying we cannot discuss the aspect of this resolution that is pending before the House?"

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, responded to the point of order, and said:

"The question is not necessarily merely one of relevance. The question is one of personalities and decorum in debate. Members must avoid personalities within the meaning of rule XIV and the precedents thereunder."

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, directed the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] to proceed in order.

¶117.28 POINT OF ORDER

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

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

"The gentleman is referring to matters appropriately before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and he is explicitly out of order."

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

"The Chair sustains the point of order, and personal references to the Speaker are out of order.

"The gentleman [Mr. BONIOR] may proceed in order."

¶117.29 POINT OF ORDER

Ms. DELAURO, during debate addressed the House and, during the course of her remarks,

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

"Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and she is specifically ignoring the rules of the House."

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

"The Chair sustains the point of order. The gentlewoman [Ms. DELAURO] must proceed in order."

¶117.30 POINT OF ORDER

Ms. DELAURO further addressed the House and, during the course of her remarks,

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

"Mr. Speaker, further point of order. The gentlewoman is now referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct with respect to the outside counsel and she is explicitly ignoring the rules of the House."

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

"The Chair again sustains the point of order and requests the gentlewoman [Ms. DELAURO] in the well to proceed in order."

¶117.31 POINT OF ORDER

Ms. DELAURO further addressed the House and, during the course of her remarks,

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

"Mr. Speaker, this is not an adjournment resolution. The gentlewoman is out of order."

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

"For reasons previously stated, the Chair sustains the gentleman's point of order."

¶117.32 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BONIOR, during debate addressed the House and, during the course of his remarks,

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

"The gentleman is referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. He is ignoring the House rules one more time. At what point, Mr. Speaker, do we go back to regular order, to obeying the House rules so we can conduct our business?"

Mr. BONIOR was recognized to speak to the point of order, and said:

"Mr. Speaker, I did not interrupt the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] when he made point of order reference to the work that he was doing in the subcommittee, because I thought it was important for this body to hear.

"I merely cite point of order citation of the report that they made Thursday to make this point: And that is that the people of the sixth district of Georgia have a right to know what this body and what the outside counsel will determine on a candidate who is running for office in that district. And it is wrong for this body and this institution to adjourn and to give the authority to adjourn to the person whose case is before this body."

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

"The Chair sustains the gentleman's [Mr. LINDER] point of order against the gentleman from Michigan's [Mr. BONIOR] remarks. The time of the gentleman has expired."

¶117.33 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, during debate 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 before the Committee on standards of Official Conduct, which is explicitly forbidden by House rules."

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

"The Chair will sustain the gentleman's [Mr. LINDER] point of order. The gentleman [Mr. LEWIS of Georgia] in the well will proceed in order."

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia was recognized to speak to the point of order, and said:

"Mr. Speaker, this is unbelievable. This is unreal. This is out of the ordinary. Why can't a Member, all of the Members, not read from a report of a standing committee of this body?"

"I would like to continue, because I believe we have a mandate, a mission, and a moral obligation."

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, responded, and said:

"The Chair has sustained the point of order, and the gentleman [Mr. LEWIS of Georgia] may proceed in order on his own time."

¶117.34 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:

"The gentleman is continuing to refer to matters in spite of recent admonitions by the Chair that he is not complying with the House rules. He continues to abuse the House rules referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct."

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

"The Chair sustains the point of order."

¶117.35 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, the gentleman is referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct one more time. This is the third or fourth admonition by the Chair. Apparently, he does not understand the rules. Would you please explain them one more time?"

Ms. JACKSON-LEE was recognized to speak to the point of order, and said:

"Mr. Speaker, what I am having difficulty in understanding from the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER], the document that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] in the well is speaking about is a public document, and I am trying to understand, Mr. Speaker, why there would be any ruling that would disagree with any Member being allowed to be in the well of the House speaking to a public document and requesting a procedural amendment while we are in the midst of discussing an adjournment resolution.

"I believe that the gentleman [Mr. LEWIS] is appropriate in his remarks."

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

"The Chair is prepared to rule. The Chair will repeat the prior ruling. Matters pending before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct regarding the official conduct of sitting Members may not be debated on the floor where there is not pending a question of the privileges of the House.

"This has been the consistent ruling of the Chair in this and prior Congresses. The fact that the committee may have issued an interim status report does not justify such references in

debate. This also includes references to proposed House action on scheduling of matters relating to the conduct of Members.

"The gentleman [Mr. LEWIS of Georgia] may proceed in order."

Mr. HEFNER appealed the ruling of the Chair.

The question being put, *viva voce*, Will the decision of the Chair stand as the judgement of the House?

Mr. WALKER moved to lay the appeal on the table.

The question being put, *viva voce*, Will the House lay on the table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, announced that the yeas had it.

So the motion to lay the appeal on the table was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said motion was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, directed the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] to proceed in order.

¶117.36 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, I reassert my same point of order. The gentleman [Mr. LEWIS of Georgia] is referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct."

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut was recognized to speak to the second point of order, and said:

"I would like to remind the Members of this House on both sides of the aisle that rules adopted under the Democrats when they were in the majority, supported by Democrats and Republicans alike, govern the work of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and require that its work be made public.

"And if the House will have the courage and the civility to let us complete our work, we will complete our work, the matter will be made public, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct will hold every Member of this House to those standards."

Mrs. SCHROEDER was recognized to speak to the point of order, and said:

"Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS of Georgia] is making a point that this Speaker has violated those bipartisan rules, or has been accused of that, and that we have been waiting for 2 years, 2 years for this committee to act."

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

"The Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order.

"The point of order of the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS of Georgia] is sustained. The gentleman [Mr. LEWIS] in the well from Georgia must proceed in order."

¶117.37 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:

"The gentleman [Mr. LEWIS of Georgia] in the well is making characterizations of allegations that are nowhere in any reports that anyone knows of. He is characterizing the Speaker and he is out of order."

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

"The gentleman in the well from Georgia must proceed in order."

After further debate,

Ms. PRYCE moved the previous question on the resolution to its adoption or rejection.

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House now order the previous question?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, announced that the yeas had it.

Mr. MOAKLEY objected to the vote on the ground that a quorum was not present and not voting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, announced that further proceedings on the question to order the previous question on said resolution were postponed.

The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.

¶117.38 PRESIDIO ADMINISTRATION

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4236) to provide for the administration of certain Presidio properties at minimal cost to the Federal taxpayer, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, recognized Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. MILLER of California, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶117.39 METRIC CONVERSION

Mr. WALKER, by unanimous consent, requested that the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4233) to provide for appropriate implementation of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 in Federal construction projects, and for other purposes, be vacated.

Accordingly,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BURTON, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶117.40 SOFT-METRIC CONVERSION

Mr. WALKER moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2779) to provide for soft-metric conversion, and for other purposes:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Savings in Construction Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Metric Conversion Act of 1975 was enacted in order to set forth the policy of the United States to convert to the metric system. Section 3 of that Act requires that each Federal agency use the metric system of measurements in its procurement, grants, and other business-related activities, unless that use is likely to cause significant cost or loss of markets to United States firms, such as when foreign competitors are producing competing products in non-metric units.

(2) In accordance with that Act and Executive Order 12770, of July 25, 1991, Federal agencies increasingly construct new Federal buildings in round metric dimensions. As a result, companies that wish to bid on Federal construction projects increasingly are asked to supply materials or products in round metric dimensions.

(3) While the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 currently provides an exemption to metric usage when impractical or when such usage will cause economic inefficiencies, amendments are warranted to ensure that the use of specific metric components in metric construction projects do not increase the cost of Federal buildings to the taxpayers.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 4 of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (15 U.S.C. 205c) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by striking "Commerce;" in paragraph (4) and inserting "Commerce;"; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) 'full and open competition' has the same meaning as defined in section 403(6) of title 41, United States Code;

"(6) 'total installed price' means the price of purchasing a product or material, trimming or otherwise altering some or all of that product or material, if necessary to fit with other building components, and then installing that product or material into a Federal facility;

"(7) 'hard-metric' means measurement, design, and manufacture using the metric system of measurement, but does not include measurement, design, and manufacture using English system measurement units which are subsequently reexpressed in the metric system of measurement;