

¶126.17 NOTICE—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, announced his intention to call up the following resolution, as a question of the privileges of the House:

Whereas, Loretta Sanchez was issued a certificate of election as the duly elected Member of Congress from the 46th District of California by the Secretary of the State of California and was seated by the U.S. House of Representatives on January 7, 1997; and

Whereas A Notice of Contest of Election was filed with the Clerk of the House by Mr. Robert Dornan on December 26, 1996; and

Whereas the allegations made by Mr. Robert Dornan have been largely found to be without merit, including his charges of improper voting from a business, rather than a resident address; underage voting; double voting; and charges of unusually large number of individuals voting from the same address. It was found that those accused of voting from the same address included a Marines barracks and the domicile of nuns, that business addresses were legal residences for the individuals, including the zoo keeper of the Santa Ana zoo, that duplicate voting was by different individuals and those accused of underage voting were of age; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has issued unprecedented subpoenas to the Immigration and Naturalization Service to compare their records with Orange County voter registration records, the first time in any election in the history of the United States that the INS has been asked by the Congress to verify the citizenship of voters; and

Whereas the privacy rights of United States citizens have been violated by the Committee's improper use of those INS records;

Whereas the INS itself has questioned the validity and accuracy of the Committee's use of INS documents; and has continued to question the validity and accuracy of the Committee's use of INS documents; and

Whereas the INS has complied with the Committee's request and, at the Committee's request, has been doing a manual check of its paper files and providing worksheets containing supplemental information on that manual check to the Committee on House Oversight for over five months; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight, subpoenaed the records seized by the District Attorney of Orange County on February 13, 1997 and has received and reviewed all records pertaining to registration efforts of that group; and

Whereas some Members of the House Oversight Committee are now seeking a duplicate and dilatory review of materials already in the Committee's possession by the Secretary of State of California; and which review can not produce a different result than that which the Committee could produce, upon using the same documents; and

Whereas the Task Force on the Contested Election in the 46th District of California and the Committee have been reviewing these materials and have all the information they need regarding who voted in the 46th District and all the information they need to make a judgment concerning those votes; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has after nine months of review and investigation failed to present credible evidence to change the outcome of the election of Congresswoman Sanchez and is now, in place of producing such credible evidence, pursuing never ending and unsubstantiated areas of review; and

Whereas, Contestant Robert Dornan has after nearly one year not shown or provided

credible evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the outcome of the election is other than Congresswoman Sanchez's election to the Congress; and

Whereas, it is the contestant's proof of burden to do so;

Whereas, the Committee on House Oversight should complete its review of this matter and bring this contest to an end: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That unless the Committee on House Oversight has sooner reported a recommendation for its final disposition, the contest in the 46th District of California is dismissed upon the expiration of November 7, 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. PEASE, responded to the foregoing notice, and said:

"Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within two legislative days of its being properly noticed.

"Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from New Jersey will appear in the Record at this point.

"The Chair is not at this time making a determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated by the Chair for consideration of the resolution."

¶126.18 NOTICE—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MARTINEZ, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, announced his intention to call up the following resolution, as a question of the privileges of the House:

1(b). Whereas, Loretta Sanchez was issued a certificate of election as the duly elected Member of Congress from the 46th District of California by the Secretary of State of California and was seated by the U.S. House of Representatives on January 7, 1997; and

Whereas A Notice of Contest of Election was filed with the Clerk of the House by Mr. Robert Dornan on December 26, 1996; and

Whereas the Task Force on the Contested Election in the 46th District of California met on February 26, 1997 in Washington, D.C., on April 19, 1997 in Orange County, California and October 24, 1997 in Washington, D.C. and

Whereas Mr. Dornan's unproven allegations and the actions of the Committee on House Oversight have resulted in an unprecedented attack against Latino voters and created a chilling effect with a message to Latinos that their votes do not count;

Whereas the allegations made by Mr. Robert Dornan have been largely found to be without merit: charges of improper voting from a business, rather than a resident address; underage voting; double voting; and charges of unusually large number of individuals voting from the same address. It was found that voting from the same address included a Marines barracks and the domicile of nuns, that business addresses were legal residences for the individuals and those accused of underage voting were of age; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has issued unprecedented subpoenas to the Immigration and Naturalization Service to compare their records with Orange County voter registration records, the first time

in any election in the history of the United States that the INS has been asked by Congress to verify the citizenship of voters; and

Whereas the I.N.S. has complied with the Committee's request and, at the Committee's request, has been doing a manual check of its paper files and providing worksheets containing supplemental information on the manual check to the Committee on House Oversight for over five months; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight subpoenaed the records seized by the district attorney of Orange County on February 13, 1997 and has received and reviewed all records pertaining to registration efforts of that group; and

Whereas the House Oversight Committee is now pursuing a duplicate and dilatory review of materials already in the committee's possession by the secretary of state of California; and

Whereas the Task Force on the Contested Election in the 46th District of California and the committee have been reviewing these materials and has all the information it needs regarding who voted in the 46th District and all the information it needs to make judgements concerning those votes; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has after over nine months of review and investigation failed to present credible evidence to change the outcome of the election of Congresswoman Sanchez and is pursuing never ending and unsubstantiated areas of review; and

Whereas, Contestant Robert Dornan has not shown or provided credible evidence that the outcome of the election is other than Congresswoman Sanchez's election to the Congress; and

Whereas, the privacy rights of thousands have been trampled with the sharing of I.N.S. files with second and third parties, half of which were Latino surnames;

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight should complete its review of this matter and bring this contest to an end and now therefore be it;

*Resolved*, That unless the Committee on House Oversight has sooner reported a recommendation for its final disposition, the contest in the 46th District of California is dismissed upon the expiration of November 7, 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. PEASE, responded to the foregoing notice, and said:

"Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within two legislative days of its being properly noticed.

"Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from California will appear in the Record at this point.

"The Chair is not at this time making a determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated by the Chair for consideration of the resolution."

¶126.19 NOTICE—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. ORTIZ, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, announced his intention to call up the following resolution, as a question of the privileges of the House:

Whereas, Loretta Sanchez was issued a certificate of election as the duly elected Mem-