

RECORD ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1022, RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ACT OF 1995

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-51) on the resolution (H. Res. 96) providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1022) to provide regulatory reform and to focus national economic resources on the greatest risks to human health, safety, and the environment through scientifically objective and unbiased risk assessments and through the consideration of costs and benefits in major rules, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is planning to meet early next week on two bills to improve the federal regulatory process. Next Monday, February 27, the committee will meet at 5 p.m. to consider a rule for H.R. 926, the Regulatory Reform and Relief Act, better known as the Reg Flex Act. Members should be aware that this rule may include a provision giving priority in recognition to Members who have caused their amendments to be printed in the amendment section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration. In this case, the preprinting of amendments is optional.

On Tuesday, February 28, at 2 p.m., the Committee on Rules will meet to consider a rule for H.R. 925, the Private Property Protection Act. In this case the rule may include, and I would just emphasize this, may include a requirement as opposed to an option that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to consideration of the bill for amendment.

Amendments to be preprinted should be titled, "Submitted for Printing Under Clause 6 of Rule XXIII," signed by the Member, and submitted at the Speaker's table.

Each of these bills may be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule, with a possible overall time limitation on the amending process.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

It is not necessary to submit amendments to the Committee on Rules or to testify.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOLOMON. I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, was I correct in understanding that amendments that are preprinted will have priority under the proposal?

Mr. SOLOMON. Amendments for the first, for the Reg Flex Act would have priority of recognition, but it is only optional that they be filed, be printed.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, would my understanding be correct though, that a Member of the House, not a member of the committee, who has his amendment printed in the RECORD would have priority over a member of the committee?

Mr. SOLOMON. The gentleman would please restate that.

Mr. BEREUTER. Would a Member, not a member of the committee, have priority, who has his amendment printed in the RECORD, have priority over a member of the committee in offering such an amendment?

Mr. SOLOMON. Not over the committee chairman, no.

Mr. BEREUTER. Would a Member who has his amendment printed have priority over a member of the committee whose amendments were not printed in the RECORD.

Mr. SOLOMON. That would be subject to the recognition of the chair, but in most cases, yes.

Mr. BEREUTER. If the gentleman will continue to yield, the reason this gentleman was so upset when we took up the crime bill, block grant, is that the parliamentarian informed the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole that no matter how long I stood here, and I waited for nearly 7 hours to offer an amendment, but not being a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole was informed by the parliamentarian that the Chairman had no option but to continue to recognize members of the Committee on the Judiciary for amendments, be they printed or not printed. And many, many, many were nonprinted, and they continued to be offered. And Members of the House who were not members of the Committee on the Judiciary were shut out from offering amendments.

In fact, I just directed a letter to the chairman of the Committee on Rules about how this process does not serve Members well who are not members of the committee debating the bill before us.

So I would hope that the Committee on Rules might at least give all Members priority whose amendments are preprinted. I understand that the members of the committee and certainly the chairman should have priority for amendments that are printed in the RECORD, but you see we can be completely shut off from offering our amendments if we are not members of the committee. That is exactly what happened to this gentleman.

So I would like to ask the chairman of the Committee on Rules if he would give that matter some consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. SOLOMON. We most certainly will. Of course, the recognition is always subject to the Speaker, to the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole. But certainly, I would just advise the gentleman that we would try to work with the managers of the bill to make sure that we are going to get the proper recognition.

Of course, if there are dilatory tactics, stalling tactics, that sometimes can put the gentleman in that particular position, in an awkward position. We would hope that that would never happen.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] for the purpose of discussing the schedule for next week.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me first give the Members a tentative schedule for the month of March. As has been the case for the month of February, votes may be scheduled for as early as 2 p.m. on Mondays. However, as often as has been possible in the past, if we can work out an agreement, we may be able to hold votes over until 5 p.m. on Mondays.

As many Members on both sides of the aisle have long distances to travel to their districts, our leadership will do everything we can to notify members as soon as possible so that they can finalize their travel plans.

Also the House will not be in session on Friday, March 17, or on Monday, March 20, for a district work period. We expect no votes until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21.

We have a very heavy legislative schedule for the month of March, and it is our hope to have Members on their way home to their families and districts by 3 p.m. on Fridays. However, if the schedule requires us to work later on Fridays or meet during weekends, we will advise Members at the earliest possible time.

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On another note, it is our intention to change the time the House meets for legislative business on Wednesday from 11 to 10 a.m. It is our hope that this schedule change will allow us to help Members leave for their districts by 3 p.m. on Fridays.

Perhaps this would be an appropriate time for me to yield to the gentleman from California about the March schedule, prior to going on to next week's schedule.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GEPHARDT. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.