

The Institution is planning a number of events beginning in January 1996 to celebrate 150 years of providing education, research, and exhibitions to the American public and the world. The proceeds generated from this coin program will help finance a travelling exhibition, which will take many of our national treasures "off the mall" and display them in cities across the country. Many Americans who are unable to come to Washington will be able to enjoy a blockbuster exhibition of 350 treasured Smithsonian artifacts including the Apollo 14 space capsule, a hat belonging to Abraham Lincoln, and a Wright Brothers biplane.

This coin bill will also devote 15 percent of the proceeds to the numismatic collection at the National Museum of American History helping coin collectors invest in their own history. This provision will insure that the Smithsonian coin will have the support of the coin collecting community.

I am pleased that the interested members were able to compromise on the number of coins to be minted under this bill. While I am disappointed that we are not authorizing the full 800,000 coins as supported by the Citizens Advisory Committee, I am glad that we could compromise on the 650,000 level. The marketing opportunities provided through Smithsonian's magazine and catalogue coupled with the support of the coin collecting community, will ensure that the Secretary of Treasury will quickly sell the authorized level of coins.

This coin bill complies with H.R. 2614, the Commemorative Coin Authorization and Reform Act of 1995, which passed the House on December 5, 1995. The Smithsonian will audit all proceeds from the coin and the Comptroller General will have the right to review the audit. The Smithsonian will not receive any funding until the Treasury has recovered all costs associated with minting the coin. This bill has the support of the U.S. Mint and the congressionally established Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee, and the numismatic community.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2627, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2627, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2203 and 2627, the bill just considered, and that I may include extraneous materials for the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR PROVISIONAL APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO HOUSE AND ITS EMPLOYEES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 311) to provide for the provisional approval of regulations applicable to the House of Representatives and employees of the House of Representatives and to be issued by the Office of Compliance before January 23, 1996.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 311

Resolved,

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS.

The regulations applicable to the House of Representatives and the employees of the House of Representatives which are to be issued by the Office of Compliance before January 23, 1996, are hereby approved on a provisional basis until such time as such regulations are approved in accordance with section 304(c) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS].

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING], chairman of the Committee on Education and Economic Opportunities, for a colloquy.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution before us today and would like to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS], the chairman of the Committee on House Oversight, regarding the jurisdiction of these resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, while this matter is within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Oversight and the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, we do not intend to delay the progress in considering this matter and support suspending the rules and passing without consideration in committee these two resolutions.

I also join the gentleman from California in his assurances that we will work to have the final regulations promptly considered by the House once we reconvene in January.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I concur with the gentleman's conclusions and obviously we share jurisdiction. The

Committee on House Oversight, primary jurisdiction; the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, sequential jurisdiction. Neither one of us want to delay putting these into effect. I will support the gentleman's jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Accountability Act, which was passed on the first day of this Congress, created an Office of Compliance. It is to become effective January 23, 1996. The board of directors of the Office of Compliance have issued notice of proposed rulemaking and is in the process of reviewing those comments on the proposed regulations.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is that the board is scheduled to make final those regulations on January 8, 1996. It is our fervent belief that we are going to adjourn sine die prior to that time and not reconvene for the second session of the 104th Congress until January 23.

Therefore, this resolution provisionally adopts the anticipated regulations that are applicable to the House and at the next regularly scheduled meeting, which will be as soon as possible upon reconvening, we will review the final regulations and make a recommendation as to their final approval to the House.

Obviously, in that interim period between January 8 and January 23, we do believe it is appropriate to offer provisional approval, whatever those regulations may be. That is the intent and purpose of House Resolution 311.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is clearly needed legislation and it needs to be implemented, not just in the technical sense, but in the spirit of the law. Some of the treatment of employees in this House over the last year, I believe, has been reprehensible. The long-time employees of this institution have been treated badly.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that this new legislation will improve their lot. We ought to be an example for the Nation, not just of following the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law in dealing with our employees.

Frankly, leaving all Federal employees in a lurch over the failure to pass a continuing resolution is another example of some of the hypocrisy here, but I do commend the spirit of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I am pleased that the process that was started in the 103d Congress is finally nearing implementation. Very frankly, we had a political discussion, in the 102d and 103d, about merit hiring and about doing away with patronage; doing away with the politicization of the ministerial duties of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I was for that. I thought we were moving in the right direction.