$37.4 million in reductions. The gentleman who offers this amendment does so because the budget allocation was higher across the board than he wanted. I would simply point out to the gentleman that in our subcommittee, we have reduced the budget outlay by 20 percent below the budget allocation for this bill. This Congress is leading by example. We have done the work. We have saved the money. I urge defeat of the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT].

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 473, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] will be postponed.

The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CASTLE) assumed the Chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 104–663.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CASTLE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I offer amendment No. 8.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. CASTLE: Page 35, after line 22, insert the following new section.

SEC. 310. (a) Each mass mailing sent by a Member of the House of Representatives shall bear in a prominent place on its face, or on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper in which the mail matter is sent, the following notice: ''THIS MAILING WAS PREPARED, PUBLISHED, AND MAILED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE.'', or a notice to the same effect in words which may be prescribed under subsection (c). The notice shall be printed in a type size not smaller than 7–point.

(b)(1) There shall be published in the itemized report of disbursements of the House of Representatives as required by law, a summary tabulation setting forth, for the office of each Member of the House of Representatives, the total number of pieces of mass mail mailed during the period involved and the total cost of those mass mailings.

(2) Each such tabulation shall also include—

(A) the total cost (as referred to in paragraph (1)) divided by the number (as determined by the Postmaster General) of addresses (other than business possible delivery stops) in the Congressional district from which the Member was elected (as such addresses are described in section 3210(d)(7)(B) of title 39, United States Code); and

(B) the total number of pieces of mass mail (as referred to in paragraph (1)) divided by the number (as determined by the Postmaster General) of addresses (other than business possible delivery stops) in the Congressional district from which the Member was elected (as such addresses are described in section 3210(d)(7)(B) of title 39, United States Code).

(c) The Committee on House Oversight shall prescribe such rules and regulations and shall take such other action as the Committee considers necessary and proper for Members to conform to the provisions of this subsection and applicable rules and regulations.

(d) For purposes of this section—

(1) the term ''Member of the House of Representatives'' means a Representative in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress; and

(2) the term ''mass mailing'' has the meaning given such term by section 3210(a)(6)(E) of title 39, United States Code.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and a Member opposed will each control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to start my congratulating the chairman for what I think has been an excellent job of trimming the legislative appropriations, and particularly in the area that I am going to talk about, which is the taxpayer funding of franked mail.

The fiscal year 1997 level of funding will be 40 percent lower than the 1996 level of funding. That is an impressive reduction. I do not even know if the chairman is aware of the reductions over the course of years, but starting in the year I was first elected to this body, before I came here in 1992, it was $59 million. In 1993 it went to $47,711,000. In 1994 it went to $40 million, in 1995 to $31 million, in 1996 it went up to $35,630,000, and this year is an appropriation of $20 million, so it really is an extraordinary job that the chairman has done and that the Committee on House Oversight has done in addressing this particular situation.

In recognition of that, I do not intend, as I have in the past, to introduce an amendment to try to further reduce that funding. I think there are a couple of areas for which there is still room for improvement. Too often the franking privilege is not treated as a privilege and is abused. For example, the volume of outgoing franked mail vastly outpaces the volume of incoming mail.

In 1995, the House sent out four times more mail than it received. If the House had responded only to letters it received, franked mail costs would have been only $12.4 million, saving $18.6 million or 60 percent from actual mail costs. Also, use of the frank increases cyclically during every election year. During the 102d Congress, the House spent $31 million in 1991 and $54 million in 1992, and during the 103d Congress, $24 million in 1993, and $42 million in 1994.

□ 1500

The 104th Congress again has addressed and narrowed this gap in total spending, but the irresistible temptation for individual Members facing tough reelection campaigns to use their franking perk extensively in election years remains.

I think Members have a legitimate need to respond to the increasing concerns of their constituents and the franking privilege does facilitate this. I think the public understands this and would support that use of taxpayer dollars.

Unsolicited mass mail from Members, however, I think fails into a different category. I believe that most Americans do not want to receive all the unsolicited mail they get from Congress, particularly if they are aware of the fact that they as taxpayers pay for it themselves. Some Members here, I am certain, would disagree and would argue that the newsletter contains valuable and useful information. I am not trying to prevent that from being used. But I think we should give the public the information it needs to make the determination.

This is what the amendment, the taxpayer's right to know amendment, will do.

It has two components, both of which are based on procedures which the Senate already follows. The first component would require all mass mailings to contain the disclaimer, ''This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.'' This will encourage Members to be more judicious in the mass mailing they send to their constituents, and it is entirely consistent with this Congress's attempt to let sunshine disinfect the policy process.

The second part of the amendment would require the CAO's quarterly Statement of Disbursements to publish to total number of pieces of mass mail mailed during the period involved and the total cost of those mass mailings on a per-residential-address basis. Currently there is no way for the public to get information about the amount Members spend on unsolicited mass mailings versus constituent response mail. My amendment will allow this comparison to take place and I think the public has a right to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

The bottom line here is that this simple amendment will provide information to taxpayers about franked mass mail. It does not ban mass mailings or change the definition from current law. It simply requires public disclosure about the use of frank for mass mail.

I urge Members to pass this amendment.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to compliment the gentleman for his amendment.

His amendment follows a long line of positive amendments offered on both sides of the aisle, and as a matter of fact originally in a bipartisan effort by the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] and the then gentleman, still gentleman, but member of the House from Minnesota, Mr. Frenzel, to begin to separate the cost of franked mail from the general fund category. We have not yet reached the Senate stage. The gentleman from Delaware indicated that it puts us in the same position as the Senate, and I know he is aware that the Senate actually separates the unsolicited mass mail from the other franked mail. We do not do that. But what the gentleman's amendment does is in essence do it in the report so that people can see not only the amount but the number of addresses to which the franked mail has been sent.

The gentleman alluded to the way in which this Congress continues to make changes. He of course is aware that at the beginning of the 104th Congress we cut franked mail by yet another one-third of the total amount and that we moved up the statutorily required 60-day ban to a voluntary 90-day ban.

Once again I want to compliment the gentleman. His addition of a required statement that it is at taxpayer expense is a good, positive notifier of where the money is coming from. It also perhaps might be somewhat of a conscience conditioner in terms of whether you mail it out or not, and by giving it a separate report, we do move closer to the Senate, separating the response mail from the unsolicited mass mailing. I compliment the gentleman on his amendment.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I would like to thank the head of the Committee on House Oversight for what I think is an extraordinary job of dealing with this issue of franked mail. I think we really have in a bipartisan way responsible addressed this particular issue in this Congress and he is absolutely right on some of the numbers. We are just trying to refine this at the end.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

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

Mr. PACKARD. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate this amendment and I am very much grateful that the gentleman has worked it out to the satisfaction of the authorizing committee chairman, Mr. THOMAS. With that agreement, I will be more than pleased to accept the amendment.

Mr. THORNTON. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CASTLE. I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. THORNTON. Mr. Chairman, the minority has no objection to the amendment. I congratulate the gentleman on working it out and bringing it to the floor.

Mr. CASTLE. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 104–663.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FAZIO OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. FAZIO of California: Page 3, after line 3, insert the following caption: ''(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)''.

Page 3, line 6, insert before the period at the end the following: ; and, in addition, $4,000,000, which shall be derived by transfer from the amount provided in this Act for ''Office of the Chief Administrative Officer'' under the heading ''Salaries, officers and employees'' and shall be available for obligation only by members for initiatives to promote the increased use of computers and other electronic technologies funded by this Act to carry out legislative activities.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I seek the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD] will be recognized for 15 minutes in opposition.

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the committee report says that $211 million is provided in this bill for computer and telecommunications investments and that there is quote, ''an inexorable movement toward CyberCongress.'' But, quite simply, we are not yet there. My amendment would be a referendum on whether the CAO and HIR are giving us what we pay for.

We have provided generous resources to the Chief Administrative Officer and to our computer agency over the past 2 years, $16.5 million in this bill for operating expenses, $8.2 million for telecommunications projects, a doubling over last year. That does not count the $6 million in reimbursements and the $11.7 million in chargebacks that our offices pay for services to the HIR agency.

With Chairman PACKARD, I approved a $20.5 million reprogramming at the end of the fiscal year 1995 for telecommunications and computer investments.

The CAO and HIR have requested $85 million over the next 5 years for computer and telecommunications investment. But, notwithstanding the New York Times, which wrote a glowing piece on the CAO, there is evidence that our computer support is falling short.

First of all, I, along with VERN EHLERS, have been part of an effort to identify a new House-wide messaging system, and we are making steady if slow progress on that project. But, in the meantime, our existing House e-mail has been so unreliable and so slow that many users have just abandoned it for daily use.

The Financial Management System was finally switched over to a new system on June 4, 5 months later than a House Oversight deadline and 8 months later than the CAO had originally promised the Members. Your June district office rent payments, which are supposed to be sent in in a timely way so that your landlords in your districts can receive them on the 1st day of each month, still have not left the Finance Office, and I think it is, if I am correct, the 10th of July. This is frankly unprecedented. It has never happened before.

The heralded Office 2000 project, whose purpose is to automate some of the day-to-day functions in our offices, will not have a single operational function available prior to next year.

At the time of our hearings, HIR was 20 percent understaffed, and the CAO admitted that the terminations, pay cuts, and reassignments of his reorganization played a role. Our offices have felt that lack of support every day.

In addition, the office accounting software provided to your offices by HIR in January contained numerous bugs. Because of the CAO's personnel procedures, it took HIR over 7 months to hire a full-time receptionist, and it took over 6 months to hire a security officer, at a time when the inspector general told us our computer systems were susceptible to outside entry.

In short, I have to wonder if we are getting what we pay for. The CAO and HIR have received considerable credit for so-called CyberCongress initiatives. But while the CAO talks a good game about CyberCongress and desk top video conferencing and the like, I believe the performance in tasks affecting Members' offices directly has not lived up to the billing.

We are all getting our ''free'' computers, in quotes, but HIR has nothing new to show us, which was the whole point of the mass computer buy in the first place. The lack of progress is not because of any lack of resources, and the CAO is not shy about asking for more. The CAO's request this year was for a 32-percent overall increase, primarily for computers and telecommunications. The Committee on Appropriations has provided generous resources, including, I might add, the $20.5 million I mentioned earlier, yet the CAO cannot seem to invest it. Another $8

million in unobligated balances is already being predicted for the current fiscal year, 1996.

My amendment would take $4 million out of the fiscal year 1997 funds in the bill, half of HIR's increase for telecommunications—which is, by the way, a doubling of last year's amount—and allow the use of such funds only if approved by Members, and only for technology already funded in this bill. My amendment is the ultimate in TQM, total quality management, and customer satisfaction that the CAO is so publicly embracing.

It is simple. If you think the CAO is spending money well and wisely, vote against my amendment. If you think your office can do a better job, then vote for my amendment.

I think we can send the CAO an important message: that we demand results for the money we hand out, and results that will help us serve our constituents now, as well as in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to the Members' attention another related matter, related in the sense that it is directly a policy which we will all be adhering to as part of an Internet policy agreement which has largely been forged within the Committee on House Oversight. The amendment I had intended to offer to the body as a whole concerns an Internet policy set by that committee on the 23d of May. The amendment would have prevented funds from being spent to implement this policy.

Some would say, leave this to the Oversight Committee. But I believe it is a policy of sufficient importance that it needs to be reevaluated as we consider funding for House operations, as we are in the amendment I have offered.

The policy was originally negotiated by the majority and minority staff in good faith, and there are good reasons for Web site policy and important elements to the policy. For example, it entitles minorities and subcommittees to a Web page site; it ensures that the maintenance of Web page sites is done behind an official fire wall for security purposes; and it ensures that House Web page sites are clearly identified. The committee's jurisdiction, I believe, is appropriate and I support it.

The problem came literally the morning of the hearing when we thought we had negotiated a policy successfully with the committee staff on both sides of the aisle. It was overruled. After a partisan debate, the Republicans ignored our objections and we were voted down, and so I went to the Committee on Appropriations seeking to bring the matter to the attention of the floor.

I withdrew the amendment in the full committee after Chairman LIVINGSTON agreed to help facilitate some sort of settlement on a new leadership Internet policy and, failing that, to support floor consideration of my amendment under this rule.

That resulted, of course, in further Oversight Committee staff discussions and a clarification of one of the two purposes of my amendment. That clarification was that the majority determined that it never intended to prevent a process called bookmarking, which allows people to go back on a regular basis to an item which they wish to reference on a regular basis at the Web site, part of the Internet.

However, the main issue remains unresolved. The policy as issued prevents access to a Democratic Web page site, or I should say minority web page site, unless a user first goes to the majority or, in this case, the Republican site first. Our constituents will still have to troll through screens of majority information to even discover that the minority, in this case, the Democrats, have a Web site.

In fact, my colleague and friend from California, Mr. THOMAS, made it clear at the hearing that if a committee chair did not want a minority Web page at all, he could just refuse to have a Web page for the majority as well.

To add insult to injury, the HIR has been instructed to make the technical changes that prevent users who may have stumbled across the site from bookmarking it, though, as I mentioned earlier, the majority claims that it never intended to prevent that bookmarking process from being available to anyone who browses the Internet.

We are talking about access to information, electronic information, but just information in a different form; information, like any others, that ought to flow freely in this process, certainly as part of an institution which is fundamental to our form of democracy. It is, pure and simple, a restriction on access to information.

The effect of this policy is that users of the Internet and the World Wide Web, our constituents, cannot readily get to the information they want. It is ironic to me that the GOP which has gotten so much credit for the CyberCongress would make the first policy about Web pages a restrictive one. This is an important matter and I believe it is one we should elevate to floor consideration no matter what happens on my amendment today. This gives us an opportunity to discuss what I think is a bad policy, even though my amendment will not go directly to the point I am concerned about as I discuss the other amendment I had hoped to offer today.

□ 1515

It flies in the face, this policy, of an open Congress. It perverts the whole idea behind the free flow of electronic information that is inherent in the idea behind the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to include a number of communications, particularly one from the American Library Association that agrees that access to congressional information should not be a partisan issue.

The information referred to follows:

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, July 9, 1996.

Hon. VIC FAZIO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. FAZIO: In response to your inquiry, the American Library Association agrees that access to Congressional information should not be a partisan issue. Recent press reports have described a controversy about access to Congressional committee pages on the World Wide Web. For the past 18 months, citizens have been able to access majority Web pages from a central menu. Under a recently adopted policy, the House of Representatives Committee Office Web Services menu lists Web pages of only the committee majority with access to the minority's page only through the majority's page.

ALA is concerned about this policy and the effect it would have on an informed electorate. This policy would concern us no matter which party was in the majority during any given Congress.

ALA reaffirms its long-standing conviction that open government is vital to a democracy. Of the many issues raised by this policy, I would like to highlight two:

There should be equal and ready access to data collected, compiled, produced, and published in any format by the government of the United States. In the interest of equity, the majority and minority of House committees should have equal access at the same level to the World Wide Web, a dynamic means of communicating with the American electorate; and

The free flow of information between Congress and the American people should be encouraged. Majority and minority viewpoints should be available without either one being dependent on the other.

The American Library Association is a nonprofit educational organization of 58,000 librarians, library trustees, and other friends of libraries dedicated to promoting the public interest in a free and open information society.

Sincerely,

CAROL C. HENDERSON,
Executive Director,
ALA Washington Office.

MUCKRAKER

(By Brock N. Meeks)

THOMAS BUILDS A ONE-WAY WEB

In the House of Representatives, all Web sites are created equal. But the Republicans couldn't stomach that thought, so they rewrote the rules.

All seemed fair in the wake of amicable but protracted negotiations to revise the rules governing Internet use for House committees and subcommittees. Each committee and subcommittee—on both the majority (Republican) and minority (Democrat) sides—was allocated a separate but equal amount of server space to create a Web page if they so desired. Under the negotiated plan, Democrats could independently set up their own sites, to post whatever committee information they deemed appropriate.

But that rule didn't sit right with Representative Bill Thomas (R-California), chairman of the House Oversight Committee, which writes the guidelines governing Internet use. He figured it gave the Dems too much freedom and would allow Web surfers simply to bypass any Republican-controlled Web sites. So he rewrote the regulations and rammed the changes through by exploiting his power as committee chairman.

Under the new rules, all subcommittees can have separate pages, but those pages must be ''linked to, and accessible only from the committee's page.'' While a Republican

subcommittee chair might be able to brook that overlord mentality, the ranking minority members who would control the committee's opposing Web pages might be a little ticked off.

If you've begun to smell a rat, you're not alone. ''This means that any time someone wants to see an issue from the Democrat's side of things, they first have to wade through the Republican rhetoric,'' said a minority committee staffer.

The rules go further, according to another minority staffer. ''The committee chairman must approve all content on the Web sites. I have to ask whatever happened to the First Amendment on Capitol Hill.''

The rules on this issue are vague, and I could only get my hands on a draft copy. Staffers at the meeting at which Thomas ordered the changes swear he made it clear that all information needed to be ''approved'' by the committee chair before posting.

That account is disputed by Bill Pierce, Thomas's press secretary. ''Whatever language you had regarding [content] approval, it's not the case,'' he said. The rule change is ''about process and not about content at all.'' Pierce noted, for example, that the minority doesn't have separate stationary. And this rule change simply makes net resource allocation ''consistent'' with non-Net resources.

But for Representative Vic Fazio (D-California), ranking minority member of the House Rules Committee, the issue isn't that cut and dried. ''What we're talking about is an attempt to control the minority's communication with the American people.'' Although the content approval issue is murky, Fazio put a hard edge on how a committee chair could wield the ultimate censorship hammer: ''If a chairman doesn't like the contents of the minority's Web page, he could simply decide not to have a Web page at all.''

And according to the rules, if the committee chair decides not to have a page, it means the minority's net voice is rendered mute. No argument, no debate. It's de facto censorship and to hell with free speech, even on Capitol Hill.

Fazio also points out that a committee's majority doesn't ''have access to or control over the content of press releases or correspondence produced by the minority.'' Since the Net is simply another way to communicate, and one that ''is taking on greater importance,'' it should be treated as such, Fazio said, ''There is absolutely no reason that the majority should control information freely disseminated over the Internet.''

Thomas's reasoning is beyond me. The Republicans stand a good chance of losing control of the House in the coming elections. If they do, and power returns to the Democrats, then Thomas has just ——— his own party. The Democrats will be in power and their committee chair will hold the power to approve content on the Republican committee Web pages.

At first blush, such a power trip seems bent from all angles. All one would have to do is bookmark the minority page URL and thus bypass the majority homepage. But according to a House Rules Committee majority staffer, each committee's homepage would be generated with a CGI script to prevent bookmarking. Seems they've thought of everything. I know the Republican ''revolution'' has hit on tough times, but this is nothing short of a desperate act, bordering on extreme.

Congress is infamous for its ''sausage-making'' approach to drafting legislation. Sadly, it appears they are no less enlightened when it comes to drafting rules for the Internet. Bratwurst.gov, anyone?

Meeks out . . .

BROCK M. MARKS.

[From the Office of the Democratic Leader, June 4, 1996.]

REPUBLICAN POLICY RESTRICTS INTERNET ACCESS FOR OPPOSITION

(By Laura Meckler)

WASHINGTON.—If you want to find certain Democratic views on the World Wide Web, you'll have to go through Republican territory.

Until now, Web pages produced by the Republican and the Democratic staffs of House committees were all accessible from the main menu on the House's Web page.

No more. Under a new policy that has Democrats crying foul, users will find Democratic committee pages listed only on the committee's main page, which like the committees themselves are controlled by Republicans.

''What we're talking about is an attempt to control the minority's communications with the American people,'' said Rep. Vic Fazio, D–Calif., the top Democrat on the Oversight Committee.

''There is absolutely no reason that the majority should control information freely disseminated over the Internet.''

Fazio and others complain that to access Democratic views, Web surfers may have to scroll through Republican rhetoric and a large photograph of the Republican chairman.

In addition, if Republicans on a particular committee decide not to have a Web site at all, Democrats can't have one either.

''If a chairman doesn't like the contents of the minority's Web page, he could simply decide not to have a Web page at all,'' Fazio said.

A few committees currently have Democratic pages but no Republican pages. If a committee chairman wants to, he could kill the Democratic page until there's a GOP counterpart, said Bill Pierce, spokesman for the Oversight Committee.

The old policy gave each side disk space to produce Web pages but did not regulate how they are accessed.

Republicans explain that the party in power controls all committee activities and should control this as well. They note that all members use the same committee stationery, which highlight Republicans.

''We are not going to enter a whole new relationship with the Internet, which is simply an additional way of communicating,'' said Oversight Chairman Bill Thomas, R–Calif., according to minutes of a May 23 meeting where this was discussed. ''Committee activities are under the control of the chairman of the committee.''

Democrats say the Internet is more like a press release, which they can distribute on their own.

Their deepest concern is that this is a first step toward Republican control of content.

''It is even possible that committee chairmen may interpret the new policy to mean that they have direct control or veto power over the information that the minority chooses to post on its Web page,'' Martha Coven of the House Democratic Policy Committee wrote in a May 28 memo.

There's no chance of that, said Pierce, the Oversight Committee spokesman. ''It has nothing to do with content.''

In practice, there are many more Republican committee pages than Democratic ones. Democrats on the Banking and Financial Services Committee have a page while the Republican do not, but a committee spokesman said the GOP page should be up and running this week.

In addition, Thomas noted that the new policy guarantees Democrats they will have an opportunity to have a Web page.

''What we have in front of us is a progressive policy that opens up opportunities for the minority,'' Thomas said, according to the minutes. ''It doesn't close them down.''

The House of Representatives Web page is located at http://www.house.gov/

[From Roll Call, May 27, 1996]

PRE-ELECTION MESSAGES BANNED BY HOUSE

(By Juliet Eilperin and John E. Morrin)

In its ongoing attempt to adjust to a brave new technological world, Congressional panels last week adopted several policy changes—including a ban on pre-election mass communications—and also experimented with new interactive formats.

But the decisions were not free of controversy or technical foul-ups.

On Thursday, for example,the House Oversight Committee voted unanimously to ban unsolicited mass communications 90 days before a primary of general election. In doing so, it applied previously established House franking rules to several mediums beyond newsletters, including radio and newspaper ads; announcing town meetings; the purchase of broadcast time; production and communication costs for video and audio services; e-mail messages; and faxes.

''With communication technology developing at an increasingly rapid pace, it is critical that the House develop rules consistent with 21st century technology.'' House Oversight chairman Bill Thomas (R-Calif.) announced in a statement after the hearing.

The role of technology in town meetings first came under intense scrutiny last month, when Rep. Steve Stockman (R-Texas) purchased radio time to hold a town meeting. House Oversight ranking member Vic Fazio (D-Calif.) sharply criticized the use of official House resources for an event he likened to a political ad. Thomas, by contrast, argued that no rules prohibited members from holding town meetings on the air and such techniques could make lawmakers more accessible to voters.

Other Members have also come under fire for buying radio time to announce town meeting, during which they have the opportunity to toot their own legislative record. While all the scripts were approved by the bipartisan Franking Commission, critics said they give incumbents an improper advantage (Roll Call, April 29).

National Taxpayers Union executive vice president David Keating, who had asked House Oversight to reimpose its ban on radio ads, said Thursday's vote constituted ''a good first step.'' He argued, however, that the funds for radio ads should be deducted from Members' mailing allowances and the House ''should strictly limit the content so it sounds more like a public announcement instead of a campaign ad.''

''Members can still spend literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in radio spots,'' he said. ''I hope they don't take advantage of it.''

While the banking reform and the overall adoption of a new committee handbook enjoyed bipartisan support, Democratic Members were less happy with the GOP's new committee Internet policy. Under the policy, which was adopted by voice vote, a minority committee's Web page can only be accessed through the majority's Web page.

Under this scenario, one Democratic leadership aide argued, a voter might have to scroll down through endless pictures of Commerce Committee Chairman Thomas Bliley (R-Va) and text describing the GOP's recent accomplishments before linking up to the minority's site.

''We view it as a suppression of free speech,'' the staffer said. ''It's suppressing the minority's right to offer another perspective.''

Currently, the Democrats on the Banking, Budget, and Science Committees all have separate Web sites. Under the new policy, the minority is guaranteed a site only if the chairman of the panel chooses to establish one.

But the Republicans argue that the Internet, like other forms of communications, remains under the auspices of the chairman. In the meeting, Thomas compared the Web page to the minority's committee stationery, which still includes the chairman's name at the top.

''They have to right to communicate and state their views, but under the banner of the full committee,'' a GOP aides said of the minority.

While House Oversight members grappled over how to communicate with constituents on Thursday, the House Rules subcommittee on rules and organization of the House spent the next morning analyzing how technology would affect communication between Members.

In the hearing—which featured video links with both a panel member and a witness—Members debated whether technical advances would undermine the thoughtful nature of lawmaking.

House Oversight member, Vern Ehlers (R-Mich) called for several reforms to ease this high-tech transition: a common format and language for Congressional documents; a set standard for the creation, maintenance, and purging of online documents; and legislation allowing Congressional Research Service reports to be placed online.

He also predicted the technological revolution would reduce the use of paper, allow citizens to print GPO documents on demand, and bring video conferencing capability to every Congressional desk.

These advances, subcommittee Chairman David Dreier (R-Calif) insisted, should not lead to short cuts like proxy voting.

''If there is a concern that Members are unduly influenced by lobbyists waiting in the halls of the Capitol,'' Dreier said, ''how concerned should we be when they have to vote on a controversial bill from their district offices with protesters demonstrating outside?''

Ranking member Tony Beilenson (D-Calif) said he was worried that the ''essence of communication'' between Members would be negatively affected by video conferencing.

But committee member Scott McInnis (R-Colo), speaking via satellite from his district, responded that the technology will enable him to give greater access to the constituents of his rural district and allow them greater participation in the political process.

Beilenson cautioned against embracing technology too quickly.

''We don't need more information, we need understanding and wisdom,'' he said. ''Our job is simple—either push the yes or no button. We shouldn't act immediately.''

Dreier attempted to strike a middle ground between his colleagues, explaining, ''We need to get information more efficiently without upsetting the deliberative nature of Congress.''

While the hearing heralded ''the Third Wave information age,'' it also underscored the pitfalls of the new era. Several technical difficulties marred the event, most notably the absence of Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga) due to a video conferencing system malfunction. The special Web site established for the event also failed to work.

NEWS RELEASE FROM CONGRESSMAN VIC FAZIO, MAY 28, 1996

The following is a statement from Rep. Vic Fazio about the House Oversight Committee's action on committee web pages:

''What we're talking about is an attempt to control the minority's communication with the American people. If a chairman doesn't like the contents of the minority's Web page, he could simply decides not to have a Web page at all.

''The committee's majority doesn't have access to or control over the content of press releases and correspondence produced by the minority. The Internet is another way to communicate—an electronic form that is taking on greater importance in American life and society—and should be treated as such. There is absolutely no reason that the majority should control information freely disseminated over the Internet.''

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman, and I strongly oppose this amendment. This amendment would transfer $4 million from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House to the Members' representational allowance. The Chief Administrative Officer asked this year, and felt justified that he needed, a $17 million increase simply to be able to accomplish the things that the House has asked him to do and his office to do. This would literally cut them $2.5 million below current levels. We did not give them the $17 million he asked for. We gave them $1.6 million, and that was barely enough to cover the mandatories; in other words, the COLA's for staff and the staff benefit packages, which are mandated by the Government. We had to fund that, but we gave him no more than that.

We have asked them actually to cut back on their employment levels by 13 positions in this year's bill. To take $4 million out of their existing levels in this bill would require them to fire about 90 additional staff members of the House. We think that would be unconscionable.

The bill provides $8 million for the CAO's budget for telecommunications. The telecommunications, incidentally, is for computers and telecommunication systems that benefit each of the Members' offices. Over $1.5 million is for local and district office telephones that connect directly with our Washington offices, again directly benefiting our communications within each of our offices.

But the biggest problem of this amendment is not what it does to the CAO's office but it is what it does in reversing a policy that the maker of the amendment [Mr. FAZIO] was strongly supportive of last year and really gave us a great deal of help in getting it passed in our bill last year, and that was the reforms that we wanted to bring about in Congress. Those reforms are absolutely crucial to the effective operation of each Member's office. That was in all of the allocations in budget categories that are allowed for each Member's office. We consolidated those into one account with the help of the gentleman from California, and we gave the Members of Congress individually some flexibility, not some but almost total flexibility, in the use of those accounts. That was a good move. I think moving toward a consolidated bill that we had last year was a very good move, and I personally want to thank the gentleman from California for helping us to do that.

In my judgment, this is a reversal of that process. This takes us back to where we were before, and I think that would not be a move in the right direction; a step backward, I think.

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

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I concur. I think this is a 1-year effort to surround this funding for purposes of Member investment in computerization, telecommunications, simply because I do not think the CAO has spent his money wisely.

But I agree with the gentleman and with the chairman of the Committee on House Oversight that, as a general rule, we ought to give complete license to the Members.

Mr. PACKARD. Reclaiming my time, I think that this is just the first step, though, in reversing that process and the next step would be some Member of the Congress would want to put controls on E-mail, travel and everything else that Members now have some flexibility in.

So I would hope and I would urge the Members of the House to resist this amendment that would be, in my judgment, regressive from the policies that we have established in the past.

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN].

(Mr. BROWN of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in full support of the amendment which he has put before us with regard to the transfer of the $4 million from the CAO to the Members' allowance.

But I would like to use a minute or so to discuss the other item which the gentleman from California referred to, and that is the policy with regard to minority access to the Internet through the majority. This was the subject of a rather extensive article in the Washington Post on July 1 which is headlined ''House Web server leaving minority off the menu.'' While that may be a slight exaggeration, I think it is true that what this does is put an additional roadblock in the way of our Representatives throughout the United States having access to the material emanating from the minority in the Congress.

Now, in an ideal world, of course, the majority would contend, and it might be true, that this was not a roadblock and that there was no effort to censor or in any other way restrict communication. This is not an ideal world, and I will tell Members that the very fact that we have to use access through the majority is going to be a block which many constituents will find insurmountable because it will take an additional 1 or 2 minutes on their computer if they have a slow computer to scroll through and find out where the minority actually is within this vast network.

It is for this reason that it is a roadblock when we should be trying to make it easier, not because I suspect that the majority would want to do anything to restrict our minority page that I think this is a poor policy. We are doing everything possible to make it easier for people to communicate, constituents to communicate with their Representatives. This goes in the opposite direction. It is poor policy, and I urge that something be done to correct this at the earliest possible date.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS], the chairman of the Committee on House Oversight.

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me rise to comment on the specific amendment which we are supposed to be dealing with during this time, and I do not know about the desire for Members to have a referendum on the CAO. I am concerned about the language of the amendment which the gentleman from California, who as a member of the Appropriations Committee and the authorizing committee has the ability to move freely between the two areas, and attempt to write policy from an authorizing committee position in the appropriation. We are supposed to have that be against the rules. It is legislating on an appropriations bill, but the Committee on Rules did make it in order, notwithstanding that.

My problem is that it builds a fence around the $4 million. I would be less opposed to the amendment if he gave the $4 million to the House Committee on Oversight so that we could place it where the Members could get the best use out of it. This amendment places it where the gentleman from California thinks we can get the best use out of it.

Where we are is the gentleman from California, notwithstanding the fact that he is in the minority, still wants to basically run the place and tell people what to do. I do not deny that that is a desirable position, it is just that I wanted 16 years to be in the same one and I would now like to exercise it. But the gentleman from California apparently does not want me to because he wants to tell me where to put the money.

At the beginning of this Congress, we took the separate categories of the Members' representational account and put them into one so that Members would have freedom to choose between staff or computers or travel or a district office. The gentleman now wants to go back to the policies of old, that he has already repudiated by his vote in committee, to free up the ability to determine where the member spends his money.

So on that particular amendment, I would ask for your opposition.

Now the Internet. The gentleman from California said something that I agree with, and that is that the Internet is information in a different form. After that, I had a fairly fundamental disagreement with what he has had to say. I really believe the people who took the floor earlier and said this was a gag rule—the gentleman from Colorado said it was un-American, that this is censorship I think got a little carried away with their rhetoric.

The reason I agree with the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] that this is information in a different form is that we really ought to look at that information in a different form so that we can understand what we are talking about. Committees give reports. They hold hearings. They write a report. Very often the minority dissents from the majority report, and so you have the majority report and the minority report. Is the minority report presented in a completely separate document available to those constituents who want to find out about the hearing? No. It is included in a package that says, ''Committee on House Oversight, House of Representatives, together with minority views.'' It is the majority and the minority combined.

The gentleman, and I think he waxed eloquent in the Committee on Rules, said that it was possible that visitors would probably thumb through 120 electronic pages to be able to find the minority location.

Every committee in the House except the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the Committee on Intelligence has a Web site. We might understand why those two prefer not to have a Web site: The Ethics one probably would be too full and the Intelligence one would be blank. But for the other committees, here is the Committee on Resources. First page, picture of the chairman, Democrats, minority of the committee. We do not have to thumb through pages; it's right there. It is on the front, just like the reports. Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, right up front. ''Welcome to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services. Greetings from Chairman Jim Leach;'' the Democrats' view, right up front. House Committee on the Budget, they even put a donkey so that those folks who have trouble with the cursive can locate the minority home page.

The gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN] was complaining about the Committee on Science. We do have to go to the second page on the Committee on Science because the chairman decided ''Hot News'' would take up a third of the page. Current issues that affect both the majority and the minority would take up a portion of the first page; but right there, the Democrats.

Let me talk about information in another form in another way. If we go to the House of Representatives telephone directory, we will find staff listed alphabetically. We will find staff listed by Members' offices, and we will find staff listed and Members listed by committee. On that page it says Committee on House Oversight, for example, just thumbing to that page, the majority, the minority, the majority staff, the minority staff, located by committee.

What the gentleman from California and the others are really asking for is something that is unprecedented in the history of the House, a wedge, if you will, to open up the opportunity to create a distinct and separate structure for the minority.

Now, if our colleagues had been in the majority for 40 years and now have to suffer under the yoke of being in the minority, our colleagues would not accept the fact that their colleagues share the page with the majority in the phone book or share the pages under the cover of committee reports or that they are second on the Internet page for the particular committee. Our colleagues would want their own distinct structure.

Well, it has never been that way. They are trying to use this argument of censorship on the Internet as a wedge argument to begin to unravel the 40 years of history that they established as the majority.

Now, the new majority is somewhat more conservative than the old and we probably would tend to hang on to those areas that worked well. One of the areas that worked well was to use the committee as the structure, underneath that, the majority and the minority. All we are doing is continuing that structure on the Internet as well.

□ 1530

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. LOFGREN].

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, in listening to the prior speaker, it occurred to me that perhaps he has not searched the Web extensively because I heard the analogy to committee reports. Now I am new to the Congress, but I read some committee reports and they tend to go through legislation, and there are pros and cons on each side, and they are bound together in one volume. I think that is just dandy. That is the way it ought to be. But if you take a look at Web sites, that is not what you find.

For example, in the Committee on Resources Web site there is a picture of the chairman, along with articles like, ''The Republican Investment in the Environment,'' which is bookmarked under ''Humor'' on the Web, and there is a small link to Democrats buried under committee information. The Joint Economic Committee opens with, ''Welcome to the home page of Vice Chairman SAXTON and House Republican members of the JEC.'' It then links to each Republican JEC House member and the JEC Republicans in the Senate, and provides the text of partisan Republican publications on the ''Contract With America'' and the ''Debt Limit Charade.''

These are not like committee reports, and requiring the minority to be just a subset of the majority on Web sites is kind of like saying you can send out a press release, minority, but only if you staple it to the majority's press release, if they send one out. That is what I object to. I think it is what most Members who are speaking here object to.

The fact is that under the House rules that we adopted, there is 10 megabytes of space for the majority and there is 10 megabytes of space for the minority. That space should be used, hopefully prudently, honestly and usefully for the American public, by each side to speak the truth about what they know of issues of importance to America.

A few hours ago I talked to a gentleman in high-tech who had heard the debate. He is an immigrant. He built his company from nothing and he said this is fascism. This immigrant said he has heard what is going on. He said that he comes from a place where he saw fascism arrive. ''You leaders in America must stop fascism when it first surfaces, when you first see those signs,'' he said, ''and that is now. Please do not allow this to happen.''

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for allowing me to speak.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes for a response.

Mr. Chairman, I really seriously object to the analogy that was just used, fascism.

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

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I am sure that was not really the intent of the gentlewoman. The concern, obviously, is great, but I would not want to typify it as anything more than a disagreement on policy.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I would appreciate the gentlewoman's response.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PACKARD. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I was quoting an individual who spoke to me, not a Member of this body. And perhaps as a new Member I am not as aware of the rules as I might have been. If it offended or it was inappropriate, I would certainly withdraw the remark.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I think the association, though, to this body or to any Members of this body or either side of this body is an inappropriate association.

Mr. Chairman, I simply want to express one point, and that is that this amendment will cost money. The House information resources can negotiate a large volume of purchases and thus get volume buying and volume cost discounts for the entire cyber Congress initiative. Some 440 individual contracts are negotiated by each Member, and that would lead to a lot of additional expense. It would lead to a lack of standardization of our equipment in each of our offices, and, overall, I think it would be chaotic.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, from today's issue of The New York Times I read where it says, ''For years, each lawmaker has decided which computer system, if any, they wished to buy and to install in their office. This has led to a congressional Tower of Babel that receives a total of 100,000 E-mail messages a week. Some messages arrive three days late on one of nine overlap systems.''

So I really would oppose this amendment and feel, again, it would be regressive.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD] has 3 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS].

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I find it rather hypocritical to respond to the comment about fascism that ''I have done my homework and I know that it was a quote and, therefore, in quoting others on the floor that it is not a breach of the rules; however, since I am a new Member I may not be aware of the rules.''

It seems to me we cannot have it both ways. The gentlewoman knew exactly what she was trying to do, and what she did was interject a level of hostility which is totally inappropriate on this particular subject. What she does not know, perhaps, is that there was never any intention not to provide the ordinary software procedures for moving to sites that one is returning to by those people who browse frequently.

The problem arose when the ranking Member, using that unique authorizing and appropriations avenue that he has, moved to the appropriations route to try to meet his needs instead of sitting down with the chairman of the committee and working it out.

As we move forward with this new technology, just as we have in every area, just as the letterhead says, chairman and minority, we will share. And we share far more than the other side ever shared when they were the majority. We are doing more in reaching out to the minority than they did, and we will continue that trend, despite the references.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to simply say this amendment, of course, does not go to the Internet policy. It does, however, I think send a message to the CAO that we need to manage the cyber-Congress in a much more effective way.

Just simply in reference to Internet policy, my only reason for bringing it this route is that, of course, our committee makes these decisions in and of itself. I do not mean to deny that that in most cases is appropriate. But this is a new policy. It ought to be a solidly compromised and accepted policy by all, on all sides of the debate, minority or majority, and I do think this is a worthy discussion for us to have. I would hope Members would err on the side of openness and equal access to the Internet.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time, and, in closing, I would like to emphasize that I do not believe we have ever had a time when there has been more willingness to cooperate than this majority has extended to this minority. We, I think, have bent over backwards to make equal access, equal opportunity and equal funding for virtually everything we do, and I think that the gentleman from California would admit to that.

This amendment takes money away from our movement to the cyber-Congress, to the electronic age for this body and for each of our offices, and all of which really benefits our communications and our operations. These investments will make us more efficient and more effective in our offices, both in our congressional districts and here in Washington. Instead, this amendment would free up additional money in our allowances for additional mailings and travel and a variety of other things that I think the public would really object to. I think that would be move in the wrong direction.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment of the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO].

The amendment was rejected.

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order: Amendment No. 6, as modified, offered by the gentleman

from California [Mr. CAMPBELL], and amendment No. 7 offered by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT].

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XXIII, the Chair will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the time for an electronic vote, if ordered, on the pending question following this vote.

AMENDMENT, AS MODIFIED, OFFERED BY MR. CAMPBELL

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL], on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by a voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 239, noes 181, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 295]

AYES—239

Allard
Andrews
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baker (CA)
Baker (LA)
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Bereuter
Berman
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bliley
Blute
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Brewster
Brownback
Bryant (TN)
Bunn
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Chrysler
Clinger
Coble
Coburn
Collins (GA)
Combest
Condit
Cooley
Cox
Crane
Crapo
Cremeans
Cubin
Cunningham
Davis
Deal
DeLay
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dooley
Doolittle
Dornan
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ehrlich
English
Ensign
Everett
Ewing
Fawell
Fields (TX)
Flanagan
Foley
Forbes
Fowler
Fox
Franks (CT)
Frelinghuysen
Frisa
Funderburk
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Geren
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gingrich
Goodlatte
Goodling
Goss
Graham
Greene (UT)
Greenwood
Gunderson
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hancock
Hansen
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hefley
Heineman
Herger
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hoke
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inglis
Istook
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kasich
Kelly
Kim
King
Kingston
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Laughlin
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lightfoot
Linder
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lucas
Manzullo
Martini
McCollum
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
Metcalf
Meyers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Molinari
Moorhead
Moran
Morella
Myers
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Norwood
Nussle
Oxley
Packard
Paxon
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Pryce
Quillen
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Riggs
Roberts
Roemer
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roth
Royce
Salmon
Sanford
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer
Schiff
Seastrand
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Shuster
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Stearns
Stockman
Stump
Talent
Tate
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Torkildsen
Traficant
Upton
Vucanovich
Walker
Walsh
Wamp
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wolf
Young (AK)
Zeliff
Zimmer

NOES—181

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Baesler
Baldacci
Barrett (WI)
Becerra
Beilenson
Bentsen
Bevill
Bishop
Blumenauer
Bonior
Borski
Boucher
Browder
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant (TX)
Cardin
Chapman
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coleman
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Cummings
Danner
de la Garza
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dellums
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Doyle
Durbin
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Filner
Flake
Foglietta
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frost
Furse
Gejdenson
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Hall (OH)
Hastings (FL)
Hefner
Hilliard
Hinchey
Holden
Hoyer
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jacobs
Jefferson
Johnson (SD)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnston
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kleczka
Klink
LaFalce
Lazio
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Luther
Maloney
Manton
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy
McDermott
McHale
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller (CA)
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Montgomery
Murtha
Nadler
Neal
Neumann
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Orton
Owens
Pallone
Parker
Pastor
Payne (NJ)
Payne (VA)
Pelosi
Peterson (FL)
Pickett
Pomeroy
Poshard
Rahall
Reed
Richardson
Rivers
Rose
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanders
Sawyer
Schroeder
Schumer
Scott
Serrano
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skelton
Slaughter
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Stokes
Studds
Stupak
Tanner
Taylor (MS)
Tejeda
Thompson
Thornton
Thurman
Torres
Torricelli
Towns
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Volkmer
Ward
Waters
Waxman
Williams
Wilson
Wise
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates

NOT VOTING—14

Clay
Dunn
Ford
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Hayes
Lantos
Lincoln
Longley
McDade
Rangel
Watt (NC)
Young (FL)

☐ 1601

The Clerk announced the following pairs:

On this vote:

Ms. Dunn of Washington for, with Mr. Clay against.

Mr. Longley for, with Mr. Rangel against.

Ms. FURSE, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, and Mr. MONTGOMERY changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. CHABOT and Mr. BERMAN changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GUTKNECHT

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT], on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 172, noes 248, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 296]

AYES—172

Allard
Baker (CA)
Baldacci
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bentsen
Blute
Browder
Brownback
Bryant (TN)
Bunning
Burton
Camp
Campbell
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Chrysler
Coble
Coburn
Collins (GA)
Combest
Condit
Cooley
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crapo
Cremeans
Cubin
Cunningham
Danner
Davis
Deal
Dickey
Doggett
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Ensign
Ewing
Fawell
Flanagan
Foley
Fox
Franks (CT)
Franks (NJ)
Funderburk
Furse
Ganske
Geren
Gillmor
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hancock
Harman
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hefley
Heineman
Herger
Hilleary
Hoekstra
Hoke
Holden
Hostettler
Hutchinson
Inglis
Istook
Jacobs
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kasich
Kelly
Kim
Kleczka
Klug
LaHood
Largent
Latham
Laughlin
Leach
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lucas
Luther
Maloney
Manzullo
Martini
Mascara
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
Meehan
Metcalf
Meyers
Mica
Minge
Montgomery
Moorhead
Myrick
Neumann
Norwood
Nussle
Orton
Parker
Pastor
Paxon
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pombo
Portman
Poshard
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Roberts
Roemer
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roth
Roukema
Royce
Salmon
Sanford
Scarborough
Schaefer
Schumer
Seastrand
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shays
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Stearns
Stenholm
Stockman
Stump
Stupak
Talent
Tanner
Tate
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thornberry

Tiahrt
Torricelli
Upton
Ward
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
White
Whitfield
Zimmer

NOES—248

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Andrews
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baesler
Baker (LA)
Ballenger
Barrett (NE)
Bass
Bateman
Becerra
Beilenson
Bereuter
Berman
Bevill
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bliley
Blumenauer
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boucher
Brewster
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant (TX)
Bunn
Burr
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Canady
Cardin
Castle
Chapman
Clayton
Clement
Clinger
Clyburn
Coleman
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cummings
de la Garza
DeFazio
DeLauro
DeLay
Dellums
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Dooley
Doolittle
Dornan
Durbin
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Engel
English
Eshoo
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Fields (TX)
Filner
Flake
Foglietta
Forbes
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Frisa
Frost
Gallegly
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gilchrest
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goodling
Greene (UT)
Greenwood
Gunderson
Hall (OH)
Hansen
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hefner
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hobson
Horn
Houghton
Hoyer
Hunter
Hyde
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnston
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
King
Kingston
Klink
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaTourette
Lazio
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lightfoot
Lipinski
Livingston
Lowey
Manton
Markey
Martinez
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meek
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller (CA)
Miller (FL)
Mink
Moakley
Molinari
Mollohan
Moran
Morella
Murtha
Myers
Nadler
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Payne (NJ)
Payne (VA)
Pelosi
Peterson (FL)
Pickett
Pomeroy
Porter
Pryce
Quillen
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Regula
Richardson
Riggs
Rivers
Rogers
Rose
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanders
Sawyer
Saxton
Schiff
Schroeder
Scott
Serrano
Shaw
Shuster
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (TX)
Spratt
Stark
Stokes
Studds
Tauzin
Tejeda
Thomas
Thompson
Thornton
Thurman
Torkildsen
Torres
Towns
Traficant
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Volkmer
Vucanovich
Walker
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Waxman
Weldon (PA)
Wicker
Williams
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates
Young (AK)
Zeliff

NOT VOTING—13

Clay
Dunn
Ford
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Hayes
Lantos
Lincoln
Longley
McDade
Watt (NC)
Young (FL)

□ 1610

Mrs. CUBIN, and Messrs. PORTMAN, MCINTOSH, and BROWDER changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) having assumed the chair, Mr. LINDER, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3754) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 473, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment? If not, the Chair will put them en gross.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. FAZIO OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, at the moment, I am.

□ 1615

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. FAZIO of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3754 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

On page 4, line 7, strike ''$22,577,000'' and insert ''$22,427,000'' and

On page 4, line 8, strike ''$16,577,000'' and insert ''$16,427,000''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion to recommit.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, the motion I am offering instructs the bill being reduced by $150,000 through the account of HIR. This is the amount that is necessary for the Republican majority to implement their new Internet policy which we believe denies Democrats our own independently accessed Web site. This amount of money is a relatively small amount.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. LOFGREN] who could explain how this could easily be attained by more efficient policy procurement.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I support the motion to recommit because its intent is to avoid a policy that I believe will have the effect of stifling voices of dissent, which will not serve this body or our country well.

As the House is aware, every office will soon be getting a computer as part of our new CyberCongress initiative. I was interested on the details on it and did get the cost for the computer, which is $5,367.12. I took the specs for that computer and went to a normal vendor outside of the favorite inside vendor and asked them for an estimate. They came in with a cost that is $900 per computer, less for a better machine, 120 megahertz as compared to the 100 megahertz that the House has purchased. If that were expanded to all 435 offices, that would be nearly $400,000 that this House would save.

Mr. Speaker, I think we ought to do that whether or not the motion to recommit is approved, but clearly if this motion is approved, we can save at least $150,000 just by making a better purchase on the new computers for each House office.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, my motion concerns the Internet policy set by the Committee on House Oversight on May 23. It will prevent funds from being spent to implement this policy. But I believe it is a policy of sufficient importance that it needs to be reevaluated as we consider funding for House operations. This is the only opportunity allowed by the Committee on Rules.

A restricted Internet policy is certainly one we are going to all have to explain to our constituents, so we should all have a chance here today to make a judgment on this policy, not simply majority of seven within the Committee on House Oversight, all Republicans.

The policy, as issued, prevents access to Democratic pages, Web pages, unless a user goes to the Republican page first. As was said in the earlier debate, it is like requiring, when we put out a press release, that we staple on top of it a press release from the other point of view. Our constituents may have to scroll through literally hundreds of screens of Republican information to even discover that the Democrats have a Web site at all.

In fact, when we made this policy, the chairman made it clear at the hearing that if a committee Chair unilaterally did not want a minority Web page at all, he or she could simply refuse to have a Web page for the majority. This is, pure and simple, a restriction on access to information. The effect of this policy is that users of the Internet and the World Wide Web, our constituents, cannot get the information they want.

It would be similar to this analogy: The freshmen have a Web site; the Republican freshmen. Should the public have to access the Democratic freshmen Web site through the Republican

freshmen Web site? It would be, I think, ludicrous. Of course not. But it illustrates, I think, how ridiculous this policy can really be.

It is a bad policy to restrict information for. It flies in the face of all the discussion of a vaunted open Congress. It perverts the whole idea behind the free flow of electronic information that is inherent in the idea behind the Internet and the World Wide Web itself.

So I want to prevail upon the reason, the wisdom, the common sense of my colleagues and ask them to reject this policy, support this minimal reduction in the HIR budget, one we could easily make up with a tighter procurement policy, and strike a blow for open information regardless of whether one is with the minority or the majority.

After all, we all must anticipate during our careers we will share the experience in both categories.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD] opposed to the motion to recommit?

Mr. PACKARD. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this is not a Republican Internet system. This is a bipartisan, bicameral system. The Members of the CyberCongress roster, the Internet Caucus roster, is made up of 50 Members of the House and Senate on both sides of the aisle, and they strongly urge that we proceed forward with the Web page and the Internet system.

This motion to recommit will mean that the team of computer experts who are helping individual Members, each of us, put their Web site on the Internet will be eliminated in this motion to recommit. This team not only helps the committees install their own Web pages, but it helps train our colleagues and their staff on how to use the Internet for their Web sites.

Mr. Chairman, this recommittal will harm the House's ability to use the Internet and make information available to our constituents. This funding is for two or three people who support Members and committee staff to present material in a clear and relevant way to the American people.

This is a policy issue, not an issue of funding, and should be dealt with in the policy forum, not through this bill. Currently 12 inquiries are received daily by HIR which reflect a growing demand on this service.

I urge my colleagues in a bipartisan way to reject this motion to recommit because it will hurt our colleagues' individual offices as they move toward the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS], chairman of the Committee on House Oversight.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, if anyone ever wondered what was meant by the old phrase, ''cut off your nose to spite your face,'' we have got exhibit A in front of us in this motion to recommit.

The gentleman from California talked about the committee Web sites, that we have to go through hundreds of pages. Just a short time ago I showed our colleagues the pages. It is right on the front page. They even use an icon of a donkey for those who are not sure where they are supposed to go. We provide a book mark, go to that site once, and then in the software the return user can go directly to the minority site. Every committee has it except the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. What he proposes to do is cut out the employees in HIR that assist in the more than 180 Web sites.

Democrats and Republicans, we heard speech after speech about wanting an open Congress, wanting a House that was more willing to work with people on the outside, and we were not willing to do that by having the committees with the majority and the minority tied together like it is everywhere else.

I say to my colleagues, ''This amendment cuts off your nose to spite your face. You are going to deny support services to Democrats as well as Republicans, to groups like freshmen Democrats and freshmen Republicans so you can make a point backed up by facts that simply are not so.''

I would urge a ''no'' vote on the motion to recommit.

Mr. PACKARD. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge on a bipartisan basis that we, for our own good and for the good of our CyberCongress and our individual offices, vote this motion to recommit down, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule XV, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device, if ordered, will be taken on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electonic device, and there were—ayes 191, noes 230, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 297]

AYES—191

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Andrews
Baesler
Baldacci
Barcia
Barrett (WI)
Becerra
Beilenson
Bentsen
Berman
Bevill
Bishop
Blumenauer
Bonior
Borski
Boucher
Brewster
Browder
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant (TX)
Cardin
Chapman
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coleman
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Cummings
Danner
de la Garza
DeLauro
Dellums
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Durbin
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Filner
Flake
Foglietta
Frank (MA)
Frost
Furse
Gejdenson
Gephardt
Geren
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hefner
Hilliard
Hinchey
Holden
Hoyer
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jacobs
Jefferson
Johnson (SD)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnston
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kleczka
Klink
LaFalce
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Luther
Maloney
Manton
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy
McDermott
McHale
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller (CA)
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Montgomery
Moran
Murtha
Nadler
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Orton
Owens
Pallone
Pastor
Payne (NJ)
Payne (VA)
Pelosi
Peterson (FL)
Pickett
Pomeroy
Poshard
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Richardson
Rivers
Roemer
Rose
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanders
Sawyer
Schroeder
Schumer
Scott
Serrano
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skelton
Slaughter
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Stokes
Studds
Stupak
Tanner
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Tejeda
Thompson
Thornton
Thurman
Torres
Torricelli
Towns
Traficant
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Volkmer
Ward
Waters
Waxman
Williams
Wilson
Wise
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates

NOES—230

Allard
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baker (CA)
Baker (LA)
Ballenger
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Bereuter
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bliley
Blute
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Brownback
Bryant (TN)
Bunn
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Chrysler
Clinger
Coble
Coburn
Collins (GA)
Combest
Cooley
Cox
Crane
Crapo
Cremeans
Cubin
Cunningham
Davis
Deal
DeFazio
DeLay
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Doolittle
Dornan
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ehrlich
English
Ensign
Everett
Ewing
Fawell
Fields (TX)
Flanagan
Foley
Forbes
Fowler
Fox
Franks (CT)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frisa
Funderburk
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goodlatte
Goodling
Goss
Graham
Greene (UT)
Greenwood
Gunderson
Gutknecht
Hancock
Hansen
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hefley
Heineman
Herger
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hoke
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inglis
Istook

Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kasich
Kelly
Kim
King
Kingston
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Laughlin
Lazio
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lightfoot
Linder
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lucas
Manzullo
Martini
McCollum
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
Metcalf
Meyers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Molinari
Moorhead
Morella
Myers
Myrick
Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Norwood
Nussle
Oxley
Packard
Parker
Paxon
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Pryce
Quillen
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Riggs
Roberts
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roth
Roukema
Royce
Salmon
Sanford
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer
Schiff
Seastrand
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Shuster
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Stearns
Stockman
Stump
Talent
Tate
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Torkildsen
Upton
Vucanovich
Walker
Walsh
Wamp
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wolf
Young (AK)
Zeliff
Zimmer

NOT VOTING—12

Clay
Dunn
Ford
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Hayes
Lantos
Lincoln
Longley
McDade
Watt (NC)
Young (FL)

□ 1644

The Clerk announced the following pairs:

On this vote:

Mr. Linder with Mr. Longley against.

Mr. Clay with Ms. Dunn of Washington against.

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 360, nays 58, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 298]

YEAS—360

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allard
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baesler
Baker (CA)
Baker (LA)
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Becerra
Beilenson
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Bevill
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blute
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boucher
Brewster
Browder
Brown (CA)
Brown (OH)
Brownback
Bryant (TN)
Bunn
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chapman
Christensen
Chrysler
Clayton
Clement
Clinger
Clyburn
Coburn
Coleman
Collins (GA)
Combest
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crapo
Cremeans
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis
de la Garza
Deal
DeFazio
DeLauro
DeLay
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Dooley
Doolittle
Dornan
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Durbin
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
English
Ensign
Eshoo
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fawell
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Fields (TX)
Filner
Flake
Flanagan
Foglietta
Foley
Forbes
Fowler
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (CT)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frisa
Frost
Funderburk
Furse
Gallegly
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Geren
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Greene (UT)
Greenwood
Gunderson
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hefley
Hefner
Heineman
Herger
Hilleary
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hoke
Holden
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hunter
Hutchinson
Inglis
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson, E.B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kim
King
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Laughlin
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lightfoot
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
Lowey
Lucas
Luther
Maloney
Manton
Manzullo
Martinez
Martini
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McCrery
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Menendez
Meyers
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Mink
Moakley
Molinari
Mollohan
Montgomery
Moorhead
Morella
Murtha
Myers
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Norwood
Nussle
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Parker
Pastor
Paxon
Payne (NJ)
Payne (VA)
Pelosi
Peterson (FL)
Pickett
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Poshard
Pryce
Quillen
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reed
Regula
Richardson
Riggs
Rivers
Roberts
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rose
Roth
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Salmon
Sanders
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer
Schiff
Schumer
Scott
Seastrand
Serrano
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Shuster
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Spence
Spratt
Stokes
Studds
Stupak
Tate
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Tejeda
Thomas
Thompson
Thornberry
Thornton
Thurman
Tiahrt
Torkildsen
Torres
Towns
Traficant
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Vucanovich
Walker
Walsh
Wamp
Ward
Waters
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Williams
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Young (AK)
Zeliff

NAYS—58

Andrews
Brown (FL)
Bryant (TX)
Chenoweth
Coble
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Condit
Conyers
Cooley
Danner
Dellums
Doggett
Engel
Fattah
Ganske
Green (TX)
Hamilton
Hancock
Hilliard
Jacobs
Johnston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Markey
McDermott
Meehan
Meek
Metcalf
Miller (CA)
Minge
Moran
Neumann
Oberstar
Obey
Orton
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Roemer
Royce
Sabo
Sanford
Schroeder
Sensenbrenner
Slaughter
Solomon
Souder
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Stockman
Stump
Talent
Tanner
Torricelli
Volkmer
Yates
Zimmer

NOT VOTING—15

Clay
Dunn
Ford
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Hayes
Hyde
Lantos
Lincoln
Longley
McDade
Smith (TX)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Young (FL)

□ 1652

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 472 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 472

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution, the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declared the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3755) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI, clause 7 of rule XXI, or section 302 or 308 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed two hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment. The Chairman of the Committee of the