

(42 U.S.C. 242k), the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a term of 4 years:

Mr. Jeffrey S. Blair, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR RECOMMITTAL OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 83, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-58) on the resolution (H. Res. 134) providing for recommitment of the conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (H.Con.Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 581, WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-59) on the resolution (H. Res. 135) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 581) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use funds appropriated for wildland fire management in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to facilitate the interagency cooperation required under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in connection with wildland fire management, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO THE SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 131 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 131

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider reports from the Committee on Rules

on the same day they are presented to the House is waived with respect to resolutions reported on the legislative day of May 8, 2001, providing for consideration or disposition of any conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 131 waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Committee on Rules. The rule applies the waiver to a special rule reported on the legislative day of May 8, 2001, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 83, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rule. I am at a loss to explain why we are once again preparing to circumvent the rules of this body and cram a controversial budget conference down the throats of our colleagues. What aversion does the leadership have to regular order? Last week's paper caper in the midnight hour was a prime illustration of the adage "haste makes waste." In their haste to cover up the details of a flawed budget blueprint, the leadership wasted hour upon hour of time slated for the people's business.

Today's rule is more of the same. Martial law is an extremely heavy-handed process, even for this leadership. Under the rules of the House, a two-thirds vote is required to consider a rule on the same day the Committee on Rules reports it. But the martial law procedures before us allow a rule to be considered on the same day as it is reported rather with a majority, rather than a two-thirds vote.

This rule we are considering would waive the 1-day layover requirement. It would also kick off a chain reaction whereby this body considers several procedural votes in an elaborate game

to recommit last week's ill-fated budget conference report and bring up a revised version for consideration. Given what we have learned about the forthcoming conference bill on the budget, we should not be surprised. I suspect that the longer the measure is exposed to the light of day, the more likely it will shrivel up and die.

I would note for the record that no Democrats had input on the conference report. No Democrats were invited to participate in writing this agreement, nor were any Democrats given any information regarding the document that will be the budget guideline for this Nation. The word in the caucus room is that the Budget chairman refused to return the phone calls of our ranking member. This is a far cry from changing the tone in Washington that the current leadership prides itself on.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this rule.

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

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

I would just respond to say that the reason we are using the procedures that we are is to get us timely to the debate on the budget which we hope to have tomorrow. The rules covering the conference reports, preserving the prerogatives of both Chambers of the House, require that we recommit the conference report.

We have created a way to do that this evening, it seems appropriate to do, and then we will proceed tomorrow to debate on the budget. I think that the argument now that the minority has not had a chance to see the budget is a little bit strange considering we have just had 4 days, an ample time to review and ample time to consider that document.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this budget. As someone who grew up in relatively humble circumstances, in a one-bedroom home in Orlando, Florida, I learned some important things about life at a young age.

First, I learned that single mothers and working families desperately need tax relief. This budget provides that tax relief to the tune of \$1.35 trillion.

Second, I learned that a first-class education is a child's passport out of poverty. This budget represents the largest investment in education in the history of the United States, including a \$1 billion increase in Pell grants and \$5 billion for reading in grades kindergarten through third grade.

I also learned that senior citizens depend on their Social Security checks and prescription drugs to live. This budget puts the Social Security surpluses in a lockbox and spends up to \$300 billion for prescription drugs for seniors.