

and consistent with the provisions of these rules.

E. Oath.—Before a Member or Committee staff member may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service on the Committee on Homeland Security, except as authorized by the Committee or the House of Representatives or in accordance with the Rules of such Committee or the Rules of the House."

Copies of the executed oath (or affirmation) shall be retained by the Clerk as part of the records of the Committee.

F. Disciplinary Action.—The Chairman shall immediately consider disciplinary action in the event any member of the Committee staff fails to conform to the provisions of these rules governing the disclosure of classified or unclassified information. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, immediate dismissal from the Committee staff, criminal referral to the Justice Department, and notification of the Speaker of the House. With respect to minority party staff, the Chairman shall consider such disciplinary action in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

IX. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE RULES

These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Committee provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each Member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BLUE DOG'S 12-STEP PLAN TO COMMON SENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to address our Nation's fiscal crisis. The Blue Dog Coalition, of which I am a proud member, has been a leading voice in Congress on fiscal responsibility for over a decade now.

We are dedicated to fighting our Nation's ballooning national debt with every last breath we take, and we will continue to lead the fight for fiscal

sanity until the Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and the White House realize that we cannot continue to run our Nation deeper and deeper into the deficit hole.

What comes as common sense to American families and the business owners across this country does not come that easily to Members of this Congress and especially to members of the administration.

The Blue Dog Coalition 12-step budget reform plan that we introduce today injects just a little bit of common sense into the way that Congress and the White House does business. Our 12-step plan is the most comprehensive reform program to date and makes the attempted reforms in the President's budget look like child's play.

Here is our plan: Number 1. Require a balanced budget. The Blue Dogs believe a balanced budget amendment is the only way to ensure fiscal discipline in Congress.

□ 1530

Number two, do not let Congress buy on credit. The Blue Dogs want to restore the budget rules that Congress once lived by, including pay-as-you-go budgeting. Restoring PAYGO will put our Nation back on track to fiscal responsibility. We did it once before; we can do it again.

Number three, put a lid on spending. The Blue Dogs want strict spending caps to slow the growth of runaway government programs.

Number four, require agencies to put their fiscal houses in order. Sixteen of 23 major Federal agencies cannot complete a simple audit of their books. These agencies should be doing a better job of tracking the taxpayer dollars. The Blue Dogs propose a budget freeze for any agency who cannot balance its own books like Americans do their checkbooks.

Number five, make Congress tell taxpayers how they are spending the money. Many spending bills slide through Congress on a voice vote with no debate. The Blue Dogs propose that any bill calling for \$50 million in new spending must be put to a roll call vote right here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Number six, set aside a rainy-day fund. Forty-five States already do this. If the Federal Government had done it when we had surpluses as the Blue Dogs suggested then, we would be a lot better off right now.

Number seven, do not hide votes to raise the debt limit. The current House rules allow for automatic increases in the debt limit. The Blue Dogs believe that increases in the public debt limit should not be hidden from public view. We want to make every increase in the debt limit subject to a rollcall vote.

Number eight, justify the spending for pork barrel projects. Since 1991 Congress has spent \$185 billion on pet projects for Members. While many of these projects are worthy of taxpayer support, some are not. The Blue Dogs

propose that Members of Congress provide written justifications for any earmarked spending for their pet projects.

Number nine, ensure that Congress reads bills that are voted on. What a novel concept. Over the past few years, some of the largest spending bills in history have been voted on only after a few hours of consideration. The Blue Dogs propose that Members of Congress be given 3 full days minimum to have the final text of legislation before there is a vote.

Number 10, require honest cost estimates for every bill that Congress comes to vote on. There are no requirements that the bills come with an honest estimate of their fiscal impact. The Blue Dogs propose that every bill that comes to the floor of the House be accompanied by a cost estimate from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Number 11, make sure new bills fit the budget. The new legislation needs to live within the rules agreed upon by the annual budget resolution. The Blue Dogs propose that the Committee on the Budget strengthen its oversight rule by preparing budget-compliant statements for every bill that is considered by the full House.

Finally, number 12, make Congress do a better job of keeping tabs on government programs. Blue Dogs believe that Congress needs to carry out its oversight responsibilities. We propose that each committee submit at least two reports a year that provide an update on how each committee is fulfilling its oversight duties.

Our 12 steps are commonsense ideas that should transcend partisan differences. I hope that this Congress will adopt these measures as we attempt to restore fiscal responsibility for our Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS 109TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule XI I submit for printing in the RECORD the Rules and Practices of the Committee on Appropriations as follows:

Practices: