

There was no objection.

SUPPORT FOR THE MAJORITY
LEADER

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it may come as a surprise to the minority leader and her liberal followers in this Chamber to learn that when I am back in the 4th District of Kentucky I am not asked why I support the majority leader. I am asked why the liberal Democrats insist on obstructing progress in the House.

My constituents want to know why the so-called progressive party opposes legislation to create jobs, to lower the cost of health care, to secure our borders, to fortify our military and to strengthen Social Security for future generations. And now my constituents want to know why the liberal Democrats will not let the majority leader appear before the ethics committee to clear his name.

It appears to my constituents that the liberals are afraid the majority leader, a man who does not stand in violation of any law, will clear his name. And then what happens? The minority leader and her followers will have to explain why they wasted America's time assassinating the character of the majority leader rather than working in Congress to help our country.

I think the answer is already clear.

SUPPORT FOR THE MAJORITY
LEADER

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the last 6 weeks, Democratic leaders have been speaking out of both sides of their mouths. They have leveled charges against the majority leader, yet at the same time they will not allow the ethics committee to convene and explore the facts. If they are serious about our ethics process in this institution, why will they not let the ethics committee organize so that it can conduct its business?

Time and time again the ethics committee chairman has offered to end the Democratic logjam. This is the same old, tired, petty, partisan politics of the past. A Democrat leader is quoted as saying this issue will cost Republican seats in next year's election, petty, partisan politics.

There is only one conclusion that can be drawn from the activities of the Democrat leaders, they would rather have an issue than a solution. It is sad and it is cynical.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to an open, fair and expedient ethics process and are willing to work with Democrats productively. I challenge all Members of this body to ask their leaders to act responsibly.

Let us allow the ethics committee to proceed with their appropriate work. Stop the petty, partisan, political tactics. Let us work together and honor our constituents' trust.

SUPPORT FOR THE MAJORITY
LEADER

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of complaints about rules changes by Democrats. As a freshman, as a former judge and chief justice, I am still in the process of making assessments. When I hear allegations for or against either side, I am looking to figure out, is there evidence to support or dispel the allegations.

In this case, the allegations about the rules changes, you have to take a look at. In the first place, there have been ethical allegations made about the majority leader, Mr. DELAY, and the complaint about the rules changes.

Well, we look at the rules. First of all, allowing someone to know what they are charged with in advance seems pretty reasonable. Allowing someone to hire their own attorney sounds pretty reasonable. Going from 90 days to 45 days seemed a little short, and then we hear Chairman HASTINGS say, We will go and I will give you an automatic extension back to 90.

You look at the evidence, the fact that there was a RICO lawsuit filed against the majority leader that was dismissed with prejudice because there was nothing there, you have a DA that has been trying to indict him for years unsuccessfully.

There is an old saying, Mr. Speaker, justice delayed is justice denied. It appears now that this is all about denying justice to DELAY.

SUPPORT FOR THE MAJORITY
LEADER

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the past 6 weeks Democrats have attacked the character, leadership and intentions of the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Although Democrats continue to smear the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), they forget that they are responsible for preventing the ethics committee from investigating the charges directed at the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Since the beginning of the 109th Congress, House Democrats have refused to allow the ethics committee to meet to address this issue. Four ethics committee Republicans have pledged that as soon as the Democrats permit the ethics committee to function again, they will vote to form an investigative subcommittee to review various allega-

tions concerning travel and other actions by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Majority Leader DELAY has said all along that he wants to appear before the ethics committee to address the recent accusations. Unfortunately, Democrats prefer to attack his character for political purposes rather than officially investigate these allegations.

Democrats should stop playing politics with the House ethics committee and should give the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) the opportunity to defend himself through the congressional ethics process.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September the 11.

SUPPORT FOR THE MAJORITY
LEADER

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, we are now 4 months into the 109th Congress and Republicans have passed bankruptcy reform, repealed the death tax, adjusted class action lawsuits to help victims, enacted border security to keep out terrorists, passed a budget and wartime funding, strengthened job training for millions and passed the highway bill. Meanwhile, the House Democrats have not proposed an agenda, but instead have remained negative, obstructive and focused on partisan attacks.

I rise today to support the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), not because he has proven to be an effective leader, but because he has been a victim of political game-playing and a relentless media, a media not focused on policies that have helped millions of Americans lead better lives, but instead focused on tabloid attacks on our leader.

Time and time again, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has requested to appear in front of the ethics committee. He has requested this opportunity to prove his innocence and put an end to these meritless accusations, accusations that are based upon nothing but pure partisan rhetoric.

Democrats' attack on the Republican majority leader is nothing but a coordinated agenda to stop an effective leader from accomplishing the people's business.

Ethics is an issue that should not be taken lightly. The committee in Congress should not be used as a partisan tool. We need to get back to debating the principles to make America a better place.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY
LEADER

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friend from Washington, and the gentleman from Washington