

leave of absence from the House Armed Services Committee in order to serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I understand that I will retain my seniority on the Armed Services Committee for the duration of my leave.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. LANGEVIN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MAJORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 75) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 75

Resolved, That the following named Members and Delegate be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Meek of Florida (to rank immediately after Mr. Cummings).

(2) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Boren.

(3) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Berman, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Watt, Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Ms. Waters, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Delahunt, Mr. Wexler, Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Gutierrez, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Davis of Alabama, Mr. Ellison.

(4) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Mr. Kildee, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Pallone, Mrs. Christensen, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Holt, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Costa, Mr. Boren, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. George Miller of California, Mr. Markey, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Hinchey, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kind, Mrs. Capps, Mr. Inslee, Mr. Udall of Colorado, Mr. Baca, Ms. Solis, Ms. Herseth, Mr. Shuler.

(5) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Mr. Costello, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Ms. Woolsey, Mr. Udall of Colorado, Mr. Wu, Mr. Baird, Mr. Miller of North Carolina, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. Lampson, Ms. Giffords, Mr. McNerney, Mr. Rothman, Mr. Honda, Mr. Matheson, Mr. Ross, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Carnahan, Mr. Melancon, Mr. Hill, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Wilson of Ohio.

(6) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Ms. Berkley (to rank immediately after Mr. Doyle), Mr. Walz of Minnesota.

Mr. MCGOVERN (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk continued to read the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 47

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the name of Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD as a cosponsor from H.R. 47. Her name was placed on this bill in error.

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

There was no objection.

QUESTION OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. For what purpose does the gentleman from Texas rise?

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to a question of personal privilege.

Madam Speaker, the question of personal privilege to which I rise is one regarding the tarnish that is on my reputation and the reputation of others here in this body.

We had heard for the last couple of years the term "culture of corruption"; and, frankly, one of the things that I looked forward to is an end to all this discussion about corruption that tarnishes each one of us. And I know for all of the people whom I am close to it is a big deal as far as our reputation when it is tarnished.

And so what I would submit is that in the last 2 weeks that we have not cleared a culture of corruption; that a cloud of corruption has hovered over this body, it hovers over me now, tarnishing all that we are and that I am. And to have an American territory excluded from a minimum wage bill that directly benefits one of the Members, in fact the Speaker and a company—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Under rule IX, the gentleman has not stated a basis for a question of personal privilege.

Mr. GOHMERT. Point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. GOHMERT. Under rule IX, it is provided in the precedents that any time someone's reputation has been tarnished or sullied, it may be addressed.

I would in fact direct you to the second page of section 708 regarding the prior usage for the question of personal privilege. And you will find on the second page of the reference in section 708 of the Rules and Practice Manual that Former Speaker Jim Wright rose to a question of personal privilege and he addressed a matter that was sullyng the reputation of the House, and him in particular, and addressed it in order to clear the air.

If you look underneath that in that same page, it references Speaker Gingrich, who rose to a question of personal privilege in order to clear the air and the cloud and allegation of corruption that had arisen. And then, beneath that you will see a reference of a precedent from Speaker HASTERT in 2000 who

rose to a question of personal privilege to clear the air and clear the question of malfeasance over the issue of the selection of the Chaplain.

□ 1830

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would be pleased to examine the basis on which the gentleman from Texas would rely, individually, to be recognized on a point of personal privilege.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, then perhaps it would be better for the Speaker to come so we can clear the air and get this matter behind us so we can move forward in a bipartisan manner. If it was a staff member or someone else that allowed American Samoa to be exempted, we can get it cleared. The question of personal privilege would disappear. I would rise to make that—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

If the gentleman has documents, newspaper articles, or the like, that identify him personally, he may rely on them as a basis for a question of personal privilege.

Mr. GOHMERT. I have a constitutional point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his point of order.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, under Article I, section 6, a matter that was discussed at some length in the past year, it says that for any speech or debate in either House, they, the Senators and Representatives, shall not be questioned in any other place.

This is the only place in which a question of personal privilege, in which a matter that is tarnishing anyone's reputation or everyone's reputation in here may be addressed. If I will not be allowed to go further with the question of personal privilege, I would ask the Speaker to rise to a question of personal privilege as the last three Speakers have under Article I, section 6, clear the air, clear the cloud of corruption that is hovering over us so we can move forward in a clean and wholesome, bipartisan environment. And I will do as the Parliamentarian has requested.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the precedents of this House, the Chair would be pleased to examine any documentary evidence the gentleman might bring to her attention in order to be able to proceed on a question of personal privilege. The Chair presently has no basis for decision. The Chair would ask the gentleman to conform to precedent to be allowed to proceed. The Chair has not been provided anything to examine as the basis of his question of personal privilege.

Mr. GOHMERT. Parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GOHMERT. Is the Speaker asking or directing that I bring in articles