| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Smith (TX) | Thornton | Watt (NC) |
| Smith (WA) | Torkildsen | Watts (OK) |
| Spence | Torres | Waxman |
| Spratt | Torricelli | Weldon (PA) |
| Stearns | Upton | Weller |
| Stenholm | Velazquez | White |
| Stockman | Vento | Wicker |
| Stokes | Visclosky | Williams |
| Stump | Volkmer | Wolf |
| Stupak | Vucanovich | Woolsey |
| Tanner | Waldholtz | Wynn |
| Tate | Walker | Yates |
| Taylor (NC) | Walsh | Young (FL) |
| Thomas | Wamp | Zeliff |

NOT VOTING—2

de la Garza Gephardt

□ 1721

Mr. BARCIA, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. OWENS changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. NEY and Mr. BILBRAY changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment in the nature of a substitute was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally in order that the House may receive a message.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER) assumed the chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive a message.

## 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.

□ 1724

## TERM LIMITS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 104–82.

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. INGLIS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute that is made in order under the rule.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

Amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. INGLISH of South Carolina: Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress:

''ARTICLE—

''SECTION 1. No person who has been elected for a full term to the Senate two times shall be eligible for election or appointment to the Senate. No person who has been elected for a full term to the House of Representatives three times shall be eligible for election to the House of Representatives.

''SECTION 2. No person who has served as a Senator for more than three years of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be eligible for election to the Senate more than once. No person who has served as a Representative for more than one year shall subsequently be eligible for election to the House of Representatives more than two times.

''SECTION 3. No election or service occurring before this article becomes operative shall be taken into account when determining eligibility for election under this article.''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. INGLIS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and a Member opposed, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS], will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. INGLIS].

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, we now come to the continuation of this historic debate on term limits. It is a very exciting day in America that we now have the opportunity to move on to real term limits and the opportunity to vote for term limits for the first time in the history of this country.

Before we vote in this House on a real term limits proposal, the three that are about to come before us, let me make the point of what has happened out there in America in the States.

Twenty-two States, now, in the United States have enacted term limits. Of those States, as you can see here colored on this chart, 15 have adopted 6-year term limits. Four have adopted 8-year term limits. And three have adopted 12-year term limits.

Any of those is acceptable in my mind. Twelve years would be good if that is the one we end up with at the end of the day. Six years might be a little bit better, in my opinion, but the important thing is we pass term limits.

It is important to note though if we are looking at what States have done that they have, a majority, adopted the 6-year approach. It is also something to point out that when asked, the American people apparently preferred the 6-year version. In fact, if you ask the American people which one they prefer, 82 percent prefer three terms, and six terms are preferred by 14 percent of the American people. This, I think, is consistent with most polls on the subject and accurately reflects the view of most people that 6 years is about right. Others are a little bit longer.

But now that we have gotten that out of the way and I have advocated at least on the 6-year bill, let me make a very important point to all of my colleagues here. We just had a vote on which 135 people voted for retroactive application of term limits. I will now expect in honesty and truth in legislating for every one of those 135 to vote for final passage, whether it is my bill or whether it is the Hilleary approach or whether it is the approach offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM]. Because I will assure you whichever one comes forward as the will of this House I will support. I will not insist on six. I think it is a little bit better. But I am happy to vote for one of the 12-year proposals.

So I particularly would hope that those on the Democratic side, the 81 that just voted for a retroactive application of term limits, as this House works its will, that you will vote with us on final passage. We need your help to get 290 votes. We have an opportunity. If every one of those 81 come with us, we will have term limits at the end of the night, and I look forward to that day.

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

□ 1730

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman I yield myself 3 minutes.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, we now come to the most objectionable of all the term limit proposals. The Inglis substitute would limit Congressmen to a mere 6 years—or three terms—in office. The proposal would make it impossible to run this institution in an orderly and intelligent fashion.

If the Inglis substitute had been law none of the leaders selected by the Republican Party—not Majority Leader ARMEY, not Speaker GINGRICH, and indeed not a single Republican committee chair—would have been eligible for office, let alone to assume their new leadership roles this Congress.

And if the Inglis proposal is such a good idea, why didn't the Republicans choose any committee chairs from among those Members serving in their first three terms? I think the answer is obvious—a 6-year term limit does not make sense. It is the most radical of all the term limit substitutes. It would severely distort and disfigure the legislative process and recast our two century old Constitution so significantly that its authors would no longer recognize the first branch of Government. The jockeying for power that would occur in this place under a three-term cap would be unprecedented.

The Inglis substitute would create a Congress of lame ducks and lead to an even greater proliferation of wealthy candidates who could afford to abandon their business careers for a few years. And the few Members who were not independently wealthy would be forced to spend most of their time currying favor with special interests so that they could further their postcongressional career opportunities.