

the rules in this little blue book and our House rules, this process is in serious need of review and reform, and that is happening. But the last time we implemented major changes was in 1989, and most observers, as well as most Members, I think, believe that it is time to do more.

I have been saying that for years, and I have been trying to advance constructive proposals for reform of this process through the Committee on Rules, which is the proper venue for these discussions. But I have been blocked in that effort on the Committee on Rules by some of the very people who are now so vigorously urging our committee to ignore our rules.

So on the one hand they seem to be complaining about the constraints of our current rules, while on the other hand they refuse to allow us on the Committee on Rules to plan for changes in the process so we do not fall into these same problems in the next Congress.

Mr. Speaker, my dear friend from Colorado, Mrs. SCHROEDER, inserted some remarks into Tuesday's RECORD, calling on me to resign my current position on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. I would suggest to her, in good nature, that I would like nothing more than to relinquish my post on that committee. I could say it the other way, and do the Brer Rabbit and say, "Oh, please, don't fire me from the committee; don't throw me into that briar patch," but the truth is I have served my time there and I would love to move on.

As all Members know, serving there is a difficult and very thankless task. It is no fun, it is extremely hard work, but, again, I am constrained by the very rules of the committee and by my obligation to faithfully discharge my duty to this House, and I will do that.

I would say to the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], and to all my colleagues who have lambasted our committee in recent days, join me in my attempt to get real reform of the ethics process for the next Congress.

For instance, I have proposed changes to the process that would help to address the problem we seem to be having, where Members of this House, perhaps because they have not read or do not fully understand the committee's current rules, make statements that are misleading and confusing to other Members, and to the public, and to the media.

My proposal would make all Members eligible to serve on the ethics panel, similar to a jury approach, where anyone could be called as needed at any time perhaps. Perhaps, then, Members would pay more attention to the rules.

This type of reform would, I think, ensure that Members become more familiar with the rules and procedures of that committee, which are important, and since they too could be called upon to serve duty there in the future. In that case, then, perhaps they would be a little less likely to excoriate their

colleagues who are currently doing the heavy lifting on that committee.

I have other ideas, all of which are included in House Resolution 346, and I invite my colleagues to look at the proposal and add others to it, and to bring forward ideas of their own, so that we can have the best possible reform of the ethics process.

We have an opportunity to turn all the partisan rancor into a positive force for change, and I hope we do not let that opportunity pass us by. The purpose of the ethics committee is to build a credibility of the institution. When we abuse the rules, we detract from the credibility of the institution and that does no Member or the institution any good.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOLEY of Oregon). Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed theHouse. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed theHouse. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. PALLONE addressed theHouse. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed theHouse. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana addressed theHouse. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. METCALF addressed theHouse. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gen-

tleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. VOLKMER addressed theHouse. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION AND THE WAR ON DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before theHouse once again, I intent to come before theHouse as many times as it takes, to see what we can do as a Congress, as a Nation, as parents, as concerned citizens to see how we can stem the drug epidemic in this country. I cannot think of any greater failure of an administration in my lifetime then the failure of this current administration in addressing and in fact ignoring the problem of drug abuse and drug misuse.

It is a very documentable history. It is a story that began in 1992, and we see the results today in our communities and our streets and our schools and in our homes. What is interesting to note with this chart that I brought here today is the use of illegal drugs and the history of our efforts in that war on drugs.

In 1980, we see where President Reagan took over and said, just say no. And his wife, Nancy Reagan, said, just say no, and provided the leadership to this Nation and to our young people and said, drugs are the wrong way to go. We see the chart from 1980 going down and then we see President Bush and Mrs. Bush, and they continued that policy of just say no, that drugs will destroy lives and drugs will destroy our young people.

Then we see 1992, and the latest statistics are absolutely astounding. We see 1992, when President Clinton took office and he first fired the drug czar. Then he hired Joycelyn Elders, our chief health officer for this Nation, who said, just say maybe, maybe take drugs, kids.

Then we saw the destruction of our interdiction program to stop in a most cost-effective manner drugs at their source. Then finally, in the insult to the highest office in this land, we saw the WhiteHouse failing to curtail the employment of people with admitted recent drug use and drug abuse histories, which just startled me as a member of the committee that investigated that matter. So this is what we see, this is what they did, and this is what we get.

Take this second chart, if you would, teen drug use. These statistics should shock every Member of Congress and every parent and every person in the media, the rampant increase in drug use by our teenagers, 12 to 17 years old. I repeated this yesterday, drug use up 78 percent, marijuana use, not the kind of marijuana of the 1960's and the 1970's, we are talking about more potent, more brain destructive, more

gene destructive marijuana than kids have ever used before, up 105 percent. LSD use, 105 percent, cocaine, 166 percent increase.

This is among our teenagers. So we see why we have 1.6 million of our Americans in jail, 70 percent of them in jail because of drug-related incidents. We see why we have honest citizens and senior citizens and Americans living behind bars in fear, afraid to go out at night, afraid to go out of their home because we have created this situation.

Mr. Speaker, this is the problem, and what are we doing about it? As part of this new majority, as someone who called on the previous Congress to look at the situation and do something and examine it and restore drug interdiction, we are doing something. Today we are meeting and there are hearings on restoring our Coast Guard effort. Today we are working in the appropriations measures that are before this Congress to restore our military effort to stop drugs in a cost-effective manner at their source. We are going to restore also our efforts with our Drug Enforcement Agency that were proposed for slashing by this administration, not by this new majority.

So, Mr. Speaker, it takes leadership. It takes leadership from the WhiteHouse. It takes leadership from the Congress. We must set the standard. We cannot lower the standard. We cannot have a WhiteHouse or a President that in fact lower the standards for our young people because this is the results we get. This is a headline that every American should see, every American should see that.

ETHICS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just a few moments ago, a member of theHouse Ethics Committee from Florida came and spoke about the rules of that committee. Earlier today we had a discussion on this floor. In fact, we were prevented from having a discussion about whether or not that committee should release a report that is currently before it with respect to the activities of Speaker GINGRICH and the tax laws of this country and the misuse of nonprofit charitable foundations in political campaigns.

The speaker said that apparently they could not release the report, and the chairman of that committee has said they cannot release that report, that the rules do not allow for it.

I would refer them to the rules of theHouse which have been mimicked in the rules of the committee. It said, no information or testimony received—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, my point of order is, the gentleman is proceeding out of order. This is a matter before the Ethics Committee. The gentleman knows the rules of this body.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, if I may be heard on the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER].

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker from Florida got up and was talking about his initiative to reform the rules of theHouse Ethics Committee and stated about whether or not a report could be released or information can be released. I am differing with the gentleman with respect to that statement and the statement of the rules of theHouse. I believe the rules of the Ethics Committee are not a matter before the committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from discussing specific official conduct cases.

The gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] may proceed in order.

Mr. MILLER of California. The point being this, if I can finish reading this section: That no information or testimony received or the contents of a complaint or the fact of a finding, of a filing shall be publicly disclosed by any committee or staff member unless, unless specifically authorized in each instance by a vote of the full committee. The point being this: Any report that is before the committee on House ethics at any time can be released by a vote of that committee. Should the committee choose not to vote, that report will continue to be secret. If the committee shall choose to vote, that report will become public both to the Members of this House and to the Members of the public in general.

This issue, this issue about the committee's ability to release or not release a report is not one of first impression before this Congress. It was raised in 1988 in the matter regarding Speaker Jim Wright. At that time Congressman NEWT GINGRICH, not then-Speaker but now-Speaker, Congressman NEWT GINGRICH wrote to the gentleman from California, JULIAN DIXON, then chairman of the Ethics Committee, and said to him that he believed that it was absolutely essential that all 435 Members of this House have access to the reports and to information.

He went on to list, I believe, eight or nine criteria in that letter that he believed should be invoked, the most important of which have not been currently done in this session of the Congress. That is that any special or independent counsel appointed by the Ethics Committee shall have the ability to conduct a free and full investigation, that the committee shall in no way hamper that, the committee shall only cooperate, and that that special counsel shall have the discretion from time

to time to make a decision to release information or to make public statements.

Speaker GINGRICH in 1988 said he had serious concerns about whether or not the Ethics Committee was engaging in that fashion, asked for the release of the report on Speaker Wright before the subcommittee had a chance to fully consider it or the full committee and all, all relevant documents, transcripts, statements, interviews of any witnesses before that committee.

Now we find that in fact we are told that we cannot adhere to what has been the policy of the Ethics Committee from its inception on a bipartisan basis to deliver to this Congress and to the people of this country a report on ethical charges by any Member against any other Member, by members of the public against Members, an unbiased report.

The problem that we have today is the problem that we had in 1988. Again, that problem was recognized by Speaker GINGRICH when he stated that it was simply untenable for the American public to believe and for Members of this House to believe that we could have a free and open and fair investigation of the most powerful Member of this House, the Speaker of theHouse of Representatives, by the Ethics Committee, and there should be in place at all times a free and fair investigation by an independent and special counsel.

SITUATION IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue the dialog that we started before theHouse went into special orders regarding the current situation in Iraq.

As a senior member of Committee on National Security and chairman of Subcommittee on Military Research and Development, I take great pride in supporting our troops in all possible ways. I supported the President when he initially went in to take action in Iraq because I had an idea of what was occurring. In fact, I sat through a briefing a week ago that, I might add, was attended by less than 100 of my colleagues, where we were briefed by the State Department and the military on what was happening. Unfortunately, the briefing, which was closed, did not tell me much more than that as reported by CNN and the national news media.

My concern is right now, Mr. Speaker, that we are reading reports that the President, in his position as Commander in Chief, is now escalating that. First, we have seen additional shots of cruise missiles. Now we are hearing that F-117's are being transferred to the theater. We are hearing that those F-117's may be based in Kuwait, partly because the Saudis are saying they do not want to have them