

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE
RESOLUTION 250, THE HOUSE GIFT REFORM RULE

NOVEMBER 15, 1995.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 268]

The Committee on Rules, having had under consideration House Resolution 268, by a non-record vote, report the same to the House with the recommendation that the resolution be adopted.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION

The resolution provides for the consideration in the House, without intervening point of order, of House Resolution 250, the House Gift Reform Rule, as modified by the amendments recommended by the Rules Committee. The rule provides that the previous question is considered as ordered on the resolution to adoption without intervening motion except that: (1) there shall be 30 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules; (2) it is in order to consider an amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Rules Committee report if offered by Representative Burton of Indiana or his designee, debatable for 30 minutes; and (3) if the amendment in the nature of a substitute is not agreed to or is not offered, it is in order to consider the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report if offered by Representative Gingrich or his designee, debatable for 30 minutes. Finally, the rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in this report.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(2)(B) of House rule XI the results of each rollcall vote on an amendment or motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and against, are printed below:

RULES COMMITTEE ROLLCALL NO. 256

Date: November 15, 1995.

Measure: Rule for consideration of House Resolution 250, the House Gift Rule.

Motion by: Mr. Moakley.

Summary of motion: Substitute an open rule.

Results: Rejected, 4 to 8.

Vote by Members: Quillen—Nay; Goss—Nay; Linder—Nay; Pryce—Nay; Diaz-Balart—Nay; McInnis—Nay; Waldholtz—Nay; Moakley—Yea; Beilenson—Yea; Frost—Yea; Hall—Yea; Solomon—Nay.

RULES COMMITTEE ROLLCALL NO. 257

Date: November 15, 1995.

Measure: Rule for consideration of House Resolution 250, the House Gift Rule.

Motion by: Mr. Beilenson.

Summary of motion: Allow for a vote first on an amendment by Representatives Waldholtz or Bryant consisting of the text of House Resolution 250, debatable for 30 minutes.

Results: Rejected, 4 to 8.

Vote by Members: Quillen—Nay; Goss—Nay; Linder—Nay; Pryce—Nay; Diaz-Balart—Nay; McInnis—Nay; Waldholtz—Nay; Moakley—Yea; Beilenson—Yea; Frost—Yea; Hall—Yea; Solomon—Nay.

PART 1

THE AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE BURTON OF INDIANA OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 30 MINUTES

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert:

SECTION 1. GIFT DISCLOSURE.

(a) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.—Rule XLIV of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3. Notwithstanding section 102 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, each report filed with the Clerk under title I of such Act for calendar year 1996 or any subsequent calendar year shall disclose any gift (including a meal) with a fair market value in excess of \$50 (other than personal hospitality of an individual or any gift received from a relative of the reporting individual), as adjusted under section 102(a)(2)(A) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978.”.

(b) GIFT RULE.—Clause 4 of Rule XLIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by striking “\$100” and inserting “\$50”.

SEC. 2. CONVENTIONS, ETC.

Clause 4 of Rule XLIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by striking “A Member” and inserting “(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), a Member” and by adding at the end the following:

“(b)(1) A Member, officer, or employee may accept an offer of free attendance at a widely attended convention, conference, symposium, forum, panel discussion, dinner, viewing, reception, or similar event, provided by the sponsor of the event, if—

“(A) the Member, officer, or employee participates in the event as a speaker or a panel participant, by presenting information related to Congress or matters before Congress, or by performing a ceremonial function appropriate to the Member’s, officer’s, or employee’s official position; or

“(B) attendance at the event is appropriate to the performance of the official duties or representative function of the Member, officer, or employee.

“(2) A Member, officer, or employee who attends an event described in subparagraph (1) may accept a sponsor’s unsolicited offer of free attendance at the event for the spouse or dependent of the Member, officer, or employee.

“(3) For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘free attendance’ may include waiver of all or part of a conference or other fee, the provision of lodging or transportation or the provision of food, refreshments, entertainment, and instructional materials furnished to all attendees as an integral part of the event. The term does not include entertainment collateral to the event, nor does it include food or refreshments taken other than in a group setting with all or substantially all other attendees.

“(c) A Member, officer, or employee, or the spouse or dependent thereof, may accept a sponsor’s unsolicited offer of free attendance at a charity event of—

“(1) the event is sponsored by an organization which is listed under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

“(2) all Member, officer, employee, spouse, or dependent-related expenses are paid by the sponsoring organization and not by another corporation or individual;

“(3) the proceeds to charity from the event exceed the costs of the event; and

“(4) the participation contributed in a tangible way to the success of the event.

“(d) The restrictions contained in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) shall not apply to a Member who is attending an event in the Member’s congressional district.”.

PART 2

THE AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE GINGRICH OF GEORGIA OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 30 MINUTES

Page 2, line 3, strike “(1)” and strike lines 6 through 15.

Page 7, strike lines 1 through 5, and page 9, strike lines 15 through 16 and redesignate paragraphs (13) through (22) as paragraphs (12) through (21).

Page 10, line 9, insert a period after “individual” and strike “if others” and all that follows through line 12.

Page 13, beginning in line 24 strike “3 days exclusive of travel time within the United States” and insert “4 days within the United States”.

Page 14, insert a period after “employee” in line 17 and strike “subject to” and all that follows through line 23.

