

AUTHORIZING CLERK TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND CONFORMING CHANGES IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1817, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and other conforming changes in the engrossment of H.R. 1817 to reflect the actions of the House.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1526

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have the name of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) removed as cosponsor of H.R. 1526, the Security and Freedom Ensured Act of 2005.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. HOBSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-86) on the bill (H.R. 2419) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

SUPPORT 527 FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the 527 Fairness Act of 2005. This is a bill that levels the playing field between political parties, PACs, Federal campaigns and 527s. The 527 Fairness Act lifts up other players by injecting more freedom into the campaign system.

The legislation is very simple. It removes the aggregate contribution limit. It allows State and local parties to spend non-Federal dollars for voter registration and sample ballots. What it does not do is it does not repeal the limits on individual contributions to national parties and committees. It does not allow soft money to go to national political parties.

The answer, Mr. Speaker, to problems and politics in a free society is more freedom, not less freedom. So I

commend my colleagues, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) for introducing this bipartisan vital piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the 527 Fairness Act of 2005.

NO FILIBUSTER CHANGE

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was recently playing a card game with my 5-year-old grandson, Teddy. And he knows it is wrong to change the rules in the middle of the game just to win. But the Republicans do not seem to play by any rules. If they sense vulnerability, they will rewrite historical laws to suit their needs. That is exactly what they did in the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and that is exactly what they are trying to do by eliminating the filibuster in the judicial nomination process.

Americans do not want this Nation to be run by leaders willing to change the rules, to forgo the laws of the land, to cater to their special interests. They do not want judicial nominees that are bullied through Congress. They want qualified candidates that receive bipartisan approval like the other 200-plus Bush nominees approved by the Senate.

Changing the rules of the game to make an exception for 10 judges is not democratic. It is a blatant abuse of power. Mr. Speaker, this is something even a 5-year-old can understand.

REPUBLICAN QUEST FOR ABSOLUTE POWER

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush, Senator FRIST, and the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) are in a quest for absolute power in Washington, even if it means corrupting our government and the vision of our Founding Fathers.

The White House has manufactured a judicial crisis. Since the President took office, the Senate confirmed 208 of his judicial nominees and turned back only 10, a 95 percent confirmation rate. That rate is the highest approval rating for any President in modern times, higher than Reagan, Bush Senior and Clinton. The President presides over the lowest court vacancy rate in 25 years.

But 95 percent is not good enough for this White House. They want to have it all. That is simply not how it is supposed to work, and America sees this for what it is, an extreme power grab by the majority party. Our country knows that our country works best when no political party has absolute power.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order time out of order.

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

There was no objection.

THE RADICAL RIGHT

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the word "nuclear" holds special meaning in our world. It is a word that has become synonymous with chaos, total destruction and annihilation. Nuclear is the word that for the last half century has struck fear in the hearts and minds of people across the United States.

For the last 2 months, Republicans in the Senate have threatened the nuclear option, like destroying the world was something you planned for and even boasted about. Over and over, the Republican-controlled Senate threatened to go nuclear, as if they were shouting "lock and load" at some local gun club.

For far too long, the Senate majority leader has been a trigger happy gun slinger who set aside a Colt 45 and ordered up a thermal nuclear warhead in its place. Just imagine the outcome if he had been President staring down Nikita Khrushchev during the Cuban missile crisis.

Today, Senate Republicans released the nuclear warhead and the blast zone extends east or west, north to south, incinerating the rights of every American. It will be the first strike launched on behalf of the radical right aimed at annihilating the safety, security and freedom of every American.

This is not about politics. The real Republican target is the U.S. Supreme Court and the judiciary. The Republican leaders said so in the House, and