

so we can focus on job growth. Above all else, job growth needs to be our number one priority for each of us in Congress.

I ask for support, and I urge passage of H.R. 3179.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to also raise a point that Congressman WATT had raised in the committee markup in which Congressman PAULSEN's proposal was debated.

Congressman WATT offered an amendment that was accepted by voice vote to make sure that, in addition to small businesses, the SIG TARP should review how TARP has affected minority- and women-owned businesses. This is a good idea, and we should make sure TARP is being administered fairly and equally across the board.

I appreciate Congressman PAULSEN for working on a bipartisan basis to address this concern and for revising his bill to include it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, just to follow up again, I want to thank Mr. MOORE for his leadership on the subcommittee.

I want everyone to know that, with the country's current financial state, now more than ever we do need to help our Nation's job creators and small businesses.

With that, I would urge passage of H.R. 3179.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3179, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3179, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIERNEY). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1617

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TIERNEY) at 4 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.).

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 744

Whereas on September 9, 2009, during the joint session of Congress convened pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 179, the President of the United States, speaking at the invitation of the House and Senate, had his remarks interrupted by the Representative from South Carolina, Mr. Wilson; and

Whereas the conduct of the Representative from South Carolina was a breach of decorum and degraded the proceedings of the joint session, to the discredit of the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives disapproves of the behavior of the Representative from South Carolina, Mr. Wilson, during the joint session of Congress held on September 9, 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution presents a question of the privileges of the House.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of the House, none of us, none of us is happy to be here considering this resolution. I know I am not.

At the same time, my colleagues, what is at issue here is of importance to this House and to our country, and that issue is whether we are able to proceed with a degree of civility and decorum that our rules and our democracy contemplate and require.

The House Code of Official Conduct requires that each Member, every one of us, each and every one of us "conduct himself," and I'm quoting from the rule, "at all times in a manner which shall reflect creditably on the House of Representatives."

There seems to be little or no disagreement that Mr. WILSON did not so conduct himself on the evening of September 9. Senator JOHN MCCAIN was quoted as saying that Mr. WILSON's behavior was "totally disrespectful." He went on to say, "There is no place for it in that setting, or any other, and he should apologize for it immediately."

Mr. WILSON did, in fact, apologize to the President through Mr. Emanuel, the President's Chief of Staff.

However, it was the House itself whose rules were offended. And as Mr. INGLIS, Mr. WILSON's colleague, a Republican colleague from South Carolina, observed, and again I quote, "He should apologize to the House," to the House, "for the rule violation." Mr. INGLIS went on to add, "That would end the matter."

I had made a similar representation to the Republican leader, and I believe that would have ended the matter. I know that is what the Republican leaders of the House thought would be appropriate and what the Republican leader talked to Mr. WILSON about doing. He said so to the press.

Indeed, last Thursday, based upon what a Republican leader told me, not Mr. BOEHNER, that morning, it was what I expected Mr. WILSON to do. As a result, I held open the time between the next-to-the-last vote and the very last vote to give Mr. WILSON an opportunity to express an apology to the House. As all of us know, many Members have done that in the past, reflecting upon conduct they thought was not appropriate; and as a result, they came to this floor. That has happened on both sides of the aisle where Members have done things that they thought brought discredit to the House and they came to this floor, to that rostrum and to this, to say, I apologize. Mr. INGLIS is correct: that would have ended the matter.

However, for whatever reason, Mr. WILSON has decided not to take any further action. In light of that, this resolution simply states the House's disapproval of Mr. WILSON's words and actions.

As Republican Whip CANTOR is quoted as saying, "Obviously the President of the United States is always welcome on Capitol Hill and he deserves respect and decorum." Surely all of us believe that's correct. Surely all of us, hopefully all of us, believe that when we invite a President of either party to come to this House and address a joint session of Congress that he ought to expect and we ought to expect that we will accord to him the decorum and courtesy of which Mr. CANTOR spoke.

The Republican leader of the Senate, MITCH MCCONNELL, added, "I think we ought to treat the President with respect, and anything other than that is not appropriate." That's what this resolution is about. It's a resolution of disapproval.

This resolution is not about the substance of an issue, but about the conduct we expect of one another in the course of doing our business. Senator JOHN CORNYN, the chairman of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, stated this: "There's a time and a place for everything, and that was not the time or the place for that kind of comment."

In the absence of Mr. WILSON's expressing his regret for acting in a manner that almost all agree, every Republican that I have talked to as well as every Democrat that I have talked to, was inappropriate and contrary to the spirit of the rules of the House and the common courtesy that we should extend to all, and particularly to the President of the United States of America, our President, we have brought forward this resolution. I expected to extend that same courtesy with every President with whom I have served, be they Republican or Democrat.

We consider this resolution as a result of Mr. WILSON's failure to follow the advice of his leadership and a number of his Republican and Democratic colleagues who have told me that they have talked to him.