merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative view. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon’s Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker’s ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.”

Because the vote today may look bad for the Republican majority they will say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.” But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, page 126, of how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: “Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, before he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.”

In Deschler’s Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subsection titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 31.2) Section 21.3 continues: “Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question. If the Member then controls the time, he may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority’s agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WEBSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

☐ 1030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) at 10 o’clock and 30 minutes a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Voters will be taken in the following order: ordering the previous question on H. Res. 487, by the yeas and nays; adoption of H. Res. 487, if ordered; motion to suspend the rules on H. R. 1234, de novo; approval of the Journal, de novo; and consideration of the bill (H.R. 1633) to establish a comprehensive national program to provide an account of America’s past dust exposure.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remainder of the votes in this series will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1633, FARM DUST REGULATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 487) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1633) to establish a comprehensive national program to provide an account of America’s past dust exposure.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 173, not voting 19, as follows:

Yeas—241

Bishop (GA)  Berman  Baca  Baldwin  Barrow  Bass (CA)  Becerra  Berman  Bishop (GA)  Bishop (NY)  Blumenauer

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2011

The Speaker pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1254) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to place synthetic drugs in Schedule I, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Pitts) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken.

The Speaker pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KAPTUR, Messrs. GUTIERREZ, PERLMUTTER, MARKEY, Berman, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. HONDA changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Speaker pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The motion was agreed to, and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KAPTUR, Messrs. GUTIERREZ, PERLMUTTER, MARKEY, Berman, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. HONDA changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Speaker pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The motion was agreed to, and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.