

does have the authority to accomplish this within the bounds of the Constitution. What it cannot do is to agree with the president to ignore the Constitution's requirements—and the accountability they ensure—by allowing him simply to assign American troops to foreign command.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER) having assumed the chair, Mr. LINDER, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 7) to revitalize the national security of the United States, had come to no resolution thereon.

ADDITIONAL TIME FOR DEBATE DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7, NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the 10-hour time limit for consideration of amendments to H.R. 7 be extended for 26 minutes, and that the debate time for amendment No. 13, 21, 24, 30, or 33, or a germane modification of one of those amendments be extended from 36 minutes to 44 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and a Member opposed, and that the debate time for the Torricelli amendment No. 48, or amendment Nos. 28 or 43 be extended from 36 to 44 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and a Member opposed.

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I wish to take this time to pay tribute to the chairman, both chairmen, who have gone out of their way to make sure we accommodate the minority on time that was lost in a previous vote. This effort, I think, shows a commitment on our part to make sure that we do not take time away. There was a vote that was not anticipated in the past, and with the cooperation of the gentleman from California, who I know wants to speak, and the chairman, it has been worked out. I think that speaks to our wanting to work together and allow for a full and open debate of these remaining issues.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN].

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's yielding.

I was not planning to speak. I will simply say I accept the offer as appropriate given the inadvertence of what happened. It does not deal with the fundamental problem of a 10-hour time limit.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 83 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 7.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 7) to revitalize the national security of the United States, with Mr. LINDER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, pending was the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH].

The gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH] has 3 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH].

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

This amendment would cut a key provision of this bill. The reason we have a Contract With America is because we want to put Congress back into the loop in the decisionmaking process when it comes to peacekeeping. But this amendment would say that Congress is meaningless whenever the President claims that he is acting as Commander in Chief.

The consequence is that the President can keep sending troops into Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda, the Balkans without congressional approval. What we are saying in the Contract With America is that Congress must be involved. We cannot abdicate our power.

Now, this is a key provision of this bill. The American people on November 8, when they voted for the Contract With America, one of the key provisions was that Congress was going to get more involved in our peacekeeping decisions. How the tax dollars are spent is important, also when young Americans are put into harm's way. This Congress has an obligation, speaking for the American people, to give either our approval or nonapproval, but under this amendment, Congress would be totally irrelevant.

Do you remember the Somalia debacle where we lost some 44 young Americans? When the bodies were dragged through the streets of Mogadishu? Do

you remember that? This House went wild, and the Senate went wild. Does the gentleman from California remember we all went over to HC-5, had a big confab, and Congress said, "Why were we not involved?" That is what the American people were asking. That is why we have a Contract With America. That is why we are putting the Congress back in.

I remember the meeting at HC-5 that day. You know, we cannot just abdicate our power to the President and then, when things go bad, we all meet at HC-5 and we scream at the Secretary of Defense and we holler at the Secretary of State, and one of them has to lose his job. Then it is too late.

If we are going to be there for the crash landing, we have got to be there for the takeoff, too, and that is all we are saying in the Contract With America.

I want Congress to no longer abdicate its power. We made a commitment. We made a commitment on November 8. We said that Congress would be involved, but with this amendment, we would renege. We are stepping back. We cannot renege on our promises.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON].

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of the Leach amendment. The Leach amendment, I think, simply restates the President's constitutional power as Commander in Chief.

The language that he seeks to strike from this bill can certainly be construed as a limitation on the President's Commander in Chief powers. It says specifically, "Nothing in this section may be construed as authority for the President to use any element of the armed forces in any operation." That is a limitation on the President's power.

It also says nothing in the section may be construed as authority for the President to place any element of the Armed Forces under the command or operational control of a foreign national. A President has done that over and over and over again in our history. The implication of this language that the gentleman from Iowa seeks to strike is to limit the President's Commander in Chief powers. It micromanages and restricts the President's powers.

The Pentagon says if this language had been in effect you would not have been able to have D-Day, because you would not have been able to put together a collective effort that was so successful there.

The point here, my friends, is we have our job to do. The gentleman from Wisconsin stated that quite accurately. We have our constitutional responsibilities. But in exercising our responsibilities, we must not cut into the Commander in Chief powers. We need to allow the President to do his job as Commander in Chief.