to make a merger move ahead a little faster or be a little more profitable at the expense of the employees.

Overriding freely negotiated collective bargaining agreements has been a practice the ICC has used many times in order to effectuate a merger. The result of those actions has been detrimental to rail employees.

For example:

Employees of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad have negotiated a collective bargaining agreement which gives them priority to keep the jobs they now hold. To gain these job rights, the employees made substantial concessions to the company in other provisions of the agreement. Now following a merger between C&N and the Union Pacific, the ICC has been asked to set aside the collective bargaining agreement to enable UP to ignore the employees' collective bargaining rights and furlough 1,000 C&N employees or to move them to new lower paying jobs in other cities. Why should a Government agency be able to set aside job protection rights which were freely negotiated between management and labor?

Another example—in the mid-1980's, Springfield Terminal Co., A class III railroad, took over two class II railroads, the Maine Central and the Boston & Maine Railroad.

Both the Maine Central and the Boston & Maine Railroad employees were covered by national collective bargaining agreements which provided, in part, for seniority and safety training standards. Springfield Terminal's collective bargaining agreement had substandard seniority and no safety training standards.

When the ICC approved the transaction, it replaced the national collective bargaining agreements, at management's request, with the substandard Springfield Terminal agreement. As a result, the seniority system was turned upside down and junior employees became senior employees.

In addition, safety standards were compromised even to the point that a janitor became an untrained locomotive engineer. Some of the safety compromises even resulted in injuries and death.

Had the original conference report been adopted without change these abuses would have proliferated. Under the original conference agreement, ICC would have continued to hold broad authority to override collective bargaining agreements.

After the original conference agreement was filed we held extensive discussions with our Republican colleagues on the labor provisions. Yesterday we agreed to a modification of the conference agreement, which restored the entire House-passed provisions—both the concessions labor made and the benefits it received.

The revised conference agreement has now been passed by both bodies.

Under the revised conference agreement, railroad employees will receive the right that every other American worker has—to bargain collectively with their employers and have their collective bargaining contracts upheld in court. I am pleased that the revised conference agreement upholds fundamental rights of employees to bargain collectively. The revised conference agreement is fair to rail employees and I support it.

Mr. Speaker, apart from labor issues, I am supportive of the conference report because it strikes a good balance between continued deregulation of the rail and motor industries, and the preservation of the safety and economic regulatory powers needed to protect shippers against abuses which will not be remedied by competition.

The provisions in the conference report dealing with railroads, eliminate and modify many current railroad economic regulatory requirements. All remaining ICC rail oversight responsibilities are transferred to a new Surface Transportation Board at the Department of Transportation. The conference agreement repeals requirements that freight rail carriers file their rates with the Federal Government, repeals prohibitions against a rail carrier transporting commodities which it produces or owns, and repeals requirements that railroads obtain Federal regulatory approval to issue securities, or to assume certain financial liabilities with respect to other securities.

At the same time, the conference report maintains some critical regulatory authority that both the rail industry and shippers agree is necessary. These include maximum rate standards which protect captive shippers from unreasonably high rates; requirements that a rail carrier provide transportation upon reasonable request—better known as the common carrier obligation; and requirements that rail carriers maintain, and make available to shippers, schedules of their rates, with the Federal Government retaining authority to review and order changes in these schedules to protect captive shippers.

Additionally, to permit further deregulation in appropriate cases, the Board will have authority to exempt railroads or rail services from regulatory requirements.

With regard to motor carriers, the conference report continues the deregulation that has progressed over the last 15 years by eliminating virtually all remaining tariff filings, deregulating significant portions of the household goods traffic, eliminating the possibility of future undercharge claims, and eliminating the Federal role in resolving routine commercial disputes.

The bill retains key provisions of current law which establish uniform commercial rules such as billing practices and credit rules. The bill also enables small regional carriers to compete with national carriers by providing for limited grants of antitrust immunity for carriers who pool their traffic and develop standardized guides.

In addition, the bill provides household-goods shippers with access to arbitration for disputed claims. This option will encourage equitable resolution of damage claims, eliminate Federal Government involvement in individual disputes, and minimize reliance on the courts.

The bill also clarifies that carriers may limit their liability, provided that they give all terms and conditions to the shippers on request, and that carrier organizations may not discuss liability limits. I know that many shippers have serious concerns about this provision. That's why the conference report includes a 12-month study of loss and damage liability. We will monitor the effects and determine whether adjustments are necessary.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the revised conference agreement is a balanced bill and a fair compromise. I urge the President to sign it promptly, sot that there will be no lapse in implementation of responsibilities now entrusted to the ICC.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I think it is particularly noteworthy at a time when passions have tended to run particularly high on other issues before this Congress, that members of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation on both sides of the aisle have been able to work together repeatedly on major issues involving significant policy changes. They could have been overwhelmed by this acrimony, but we have resisted that.

Mr. Speaker, it is due in no small part to the leadership of the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR] and to that of the other ranking members on the subcommittees of the conference. I would like to wish the gentleman the best for the season.

PROVIDING DEFICIT REDUCTION AND ACHIEVING A BALANCED BUDGET BY FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that the Chair was going to rule on my privileged resolution today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there a resolution?

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it was a resolution that called into question privileges of the House and this body as a whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman calling up the resolution at this point?

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that it was the Chair's desire to call up the resolution at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now the gentleman's privilege to call up the noticed resolution House Resolution 321 if the gentleman chooses to do so.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, if the Chair is prepared to rule, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 321) directing that the Committee on Rules report a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 2530 provide for deficit reduction and achieve a balanced budget by fiscal year 2002, and ask for its immediate consideration.

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 321

Whereas clause 1 of rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives states that ''Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively'';

Whereas article 1, section 9, clause 7 of the Constitution states that: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law;

Whereas today, December 21, 1995, marks the 81st day that this Congress has been delinquent in fulfilling its statutory responsibility of enacting a budget into law; and

Whereas by failing to enact a budget into law this body has failed to fulfill one of its most basic constitutionally mandated duties, that of appropriating the necessary

funds to allow the Government to operate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Rules is authorized and directed to forthwith report a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 2530 (a bill to provide for deficit reduction and achieve a balanced budget by fiscal year 2002).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Mississippi wish to be heard on whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege?

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. I do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Mississippi is recognized.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, for how long am I recognized?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized at the Chair's discretion for such time as he may consume at this point.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that under the rules of the House, that I have an hour to discuss this.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This debate is on the question of privilege, and the Chair will rule as to whether or not the gentleman's resolution is a question of privilege after hearing the arguments from the gentleman.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, under rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that one which refers to question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker, under the Rules of the House of Representatives, questions of privilege, clause 1 states, ''Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the Members collectively.'' In particular it says, ''Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity and the integrity of its proceedings.''

Article I, section 8, clause 7 of the Constitution reads, ''No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law.'' For those who have not noticed, this House is now 82 days late in fulfilling our statutory responsibility of providing a budget for the United States of America. As a consequence of this, over 300,000 Federal employees are wondering whether or not they have a job, whether or not they will ever be paid again and whether or not they should do for their children what each of us has been able to do for ours; that is, just go out and get them some Christmas presents, wondering whether they are going to be paid. In case many of my colleagues have forgotten, most Americans do live paycheck to paycheck. And if they miss one paycheck, then their checks bounce or all sorts of terrible things happen.

Mr. Speaker, by failing to enact a budget into law this body has failed to fulfill our most basic constitutionally mandated duty. This Congress has failed to appropriate the necessary funds to fulfill the vital functions of this Nation and our failure to do so is inexcusable.

As Members know, the House is getting ready to recess for what could be 1 week, what could be 2 weeks. I think that is inexcusable. I, therefore, on behalf of my fellow Representatives seek to resolve the situation, a situation that affects the rights of all Members collectively.

Mr. Speaker, bringing a budget before the House under an open rule will allow the Members to amend it as they see fit. If they wish to include a tax break for families with children, it would allow them to do so. If they wish to work toward a budget that has a lower annual operating deficit than the one that the Republicans proposed, their budget has a $270 billion annual operating deficit for next year, then we could do so.

But this calls to mind whether or not one of the most important things, and obviously the two most important things this Congress does is decide when and where to send young persons off to die to defend our country and to decide on the appropriations for this Congress. We have not done the second thing.

Let me tell the Chair what has been judged to have been worthy to bring to the floor this week. This week, while the government is in shutdown, the House voted on the Stuttgart National Agriculture Research Center Act. We voted on the Snowbasin Land Exchange Act. We voted to waive a requirement for an HMO in Dayton, OH. We voted for a bill to extend au pair programs. We voted to designate a U.S. courthouse after the gentleman named Max Rosenn. We voted to designate the David J. Wheeler Federal Building, to designate the Frank Hagel Federal Building, the Timothy McCaghren Administrative Building. We have named four or five other buildings. We have taken up a lot of the citizens' time, but we have not provided a budget for our country.

That is inexcusable. It is wrong, and this is the highest priority and, therefore, it should be given the highest priority and should be brought before this House for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I am not alone in this. I am a member of the coalition that has put together this budget. Several of the other member of the coalition wish to speak to the point.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama, [Mr. BROWDER].

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). The Chair wishes to observe that the gentleman from Mississippi does not control the time for yielding purposes. The Chair will recognize other Members, but would again like to advise the membership that what the Chair is attempting to determine here is whether or not this is a question of privilege. That is what is being discussed.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BROWDER].

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to engage the gentleman from Mississippi in a colloquy to determine whether this affects me as a Member of this body and the constituents that I represent and how it affects me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is trying to be as generous as possible, listening to the debate, as to whether or not this is a question of privilege. The Chair is trying to extend latitude. Having said that, the Chair would hope very much that we could get to the point where the Chair will be allowed to rule as to whether or not this is a question of privilege.

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, whether this is a question of privilege, I think, is very important for us to establish about whether it reflects on this body that we are Members of. I would like to ask the gentleman from Mississippi, this budget that he has filed notice that he would like to have brought to the floor, has that budget been scored by CBO?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. the Chair is not going to allow a colloquy to proceed. Members are to address the Chair so that the Chair might rule as to whether or not this is a question of privilege.

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, has the budget that has been proposed been scored by CBO?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is whether or not the resolution which has been offered by the gentleman from Mississippi is a question of privilege. The resolution has been offered by the gentleman from Mississippi, and that is what is presently being considered.

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase my question to address the issue of privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Are there other Members seeking recognition?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM].

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, going directly to the question that the Chair has posed, as I read questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings.

It seems to me that the situation that we have before us today, in which we collectively have shut down a portion of our Government without having due legislative process followed in preparing a CR under whatever stipulations that the Chair might wish to stipulate, having it sent to the President and the President vetoing that versus a unilateral decision that has been made by the Speaker to say, without any action thereof, unilaterally closing down the Government does reflect on the dignity and the integrity of this body.

Also, second, those affecting the rights, reputation and conduct of Members individually. I would submit, as a Member, that the reputation of this Member is being categorized by those on the majority side who seem to have decided it is in the best interest of the Congress to shut down a portion of our Government, to have, in fact, some individual employees of our Government denied their rights of employment.

I would submit to the Chair that a careful reading of rule IX, No. 1, questions of privilege, is, indeed, is, indeed, a proper decision for the Chair to say it is reflecting on the dignity of the House, because I cannot for a moment conceive of any way we are helping anybody, anything, any way by the actions of the House collectively as has been demonstrated by the Speaker in preparing this unilateral decision of a shutdown.

So I would say, read that carefully, Mr. Speaker. Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings and, second, those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of Members.

All we are saying with this resolution is that we believe that there is a way to cast a better reflection on the House and its dignity by allowing this to come forward. That is the argument the gentleman from Mississippi is making. That is the argument I am making to the Chair as the Speaker and why we believe that this is truly a question of privilege, because the reputation of the House and its dignity is being brought into disrepute, and I would hope that any Speaker would be worried about that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to rule as to whether or not this is a question of privilege. The Chair would ask the indulgence of Members, because the Chair has several pages that he wishes to share as an explanation.

Questions of the privileges of the House must meet the standards of rule IX. Those standards address the privileges of the House as a House, not those of Congress as a legislative branch. As to whether a question of the privileges of the House may be raised simply by invoking one of the legislative powers enumerated in section 8 of article I of the Constitution or the general legislative power of the purse in the seventh original clause of section 9 of that article, the Chair will follow the rulings of Speaker Gillett on May 6, 1921, recorded at volume 6 of Cannon's Precedents, section 48, and by the Speaker on February 7, 1995. Speaker Gillett was required to decide whether a resolution purportedly submitted in compliance with a mandatory provision of the Constitution, section 2 of the 14th amendment relating to apportionment, constituted a question of the privileges of the House. Speaker Gillett held that the resolution did not involve a question of privilege. His rationale, in pertinent part, bears repeating:

> It seems to the Chair that where the Constitution orders the House to do a thing, the Constitution still gives the House the right to make its own rules and do it at such time and in such manner as it may choose. And it is a strained construction, it seems to the Chair, to say that because the Constitution gives a mandate that a thing shall be done, it therefore follows that any Member can insist that it shall be brought up at some particular time and in the particular way which he chooses. If there is a constitutional mandate, the House ought by its rules to provide for the proper enforcement of that, but it is still a question for the House how and when and under what procedure it shall be done. . . . But this rule IX was obviously adopted for the purpose of hindering the extension of constitutional or other privilege. . . . It seems to the Chair that no one Member ought to have the right to determine when it should come in[,] in preference to the regular rules of the House or the majority of the House should decide it.

It is true that under earlier practice certain measures responding to mandatory provisions of the Constitution were held privileged and allowed to supersede the rules establishing the order of business. Under later decisions, matters that have no basis in the Constitution or in the rules on which to qualify as questions of the privileges of the House have been held not to constitute the same. This means that all questions of privilege must qualify within the meaning of rule IX.

As cited on page 355 of the manual, and reiterated on February 7 of this year, the Speaker said:

> The Chair will continue today to adhere to the principles enunciated by Speaker Gillett. The Chair holds that neither the enumeration in the fifth clause of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of Congressional Powers to ''coin money, regulate the value thereof and of foreign coins'' nor the prohibition in seventh original clause of section 9 of that article of any withdrawal from the Treasury except by enactment of an appropriation renders a measure purporting to exercise or limit the exercise of those powers a question of the privileges of the House.

Therefore, the Chair holds that the resolution offered by the gentleman from Mississippi does not affect ''the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity or the integrity of its proceedings'' within the meaning of clause 1 of rule IX. Although it may address an aspect of legislative power under the Constitution, it does not involve a constitutional privilege of the House. In the words of Speaker Gillett, ''no one Member ought to have the right to determine when it should come in[,] in preference to the regular rules of the House.'' Rather, the resolution constitutes an attempt to impose a special order of business on the House by directing the Committee on Rules to make in order a legislative proposal, and does not raise a question of the privileges of the House.

□ 1315

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully appeal the ruling of the Chair.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. BURTON OF INDIANA

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay the appeal on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] to lay on the table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 161, not voting 58, as follows:

[Roll No. 884]

YEAS—214

Allard	Funderburk	Norwood
Archer	Ganske	Nussle
Bachus	Gekas	Oxley
Baker (CA)	Gilchrest	Packard
Ballenger	Gillmor	Parker
Barr	Gilman	Paxon
Barrett (NE)	Goodlatte	Petri
Bartlett	Goodling	Pombo
Barton	Goss	Porter
Bass	Graham	Portman
Bateman	Greenwood	Pryce
Beilenson	Gunderson	Radanovich
Bereuter	Gutknecht	Ramstad
Bilbray	Hancock	Regula
Bliley	Hansen	Riggs
Blute	Hastert	Roberts
Boehlert	Hayworth	Rogers
Boehner	Hefley	Rohrabacher
Bonilla	Heineman	Roth
Bono	Herger	Roukema
Brownback	Hilleary	Royce
Bryant (TN)	Hobson	Salmon
Bunn	Hoekstra	Sanford
Burr	Horn	Sawyer
Burton	Hostettler	Saxton
Camp	Houghton	Scarborough
Campbell	Hunter	Schaefer
Canady	Hutchinson	Schiff
Castle	Hyde	Seastrand
Chabot	Inglis	Sensenbrenner
Chambliss	Istook	Shays
Chenoweth	Johnson (CT)	Shuster
Christensen	Johnson, Sam	Skaggs
Chrysler	Jones	Skeen
Clinger	Kelly	Smith (MI)
Coble	Kim	Smith (NJ)
Coburn	King	Smith (TX)
Collins (GA)	Kingston	Smith (WA)
Combest	Klug	Solomon
Cooley	Knollenberg	Souder
Cox	LaHood	Spence
Crane	Largent	Stearns
Crapo	Latham	Stockman
Cremeans	LaTourette	Stump
Cubin	Laughlin	Talent
Cunningham	Lazio	Tate
Davis	Leach	Tauzin
Deal	Lewis (CA)	Taylor (NC)
DeLay	Lewis (KY)	Thomas
Diaz-Balart	Lightfoot	Thornberry
Dickey	Linder	Tiahrt
Doolittle	Livingston	Torkildsen
Dornan	LoBiondo	Upton
Dreier	Longley	Vucanovich
Duncan	Lucas	Waldholtz
Dunn	Martini	Walker
Ehlers	McCollum	Walsh
Ehrlich	McCrery	Wamp
Emerson	McDade	Watts (OK)
English	McHugh	Weldon (FL)
Ensign	McInnis	Weldon (PA)
Everett	McKeon	Weller
Ewing	Metcalf	White
Fawell	Meyers	Whitfield
Flanagan	Miller (FL)	Wicker
Foley	Molinari	Wolf
Forbes	Moorhead	Young (AK)
Fox	Morella	Young (FL)
Franks (CT)	Myrick	Zeliff
Franks (NJ)	Nethercutt	Zimmer
Frelinghuysen	Neumann	
Frisa	Ney	

NAYS—161

Andrews	Bentsen	Browder
Baesler	Bishop	Brown (CA)
Baldacci	Bonior	Brown (FL)
Barcia	Borski	Brown (OH)
Barrett (WI)	Boucher	Bryant (TX)
Becerra	Brewster	Cardin

Chapman
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coleman
Collins (IL)
Condit
Costello
Coyne
Danner
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dellums
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Durbin
Engel
Eshoo
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Flake
Foglietta
Frank (MA)
Frost
Furse
Gejdenson
Geren
Gonzalez
Gordon
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hastings (FL)
Hefner
Hilliard
Hinchey
Holden
Hoyer
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson, E.B.
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kleczka
Klink
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lowey
Luther
Maloney
Manton
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy
McDermott
McHale
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Menendez
Mfume
Miller (CA)
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Montgomery
Moran
Nadler
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Orton
Owens
Pallone
Pastor
Payne (NJ)
Payne (VA)
Pelosi
Peterson (FL)
Peterson (MN)
Pickett
Pomeroy
Poshard
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Richardson
Rivers
Roemer
Rose
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sanders
Schroeder
Schumer
Scott
Serrano
Sisisky
Skelton
Slaughter
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Stokes
Stupak
Tanner
Taylor (MS)
Tejeda
Thompson
Thornton
Thurman
Torres
Torricelli
Towns
Traficant
Vento
Visclosky
Volkmer
Ward
Waters
Watt (NC)
Williams
Wilson
Wise
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates

NOT VOTING—58

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Armey
Baker (LA)
Berman
Bevill
Bilirakis
Bunning
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Collins (MI)
Conyers
Cramer
de la Garza
Deutsch
Dicks
Edwards
Fields (TX)
Filner
Ford
Fowler
Gallegly
Gephardt
Gibbons
Green
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hoke
Jacobs
Jefferson
Johnston
Kasich
Kolbe
LaFalce
Lantos
Lincoln
Lipinski
Lofgren
Manzullo
McIntosh
Meek
Mica
Murtha
Myers
Neal
Quillen
Quinn
Ros-Lehtinen
Sabo
Shadegg
Shaw
Studds
Velázquez
Waxman
Wyden

□ 1343

Messrs. FARR, BECERRA, and BISHOP changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the motion to lay on the table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1834

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1834.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 136, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from the further consideration of House Joint Resolution 136, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes; and that it shall be in order at any time to consider the joint resolution in the House; that the joint resolution be debatable for not to exceed 20 minutes, to be equally divided and controlled by myself and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY]; that all points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration be waived; and that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion, except one motion to recommit.

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

□ 1345

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object. I simply want to again reinforce what the gentleman from Louisiana just said; that this is a way to deal with the CR issues without taking the full hour of debate which would ordinarily be taken in the interest of accommodating Members.

I would ask, however, that we could have a modicum of attention so that we do not lose that time by having the Chair gavel people to silence while we are trying to wade through it.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do so only to ask if my understanding is correct that we may well have additional votes?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, If the gentleman would yield, I would inform the gentleman there will be two additional votes.

Mr. HOYER. Two additional votes. So that Members who may have thought that that was the last vote, ought to be apprised of the fact that there are at least two additional votes that can be expected.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I want to clear something up here. It was my understanding that there was an House Joint Resolution 134 that was going to come back over here that was going to include veterans benefits along with these. I do not see those in here. What is happening?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOLOMON. Continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from New York that the matter is pending in the Senate, and I would tell the gentleman that it is pending objections in the Senate because there was an attempt to put additional extraneous material on this motion. So this matter goes forward on the House's initiative.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, is there any chance that this might pass the Senate and the veterans CR be held up?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would continue to yield, that is strictly up to the Senate. At this point the Senate has complete jurisdiction over that motion. We are hopeful that they will send it over here and we can take quick action. Or if they would accept what we did, we would not have to, we could just send it to the President.

Mr. SOLOMON. So there is the possibility they will accept both of these, then?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. That is correct.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have some reservations about this, because I worry they may possibly accept this and then turn down the veterans CR over there, but I guess we have to take them at their good faith. And let us give them a warning they had better pass them both.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 136, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 136), making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.