

REPUBLICANS WOULD ROLL BACK  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I know that we are leading up to Earth Day next Monday. I was involved in the original Earth Day 26 years ago, and I think it is very unfortunate that now in this Congress under Speaker GINGRICH we see the worst environmental record in the history of the Congress.

In effect, what is happening is that the Republican leadership is doing their best to try to roll back 25 years or 26 years of environmental progress that we have seen in this Congress on a bipartisan basis since the first Earth Day.

□ 1130

The worst part, I think, is with regard to enforcement. One of the things that I have always said is that if you do not have proper enforcement and investigation to make sure that there are teeth in your environmental laws, then you in effect do not have any environmental laws.

This continued process with the Republican leadership where they do not provide enough funding for the EPA and other agencies that are involved in environmental protection so that there are not the enforcers or the environmental cops on the beat, if you will, out there doing the investigations, catching the polluters, indicating or making it possible to impose penalties against those who violate our environmental laws, this constant effort is hurting environmental protection in this country.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COM-  
MITTEES AND THEIR SUB-  
COMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY  
DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule.

Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Committee on International Relations, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Resources, Committee on Science, Committee on Small Business, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

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

There was no objection.

LAYING ON THE TABLE HOUSE  
RESOLUTION 368

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that House Resolution 368, providing for consideration of H.R. 994, the Small Business Growth and Administrative Accountability Act of 1996, be laid on the table.

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

There was no objection.

TRUTH IN BUDGETING ACT

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 396 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 396

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 842) to provide off-budget treatment for the Highway Trust Fund, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed two hours equally divided among and controlled by the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on the Budget. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. QUILLEN] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman

from California [Mr. BEILENSEN], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. QUILLEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 396 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 842, the Truth in Budgeting Act. The rule provides 2 hours of general debate divided equally between the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on the Budget.

The rule makes in order the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure amendment in the nature of a substitute now printed in the bill as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and provides that each section be considered as read.

This rule allows for priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration, and it provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, when I first came to Congress in 1963, I was privileged to serve on the House Public Works Committee. The name has changed, but the important agenda of the committee and the dedication and hard work put forth by the members of the committee over the ears has not diminished.

I've long supported efforts to take the four transportation trust funds off budget, and I commend chairman BUD SHUSTER and ranking member JIM OBERSTAR for finally giving the House an opportunity to debate and vote on this issue.

We'll hear a great deal of discussion about this bill today, and arguments will be made that these trust funds should not be exempted from budget cuts in attempts to balance the budget. But Congress made a commitment to use the proceeds of transportation user fees solely for transportation purposes. Presently, there is over \$30 billion in the four transportation trust funds—money that could be and should be used to improve our highways, airports, harbors, and inland waterways. The public is no longer being fooled by using these funds to mask the true size of the Federal deficit. It's way past time to honor our commitment and release these funds to improve our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill and I urge my colleagues to vote for this open rule and to support passage of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following extraneous material for the RECORD: