

Orton	Sabo	Thornton
Owens	Sanders	Thurman
Pallone	Sawyer	Torres
Pastor	Schiff	Torricelli
Payne (NJ)	Schroeder	Velazquez
Pelosi	Scott	Vento
Pomeroy	Serrano	Visclosky
Poshard	Skaggs	Volkmer
Rahall	Skeen	Ward
Rangel	Slaughter	Waters
Reed	Spratt	Watt (NC)
Richardson	Stenholm	Waxman
Rivers	Stokes	Williams
Roemer	Studds	Wilson
Ros-Lehtinen	Stupak	Wise
Rose	Tanner	Woolsey
Roybal-Allard	Tejeda	Wynn
Rush	Thompson	Yates

NOT VOTING—19

Brownback	Hoke	Schumer
Chapman	Kasich	Skelton
Conyers	McCullum	Stark
Cox	McDade	Towns
Ford	Oberstar	Young (FL)
Goss	Peterson (FL)	
Hayes	Rogers	

□ 1252

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 388, I was detained by other official business elsewhere in the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3103, HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-738) on the resolution (H. Res. 502) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3103) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3448, SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-739) on the resolution (H. Res. 503) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3448) to provide

tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take home pay of workers, to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer owned vehicles, and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate and to prevent job loss by providing flexibility to employers complying with minimum wage and overtime requirements under that act, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Pursuant to House Resolution 499 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 123.

□ 1257

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 123) to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States, with Mr. HANSEN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. CLAY] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM].

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 15 minutes to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. CANADY], and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control that time.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING], chairman of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

(Mr. GOODLING asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Chairman, during the discussion on the rule, I am afraid the American people may have gotten confused as to what legislation is before us, because much of what was said has nothing to do with the bill that came from our committee. Today we are voting on H.R. 123, which is a bill introduced by the late Bill Emerson, former distinguished Member of the body and a friend of many.

Mr. Chairman, there are many things in the bill that some people think went too far. There are others that people think did not go far enough. I think it

is probably striking about the right balance. I say that because this bill declares English the official language of the Government, not of the private businesses, not of churches, not of homes, not of neighborhoods; just the Government. Furthermore, it then makes exceptions to the English requirement for the protection of public health and safety, national security, international relations, the teaching of language, the rights of victims of crime, certain instances of civil litigation and others.

We have also included rules of construction to help clarify the intent of the bill. So we have made a number of changes to the original version of H.R. 123 which addresses the concerns for many Members. After all, it is the English language that unites us, a Nation of many different immigrants as one Nation.

Over and over again we see that it is the English language which empowers each new generation of immigrants to access the American dream. Declaring English the official language of Government is the commonsense thing to do. We now have according to the Census Bureau, over 320 different languages. The Federal Government already prints materials in Spanish, Portuguese, French, Chinese, German, Italian, Russian, Korean, Ukrainian, Cambodian, and others; and the taxpayers says, where does it stop?

President Clinton himself, as Governor of Arkansas, signed legislation making English the official language of the State of Arkansas, and about half of the States have enacted the same kind of legislation. Again I remind all, this legislation is English as the official language of Government, not homes, not churches, not neighborhoods, not the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, I include for the RECORD the following letter from the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. SAWYER] concerning his not appearing at the committee markup on the final vote:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 25, 1996.

Chairman WILLIAM GOODLING,
Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLING: Due to a speaking engagement with constituents, I was unable to be present for the final vote on reporting the Cunningham Substitute to H.R. 123 out of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

I would like to note for the record that if I had been present, I would have voted, "nay."

Sincerely,

THOMAS C. SAWYER,
Member of Congress.

□ 1300

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I agree that learning English should be a priority goal for all persons residing in the United States. In fact, there is extremely high demand for English language classes. Immigrants themselves recognize that in