

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING  
PREPRINTING OF AMENDMENTS  
ON H.R. 1432, THE AFRICAN  
GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House of the Committee on Rules' plans in regard to H.R. 1432. It is the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

The Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of March 9 to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process to that bill, the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on International Relations ordered this bill reported on June 25 and filed a report on March 2. The Committee on Ways and Means ordered the bill reported on February 25 and filed the report on March 2.

Any Member who wishes to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies and a brief explanation of the amendment by 11 a.m. this coming Tuesday, March 10, to the Committee on Rules at Room 312 in the Capitol. Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure their amendments are properly drafted, and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has some tax code implications to it. The tax code implications are sprinkled throughout the bill, so we cannot just close one part of the bill dealing with the tax code. That is why we have to ask for amendments to be filed. We will try to consider this as an open rule, except for those issues that affect the tax code, so Members should be aware of that and try to get their amendments filed by 11 a.m.

CHILD SUPPORT PERFORMANCE  
AND INCENTIVE ACT OF 1998

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 378 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 378

*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. 3130) to provide for an alternative penalty procedure for states that fail to meet Federal child support data processing requirements, to reform Federal incentive payments for effective child support performance, and to provide for a more flexible penalty procedure for States that violate interjurisdictional adoption requirements. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 303(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall

not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. 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 Ways and Means now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with section 303(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. No amendment shall be in order unless printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Points of order against the amendment printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 2 pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXIII for failure to comply with clause 7 of rule XVI are waived. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be fifteen minutes. 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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 378 is a modified open rule providing for a fair and thorough debate of H.R. 3130, The Child Support Performance and Incentive Act. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. Under the rule, any Member seeking to improve the bill by offering a germane amendment may do so. The only requirement is that their amendment be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Normally the Committee on Rules merely affords priority recognition to Members who preprint their amendments in the RECORD, but this rule requires it. That is because the underlying bill is very technical in nature.

For example, it establishes formulas under which States are penalized for noncompliance with Federal require-

ments. In addition, the bill represents a carefully negotiated agreement with the administration, and amendments to change the bill could compromise the broad support it has earned. Therefore, it is important that the Committee on Ways and Means is aware of any possible amendments to the bill.

The rule also waives points of order against the consideration of an amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN). Simply put, the Cardin amendment would deny visas to foreign nationals owing more than \$5,000 in child support payments. It also prohibits the naturalization of individuals who are not in compliance with child support orders.

In testimony to the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) explained that his amendment has bipartisan support among members of the Committee on Ways and Means, and that the Committee on the Judiciary, which has primary jurisdiction over his amendment, has no objection to its consideration.

In an effort to speed up consideration of H.R. 3130, the rule will allow votes to be postponed and reduced to 5 minutes, if the postponed question follows a 15-minute vote. Finally, this rule provides for the customary motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues enthusiastically supported this legislation in 1988 and in 1996 that sought to improve our Nation's system of collecting child support. The fact is that in many States the difference between what is owed in child support and what is actually collected amounts to millions, if not billions, of dollars, which never reach the children who are depending on it. If we want self-sufficiency to be a reality for many low-income single-parent families, we must do better.

In recognition of the Nation's poor record of enforcement, Congress instructed the States to establish statewide data systems to help track down deadbeat parents and make them pay. States were given Federal tax dollars to set up these systems, and it is incumbent upon them to do so. However, some States have not been able to meet the Federal standards and deadlines, and as a result, they are facing very significant penalties. No one is suggesting that penalties are inappropriate. The question is whether the punishment matches the crime.

Under current law, the penalties are stiff. States that did not meet the October 1 deadline last year are at risk of losing their Federal child support money, as well as their entire welfare block grant. This type of penalty does not just scold States, it threatens to decimate their entire child support program.

I think the gentleman from Florida (Chairman SHAW) said these penalties are the equivalent of issuing the death penalty for stealing a loaf of bread. My State of Ohio offers a good example of why H.R. 3130 is necessary.