

Wise	Woolsey	Yates
Wolf	Wynn	Young (AK)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Smith (OR)

NOT VOTING—23

Bateman	Harman	Riggs
Conyers	Johnson, Sam	Skaggs
DeFazio	King (NY)	Stark
Deutsch	Meeks (NY)	Taylor (NC)
Foley	Miller (CA)	Torres
Furse	Parker	Towns
Gonzalez	Quinn	Wicker
Green	Reyes	

□ 1154

Messrs. HYDE, BUNNING, STUMP, BACHUS, WELDON of Florida, RYUN and BEREUTER, and Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. METCALF, PITTS, ENSIGN and MCCOLLUM, and Mrs. BONO and Mrs. FOWLER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1200

(Mrs. ROUKEMA asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 2 minutes.)

FAREWELL AND APPRECIATION TO MARY E. "MEG" GOETZ, LONG-TIME VALUED EMPLOYEE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I want our colleagues to know that this is a very special moment for the House of Representatives. I rise to recognize the dedicated service, a long time of service, I might add, of our Reading Clerk, Mary E. Goetz, known to all of us as Meg.

Meg formerly was a constituent of mine in Glen Rock, New Jersey, but I really got to know her here on the floor of the House for her wonderful, dedicated work. Meg, as she is known, is retiring from the House after a few years of service. We will talk about that later, because I think she really looks much too young to have served here for that long.

But I would like to say that there are two Meg Goetzes that this House knows. The first is the Meg Goetz who is the serious, responsible, dedicated professional who keeps the work of the House going on time and in order. Indeed, in that capacity, she has become literally a folk hero to millions and millions of C-Span viewers. I hear that frequently about Meg.

The second Meg Goetz is the Meg that we know off camera, that her friends and her colleagues and the other professionals and staff know off camera. That Meg Goetz is bright and affable and, yes, dedicated, but has a wonderful sense of humor. I do not know that we will be able to enjoy that today, but there are others here who can repeat some of those stories about Meg's sense of humor.

I would like to tell you that I was really stunned yesterday when I learned, because it was only yesterday that I learned of her decision to retire from this position. I think, like me and probably all of the Members, we thought she was far too young to consider any such retirement. I have to say, as incredible as it may seem, because I know it is incredible to me, Meg Goetz has served 20 years in this Chamber.

I guess she has decided that there must be a life outside of this Chamber. I cannot imagine how she could have decided that. After all, 20 years of daily contact with us, Members of the House, Members of Congress, and all those all night sessions, I cannot imagine why she is looking for another life. But I do think, Meg, you deserve a break. But that is not what is happening here. You know you will be missed, and C-Span viewers will be missing their hero, their folk hero. Members of this House will desperately miss, along with her co-workers, her dedication, professionalism, and her wit.

I have to say that I know she is going on to other very worthwhile endeavors, and we are proud of her for all she has done and all she will do. Meg, I have to put in the name of Glen Rock, New Jersey, our common constituency. Glen Rock is proud of you. As we say in New Jersey, we are all perfect together. Meg, you are perfect together, and we hope to see you back here soon. Thank you so much for all you have done.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. ROUKEMA. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentlewoman consumed about 10 seconds on her presentation, and I will try to be equally brief.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud and pleased to rise to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from New Jersey, and am rightfully proud of the heritage of Meg Goetz. The viewers on C-Span see the debate, sometimes acrimonious and confrontational, sometimes lacking in civility. Most times they do not see the staff who make it possible to have debates and to keep this institution going.

Too few of us perhaps take the time to realize the contributions that are made by, for the public, probably nameless, and certainly for Meg not faceless, but for some faceless employees, who, day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month, year-to-year, through their dedication and commitment make it possible for us to function effectively as the people's House.

Some have been here for many years more than most Members. Meg Goetz is one of those people. She has been here now for over two decades, and as the gentlewoman from New Jersey has said, she has brought to her job a great ability, but as well, a great demeanor. Her character and commitment to this democratic institution have added to its stature, and never, ever detracted

from it. Few of us that serve in this body can say that we always did the same.

I want to rise, not on behalf of the Democrats or on behalf of the Democratic leadership, but on behalf, Meg, of all who have served in this body during your tenure. As I am sure my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), will observe, and I do not want to steal her thunder, but I think it is so appropriate to recognize, Mr. Speaker, that Meg Goetz is the first woman who has served as a Reading Clerk of this House, appointed by Tip O'Neill.

In doing so, she had, I am sure, a special cognizance of her responsibility to her gender in that capacity. Every woman in America can be proud of their representative, their first representative as our Reading Clerk.

Meg, I know that I speak for all who have served in this body during your tenure, who have enjoyed not only the competency with which you performed your task of informing the House from time to time what the business before the House was, of informing us of the amendments, of the messages from the Senate or from the President; yes, you have performed your duties in a very professional way, but in a very personal way for each of us you have been our friend, our adviser and counselor from time to time when you knew much more about what was going on than we did. And we would ask, Meg, what are we doing? And you always knew.

It is, Meg, sad that you are leaving, but as the gentlewoman from New Jersey has observed, you leave very young with much ahead of you, and I know that you will carry with you the experiences in this House to whatever endeavors you now pursue, and that you will be enriched by those experiences, as you have enriched this institution, this people's House, this center of democracy, not just for America but for the world. It is, Meg, because of people like yourself that this body has functioned so well. Notwithstanding its weaknesses, its foibles, its personal failures from time to time, it is people like yourself who have given it strength, given it judgment, given it balance.

So I am pleased, Meg, to rise with all those with whom you have served to thank you, to thank you for your dedication, and for your service, and for your friendship, and to wish you the very best in everything that you do in the years to come. Godspeed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to someone who has been part of this institution longer than myself and many of my colleagues.

Although she is not a Member of Congress, her face and name is known to everyone in this chamber, (and to those thousands of adoring fans on C-SPAN).

Mary E. "Meg" Goetz, the House Reading Clerk, is leaving us after 20 years of service to the House of Representatives.

Meg is a 1978 political science/economics graduate from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, PA.

She began her career with the United States House of Representatives in 1978 as a legislative information specialist.

In 1981 she became the Assistant Journal Clerk, helping to compile and publish this important publication.

In 1983 she became the House Reading Clerk.

Often seen and often heard, Meg is an active part of the backbone which helps make the institution of Congress function.

From her perch on the dias, she has had a ringside seat on the history of America.

I know that my colleagues join me in wishing Meg the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. ROUKEMA. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I feel, as I am sure everyone else in the House felt, that I had a very special relationship with Meg. When I first came here 12 years ago, I learned that one of the things that freshmen do is have the great honor of presiding over Special Orders. I took to that, it was a wonderful thing for me to be doing, and made so much easier because of Meg.

I always relished being able to do it early in the week, because Meg Goetz and Paul Hayes and I share a special passion that we have never discussed with anybody on the floor of the House. That is that we are totally devoted to the Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle. So even though the issue of the special order was sometimes grim, sometimes not, we always had a fallback position where we could say, "Did you get 22 across?"

Meg has been, as everyone said before me, a pillar of strength in this House, and the millions of people in this country who understand how this democracy works and the way she has always conducted herself, with extraordinary decorum and with extraordinarily good judgment, know that a lot of good things about this House are because of the dedication and work that Meg Goetz brought to it.

I envy the people that Meg is going to leave us to work for. They are getting a woman of great character and professionalism and ability, and I look forward to working with her in her new capacity.

But I do want her to know that coming here as a freshman, as everyone else can say, I am sure, as equally well as I, to have the friendship of Meg Goetz to help us over the intricacies and the tough problems, never, never losing patience, always explaining over and over again, if need be, but always there to help us to do the right thing, she was bringing, obviously, to her job the professionalism that she felt, working for the House of Representatives, the United States Congress deserved.

Meg, we shall miss you, and thank you for all of your friendship to me,

and thank you on behalf of all of the others here, because I know how much you have meant to each and every one of us. God bless.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. ROUKEMA. I yield to the gentlewoman from Maryland.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to add my thanks, also, and appreciation for all that Meg has done for all of us. She has been a real pillar of perseverance, of patience, when she has been there to witness our deliberations. She has been a rock of stability, and yet always in her quiet, very professional way, has been there to help us in any way that we needed.

So I have always looked to Meg, as other colleagues have, as all my colleagues have, as somebody who is part of the institution and who has made it so very great.

My best wishes to you as you go forward and have a great adventure; and as Shakespeare would say, those about her from her shall learn the perfect ways of honor. Thank you, cheerio, and come back and see us.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Meg, May I conclude by saying, God bless and God-speed.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). The Chair lays before the House a privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 98) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 98

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, May 21, 1998, Friday, May 22, 1998 Saturday May 23, 1998, or Sunday May 24, 1998, pursuant to motion made by the Majority Leader or his designee in accordance with this concurrent resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, June 1, 1998, or until such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first, and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, May 22, 1998, or Saturday May 23, 1998 pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader or this designee in accordance with his concurrent resolution, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 1998, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to sections of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 442 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. 2183.

□ 1215

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, with Mrs. EMERSON 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. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Gejden-son), each will control 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 8 minutes.

Madam Chairman, as we observed under the rule that was passed, we are beginning a process which is one of the more open processes in the history of the House of Representatives. In the area of campaign reform, we have an underlying bill, and we have 10 substitutes that will be made in order.

In addition to that, there will be amendments that would be perfecting amendments that will be made in order to those substitutes. It begins to sound as though it could be a very confusing and difficult process.

What Members need to know is that we have already shrunk the potential amendments from almost 600 to closer to 300. Now, 300 is still a rather ominous sounding number and, as we begin to prepare and structure those amendments, I think we will find that they will shrink even more.

But to try to assist Members, "You do not know the players without a program," as they say in sports, The Congressional Research Service is in the final hours of preparing a document which I think will prove invaluable to Members. It will provide, for example, a quick glance, in terms of a checkoff procedure, indicating which general areas each particular substitute involves itself. For example, does it deal with spending or benefits limits, political action committees? What does it do with individuals, parties, candidates,