

administration. Candor and transparency have to be our cornerstone. These principles in our relationship with Russia are the future way to provide stability for that once great Nation.

FACTS AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING REPORT TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF INDEPENDENT COUNSEL KEN STARR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes I will file a report with the House of Representatives dealing with information that was delivered to us by the independent counsel, Judge Starr, earlier.

The resolution before us tomorrow will enable the House, through the deliberations of the Committee on the Judiciary, to responsibly review the important materials and to discharge its duty, particularly with respect to the availability of the contents of this communication to Members of Congress, to the public, and to the media.

It is important that the American people learn the facts regarding this matter. As directed by the Speaker, no one, no Member or congressional staff, has seen the communications transmitted yesterday, and they will not until successfully passing this resolution tomorrow.

However, it is the understanding of the Committee on Rules, as outlined in the letter of transmittal from Judge Starr, that the communication contains the following: 445 pages of communications, which is divided into an introduction section, a narrative section, and a so-called "grounds" section; another 2,000 pages of supporting material is contained in the appendices, which may contain grand jury testimony, telephone records, videotaped testimony, and other sensitive material; and 17 other boxes of supporting material.

The method of dissemination and potential restrictions on access to this information is outlined in the resolution that will be before the House tomorrow.

The resolution provides the Committee on the Judiciary with the ability to review the communication to determine whether sufficient grounds exist to recommend to the House that an impeachment inquiry be commenced.

The resolution provides for an immediate release of the approximate 445 pages comprising the information I just mentioned before. This will be printed as a House document the minute that this resolution passes the House tomorrow, and will be available to the Members of Congress, the media, and to the public.

As to the receipt of the transcripts and other records protected by the rules of grand jury secrecy, committees

of the House have received such information on at least five other occasions, all in the context of impeachment actions. This precedent dates all the way back to 1811, and as recently as the impeachment of two Federal judges in the late 1980s.

The resolution further provides that additional material compiled in the Committee on the Judiciary during the review will be deemed to have been received in executive session, unless it is received in an open session of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Also, access to that executive session material would be restricted to members of the Committee on the Judiciary and such employees of the committee as may be designated by the chairman, after consultation with the ranking minority member.

Finally, the resolution provides that each meeting, each hearing, or disposition of the Committee on the Judiciary will be in executive session unless otherwise determined by the committee. The executive sessions may be attended only by Committee on the Judiciary members and employees of the committee designated by the chairman, again after consultation with the ranking minority member.

The resolution before us tomorrow attempts to strike an appropriate balance between House Members' and the public's interest in reviewing this material, and the need to protect innocent persons.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that to show how times are changing, at the beginning of our hearing at 5 o'clock we posted this resolution and my opening statements on the website of the Committee on Rules. As of about half hour ago, there had been over 20,000 access requests to that website. That is amazing, and it shows how communications are changing throughout this country.

It is anticipated that the Committee on the Judiciary may require additional procedures or investigative authority to adequately review the communications in the future. It is anticipated that those authorities will be the subject of another resolution coming out of my Committee on Rules next week, midweek, and brought to the floor later on in the week.

It is very important to note that this resolution does not authorize or it does not direct an impeachment inquiry. It is not the beginning of an impeachment process in the House of Representatives. It merely provides the appropriate parameters for the Committee on the Judiciary, the historically proper place to examine these matters, to review this communication and to make a recommendation to the House as to whether to commence an impeachment "inquiry."

If this communication from the Independent Counsel should form the basis for future proceedings, it is important for this Committee on Rules to be mindful that Members may need to cast public, recorded, and extremely

profound votes in the coming weeks or months. It is our responsibility to ensure that Members have enough information about the contents of the communication to cast informed votes and explain their decision based on their conscience to their constituents.

In summation, let me just say that Democrats and Republicans disagree about many things in this institution, and that is probably the way it should be, but no one disagrees about the honor and the integrity of our friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HENRY HYDE). He is one of the most judicious members in this body in his role as the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and I have said on many occasions that he would make an excellent Supreme Court Justice. As a matter of fact, I recommended that to former President Ronald Reagan and former President George Bush on a number of occasions.

We are fortunate, however, that he has not been elevated to that position as yet, as he is very much needed at this trying time for the House and for our country.

Likewise, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) has many years of experience in the Committee on the Judiciary, including service there in the 1974. He is extremely knowledgeable and tenacious, and we look forward to his service and his leadership in this very important matter.

This is a very grave day for the House of Representatives. Indeed, it is a solemn time, I think, for our Nation.

□ 2130

Today we will do what we are compelled to do under the Constitution, not because we desire it but because it is our duty as Members of Congress.

In order to most judiciously fulfill these constitutional duties, I would urge all Members to approach this sensitive matter with the dignity and decorum which befits the most deliberative body in the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring this to the attention of this body and to the American people. Hopefully, around 10:30 tomorrow morning this resolution will be on the floor. Once it passes, it then will be made available to Members and to the public and to the media as soon as technologically possible.

The chairman and the minority leader today wrote a letter to the independent counsel asking them to make available the computerization of the material which will allow us to immediately, upon passage of this resolution, to then be able to reproduce in both hard copies and over the Web sites the actual resolution that will be passed.

Mr. Speaker, I just might again point out that we have done everything in our power to make sure that this is a bipartisan resolution that is agreed to by an overwhelming number of the Members of this House. I think that it will be tomorrow, and we look forward to having this debate.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR DEBATE ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 525, PROVIDING FOR DELIBERATIVE REVIEW BY COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY OF COMMUNICATION FROM INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, with the concurrence of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), the ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, I ask unanimous consent that when we take up the preferential resolution tomorrow, which contains under the rules of the House only 1 hour of debate, that we extend that period for an additional hour so that the entire debate will be consecutive and will be covered in a 2-hour period.

Mr. Speaker, again, I do have the concurrence of the minority leader and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR DELIBERATIVE REVIEW BY COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY OF COMMUNICATION FROM INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-703) on the resolution (H. Res. 525) providing for a deliberative review by the Committee on the Judiciary of a communication from an independent counsel, and for the release thereof, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BERRY (at the request Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of official business in the district.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), after 1:30 p.m. today and for the balance of the week, on account of business in the district.

Mr. MCGOVERN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), after 2 p.m. today, on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), after 1:30 p.m. today and for the balance of the week, on account of family obligations.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HEFNER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 60 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 60 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BILBRAY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LUCAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. REDMOND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, on September 11.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes each, today and September 11.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SOLOMON, for 5 minutes today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HEFNER) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. KIND.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. COYNE.

Mr. RAHALL.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

Mr. LEVIN.

Mr. ETHERIDGE.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. CUMMINGS.

Mr. BERRY.

Mrs. CAPPS.

Mr. LIPINSKI, in two instances.

Mr. BARCIA.

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. KILDEE.

Mr. WAXMAN.

Mr. OBERSTAR.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BILBRAY) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. PAPPAS.

Mr. HUNTER.

Mr. DOOLITTLE.

Mr. KING.

Mr. ARCHER.

Mr. PAUL.

Mrs. ROUKEMA.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SOLOMON) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado.

Mr. BAESLER.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4059. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing,

and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

H.R. 629. An act to grant the consent of the Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 11, 1998, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10813. A letter from the Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Official/Unofficial Weighing Service (RIN: 0580-AA55) received September 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

10814. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Kentucky [KY-104-9818a; FRL-6152-9] received August 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10815. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision; Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District [CA 102-0091a; FRL-6150-9] received August 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10816. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Conditional Limited Approval of Major VOC Source RACT and Minor VOC Source Requirements [MD003-3024a, MD025-3024a, MD066-3024a; FRL-6148-9] received August 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10817. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Emergency Revision of the Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR) Treatment Standards for Listed Hazardous Wastes from Carbamate Production [EPA # F-96-P32F-FFFFF; FRL-6134-5] (RIN: 2050-ZA00) received August 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10818. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Lead; Fees for Accreditation of Training Programs and Certification of Lead-based Paint Activities Contractors [OPPTS-62158A; FRL-6017-8] (RIN: 2070-AD11) received August 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.