

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 438, WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-27) on the resolution (H.Res. 76) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 438) to promote and enhance public safety through use of 911 as the universal emergency assistance number, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 514, WIRELESS PRIVACY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-28) on the resolution (H. Res. 77) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 514) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to strengthen and clarify prohibitions on electronic eavesdropping, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HOUSE SHOULD CONSIDER DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS FIRST, RATHER THAN LAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to speak about the District of Columbia. But I think it only appropriate to report what I have just heard, and that is that in the capital murder trial of John William King, the first of three men accused in the dragging death murder of James Byrd, Jr., the jury has just reported a guilty verdict in Jasper, Texas. Justice has been done, and southern justice this time has been done.

Mr. Speaker, we are back to work in earnest. The Speaker has developed a workmanlike schedule. I come to the floor this afternoon to ask that the easiest bill in the House, the bill having least to do with the business of this House, be the first appropriation bill reported in this House. I speak of the D.C. appropriation bill.

It is amazing that most often it is the last and not the first bill. When I brought the new Mayor to see the Speaker, he agreed that we should hasten this bill. During the fiscal crisis, it has been especially painful to have the

District appropriation bill so late. The District has been on time, but the bill has been needlessly controversial.

Delay hurts in the worst way because it affects the credit standing of a city that is only now getting its credit back. And it is getting its credit back. It has had three straight years of surpluses. However, it is the unpredictability of the appropriation process here that hurts the credit rating.

There is no Federal payment any longer, so it is quite amazing that the budget of a local jurisdiction would have to come here at all. Suppose my colleagues' cities, their counties' budgets came here. They would tell us to get out of town. It is an historic anomaly; it is an injustice.

It has to come. At least let no more injustice be done by holding it up. We collect \$5 billion from D.C. taxpayers in the District of Columbia. All the District asks of this body is: "Give us back our money as soon as you get it."

We will have before us a consensus budget. It will be a very balanced budget. The consensus budget notion came out of an amendment that I put into the Control Board statute that allows the District now, instead of having its budget go through the normal separation of powers, to have everybody sit around a table and agree on a budget so as to hasten the time. Therefore, to hasten the time to draw their own budget, the least the Congress can do is to enact their own budget as soon as possible.

After 3 years of surpluses, a new Mayor who earned his stripes as chief financial officer and helped get the city back on its financial feet, the city, I think, has a right to ask of the Congress that we do our job. If we must look at a local budget, look at it fast, say what we have to say, do what we have to do, and let us then get on with the business of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this House does have confidence in the Mayor and in the District itself. Last week or the week before last, we passed in this House the first half of my D.C. Democracy 2000 bill which gives back to the new Mayor, Tony Williams, powers that were taken from a previous Mayor in 1997.

There has already been real confidence in this Mayor. The best way to encourage the Mayor and to encourage the city is to give it back its money first.

The first bill to come here should be the District bill. It is a way of saying to the District that they have reached a consensus budget, they have balanced their budget. In light of that, we have given them the respect to which they are entitled. It is a way of saying, "Here is your money back. Here is your budget back. Please run your own city."

REPORT ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG ALLIANCE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to provide the attached report on a Western Hemisphere Drug Alliance in accordance with the provisions of section 2807 of the "Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998." This report underscores the Administration's commitment to enhancing multilateral counternarcotics cooperation in the region.

Strengthening international narcotics control is one of my Administration's top foreign policy priorities. Because of the transnational nature of the Western Hemisphere drug trafficking threat, we have made enhanced multilateral cooperation a central feature of our regional drug control strategy. Our counternarcotics diplomacy, foreign assistance, and operations have focussed increasingly on making this objective a reality.

We are succeeding. Thanks to U.S. leadership in the Summit of the Americas, the Organization of American States, and other regional fora, the countries of the Western Hemisphere are taking the drug threat more seriously and responding more aggressively. South American cocaine organizations that were once regarded as among the largest and most violent crime syndicates in the world have been dismantled, and the level of coca cultivation is now plummeting as fast as it was once sky-rocketing. We are also currently working through the Organization of American States to create a counternarcotics multilateral evaluation mechanism in the hemisphere. These examples reflect fundamental narcotics control progress that was nearly unimaginable a few years ago.

While much remains to be done, I am confident that the Administration and the Congress, working together, can bolster cooperation in the hemisphere, accelerate this progress, and significantly diminish the drug threat to the American people. I look forward to your continued support and cooperation in this critical area.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 23, 1999.

DRUG ABUSE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is ironic. Sometimes here we look more organized than we are. I was going to speak on the drug issue. I did not know the