

Committee on Appropriations that has delivered for this country a surplus for us to talk about this year, has taken us out of deficit, not in 5 or 7 years as predicted but in a short 2-year period.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, for all the things he will be remembered for and for all the good things he has done in this body and throughout his public career, I think this Nation owes him a debt of gratitude for that most important thing of taking us out of deficit and giving us a surplus to debate this year.

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOB LIVINGSTON) may not ever get the credit he deserves, Mr. Speaker, but I will tell my colleagues that I know it in my heart and the people of Louisiana know it in their heart: We have rarely seen a man of that kind of dedication and spirit and deep respect and love and compassion and, as was said, tolerance for different opinions represent our State than has BOB LIVINGSTON. Louisiana will miss him sorely, and on behalf of all the people of his great district, and by the way BOB leaves with not a 60 or 70 or 80 percent approval rate, Mr. Speaker. He leaves Congress with an over 90 percent approval rate. On behalf of those people in his district and the entire State of Louisiana and, I know, this great Nation, I thank my friend for all the years he gave us. God bless him and Bonnie and his family.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wish the gentleman from Louisiana the great Cajun wish of *joie de vie*. I hope his life is full of joy, that his life is rich and that the retirement he justly deserves is one that he and his family will fully enjoy.

Again, BOB, thank you. God bless you.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE

(Mr. YOUNG of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by this day because we are saying an official farewell to a very dear friend and a very distinguished Member of this House, and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON) and I have served together on the Committee on Appropriations for many years. We served on the same subcommittee and sat side-by-side. And I can tell my colleagues that here is a man who is totally honest. What you see is what he is. When he says something, we can depend on it. He is not afraid to buck the tide of public opinion, if that need be the case on a given occasion, in order to stand for what his conscience tells him is right, for what his convictions tell him is right.

Mr. Speaker, he is an example for people in public life to follow through his dedication to the constituents that he represented, his dedication to the country, the entire United States of America and his willingness to stand

up and take whatever heat was necessary to do what he felt was right for America.

Personally, I will miss BOB LIVINGSTON, and I hope that he will feel free to stay in touch with this Member and, I think, with all of us, because he has been a good friend, and he has been an outstanding Member. And he became Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations when many of us had never ever served in the majority before, and we were wondering:

What do we do next?

Mr. Speaker, of all the things that have to be done in a Congress, appropriations bills have to pass. Those are the things that have to be done. And BOB LIVINGSTON, as the new chairman and the first Republican chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in 40 years, had a major, major task and a major responsibility, and he had problems not only in the House within his own party on occasion. But he stood tall, and he stood strong, and he guided this appropriations process for those 4 years in such a way that most of us thought never would work.

To the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON) I say:

Congratulations on a job well done. Your friends will miss you dearly, and that comes from our heart.

WIRELESS PRIVACY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 77 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 77

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union 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. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII 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 Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Each section of the bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose and in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. 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 15 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. 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 (Mr. UPTON). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 77 is an open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 514, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act, a bill that will improve wireless communication privacy and make it more difficult for scanners to be altered for unlawful purposes. H. Res. 77 is a wide-open rule providing 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce.

The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of Rule 13 which requires a 3-day layover for committee reports, and the rule provides that each section of the bill shall be considered as read.

H. Res. 77 further allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority in recognition to those Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration. The rule also allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone recorded votes and to reduce to 5 minutes the voting time on any postponed question provided voting time on the first in any series of questions is not less than 15 minutes. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions, as is the right of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, when an American citizen picks up his telephone, we want to believe that the right to privacy is protecting us. Unfortunately, the rapid advance of technology permits the interception of phone calls rather easily, and relatively simple modifications to devices can provide anyone with an electronic stocking device. The bill before us today is designed to ensure that the current penalties for intercepting and divulging communications are strengthened.

It is important to note that many consumers are not even aware that current penalties even exist, and current law unfortunately encourages a relaxed attitude among those who casually intercept communications. As a result, this bill will improve the enforcement of privacy laws by increasing penalties