

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO HAVE UNTIL 7 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002, TO FILE A REPORT ON H.R. 2341, CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary have until 7 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2002, to file a report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2341) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, to outlaw certain practices that provide inadequate settlements for class members, to assure that attorneys do not receive a disproportionate amount of settlements at the expense of class members, to provide for clearer and simpler information in class action settlement notices, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2341, CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet on Tuesday, March 12, 2002, to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 2341, the Class Action Fairness Act.

The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require amendments be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration on the floor. Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 in the Capitol no later than 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12.

The Committee on the Judiciary intends to file its report on the bill on Monday, March 11. The Committee on Rules will post the Committee on the Judiciary version of the bill on the Web site of the Committee on Rules as soon as it becomes available. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, 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 make sure their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR FURTHER EXPENSES OF PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE IN SECOND SESSION OF 107TH CONGRESS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 359) providing amounts for further expenses of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the second session of the One Hundred Seventh Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I take this time to ask the distinguished chairman of the Committee on House Administration for an explanation of his unanimous consent request.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 359 is a supplemental funding resolution for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, each Congress passes a committee funding resolution to authorize committee spending. My colleague and I, the gentleman from Maryland, passed a very good and effective committee funding resolution that keeps the House in proper movement.

This process normally occurs at the beginning of each Congress. The committee funding process for the 107th Congress was completed in March of 2001 with the overwhelming bipartisan agreement of House Resolution 84, a bipartisan initiative which not only provided committees with the necessary resources to carry out their important work, but which also set new standards for allocating funds between majority and minority staffs.

I want to again thank the gentleman from Maryland and all the members of the committees, both sides of the aisle, ranking members and Chairs of the committees, for their tremendous and great cooperation.

Those funds more than adequately provided for committees to do the necessary work which they are charged to do in the 107th Congress. Unfortunately, because of the tragic and devastating attacks of September 11, we find it necessary to come to the House floor to seek additional spending authority for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The increased spending authority would be used to fund a joint bicameral inquiry with our counterparts from the other body into the activities of the intelligence community before, during, and since the September 11 terrorist attacks. Among the purposes of this

joint effort is ascertaining why the intelligence community did not learn of the conspiracy to launch the September 11 attacks in advance and to identify what, if anything, might be done to better position the intelligence community to warn of and prevent future terrorist attacks and other threats in the 21st century.

The investigation will principally focus on the U.S. intelligence agencies and their activities, as well as the interaction between intelligence agencies and nonintelligence entities associated with our national security. Based on their findings, the committee may seek to enact changes in order to remedy any systemic deficiencies revealed by the joint inquiry.

The decision to conduct a bicameral bipartisan review by the two intelligence committees is supported by both the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss), chairman, and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the ranking member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, along with the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Review of the activities of the intelligence community through this joint effort is necessary for several reasons. To begin with, the two intelligence committees, House and Senate, are best suited by experience and practice to protect classified information. Since a significant portion of the investigation must include review and access to highly sensitive classified materials in order to fully understand intelligence actions, review by both committees is appropriate and needed.

Secondly, due to the fact that our Nation will be involved for some time in the war against terrorism, a bicameral review will allow the most effective use of time and manpower for those agencies that are still involved in protecting, investigating, and compiling information for our continued campaign against terror.

Third, by offering to approach the investigation in this manner, the committees have secured White House assurances that access to critical information necessary to do a thorough job will absolutely be provided.

And, finally, the unprecedented nature of the terrorist attacks demands an unprecedented response. An inquiry by the elected representatives of the people will ensure that we give the American people the explanation they deserve regarding the events of that infamous day.

The inquiry will consist of joint hearings, both open and closed, and will be conducted once the initial data gathering and interviews are completed. The inquiry is expected to last through the 107th Congress and could quite possibly extend into the next Congress, though this resolution only authorizes funds for this Congress.

Should the work continue into the 108th Congress, the House rules regarding interim committee funding will be

used to continue funding the committee, the inquiry, and all other committees as usual.

So, Mr. Speaker, we come to the floor today with a resolution to authorize \$1.6 million in additional spending authority for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Although the committee already received an increase in its funding for efforts regarding terrorism, that effort is looking more broadly into terrorism and our Nation's preparedness rather than focusing in, in a comprehensive way, on the specific day of September 11. As I stated earlier, the resources made available to the committee which were allocated in the beginning of the committee funding process for the 107th could not have possibly taken into account what happened to this country on September 11. That is why it is necessary for us to augment both the funding levels and staff levels for the committee so that they may conduct a proper inquiry.

The amount being requested is approximately one-half of the total amount needed to hire staff and cover related administrative expenses, such as office supplies, travel, and computer systems. The other body, in separate action, has already allocated funds to its committees for the same purposes.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of this resolution. We all know if we fail to learn from the mistakes of the past we are doomed to repeat them. I hope this inquiry will help us to learn from our mistakes so we can avoid a recurrence of these horrific events.

In closing, I would also note that this House was ahead of its time. Because last year, when we did the funding resolution, we gave the proper increases to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence before we ever could have dreamed what would have happened here in the United States. This, again, I think, is ahead of its time so that we can look back into what happened to help us in the future, not only to protect the United States but to, frankly, protect the world.

I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland for not only his cooperation but for yielding to me.

Mr. HOYER. Further reserving my right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished ranking member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the minority whip.

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his leadership and that of the distinguished chairman for facilitating this request and bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation.

Next Monday is the six-month anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon. With the war against the al Qaeda network, and terrorism

generally, well underway, it is important that the process of determining why the September 11 attacks were not prevented receive appropriate attention in Congress.

The performance of the intelligence agencies is an essential part of the September 11 story, and it is the responsibility of the House and Senate intelligence committees to thoroughly assess that performance. It is the judgment of the committees that a joint inquiry is the best way to get at the facts and recommend changes as supported by the facts. The committees intend that the inquiry will ascertain why the agencies did not learn of the attacks in advance and identify what, if anything, might be done to better position the agencies to warn of, or prevent, future terrorist actions against the United States.

The joint inquiry will be a considerable challenge and will require additional resources, primarily for staff. The measure now under consideration provides these resources, and I urge its adoption so that we may proceed as quickly as possible on this important task. Additional resources and staff positions have been provided by the Senate. It should be made clear that, although we intend for this inquiry to be comprehensive as far as the intelligence agencies are concerned, it will not be exhaustive of all of the issues surrounding the September 11 attacks. Other committees may want to examine matters within their jurisdiction and, at some point, it may be appropriate to consider the creation of an entity outside of Congress to take an across the board look at all of the components of the September 11 disaster. Our purpose in undertaking this joint inquiry, and in seeking funds to do it properly, is not to foreclose any other review, but to ensure that the intelligence committees properly discharge the oversight responsibility given to them by the House and Senate.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation of objection, I certainly join the chairman of the Committee on House Administration in strong support of this funding resolution, which I think is appropriate, and I congratulate both the chairman and the ranking member, as well as the other body for the process that they have adopted to proceed on this matter, which I think will be efficient and effective.

Mr. Goss. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strongest possible support for the passage of this resolution, which will provide urgently needed funds to support an unprecedented bipartisan and bicameral inquiry. This joint congressional inquiry, involving the Members and staff of both the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, has several critical tasks: first, to review the events and the actions of our Government leading up to the terrorist attacks of last September; second, to ascertain accountability within our Government for the management of counterterrorist and homeland security functions, focusing specifically on our intelligence mechanisms; and third, to ensure that our Government is properly informed and prepared with accurate and timely intelligence to stop current and future terrorist attacks against our Nation and our people.

This joint inquiry is being handled on an urgent basis by the leadership of both parties in both Houses and with the full cooperation of the relevant agencies of the executive branch.

This inquiry is critically important to enhancing our Nation's security against the threat posed by global terrorism and to strengthening public confidence that our intelligence and law enforcement agencies are fully prepared to defuse the terrorist threats that now confront our Nation.

I want to thank the Ranking Member for her participation and her counsel in structuring the joint inquiry with the other body. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to Chairman NEY and Mr. HOYER of the House Administration Committee for their close cooperation and advice in moving the joint inquiry forward on an expedited basis.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 359

Resolved,

SECTION 1. FURTHER EXPENSES OF THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE.

For further expenses of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives not more than \$1,600,000.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION.

Amounts shall be available under this resolution for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2002, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2003.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, signed by the chairman of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any reduction in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)