

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