

a member, headed by the legislative initiative of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member, captured the ailments, the illness of the election system and tried to put together a legislative initiative that was encompassing, that was embracing, that answered the questions about the many horror stories we heard in November 2000: individuals turned away; intimidation at the polls; people who registered to vote and yet were turned away. It is imperative before we go into the Federal elections that we come together in a consensus and pass election reform.

I do feel that the House conferees have been working together in moving toward final passage, and I believe the other body has the same amount of focus. It is now time to set a time frame for us and not let this legislation die in this session. I do not believe anyone desires it to do so. I believe the American people want to see election reform.

Mr. Speaker, after 9–11 when we have all recommitted ourselves to the values of this Nation, the values of democracy and freedom and equality and the right to speak one's mind, it would be a tribute to again reinforce our values by passing such a legislative initiative as election reform.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, who has the right to close?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) has the right to close.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important motion to instruct. I appreciate the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) for her insight and her input into this process. All of the speakers that participated tonight have added greatly to the process. This is an important measure. America needs it, and I appreciate this motion to instruct because it will give us an additional push and say this is the sense of the House. I urge all of my colleagues on this side of the aisle to support the motion to instruct.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard some powerful words this evening from my colleagues on how important it is that Congress pass election reform legislation, and pass it quickly. Although it will not affect the November elections, they are approaching and there simply is no time to waste.

As we all know, the most fundamental issue facing all of us during this Congress is restoring the public's faith in democracy. To restore that faith in democracy, we must make sure that every vote cast is counted. We have said repeatedly that we have been attacked because of the jealousy of our freedom. We must make that free-

dom real, and the only way we can do that is to make sure that every vote cast is counted and is cast without intimidation.

The legislation we have passed will take important steps toward protecting the sacred right to vote. It is time that we take action. House and Senate conferees have come so close to a compromise on H.R. 3295 and now they must finish the job. I call upon members of the conference committee to reach agreement before October 1 and submit the legislation to us for final passage. I am in strong support of this motion to instruct.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the motion to instruct has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

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:

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

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

JUDICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT PRIVACY CLARIFICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) in introducing the Judicial Code of Conduct Privacy Clarification Act. As the title suggests, this bill would clarify a provision in title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act that deals with privacy protections for consumers.

Gramm-Leach-Bliley was landmark legislation that for the first time permitted companies to engage in banking, insurance and securities transactions simultaneously. While considering these new freedoms for businesses to operate across lines, Congress also wanted to ensure that consumer privacy would not be placed at risk.

Title V sought to address this issue by giving regulators latitude to enforce privacy provisions among financial institutions. Unfortunately in interpreting the language of the law, some confusion has arisen over what specifically those financial institutions might be. In seeking to clarify the confusion, the Federal Trade Commission concluded that financial institutions include any business that, and I quote, significantly engages in financial activities. What is the definition of "significantly"? Well, it could be as little as once a year. And what is a financial activity? There are four: debt collecting, financial advisory activities, tax planning preparation and advising, and leasing real or personal property.

Okay, that is fair enough. But in writing its regulations in this way, the Federal Trade Commission appears to have unintentionally swept under its umbrella the one group of professionals that already is governed by the strictest possible confidentiality or privacy