

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE
PRESIDENT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 3) authorizing the Speaker to appoint a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 3

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF
COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE
PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO
HOUSE RESOLUTION 3

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled, and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO IN-
FORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF THE ELEC-
TION OF THE SPEAKER AND THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 4) authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 4

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected J. Dennis Hastert, a Representative from the State of Illinois, Speaker; and Jeffrey J. Trandahl, a citizen of the State of South Dakota, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eighth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1430

RULES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 5) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 5

Resolved, That the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Seventh Congress, including applicable provisions of law or concurrent resolution that constituted rules of the House at the end of the One Hundred Seventh Congress, are adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, with amendments to the standing rules as provided in section 2, and with other orders as provided in sections 3 and 4.

SEC. 2. CHANGES IN STANDING RULES.—

(a) MEMBERS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.—In clause 8(b) of rule I, add at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(3)(A) In the case of a vacancy in the office of Speaker, the next Member on the list described in subdivision (B) shall act as Speaker pro tempore until the election of a Speaker or a Speaker pro tempore. Pending such election the Member acting as Speaker pro tempore may exercise such authorities of the Office of Speaker as may be necessary and appropriate to that end.

“(B) As soon as practicable after his election and whenever he deems appropriate thereafter, the Speaker shall deliver to the Clerk a list of Members in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore under subdivision (A).

“(C) For purposes of subdivision (A), a vacancy in the office of Speaker may exist by reason of the physical inability of the Speaker to discharge the duties of the office.”

(b) TERM OF SPEAKER.—In rule I—

(1) strike clause 9; and

(2) redesignate clause 13 as clause 9.

(c) RECESS AND CONVENING AUTHORITIES.—In clause 12 of rule I—

(1) amend the caption to read “Recess and convening authorities”; and

(2) designate the existing text as paragraph (a) and add thereafter the following new paragraphs:

“(b) To suspend the business of the House when notified of an imminent threat to its safety, the Speaker may declare an emergency recess subject to the call of the Chair.

“(c) During any recess or adjournment of not more than three days, if the Speaker is notified by the Sergeant-at-Arms of an imminent impairment of the place of reconvening at the time previously appointed, then he may, in consultation with the Minority Leader—

“(1) postpone the time for reconvening within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution and notify Members accordingly; or

“(2) reconvene the House before the time previously appointed solely to declare the House in recess within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution and notify Members accordingly.

“(d) The Speaker may convene the House in a place at the seat of government other than the Hall of the House whenever, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.”

(d) PRIVILEGES OF FLOOR.—In clause 2(a)(7) of rule IV, after “consideration” insert a comma followed by “and staff of the respective party leaderships when so assigned with the approval of the Speaker”.

(e) MEMBERSHIP OF BUDGET COMMITTEE.—In clause 5(a)(2) of rule X, amend subdivision (A)(i) to read as follows:

“(i) Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner who are members of other standing committees, including five from the Committee on Appropriations, five from the Committee on Ways and Means, and one from the Committee on Rules;”.

(e-1) TENURE OF CERTAIN CHAIRMEN AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBERS.—

(1) In clause 5(a)(2) of rule X, amended subdivision (C) to read as follows:

“(C) In the case of a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner elected to serve as the chairman or the ranking minority member of the committee, tenure on the committee shall be limited only by paragraph (c)(2) of this clause.”.

(2) In clause 11(a)(4) of rule X, amend subdivision (B) to read as follows:

“(B) In the case of a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner appointed to serve as the chairman or the ranking minority member of the select committee, tenure on the selected committee shall not be limited.”.

(f) ASSOCIATE STAFF.—In clause 9(b) of rule X—

(1) redesignate subparagraph (2) as subparagraph (2)(A);

(2) redesignate subparagraph (3) as subparagraph (2)(B);

(3) in subparagraph (2)(B), as redesignated, insert “other than the committee on Appropriations” after “a committee”; and

(4) strike subparagraph (4).

(g) POSTPONING VOTES IN COMMITTEE.—At the end of clause 2(h) of rule XI, add the following new subparagraph:

“(4)(A) Each committee may adopt a rule authorizing the chairman of a committee or subcommittee—

“(i) to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment; and

“(ii) to resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice.

“(B) A rule adopted pursuant to this subparagraph shall provide that when proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.”.

(h) CODIFICATION OF FREESTANDING ETHICS RULES.—In clause 3 of rule XI, add at the end the following new paragraphs:

“COMMITTEE AGENDAS

“(f) The committee shall adopt rules providing that the chairman shall establish the agenda for meetings of the committee, but shall not preclude the ranking minority member from placing any item on the agenda.

“COMMITTEE STAFF

“(g)(1) The committee shall adopt rules providing that—

“(A) the staff be assembled and retained as a professional, nonpartisan staff;

“(B) each member of the staff shall be professional and demonstrably qualified for the position for which he is hired;

“(C) the staff as a whole and each member of the staff shall perform all official duties in a nonpartisan manner;

“(D) no member of the staff shall engage in any partisan political activity directly affecting any congressional or presidential election;

“(E) no member of the staff or outside counsel may accept public speaking engagements or write for publication on any subject that is in any way related to his or her employment or duties with the committee without specific prior approval from the chairman and ranking minority member; and

“(F) no member of the staff or outside counsel may make public, unless approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the committee, any information, document, or other material that is confidential, derived from executive session, or classified and that is obtained during the course of employment with the committee.

“(2) Only subdivisions (C), (E), and (F) of subparagraph (1) shall apply to shared staff.

“(3)(A) All staff members shall be appointed by an affirmative vote of a majority