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House of Representatives

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) having assumed the chair, Mr. LATOURETTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 2030

LIMITATION ON CERTAIN AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3289, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 3289 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 396, before consideration of any other amendment, except pro forma amendments by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate, it shall be in order to consider the following amendments:

An amendment by Mr. SHADEGG; an amendment by Mr. GOODE; an amendment by Mr. KIRK; an amendment by Mr. FILNER; an amendment by Mr. SPRATT; an amendment by Mr. MARKEY; an amendment by Mr. HOLT; an amendment by Mr. WAXMAN; an amendment by Ms. SLAUGHTER; an amendment by Mrs. MALONEY; an amendment by Mr. BLUMENAUER, an amendment by Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

Each such amendment may be offered only by a Member designated or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. An amendment may amend a portion of the bill not yet read, except that an amendment proposing to transfer appropriations among objects in the bill must conform to clause 2(f) of rule XXI.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I would simply say to the House, I do not even know what the content of most of these amendments is, but what is going on here is that the staff has been attempting to work out understandings under which a huge number of amendments can be disposed of in the most efficient way possible.

As I understand it, there are approximately 39 pending amendments which are probably in order and about 69 that are not, and those numbers may be off a little bit but they are not bad for government work at 8:30 in the middle of a Red Sox game. But having said that, what this represents is that the sponsors of these amendments have agreed—all but two of these amendments as I understand it are in order, and those amendments, the sponsors have agreed to a severe time limit in order to have them considered. And in the case of the two amendments offered by persons who did not have germane amendments, my understanding is that those Members have agreed to drop all of their other amendments in return for a 5-minute consideration for their amendment before the point of order is lodged.

I think that is roughly what it is that we are agreeing to, if this is, in

fact, agreed to by the body. So it is simply an attempt to try to take a huge universe of amendments and to create some smaller, manageable universes so that we can move the process along.

Let me say that, without even knowing the content of these amendments, I have strong feelings about the fact that Members are being reduced to having important issues on something like this considered in such a reduced time frame, but that is the choice we have under the rule that we have been given, and so we can either try to extend Members opportunities as much as possible or not, and that is what we have been trying to do.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as usual the gentleman understands the process well and has explained it well, and that is certainly our intent, to offer every Member every legitimate amendment.

For those that are subject to a point of order, we will raise the point of order, but we believe that Members should have the opportunity to debate the important issues, and at the same time, we would like to get finished sometime this week so that we can go to conference with the other body as soon as possible.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, first I would inform the gentleman from Wisconsin that it is the Yankees as well as the Red Sox game.

Secondly, I would ask the distinguished gentleman, the distinguished chairman, there are a number of Members who desire at some point tonight to strike the last word, and if we agree to this unanimous consent request, would that preclude an opportunity at

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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