

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HER EXCELLENCY ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 715) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 715

*Resolved*, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Agriculture: Mr. Sodrel.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Hon. TOM DELAY, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 13, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, I hereby resign my position as a member of the House Office Building Commission effective immediately.

Sincerely,

TOM DELAY,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2001, and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces that on February 13, 2006, the Speaker appointed the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) to the House Office Building Commission to fill the existing vacancy thereon.

□ 1630

NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT PROGRAM A SUCCESS IN FLORIDA

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a letter that was in today's St. Petersburg Times about the Medicare prescription drug plan. It was from a gentlewoman by the name of Lois Scheff of St. Petersburg, not in my district; but I think she echoes the comments that I have heard from my constituents. The letter says, "It would be nice to see a positive article about the Medicare part D prescription drug plan. I believe the reason so many people are having trouble with the new prescription drug plan is that the media has been telling everyone how confusing and difficult it is to understand. If you say something often enough, people will start to believe it."

She goes on to say, "My experience with the new prescription drug plan has been very positive. Upon filling four of my January prescriptions, I paid about 50 percent of what I normally would have, due to certain deductibles. In February, my four prescriptions cost me less than one would have before the drug plan went into effect. The other day I filled a prescription that used to cost more than \$100, and I paid 30 for it."

She goes on to say, "We might be elderly, but we are not stupid. Talk to the millions of us who have taken advantage of the program."

#### STUDY OF SECURITY AT OUR PORTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just this past week I held a press conference at the port in Houston, Texas, the Houston Port Authority, discussing the overall issue of comprehensive security at the Nation's ports. I want to remind the administration that even if you are operating at the ports, you are also privy to security.

So I rise today to comment on the so-called brokered deal that suggests that we are now going to allow an American entity to operate the particular purchases that are being made by Dubai Ports. I started out this week by say-

ing this is not to stigmatize the Middle East or the Arab world, it is to question our confidence and commitment to security at our ports.

I question this deal. I would like to see how transparent it is. I want a complete transparency or a firewall between any foreign entity and the security of the Nation's ports. It is crucial that we do a study and assessment of how secure our ports are, and I will introduce legislation next week that calls for immediately an assessment of the Nation's ports and how secure they are.

#### YALE AND THE TALIBAN STUDENT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a former deputy foreign secretary and ambassador at large for the rogue Taliban regime is now a "special student" at the elitist Yale University. According to Yale's officials, they are proud to have this Taliban student.

He legally entered our country on a student visa, of all things, issued by the State Department. That seems like nonsense to me. This offensive disregard for national security is not only ridiculous, it is frightening, and it has happened before. The hijackers who flew planes into the World Trade Center on 9/11, and who crashed into the Pentagon just down the street from us, entered the United States on, yes, student visas.

What is even more incomprehensible is that Yale University is helping to educate this Taliban operative, who just 5 years ago was touring the United States for the Taliban, spreading propaganda and defending the Taliban's gospel of hate.

Mr. Speaker, the Taliban is against everything freedom-loving people advocate. They advocate public torture, false imprisonment, mistreatment of women, and promotion of worldwide anarchy. Those are not accomplishments to be proud of.

Yale would do well to admit students who are devoted to promoting peace and democracy, not those who so flagrantly advocate injustice, evil, and terror.

That is just the way it is.

#### UAE TAKEOVER OF U.S. PORTS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, so a back room deal has been cut for the UAE takeover of a number of U.S. ports. Now, just what does it mean? They do not say they are going to sell their interests. They say they are going to transfer their interests to a U.S. entity. So they are going to set up a wholly-owned and controlled subsidiary in Delaware and claim that somehow this resolves the issue?