

**SEC. 3. VOTING TO CHANGE THE STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC DEBT.**

The Rules of the House of Representatives are amended by repealing rule XXVII and by redesignating rule XXVIII as rule XXVII.

**THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS**

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, (VI, 308-311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

Because the vote today may look bad for the Republican majority they will say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution \* \* \* [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule \* \* \* When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

Descher's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda to offer an alternative plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

The question is on ordering the previous question on the resolution.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. 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.

**RECESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2000

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 8 p.m.

**PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 376, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the vote on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 817 on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting, if ordered, on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 193, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 153]

**YEAS—224**

Aderholt	Brown-Waite,	Diaz-Balart, L.
Akin	Ginny	Diaz-Balart, M.
Alexander	Burgess	Doolittle
Bachus	Burton (IN)	Drake
Baker	Buyer	Dreier
Barrett (SC)	Calvert	Duncan
Bartlett (MD)	Camp (MI)	Ehlers
Barton (TX)	Campbell (CA)	Emerson
Bass	Cantor	English (PA)
Beauprez	Capito	Everett
Biggert	Carter	Feeney
Bilirakis	Castle	Ferguson
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Blackburn	Chocola	Flake
Blunt	Cole (OK)	Foley
Boehkert	Conaway	Forbes
Boehner	Crenshaw	Fortenberry
Bonilla	Cubin	Fossella
Bonner	Culberson	Fox
Bono	Davis (KY)	Franks (AZ)
Boozman	Davis, Jo Ann	Frelinghuysen
Boustany	Davis, Tom	Gallegly
Bradley (NH)	Deal (GA)	Garrett (NJ)
Brady (TX)	DeLay	Gerlach
Brown (SC)	Dent	Gibbons

Gilchrest	LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)
Gillmor	Lucas	Rogers (KY)
Gingrey	Lungren, Daniel	Rogers (MI)
Gohmert	E.	Rohrabacher
Goode	Mack	Ros-Lehtinen
Goodlatte	Manzullo	Royce
Granger	Marchant	Ryan (WI)
Graves	McCaul (TX)	Ryun (KS)
Green (WI)	McCotter	Saxton
Gutknecht	McCrery	Schmidt
Hall	McHenry	Schwarz (MI)
Harris	McHugh	Sensenbrenner
Hart	McKeon	Sessions
Hastings (WA)	McMorris	Shadegg
Hayes	Mica	Shaw
Hayworth	Miller (FL)	Shays
Hefley	Miller (MI)	Sherwood
Hensarling	Miller, Gary	Shimkus
Herger	Moran (KS)	Shuster
Hobson	Murphy	Simmons
Hoekstra	Musgrave	Simpson
Hostettler	Myrick	Smith (NJ)
Hulshof	Ney	Smith (TX)
Hunter	Northup	Sodrel
Hyde	Norwood	Souder
Inglis (SC)	Nunes	Stearns
Issa	Nussle	Sullivan
Istook	Osborne	Sweeney
Jenkins	Otter	Tancredo
Jindal	Oxley	Taylor (NC)
Johnson (CT)	Paul	Terry
Johnson (IL)	Pearce	Thomas
Johnson, Sam	Pence	Thornberry
Keller	Peterson (PA)	Tiberi
Kelly	Petri	Turner
Kennedy (MN)	Pickering	Upton
King (IA)	Pitts	Walden (OR)
King (NY)	Platts	Walsh
Kingston	Poe	Wamp
Kirk	Pombo	Porter
Kline	Porter	Price (GA)
Knollenberg	Porter	Pryce (OH)
Kolbe	Price (GA)	Putnam
Kuhl (NY)	Pryce (OH)	Radanovich
LaHood	Putnam	Ramstad
Latham	Radanovich	Regula
LaTourette	Ramstad	Rehberg
Leach	Regula	Reichert
Lewis (CA)	Rehberg	Renzi
Lewis (KY)	Reichert	Reynolds
Linder	Renzi	

**NAYS—193**

Abercrombie	Davis (IL)	Kilpatrick (MI)
Ackerman	Davis (TN)	Kind
Allen	DeFazio	Kucinich
Andrews	DeGette	Langevin
Baca	Delahunt	Lantos
Baird	DeLauro	Larsen (WA)
Baldwin	Dicks	Lee
Barrow	Dingell	Levin
Bean	Doggett	Lewis (GA)
Becerra	Doyle	Lipinski
Berkley	Edwards	Lofgren, Zoe
Berman	Emanuel	Lowey
Berry	Engel	Lynch
Bishop (GA)	Eshoo	Maloney
Bishop (NY)	Etheridge	Markey
Blumenauer	Farr	Marshall
Boren	Fattah	Matheson
Boswell	Filner	McCarthy
Boucher	Ford	McCollum (MN)
Boyd	Frank (MA)	McDermott
Brady (PA)	Gonzalez	McGovern
Brown (OH)	Gordon	McIntyre
Brown, Corrine	Green, Al	McKinney
Butterfield	Green, Gene	McNulty
Capps	Grijalva	Meehan
Capuano	Gutierrez	Meek (FL)
Cardin	Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)
Cardoza	Herseth	Melancon
Carnahan	Higgins	Michaud
Carson	Hinchee	Millender-
Case	Holden	McDonald
Chandler	Holt	Miller (NC)
Clay	Honda	Miller, George
Cleaver	Hooley	Mollohan
Clyburn	Hoyer	Moore (KS)
Conyers	Inslie	Moore (WI)
Cooper	Israel	Moran (VA)
Costa	Jackson (IL)	Murtha
Costello	Jackson-Lee	Nader
Cramer	(TX)	Napolitano
Crowley	Jefferson	Neal (MA)
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Oberstar
Cummings	Jones (OH)	Obey
Davis (AL)	Kanjorski	Olver
Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Ortiz
Davis (FL)	Kildee	Owens