

FDR DOCUMENTS ACT

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 692) to provide that claims of the United States to certain documents relating to Franklin Delano Roosevelt shall be treated as waived and relinquished in certain circumstances.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 692

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TREATMENT OF OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS RELATING TO FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If any person or entity makes a gift of any property described in subsection (b) to the National Archives and Records Administration, then any claim of the United States to such property shall be treated as having been waived and relinquished on the day before the date of such gift.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—Property is described in this subsection if such property—

(1) is a part of the collection of documents, papers, and memorabilia relating to Franklin Delano Roosevelt or any member of his family or staff; and

(2) was in the possession of Grace Tully and retained by her at the time of her death.

(c) DATE OF GIFT.—The date of a gift referred to in subsection (a) is any date specified by the donor so long as such date is subsequent to the physical delivery of the property described in subsection (b) to the National Archives and Records Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield my such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present Senate bill 692 for consideration.

This legislation will facilitate the donation of the Grace Tully Archive to the National Archives and Records Administration. Senate bill 692 is the Senate companion to H.R. 1506, which was introduced by Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER. H.R. 1506 passed the House by voice vote on November 16, 2009, after it was approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by voice vote on October 29, 2009. Senate bill 692 is identical to H.R. 1506, and was introduced by Senator CHUCK SCHUMER on March 25, 2009. The legislation was reported out of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security

and Governmental Affairs without amendment on October 5, 2009, and was passed by the United States Senate on October 14, 2009, by unanimous consent.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Grace Tully served as the personal secretary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt from June of 1941 to April of 1945. In her capacity as personal secretary to the President, Ms. Tully preserved an assortment of personal papers and other historical items related to President Roosevelt that have come to form a historically significant collection. While the private owner of the Grace Tully Collection would like to donate the materials to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library, the National Archives and Records Administration, which administers the Roosevelt Library, has asserted a claim to a portion of the collection. The claim asserted by the National Archives impacts whether the private owner may claim a tax deduction for the donation. In order to facilitate the donation of the Grace Tully Archive, Senate bill 692 waives the government's claim to the records and will thereby allow the collection to be gifted to the Roosevelt Library.

Madam Speaker, the Grace Tully Archive represents an important part of American history. Through the passage of Senate bill 692, we will ensure that this collection will be properly preserved and made publicly available through the Roosevelt Library.

I'd also like to note that this legislation enjoys the support of the National Archives. As noted by former Acting Archivist Adrienne Thomas in a letter sent to the Oversight Committee in October of 2009, "I write to express my strong support for the ongoing legislative effort to facilitate the donation to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library of the Tully Archive." Ms. Thomas went on to say that, "It is very important to the National Archives and Records Administration, and for future historians that might want to study these papers, for the Tully Archive to be kept intact and made fully accessible to the American people in a public government archives."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Senate bill 692.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 692 is identical to House Resolution 1506, which passed the House on November 16. Therefore, I want to reiterate the points made previously during debate on the House bill. This bill will waive certain claims of the United States to specific documents, known as the Tully Collection, relating to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Grace Tully served in Franklin Roosevelt's secretarial staff for several decades, and in 1941, became his personal secretary. After her death, her collection of papers passed through a number of

hands and finally to the current owners, Sun Times Media, who bought the collection for \$8 million in 2001.

In 2004, the National Archives asserted a claim to a portion of the documents. Sun Times Media wishes to donate the collection to President Roosevelt's Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York, and take a tax deduction. Due to the Archives claim, Sun Times Media is prevented from receiving a tax deduction on the donation. This bill waives the legal claims of the United States and the Archives, thereby clearing the way for the tax deduction and the donation.

I understand the Archives has offered to support this legislation in a letter to the committee. Nevertheless, I want to again highlight two points: The majority moved this bill without a hearing. We should have had a better understanding of legislation relinquishing the Federal Government's claims while benefiting certain private entities through tax breaks. Given the multiple, ongoing instances of mismanagement of the Archives, we should have the opportunity on the committee to review all legislation relating to this agency.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I urge the Members to support the passage of S. 692, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Likewise, Madam Speaker, I urge support of Senate bill 692, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 692.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2646) to amend title 31, United States Code, to enhance the oversight authorities of the Comptroller General, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2646

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Government Accountability Office Improvement Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION.

(a) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN RECORDS.—Section 716 of title 31, United States Code, is amended in subsection (a)—

(1) by striking "(a)" and inserting "(2)"; and

(2) by inserting after the section heading the following: