

one, obviously it would not take so long if we would have someone that would cooperate at the White House, but there is a lot of stonewalling and general shenanigans going on when asked even the straightest of questions.

Looking at it historically, James Walsh spent 7 years investigating on Iran-Contra and spent about \$50 million, and I do not believe got any convictions. The Democrats spent 8 years investigating HUD Secretary Samuel Pierce and the Democrats spent 7 years on a special investigation of Ray Donovan, Labor Secretary, and none of these brought convictions.

In contrast, Judge Starr has spent 4 years and gotten 13 convictions, including an ex-Governor coincidentally from the President's home State, an Associate Attorney General, all kinds of high, very close advisors to the President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would not suggest that there is guilt by association. Just because all of one's friends are in jail does not mean that they are guilty, and does not mean that they were with them when it happened. But let us not go around saying that Judge Starr is not making progress, because he certainly is.

THE CIRCUS HAS COME TO TOWN

(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, today the circus has come to town. On the floor of the House today our Republican friends want to put the super tax bill requiring two-thirds of this entire House to raise revenue. At the same time, however, only 51 percent of those voting are required to spend revenue.

What does this do? Actually, it shuts down the government. Super paralysis. We cannot pay for health and human services, education, veterans benefits, Social Security.

Super deficits. Well, we can spend money but we cannot raise the money to pay for it. What does that mean? Deficit spending.

Super loopholes, so therefore if there is a loophole for the rich guy, we cannot find it.

Super tobacco. We cannot pass the McCain bill that requires children to stop smoking.

And, yes, the super minority holding hostage the majority. It means a recalcitrant few can keep us from funding veterans benefits, defense, health care, Social Security, Medicare.

Yes, the circus has come to town, Mr. Speaker. The circus is good for kids, but it is not good for running the American government.

TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, it is kind of comical to listen to some of our liberal friends debate the tax limitation amendment. They do not like it. They really do not like it. They do not like the idea that Congress must get a supermajority before passing legislation to erode our freedoms.

They do not mind eroding freedoms when it comes to ideology that opposes freedom. Even though our Founders fought a revolution to win our freedom, and even though the overwhelming majority of Americans would vote for freedom when given the chance, the Democratic Party stands opposed to the idea that it should be difficult to erode basic freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that Americans on average have to work until May 11th just to pay the tax man. The average American family spends more for taxes than for food, clothing, and shelter combined.

I think the time is long since past to say enough is enough. May 10th in 1998 is already too much freedom lost. That is why we need to pass the Tax Limitation Amendment tomorrow so that Americans can have more freedom, so that they can keep more of their money to spend on their families and their priorities. I hope the amendment passes.

UNDERAGE SMOKING SHOULD BE CONGRESS' TARGET

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, we see the House Republican leadership and the tobacco industry are united in their message. They are both attacking big taxes, big government, and saying there they go again.

Tobacco companies have full page ads in newspapers all over the country saying, "We want to attack big taxes and big government." Well, so do we. But what I want to be concerned about is the children that they have admitted to addicting for many years to tobacco.

In testimony before our Committee on Commerce they agreed they marketed their industry to children 12 years old, 13 and 14-year-olds. That is why they agreed to a settlement to pay for what they did for the last 30 years to have those children addicted who are now my age. That is why they agreed to pay \$300-plus billion now.

What we want to do is make sure they do not continue to do that to the next generation, to addict more Americans at a young age. It is really sad that more children know Joe Camel than know Mickey Mouse. That is because of the success of their advertising campaign.

Mr. Speaker, instead of attacking big government and big taxes, why not attack the issue of trying to stop children from smoking?

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT IS A FARCE

(Mr. COOKSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, many years ago Charles Kuralt was "On the Road" and he was interviewing a farmer from Georgia and he asked that farmer, he said, "What are the biggest problems in this area today?" And that farmer said, "The two biggest problems are kudzu and Baptist preachers."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I beg to differ with that farmer. The two biggest problems in this country today are trial lawyers and tobacco. They are both bad. They are bad for this country. They are bad for the people's health and they are the ones that are trying to perpetrate this problem, this tobacco settlement, on this country today.

I am a physician. I spent my career taking care of people with health problems, and I promise, tobacco is bad. We have been publicizing it for years. It has been on the tobacco packages since 1962. Mr. Speaker, anybody that smokes cigarettes is crazy.

But this tobacco settlement is a farce that is strictly to transfer money to the trial lawyers and to create a lot of unfounded hope for money to support programs that will never be done.

TOBACCO IS THE GATEWAY DRUG TO MARIJUANA AND CRIME

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, Maine unfortunately leads the Nation in the category of teenage smoking and the increases in teenage smoking. Over 3,000 children every day are getting hooked on cigarettes and a thousand of them are dying because of it.

Today a family came down from Maine and their daughter, Karen, is doing a study on tobacco. She is in the eighth grade and she is interested in history. She is the daughter of Sue and Kenny Cota from Maine.

One of the things that was remarked about was the ability, that if this were a drug cartel from Colombia that wanted to be able to addict 25 percent of our population, this Congress and this leadership would be falling all over themselves to do whatever they could do to make sure they put them out of business. But since it is the tobacco companies and the tobacco contributions and the tobacco influence, it seems that we are at a standstill from addressing the real problems that are confronting the young people of today.

All the studies that are in the newspaper today show that smoking and marijuana are hooked together. Smoking, marijuana, drugs, and crime are hooked together because they commit the crimes to be able to pay for the smoking, marijuana, and drugs.

When we talk about teen violence and crime, it is cigarettes that are the gateway drug. We have got to address this issue. I ask the leadership to address this issue and to have good, strong tobacco legislation to stop young people from smoking.

TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT IS STRAIGHTFORWARD

Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon we are going to have a debate and a vote on the two-thirds tax limitation amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

This amendment is very straightforward. If it passes and it is passed in the Senate and goes to the States and is ratified by three-fourths of the States, it would make it a voting requirement. To pass a tax increase in either body or to expand the tax base would take a two-thirds vote instead of the one-half plus one vote that it now currently takes.

Mr. Speaker, when the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), my good friend from Houston, was up here earlier talking about all the bad things that might happen and all the programs that might not be funded, I would point out that we are moving into a budget surplus. We would still have those programs. But if we wanted to spend more money, we would have a debate on spending priorities, not on tax increases, unless we could get a consensus. We would need a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress to pass a tax increase.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for the two-thirds tax limitation amendment.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma) laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, March 31, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on March 24, 1998 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Copies of the resolutions are being transmitted to the Department of the Army. With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER, *Chairman.*

Enclosures.

RESOLUTION

[Docket 2551—Bronx River Basin, New York]

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United

States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Bronx River, New York, published as House Document 897, 62nd Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time, in the interest of water resources development, including flood control, environmental restoration and protection and other related purposes.

Adopted: March 24, 1998.

Attest.

BUD SHUSTER, *Chairman.*

RESOLUTION

[Docket 2550—Mile Point, Florida]

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Jacksonville Harbor, Florida, published as House Document 214, 89th Congress, 1st Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of navigation and other related purposes, with particular reference.

Adopted: March 24, 1998.

Attest.

BUD SHUSTER, *Chairman.*

RESOLUTION

[Docket 2549—Spring Bayou Area, Louisiana]

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, published as House Document 308, 88th Congress, 2nd Session, to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of a comprehensive plan of improvement for environmental restoration and protection, flood damage prevention, improved drainage, and other related purposes in the Spring Bayou area.

Adopted: March 24, 1998.

Attest.

BUD SHUSTER, *Chairman.*

RESOLUTION

[Docket 2548—Rahway River Basin, New Jersey]

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Rahway River, New Jersey, published as House Document 67, 89th Congress, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time, in the interest of water resources development, including flood control, environmental restoration and protection and other related purposes.

Adopted: March 24, 1998.

Attest.

BUD SHUSTER, *Chairman.*

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER ON TODAY OR ANY DAY THEREAFTER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3164, HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order on today, or on any day thereafter, for

the Speaker, as though pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, to declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3164) to describe the hydrographic services functions of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, and that consideration of the bill proceed according to the following order:

One, the first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI or section 303(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived.

Two, general debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources.

Three, after general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

Four, in lieu of the amendment recommended by the Committee on Resources now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1 pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXIII. Each section of that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 5(a) of rule XXI or section 303(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived.

Five, during consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read.

Six, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may, one, postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and, two, reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting in the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes.

Seven, at the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text.