

setting any kind of condition that my friends would have a problem with. I truly believe, after months of looking at this issue, that if the Members understood, even at the entry level, some of the problems it creates not to have a program in place that deals with these problems, the Members would reach a different conclusion. It may turn out that I am wrong on that, and I may take the advice of others who were here 30 years ago when we had three of these and decide this is never worth advancing again to my colleagues; but could we have a discussion in private about things that we can only discuss in private.

The option here is to discuss it in private or not to discuss it at all. And if my friends want to set a level of that discussion so high that if a Member walks out of here and says, well, the world wouldn't have survived without that session, we're never going to have a session where any more of us know the secret level items available to the Congress than know those items right now.

I was trying to be expansive in my sense of this discussion, rather than restrictive. By the end of the day, I'm beginning to think that may have been a mistake, but I'm still optimistic that we can have a discussion that the Members will think, you know, I don't know what I intended to do with the hour tonight, but that was actually as valuable as whatever it was I expected to do. And I would hope that would be the decision the Members would make, was this a more valuable hour for me as I looked to the future of these programs than the hour I might have spent doing whatever you would have been doing if you hadn't been here as Members of Congress talking about things that, if they're going to be talked about, can only be talked about in this way.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Well, just finally, in conclusion, I just want to say that I know that I speak for every single Member of the House of Representatives, both Democrat and Republican, when I say that foremost in all of our minds, foremost is the security of the United States of America, and foremost in our minds is that we do that in the context of the foundations of this country, which are freedom and openness.

We walk a very delicate balance this evening. Let us hope we walk it right.

I withdraw my reservation.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1930

PERMISSION TO ADJOURN UPON DISSOLUTION OF SECRET SESSION

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the secret session of the House is dissolved pursuant to the previous order of the House, the House stand adjourned.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to read to the Members the contents of clause 9 of rule XVII:

SECRET SESSION

Whenever confidential communications are received from the President of the United States, or whenever the Speaker or any Member shall inform the House that he has communications which he believes ought to be kept secret for the present, the House shall be cleared of all persons except the Members and officers thereof, and so continue during the reading of such communications, the debates and the proceedings thereon, unless otherwise ordered by the House.

The galleries of the House Chamber will be cleared of all persons and the House Chamber will be cleared of all persons except Members of the House and those officers and employees specified by the Speaker whose attendance on the floor is essential to the functioning of the secret session of the House. All proceedings in the House during such consideration shall be kept secret until otherwise ordered by the House.

In addition to the provisions of clause 13 of rule XXIII, which is applicable to all Members, officers and employees, every employee and officer present in the Chamber during the secret session will sign an oath of secrecy, which is in the Speaker's Ceremonial Office, room H-210.

The Chair will declare a recess long enough for this order to be carried out.

The Chair will ask all Members to leave the Chamber temporarily until the security check is completed.

Three bells will be rung approximately 15 minutes before the House reconvenes for the secret session.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2211

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 10 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.

SECRET SESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the previous order of the House,

the Chair declares the House in secret session.

(House proceedings held in secret session.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The secret session is dissolved.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 2733. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 2745. An act to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the previous order of the House, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 14, 2008, at 10 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 110th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

ANDRÉ CARSON, Indiana, Seventh.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5710. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Fruits and Vegetables [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0116] (RIN: 0579-AC64) received March 6, 2008, pursuant to 5