

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2647, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2647) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. TAYLOR of North Carolina, WAMP, LEWIS of California, LAHOOD, SHERWOOD, YOUNG of Florida, MORAN of Virginia, HOYER, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2620, DEPARTMENTS OF VET-
ERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. WALSH, DELAY, HOBSON, KNOLLENBERG, FRELINGHUYSEN, Ms. NORTHUP, Messrs. SUNUNU, GOODE, ADERHOLT, YOUNG of Florida, MOLLOHAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, and Messrs. PRICE of North Carolina, CRAMER, FATTAH, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2311, ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2311) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate

amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. CALLAHAN, ROGERS, FRELINGHUYSEN, LATHAM, WICKER, WAMP, Mrs. EMERSON, Messrs. DOOLITTLE, YOUNG of Florida, VISCLOSKEY, EDWARDS, PASTOR, CLYBURN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2217, DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR AND RELATED AGEN-
CIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. SKEEN, REGULA, KOLBE, TAYLOR of North Carolina, NETHERCUTT, WAMP, KINGSTON, PETERSON of Pennsylvania, YOUNG of Florida, DICKS, MURTHA, MORAN of Virginia, HINCHEY, SABO, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that tonight when the two Houses meet in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his left and right will be opened.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint session by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

□ 1530

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for approximately 5 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess for approximately 5 minutes.

□ 1554

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 3 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—RE-
TURNING TO SENATE H.R. 2500,
DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House, and I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 240) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 240

Resolved, That the amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 2500 entitled the "Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002", in the opinion of this House, contravenes the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such bill be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

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

As was indicated by the content of the resolution, the resolution is necessary to return to the Senate, unfortunately, the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill because there is a provision, section 404 of the Senate amendments, that is an import ban. This, therefore, is a revenue measure and contravenes the Constitution, article 1, section 7, clause 1.

Notwithstanding the meritorious nature of the amendment, the idea of trying to deal with importation bans on diamonds from certain African countries that are used to finance rebel causes, the underlying constitutional question of the Constitution's statement that all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives transcends any particular issue, no matter the merits of a particular issue. Therefore, I am asking