□ 2035

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACOBS of California) at 8 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1319, AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 117–8) on the resolution (H. Res. 166) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1319) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 5, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1319, AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 166 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 166

Resolved, That immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 1319) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 5. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today the Rules Committee met for over 10 hours and reported a rule, House Resolution 166, providing for consideration of H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, under a closed rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chairs and ranking minority members, or their designees, of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Ways and Means.

The rule self-executes a manager's amendment by Chairman YARMUTH and provides one motion to recommit.

Madam Speaker, since the emergence of the coronavirus, our Nation has been in a perpetual state of mourning. The number of Americans killed by this pandemic is nearly equal to one death a minute every minute for a year.

Every corner of society has been impacted: More than 18 million Americans are receiving unemployment benefits; nearly 24 million Americans are going hungry with roughly 12 million children living in households with food insecurity; up to 40 million Americans cannot afford to pay rent; 8 of 10 minority-owned businesses are on the brink of closure; and I could go on and on and on, Madam Speaker. This is a time to act and to act boldly.

That is why we began work on the American Rescue Plan nearly 1 month ago. Nine committees have now marked up portions of the bill, spending more than 100 hours debating more than 400 amendments. We have acted swiftly, Madam Speaker, but we have also acted deliberately, guided by the reality that the American people need us to act urgently.

More vaccines need to get to more people, so this plan will set up community vaccination sites nationwide. Our schools need to safely reopen, so this bill will deliver new resources to help them do so. Working families need more immediate relief, so the American Rescue Plan also provides an additional $1,400 per person and direct assistance. That will bring the total amount of direct assistance recently provided to $2,000 per person.

This bill also extends unemployment benefits and boosts the Federal minimum wage so that 27 million workers get a raise. Sadly, the Senate rules will cause this provision to be removed when it is considered there.

But I want the American people to know this, we, on the Democratic side, we will not stop fighting to make a minimum wage increase a reality. No one, and I mean no one, who works full time in the richest nation on this planet should have to live in poverty.

There is also nutrition assistance included to combat the growing hunger crisis. And support for local communities on the frontlines of this health emergency. There is aid here for small businesses, expanded PPP eligibility, and resources for our first responders, for our teachers, for our transit workers, and so much more.

This is what it looks like when Congress acts in a way that matches the scale of the problem that we face. Nearly 7 in 10 Americans support this plan. More than 150 leaders of our Nation's top businesses came out this week in support of this plan.

Republican officeholders like the Governor of West Virginia have encouraged Congress to go big here. And local Republican leaders, like the mayor of Miami, and so many other Republican mayors across this country from red States, support our President's proposal. This is a bipartisan response to the coronavirus crisis.

We all joined together on the Capitol steps on Tuesday to mark the 500,000 lives lost to the coronavirus in this country. We didn't stand as Democrats or Republicans, but as one Congress. We mourn the empty seats at dinner tables, and the missed graduations, and weddings the same way, not from our partisan corners, but as one American family.

Through our grief, we should respond here the same way. United in our purpose to defeat this pandemic and rebuild our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to stand together and with the American people in support of this plan. Let's act big. Let's act bold. Let's crush this virus.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, just before I begin, I also want to acknowledge that I had sent the chairman of the Rules Committee a letter earlier in the week, to which he today kindly responded, and I appreciate the prompt response to my concerns about Capitol security.

Madam Speaker, today's rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Throughout this process, Republicans have been completely excluded. I sit on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I sit on the Budget Committee, and I sit on the Rules Committee, and throughout the markups in each of these committees Republicans offered sincere amendments to improve the bill for the American people.

While only 2 of the 245 Republican amendments offered were adopted, the rule before us today strips out the one amendment adopted by a rollcall vote.

Earlier today in the Rules Committee, over 200 amendments were offered and debated, not a single one was made in order. The American people at least deserve to have the suggestions of Members that they elected to be debated on the House floor. They don't have to be adopted, but they should at least be heard on the House floor. It seems that the Democrats are unwilling to allow elected Members of Congress to do their job and represent their constituents.

□ 2045

With $1 trillion of funding left unspent from the previous—from the