

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

HEARING HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 9, 2003

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

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Ranking Member

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GORDON SMITH, Oregon

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2003

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
U.S. SENATE,
JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
Washington, DC.

The joint committee met, pursuant to call, at 4 p.m., in Room H-139, the Capitol, Hon. Robert W. Ney [chairman of the joint committee] presiding.

Representatives Present: Representatives Ney, Linder, Larson, and Brady.

Senators Present: Senators Chambliss, Smith, and Dayton.

Mr. NEY. The committee will come to order. I want to thank everybody in advance for their flexibility and cooperation in planning and preparing for this meeting.

Today the Joint Committee on Printing is holding its first meeting of the 108th Congress to welcome all members to the committee, to announce the chairman, vice chairman and ranking member, and finally to adopt our committee rules for the 108th Congress.

As the chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 134 and Senate Resolution 84, I would like to welcome all of the distinguished members of the committee for this Congress: Senator Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, Senator Cochran of Mississippi, Senator Gordon Smith is here of Oregon, Senator Dayton is coming from Minnesota, Senator Inouye of Hawaii, Congressman Doolittle of California, Congressman Linder of Georgia; our ranking member, Congressman Larson of Connecticut, and Congressman Brady is here from Pennsylvania. Many of us have already had an opportunity to discuss our expectations for what I think will be a very productive Congress. I think we all look forward to working together on a lot of important issues.

I am also very encouraged by the enthusiasm of our new public printer, Bruce James, with whom I have had the opportunity to meet with personally and discuss many of the issues facing him as he works with us to bring necessary improvements that I think we have waited quite a while for at that agency.

During the 108th Congress, there are going to be many issues for the joint committee to review, including the constitutional challenges of Title 44. Currently, the General Accounting Office is studying this matter. I look forward to reviewing their findings. Also I have confidence in Mr. James to continue conversations with Mr. Mitch Daniels, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, working to reach an agreement regarding this issue.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Senator Dayton and his staff for all their hard work in the last Congress on the proposed revi-

sions to the government printing and binding regulations issued by this joint committee. Working with the Interagency Council on Printing and Publications Services, the proposed revisions include updates to reflect the technological advancements in printing that have occurred over the last 10 years. Also changing the regulations to guidelines meets the needs of the agencies by providing useful guidance in their printing efforts while addressing the constitutional issues. I will continue to work with all of you to monitor these issues as they surface throughout this Congress.

The Joint Committee on Printing was statutorily established in 1846. The principal purpose of the joint committee is to oversee the functions of the Government Printing Office and general printing procedures of the Federal Government. Senator Chambliss is now here. Welcome.

The authority vested in the Joint Committee on Printing is derived from Title 44 of the U.S. Code, and the committee is hereby responsible for ensuring compliance by Federal entities to these laws and the government printing and binding regulations.

The distinguished Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, Senator Lott, has designated another member of the Rules Committee to serve in his place as member and vice chairman pursuant to S. Con. Res. 20. With passage of this concurrent resolution, it is my pleasure to announce Senator Chambliss as the new Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Printing. We all wanted to wait on you, but Mr. Linder overrode us to begin without you. He did it to you in the House and he is doing it to you now that you are in the Senate.

In addition, when both bodies are controlled by the same party, the senior member of the minority party named to the Joint Committee on Printing in the House of Congress opposite that of the chair shall be the ranking minority member of the joint committee. Therefore, I would like to announce Senator Dayton as the ranking minority member of the Joint Committee on Printing.

Finally, I would like to let the members know the Office of Photography is here to take a photograph of the members who are present after the meeting adjourns. I want to thank you and welcome you to the JCP.

I will recognize the Vice Chair for any remarks he may have.

Senator CHAMBLISS. I just asked my scout if she had my long opening statement. I don't have any. I am pleased to have my good friend Gordon Smith here with me. We look forward to working with you, Bob.

Senator SMITH. I want to know what Saxby is going to do with all this power, though.

Mr. NEY. We will have you take it national.

At this time, I would like to recognize the distinguished ranking member, Senator Dayton, but he has not arrived yet.

We would like to adopt the committee rules. The Chair lays before the committee a resolution adopting the committee rules for the Joint Committee on Printing for the 108th Congress. I do want to thank our vice chairman and ranking member and their staff for working on these issues. No changes were made, I would note, to the committee rules for this Congress. I believe there is agreement. Is there any discussion?

Senator CHAMBLISS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the resolution adopting the committee rules for the 108th Congress be approved.

Mr. NEY. The question is on the motion. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed will say nay. The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to and the committee rules are approved.

Does anyone else care to make any statements?

Senator SMITH. Here is our ranking member.

Mr. LARSON. I would defer to Senator Dayton.

Mr. NEY. Senator Dayton, would you like to say anything?

Senator DAYTON. I am sorry to be late, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. NEY. I would like to praise you for the record for your great work.

Senator DAYTON. It took me two months to get a quorum, and you have got one in less than 10 minutes. Impressive.

Mr. NEY. I was offering free steak dinners.

Senator DAYTON. Obviously, this is in much better hands in 2 years than before. Thanks.

Mr. NEY. Anyone else?

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Chairman, I would only add that Mr. Brady and myself are looking forward to working with you and the entire committee. Hailing from the State of Connecticut where the general assembly meets in joint committee all the time between the House and Senate, this is a welcome addition and an honor to serve here. As you pointed out, this has been a committee since 1846, it has been established. I share with you the concern about making sure that we work with Mr. James, whom we have met with to focus on resolution 44 that we find to be very onerous and hope that agreement can be reached along those lines. I am especially delighted to see one of our own make it to the rarefied atmosphere of the United States Senate and look forward to working with Saxby as well.

Mr. NEY. Anyone else?

Senator CHAMBLISS. My colleague said a step up. Some would say it is a step down.

Mr. NEY. Anyone else? I have just a few technical things.

I now wish to ask unanimous consent that members have 7 legislative days to submit material into the record, and for those statements and materials to be entered into the appropriate place in the record. Without objection, the material will be entered.

I also ask unanimous consent that the staff be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to all matters affecting our committee at today's meeting. If there is no objection, it is so ordered.

That will complete our agenda of business. I certainly do thank you.

[Whereupon, at 4:15 p.m., the joint committee was adjourned.]