

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 9640, PRESIDENTIAL TAX FILINGS AND AUDIT TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2022; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1942, NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1529 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1529

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 9640) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for examination and disclosure with respect to Presidential income tax returns. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 1942) to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 3. House Resolution 693 is hereby adopted.

SEC. 4. House Resolution 1434 is hereby adopted.

SEC. 5. (a) At any time through the legislative day of Friday, December 23, 2022, the Speaker may entertain motions offered by the Majority Leader or a designee that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV with respect to multiple measures described in subsection (b), and the Chair shall put the question on any such motion without debate or intervening motion.

(b) A measure referred to in subsection (a) includes any measure that was the object of a motion to suspend the rules on the legislative day of December 21, 2022, December 22, 2022, or December 23, 2022, in the form as so offered, on which the yeas and nays were ordered and further proceedings postponed pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX.

(c) Upon the offering of a motion pursuant to subsection (a) concerning multiple meas-

ures, the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated to the end that all such motions are considered as withdrawn.

SEC. 6. On any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress after December 22, 2022, the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved.

SEC. 7. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 6 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 8. Each day during the period addressed by section 6 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 9. Each day during the period addressed by section 6 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

SEC. 10. Each day during the period addressed by section 6 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar or legislative day for purposes of clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII.

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 Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), 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 may 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, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 1529, providing for consideration of H.R. 9640 under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of S. 1942 under a closed rule. It provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources and one motion to recommit.

The rule deems as passed House Resolution 693 and House Resolution 1434. It also provides the majority leader or his designee the ability to en bloc requested roll call votes on suspension bills considered on December 21 through December 23.

Finally, the rule provides standard recess instructions starting December 23 through the remainder of the 117th Congress.

Madam Speaker, it is a simple idea with profound implications, that no

person in this country, regardless of the position you hold or the power you wield, is above the law, even perhaps especially the President of the United States.

Today, we are considering H.R. 9640, the Presidential Tax Filings and Audit Transparency Act of 2022 to ensure that the great power of the Presidency is subject to proper oversight and public scrutiny.

Frankly, we are codifying into law something that I and many other Americans thought was already happening, mandatory tax audits for the most powerful person in the country, followed by public disclosure of those taxes in the interest of transparency and public scrutiny.

Look, this is not about Donald Trump. In fact, the only person right now who would be audited here is Joe Biden. This is about the simple idea that with great power comes the need for oversight and transparency.

The bill we are considering today, H.R. 9640, codifies this mandatory audit program to give the American people faith that the President has to follow the same rules as everyone else.

We are also considering S. 1942, the National Heritage Area Act. America's 55 national heritage areas are some of the greatest cultural, historical, natural treasures of the United States.

In Massachusetts, we are lucky to have two, the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, which tells the epic story of the birth of the industrial revolution in America and the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, which preserves natural wonders and expansive forests and farmland within the Northeast corridor.

The House version of this bill has overwhelming bipartisan support. I am pleased to say that last night the Senate cleared their version for our consideration. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) for their leadership on this issue and for their work to make sure the Congress doesn't lose sight of this bill before the end of the session.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), and the chair of the Rules Committee, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we are here to discuss the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 9640 and S. 1942, bills that we were notified of less than 2 hours ago.

The process leading up to this debate has been not just unacceptable, but beneath this body. It seems the leadership of this Congress is determined to disappoint us right up to the bitter end.

S. 1942, the National Heritage Area Act, establishes a national heritage area system, attempting to standardize

the process for studying and establishing new national heritage areas. This bill could likely go by suspension and enjoy support from Members on both sides of the aisle.

Why we are called to meet on this bill with less than 2 hours' notice that could otherwise go by suspension is beyond me and is indicative of how this majority has run this body for the last 2 years.

H.R. 9640 is a supposed discussion draft, or at least described as such by my colleagues in the majority, but it was introduced today. Not last week, not a month ago, not even yesterday. It was introduced today.

The bill supposedly justifies a legislative purpose required by the Democrats' year-long crusade to weaponize the IRS to punish a political opponent. It requires the release of Presidential tax returns by the IRS and requires audits of returns submitted by such Presidents.

And that supposed discussion? Yesterday, the Ways and Means Committee met and went into executive session to meet on releasing a report on the IRS' mandatory audit program.

During the executive session, Republicans were told repeatedly that the chair would not permit any amendments to be offered on the report. Even though the committee was in executive session for approximately 5 hours, the chair abruptly reversed course and told the Members that amendments would be available about 10 minutes prior to the final vote on making these documents public. This left Members without options to draft and offer amendments with any notice.

Democrats included multiple attachments to this report, one being a discussion draft of the bill we are considering today. Democrat staff told Republican committee staff that no exception on this legislation would be considered before the end of the year. And we learned this supposed discussion draft would be coming to the floor in a statement by Speaker PELOSI.

Of course, as is this leadership's custom, this bill had no hearing and no markup. To put it generously, this process has been a disaster, but it is unfortunate how my colleagues have run this institution.

I would also note that the rule today deems an unvetted and controversial resolution that reaffirms Federal preemption of State laws regarding mail order abortion pills. This has never been mentioned, but it is in this rule. Whether this Federal preemption was ever affirmed is questionable, but whether this resolution actually speaks for the body should be debated on the floor, not snuck in through legislative smoke and mirrors.

Meanwhile, constituents in my district are struggling under the crippling effects of inflation, diesel shortages, an increasingly emboldened regulatory state, and a Democrat majority that continues to focus punishment on their political opponents instead of the needs

of Americans. This is a shameful use of our time, and I look forward to next year.

Madam Speaker, I oppose the rule and ask Members to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I have no requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

From beginning to end, this Democratic leadership has been in disarray. It is pathetic to see them do anything they can to discuss their favorite former President one last time before losing the majority.

The bills we are debating today have gone through none of the required processes, and Republicans have been given no time to provide input. They have also added things that are highly controversial with no discussion.

This is just the death throes of the Trump-obsessed soon-to-be minority. I oppose this rule, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, as I said previously, S. 1942, the National Heritage Area Act should have been able to pass under suspension. It passed under a UC in the Senate. It is a straightforward bill. But the bottom line is that noncontroversial, bipartisan, bicameral bills that are brought under suspension oftentimes get defeated because my friends on the other side engage in some sort of a tantrum.

We have just witnessed on the floor a series of suspensions that will get overwhelming support when members of their Freedom Caucus are demanding votes where bills will pass unanimously or maybe two contrarians on their side will vote "no." A total waste of time.

So, yes, we are bringing this National Heritage Area Act to the floor under a rule because it is important, and we want to get it passed. That is why we are utilizing this process.

On H.R. 9460, the Presidential Tax Filing and Audit Transparency Act, this is about codifying something that, frankly, we all thought was happening already: the mandatory audit of Presidential taxes.

The President of the United States is the leader of the free world, the most powerful person on this planet. The people of this country deserve to know what is in his or her taxes. If you don't want people to know what is in your taxes, it is simple: Don't run for President.

This isn't about party politics. It isn't about Democrats versus Republicans, and it isn't about Donald Trump. In fact, the only person who would be audited as a result of this bill would be Joe Biden, unless of course, my colleagues plan to use their new

majority to once again try to overturn the 2020 election and reinstate Donald Trump.

This is about upholding the simple idea that no person is above the law and that the American people have a right to know whether or not their leaders are telling the truth on their taxes.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this rule and on the underlying bills.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to her left and right will be open.

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 rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1913

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 7 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.