

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MEETING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

MEETING HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 16, 2007

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COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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ZOE LOFGREN, California

Ranking Minority Member

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:00 a.m., in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Juanita Millender-McDonald (chairwoman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Millender-McDonald, Lofgren, Gonzalez, Ehlers, Lungren, McCarthy and Davis.

Staff Present: Charles Howell, Chief Counsel; Matt Pinkus, Parliamentarian; Kristin McCowan, Legislative Clerk; Sterling Spriggs, Technology Director; Ellen McCarthy, Professional Staff; Fred Hay, Minority General Counsel; Paul Vinovich, Minority Counsel; and Bryan Dorsey, Minority Professional Staff.

The CHAIRWOMAN. Good morning. It is indeed a pleasure to see all of you here this morning as we organize the Committee on House Administration for the 110th Congress. I would like to first welcome back those members who were here, the current members.

And so happy to see the Ranking Member as well as all of the other members who have come back.

I would like to welcome the new members who are here. It is indeed a pleasure to see all of you, and I just know we are going to work well this year in Congress, and we will have a delightful time as much as possible. But it is indeed a pleasure to see all of you here this morning.

Just coming off of the flu, I might be a little hoarse, but all and all, I think I will be fine.

I would like to have a few remarks from our Ranking Member.

And it is good to see you, Mr. Ehlers, a few remarks from you?

Mr. EHLERS. Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a fairly lengthy opening statement if this is the appropriate time for it. But if you wish—

The CHAIRWOMAN. I will give you as much time as you want to consume on that.

Mr. EHLERS. I thank you very much.

The CHAIRWOMAN. But the other members will not have that privilege.

Mr. EHLERS. I suspect they do not care to use it either.

This is the case of the old man turning things over to the younger woman and saying, this would be nice, this would be what I would like to have done had I been here.

I certainly want to thank my colleague from California, Ms. Millender-McDonald, for her remarks, and I congratulate her on her new position as Chair of this committee.

That is a remarkable change for the Congress, along with many other remarkable changes that we have, and I am pleased that your staff was kind enough to give you a brand new gavel to celebrate this occasion. I suspect you are the first woman to occupy the chairmanship of this committee, and that is another first for our Congress.

For many years we have enjoyed a harmonious professional and personal relationship, and our warm personal friendship should continue, despite our differing views on some issues. Although our roles are now reversed, I welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you in the same spirit of cooperation and partnership that has characterized our time as the senior members of our respective parties on this committee.

I would also like to welcome the newest Republican members of this committee who both, coincidentally, also hail from the State of California, as does our chairwoman and of course other members of the committee. That is clearly an attempt by the State of California to take over this committee. Even though we are split on partisan lines, I would like to assure the Californians, if they try to take advantage of us midwesterners, you have got a battle on your hands.

As a former attorney general of California with a keen interest in national security, Congressman Dan Lungren's experience will serve this committee well, given our oversight of the Capitol Police and emergency protocols covering the House side of the Capitol complex.

Welcome, Congressman Lungren.

Also with us is Congressman Kevin McCarthy, who, although he is a freshman, is no stranger to the workings of the Committee on House Administration, having been a senior aide to former Chairman Bill Thomas. He was elected upon Representative Thomas's retirement to serve the same district represented by his former boss.

Welcome, Congressman McCarthy.

I know that each of my esteemed Republican colleagues have looked forward to this day with some anticipation so that they may begin to delve into the many issues under this committee's purview. I am certain that they will have that opportunity, and I am extremely pleased that they are each here today as members of this committee.

Before we adopt the rules for the remainder of the 110th Congress, I will hope you will indulge me to reflect a bit on the progress we have made in the past years and the challenges that still lay ahead of us as we embark upon a new term.

Over the last 12 years, we have seen a great deal of change in the operations of this institution and, for that matter, this committee. After the Republicans assumed the majority in 1994, we knew we had a number of challenges and opportunities before us to make the House the professionally run place we knew it could be and, fortunately, has become.

First, we faced the daunting task of overhauling the House financial systems and processes. When I look back and see that we came from an institution whose books were so poorly kept as to be unusable to outside auditors in 1994 when the Republicans took over the House, to an organization which has now received its eighth consecutive clean financial opinion, I feel an enormous sense of pride at what we were able to accomplish. With their return to the majority, Democrats now also assume the responsibility of ensuring that this institution will continue to maintain that high level of financial stewardship.

I am certain that you will do that, Madam Chair. I will be pleased to offer my assistance and cooperation in any way that I can to make certain that happens.

Another area of focus of this committee has been ensuring that our technology infrastructure is in place to enhance productivity for Members and staff in the House. In 1995, as chairman of the House Computer and Information Services Working Group, I championed the Cyber Congress Plan, commonly referred to as the Boonstra report. I put an immense amount of effort into that program, and as a result, we created a new standardized e-mail platform that would replace the 11 separate e-mail systems that were then used across the House.

As challenging a task as it was, today we reap the benefits of being on a common e-mail platform as well as other uniform software choices and a unified system that allows for enhanced collaboration and improved technical support.

That does not mean that we have done enough. In September of last year, we held a hearing on a new IT assessment compiled by the Congressional Management Foundation and Gartner Consulting which was the product of extensive research with key House stakeholders, including detailed interviews with 128 Members, managers and staff throughout the House and the legislative branch.

Reviewing the “To-Be Visions” in their report was an important step in implementing a strategic technology plan for the next decade of technology improvements in the House. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to build upon those efforts and continue to make progress on furthering the use of technology for the betterment of this institution.

This is the most important piece of unfinished business facing this committee. And Madam Chair, just adding a personal note, I spent a good deal of my life trying to build the system that we have. It was indeed very complex to network 11,000 computers and get them all working together to serve the Members well. I am not saying that in terms of bragging about what I have done, but just that it has been so important to make the institution function well. I designed the system so that I would be basically out of it—I would not get accolades for what I have done—because I wanted it to work so well that it would be seamless and work readily.

I think that is a very important thing. Technology changes so fast. We have not really improved it in 10 years. I believe it is very important that we pursue this effort. I also appreciate that we have some computer experts on this panel, particularly Ms. Lofgren, who

represents Silicon Valley. Ms. Lofgren is certainly going to be an asset in any attempts which we make here.

With the change in leadership that occurred in this Congress, new subcommittees are also being formed for this committee on elections and Capitol security. I commend you for that. I often wondered whether we should do that last year.

The Subcommittee on Elections will focus on election reform. We also know this committee was instrumental in passing the Help America Vote Act in 2002. This historic legislation and the \$3 billion in Federal assistance that have been appropriated pursuant to it, without question, has improved our election process in this country.

I know the Chairwoman has written to the Appropriations Committee to express her support for an additional \$800 million appropriation for HAVA. I do not object to eventually expending this money, but our concern is that already pending before this committee are a number of bills that seek to amend HAVA. I would hate to see additional moneys go out now only to see them being used for the purpose of equipment that would still be inadequate. If we are going to improve these requirements, we should first develop the new standards necessary to implement them before we spend more money.

To be specific, it is worth noting that problems people experienced with paper-based voting machines led many jurisdictions to use their HAVA money to buy electronic systems. Now, concerns about the security of the electronic systems have caused many to call for a return to paper.

I think we need to take a deep breath and think carefully about what systems we need before spending hundreds of millions more of the taxpayers' money. I hope the Subcommittee on Elections will allow for the careful attention and thoughtful consideration these issues require.

In addition to the work of the subcommittee, I hope the full committee will remain engaged in these issues as well. HAVA was considered and written in a bipartisan fashion and ultimately passed with strong support on both sides of the aisle. If we are going to amend it, I hope the process will be handled in the same bipartisan fashion that led to HAVA's passage in the 107th Congress.

Another subcommittee will focus on security, particularly the protection of the Capitol complex and those who work in and visit the House each day, including the new Capitol Visitors Center. In the past several years, this committee has worked to standardize emergency communications protocols and has remained engaged in overall crisis preparedness activities. I expect that the full committee will continue these oversight activities, with the Subcommittee on Capitol Security providing more in-depth analysis.

In view of my earlier comments about new technology and computer systems needed in the House, I also ask the Chair to consider the formation of a technology subcommittee. This is one of the biggest expenditures of the House, following only salaries, benefits and maintenance, and it deserves more attention.

Finally, I would like to say that each of us on this committee, regardless of party, wants to see this institution and all agencies under its oversight authority continue to thrive in the 110th Con-

gress and beyond that time. Madam Chairwoman, I know you will agree with me when I say that the ties that bind us are far greater than the divisions that separate us. It is with that spirit in mind that we will each approach the legislative and oversight matters before this committee. I thank you for this time, and I yield back.

The CHAIRWOMAN. Indeed, I thank you so much, Mr. Ranking Member. You should be given the accolades that you deserve on all of the accomplishments that you made in the 109th Congress. It was a joy serving with you as Ranking Member. I will now enjoy serving with you as the Ranking Member. I thank you so much. I know your technological background, and I certainly hope that you help us in making sure that this House becomes even more efficient in that manner.

California is not trying to take over. California has taken over. No, no, no, we do graciously accept those who want to come into California's den.

Let me just say, thank you very much for introducing both our former Lieutenant Governor and the newly elected gentleman from California, Mr. McCarthy. It is indeed a pleasure to have both of you here. I would like to just introduce the current member who comes back to us. She is not a stranger here. She served admirably during the impeachment and was one of the main attorneys in the forefront of that: Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, an attorney in her own right and also a technological expert.

It is indeed a pleasure to have you back, Congresswoman Lofgren.

We have with us Congresswoman Susan Davis, one of our new additions. She is a former educator and director of a Mentor for Youth program. She was the chair of the San Diego League of Women Voters. It is so great to have you here.

We also have Congressman Charlie Gonzalez. I kid with him often because, when I was in the State legislature, I would prepare to go to the State House and look at his absolutely outstanding and extraordinary father, Congressman Henry Gonzalez. And when he came to Congress, I told him that he had really big shoes to fill. But, you know, Charlie Gonzalez has come, and he has exceeded filling those shoes. He is a former judge and, of course, an attorney. And so we are so pleased to have you here, too, as an addition.

All of you who are new here, we are very pleased to have you here because you will bring your talent and the great spirit that we have already seen displayed by the former chair of this committee.

I would like to stop to say that when I gaveled myself this morning, I should have said to you that this outstanding gavel was given to me by this outstanding majority staff. And they have written on the card: With a grand and graceful gesture to the Chairwoman.

I think this is so great. So extraordinary. I thank you so much. I am just going to gavel again. This is really great.

Now, we will proceed with the three resolutions that we have here. I have observed that there are seven members here, so we do have a quorum, and we can proceed.

I would like to announce, pursuant to the House rules, that we appoint our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Pennsyl-

vania, Representative Bob Brady, to be the Vice Chair of the Committee for the 110th Congress. Mr. Brady is still snowed in and snowed under in Pennsylvania, but he will do well in that position.

The first item of business will be the adoption of the Rules of the Committee on House Administration for the 110th Congress. Copies are in the members' packets. The rules are very similar to the rules we used for the Committee in the 109th Congress which served as a starting point for these rules.

Those are number 1 in your packet or however, Mr. Ranking Member, you set yours up. If there are no objections, we will dispense with the reading of the Committee Resolution 1 and begin discussion.

[The information follows:]

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
110TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION # 1
February 16, 2007

Resolved, that the rules of the Committee on House Administration for the 110th Congress are hereby adopted, as follows:

**Rules of the
Committee on House Administration
One Hundred Tenth Congress**

Rule No. 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a privileged motion in the Committee. Each subcommittee of the committee is a part of the committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the chair and to its rules as far as applicable.

(b) The Committee is authorized at any time to conduct such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under House Rule X and, subject to the adoption of expense resolutions as required by House Rule X, clause 6, to incur expenses (including travel expenses) in connection therewith.

(c) The Committee is authorized to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee, and to make such information available to the public. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee shall be paid from the appropriate House account.

(d) The Committee shall submit to the House, not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a report on the activities of the committee under House Rules X and XI during the Congress ending at noon on January 3 of such year.

(e) The Committee's rules shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

Rule No. 2

REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting date of the Committee on House Administration shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House is in session in accordance with Clause 2(b) of House Rule XI. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair of the Committee as she or he may deem necessary or at the request of a majority of the members of the Committee in accordance with Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chair subject to Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. A regularly scheduled meeting may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair, there is no need for the meeting.

(b) If the Chair is not present at any meeting of the Committee, or at the discretion of the Chair, the Vice Chair of the Committee shall preside at the meeting. If the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee are not present at any meeting of the Committee, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at the meeting.

Rule No. 3

OPEN MEETINGS

As required by Clause 2(g), of House Rule XI, each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Committee in open session and with a quorum present determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person, or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House: Provided, however, that no person other than members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and such other persons as the Committee may authorize, shall be present in any business or markup session which has been closed to the public.

Rule No. 4

RECORDS AND ROLLCALLS

(a)(1) A record vote shall be held if requested by any member of the Committee.

(a)(2) The result of each record vote in any meeting of the Committee shall be made available for inspection by the public at reasonable times at the Committee offices, including a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition; the name of each member voting for and against; and the members present but not voting.

(b)(1) Subject to subparagraph (2), the Chair may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time.

(2) In exercising postponement authority under subparagraph (1), the Chair shall take all reasonable steps necessary to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

(3) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(c) All Committee and subcommittee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the member serving as

Chair; and such records shall be the property of the House and all members of the House shall have access thereto.

(d) House records of the Committee which are at the National Archives shall be made available pursuant to House Rule VII. The Chair shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision to withhold a record pursuant to the rule, and shall present the matter to the Committee upon written request of any Committee member.

(e) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

Rule No. 5

PROXIES

No vote by any member in the Committee may be cast by proxy.

Rule No. 6

POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under House Rules X and XI, the Committee or any subcommittee thereof is authorized (subject to subparagraph (b)(1) of this paragraph)--

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings; and

(2) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, documents and other materials as it deems necessary, including materials in electronic form. The Chair, or any member designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b)(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or subcommittee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present. The power to authorize and issue subpoenas under subparagraph (a)(2) may be delegated to the Chair pursuant to such rules and under such limitations as the Committee may prescribe. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chair or by any member designated by the Committee, and may be served by any person designated by the Chair or such member.

(2) Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or a subcommittee may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

Rule No. 7

QUORUMS

No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House unless a majority of the Committee is actually present. For the purposes of taking any action other than reporting any measure, issuance of a subpoena, closing meetings, promulgating Committee orders, or changing the rules of the Committee, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members shall constitute a quorum.

Rule No. 8**AMENDMENTS**

Any amendment offered to any pending legislation before the Committee or a **subcommittee** must be made available in written form when requested by any member of the Committee. If such amendment is not available in written form when requested, the Chair will allow an appropriate period of time for the provision thereof.

Rule No. 9**HEARING PROCEDURES**

(a) The Chair, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the Committee, and the appropriate subcommittee chair, in the case of hearings to be conducted by a subcommittee, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one (1) week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present, the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(b) Unless excused by the Chair, each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and shall limit his or her oral presentation to a summary of his or her statement.

(c) When any hearing is conducted by the Committee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of those minority members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearings thereon.

(d) All other members of the Committee may have the privilege of sitting with any subcommittee during its hearings or deliberations and may participate in such hearings or

deliberations, but no member who is not a member of the subcommittee shall count for a quorum or offer any motion or amendment or vote on any matter before the subcommittee.

(e) Committee or subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chair for that purpose, and only for a 5-minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The 5-minute period for questioning a witness by any one member can be extended as provided by House Rules. The questioning of a witness in Committee or subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chair, followed by the ranking minority member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chair shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority. The Chair may accomplish this by recognizing two majority members for each minority member recognized.

(f) The following additional rules shall apply to hearings of the Committee or a subcommittee, as applicable:

(1) The Chair at a hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation.

(2) A copy of the Committee rules and this clause shall be made available to each witness as provided by clause 2(k)(2) of Rule XI.

(3) Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights.

(4) The Chair may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(5) If the Committee determines that evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, it shall--

(A) afford such person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness;

(B) receive such evidence or testimony in executive session; and

(C) receive and dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(6) Except as provided in subparagraph (f)(5), the Chair shall receive and the Committee shall dispose of requests to subpoena additional witnesses.

(7) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the Committee.

(8) In the discretion of the Committee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent sworn statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

(9) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee.

Rule No. 10

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING MEASURES OR MATTERS

(a)(1) It shall be the duty of the Chair to report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any measure approved by the Committee and to take or cause to be taken necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote.

(2) In any event, the report of the Committee on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within 7 calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing of any such request, the clerk of the Committee shall transmit immediately to the Chair notice of the filing of that request.

(b)(1) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.

(2) With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter of a public character, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(c) The report of the Committee on a measure or matter which has been approved by the Committee shall include the matters required by Clause 3(c) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(d) Each report of the Committee on each bill or joint resolution of a public character reported by the Committee shall include a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.

(e) If, at the time any measure or matter is ordered reported by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views, that member shall be entitled to not less than two additional calendar days after the day of such notice, commencing on the day on which the measure or matter(s) was approved, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in which to file such views, in writing and signed by that member, with the clerk of the Committee. All such views so filed by one or more members of the Committee shall be included within, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the Committee with respect to that

measure or matter. The report of the Committee upon that measure or matter shall be printed in a single volume which --

(1) shall include all supplemental, minority, or additional views, in the form submitted, by the time of the filing of the report, and

(2) shall bear upon its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, or additional views (and any material submitted under subparagraph (c)) are included as part of the report. This subparagraph does not preclude --

(A) the immediate filing or printing of a Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, or additional views has been made as provided by paragraph (c); or

(B) the filing of any supplemental report upon any measure or matter which may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee upon that measure or matter.

(3) shall, when appropriate, contain the documents required by Clause 3(e) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(f) The Chair, following consultation with the ranking minority member, is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House, relating to going to conference with the Senate, whenever the Chair considers it-appropriate.

(g) If hearings have been held on any such measure or matter so reported, the Committee shall make every reasonable effort to have such hearings published and available to the members of the House prior to the consideration of such measure or matter in the House.

(h) The Chair may designate any majority member of the Committee to act as "floor manager" of a bill or resolution during its consideration in the House.

Rule No. 11

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT

The Committee shall conduct oversight of matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee in accordance with House Rule X, clause 2 and clause 4. Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the Committee shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress in accordance with House Rule X, clause 2(d).

Rule No. 12

REVIEW OF CONTINUING PROGRAMS; BUDGET ACT PROVISIONS

(a) The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriation for continuing programs and activities of the Federal Government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirement, and objectives of the programs and activities involved. For the purposes of this paragraph a Government agency includes the organizational units of government listed in Clause 4(e) of Rule X of House Rules.

(b) The Committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefore would be made annually.

(c) The Committee shall, on or before February 25 of each year, submit to the Committee on the Budget (1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year which are within its jurisdiction or functions, and (2) an estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting there from, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction which it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) As soon as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget for any fiscal year is agreed to, the Committee (after consulting with the appropriate committee or committees of the Senate) shall subdivide any allocation made to it in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on such resolution, and promptly report such subdivisions to the House, in the manner provided by section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(e) Whenever the Committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations, and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Rule No. 13

BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography, as provided in Clause 4 of House Rule XI, subject to the limitations therein. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with Clause 4(b) of rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

Rule No. 14

COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF

The staff of the Committee on House Administration shall be appointed as follows:

A. The staff shall be appointed or her or his designee except as provided in paragraph (B), and may be removed by the Chair and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the Chair;

B. All staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee shall be appointed by the ranking member or her or his designee, and may be removed, by the ranking minority member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member;

C. The Chair shall fix the compensation of all staff of the Committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member regarding any minority party staff, within the budget approved for such purposes for the Committee.

Rule No. 15

TRAVEL OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

(a) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern travel of Committee members and staff. Travel for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chair or her or his designee. Travel may be authorized by the Chair for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance at hearings conducted by the Committee and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

- (1) The purpose of the travel;
- (2) The dates during which the travel will occur;
- (3) The locations to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each; and
- (4) The names of members and staff seeking authorization.

(b)(1) In the case of travel outside the United States of members and staff of the Committee for the purpose of conducting hearings, investigations, studies, or attending meetings and conferences involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of the committee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Chair. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chair, in writing, a request for such authorization. Each request, which shall be filed in a manner that allows

for a reasonable period of time for review before such travel is scheduled to begin, shall include the following:

- (A) the purpose of the travel;
 - (B) the dates during which the travel will occur;
 - (C) the names of the countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each;
 - (D) an agenda of anticipated activities for each country for which travel is authorized together with a description of the purpose to be served and the areas of committee jurisdiction involved; and
 - (E) the names of members and staff for whom authorization is sought.
- (2) At the conclusion of any hearing, investigation, study, meeting or conference for which travel outside the United States has been authorized pursuant to this rule, members and staff attending meetings or conferences shall submit a written report to the Chair covering the activities and other pertinent observations or information gained as a result of such travel.
- (c) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, or regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration pertaining to such travel.

Rule No. 16

NUMBER AND JURISDICTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) There shall be two standing subcommittees, with party ratios of members as indicated. Subcommittees shall have jurisdictions as stated by these rules, may conduct oversight over such subject matter, and may consider such legislation as may be referred to them by the Chair. The names and jurisdiction of the subcommittees shall be:

- (1) Subcommittee on Capitol Security – (2/1). Matters pertaining to operations and security of the Congress, and of the Capitol complex including the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings, the Library of Congress, and other policies and facilities supporting congressional operations; the U.S. Capitol Police.
- (2) Subcommittee on Elections – (4/2). Matters pertaining to the Federal Election Campaign Act, the Federal Contested Elections Act, the Help America Vote Act, the National Voter Registration Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the Federal Voting Assistance Program, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (accessibility for voters with disabilities), the Federal Elections Commission (FEC), the Elections Assistance Commission (EAC), and other election related issues.

(b) The Chair may establish and appoint members to serve on task forces of the Committee, to perform specific functions for limited periods of time, as she or he deems appropriate.

Rule No. 17

REFERRAL OF LEGISLATION TO SUBCOMMITTEES

The Chair may refer legislation or other matters to a subcommittee, or subcommittees, as she or he considers appropriate. The Chair may discharge any subcommittee of any matter referred to it.

Rule No. 18

POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence and report to the full committee on all matters referred to it. No subcommittee shall meet during any Committee meeting.

Rule No. 19

OTHER PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

The Chair may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the committee.

Rule No. 20

DESIGNATION OF CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE

For the purposes of these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives, the staff director of the Committee shall act as the clerk of the Committee.

The CHAIRWOMAN. I will note that the only significant change in the rules is the creation, as the Ranking Member has outlined, of the two subcommittees. The subcommittees allow extra focus on very important areas and expand the opportunity for committee members to be exposed to and influenced by policy formation and conduct oversight.

Now, we are a small committee. So for the 110th Congress, we are proposing two subcommittees, each will be active during the entire Congress. The subcommittees are named Capitol Security, and Elections.

It is important that we recognize the safety and security of the Capitol. Over the last two congresses, we have had to evacuate at a moment's notice, and we have seen that there have been some impediments to getting our disabled Members out as quickly as we could. This is one reason why we have established this subcommittee, so that we can look into Capitol security, not only for the Members but for our guests and all others who will be in the Capitol at the time that we have to evacuate.

The other subcommittee is the Subcommittee on Elections. I think all of us recognize that there is a need to review election law and look at the various election machines that are being used throughout the country. The one thing that we must remember, we must have election integrity at all times. The voters of this country must feel that when they vote, their vote is counted and they feel good about voting.

If there is no discussion on the resolution of the adoption of the Rules, Mr. Ranking Member?

Mr. EHLERS. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

I have no objection to the rules. As I said earlier, I commend you for the creation of the subcommittees. I think these particular areas were badly needed. I would urge you to consider also a subcommittee on technology. The two you named are ones we probably want forever. The technology one could be a shorter one of 2 years, perhaps. I appreciate that.

I also want to commend your staff for working with us. We had some concerns about parts of the rules. We were able to work out very harmoniously an agreement on them. So it is my pleasure to say that we are quite willing to support the current rules as you have presented them to us.

The CHAIRWOMAN. Thank you so much, Mr. Ranking Member.

I did hear that there were some, but they were not significant, if you will.

Mr. EHLERS. No.

The CHAIRWOMAN. We thank you for working with the staff to get that.

If there are no other concerns or thoughts or comments, then the question is on the adoption of the committee rules.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

The rules are adopted, and the motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

The Chair will have the committee rules printed in the Congressional Record as required by the House.

The second item of business is electing members to subcommittees. I offer for consideration Resolution Number 2 that is in your binder for electing the members to the two subcommittees.
[The information follows:]

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
110TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION # 2
February 16, 2007

Resolved, that the following named Members are hereby elected as chairs and members of the subcommittees of the Committee:

Subcommittee Roster
Committee on House Administration

Subcommittee on Capitol Security (2/1)

Robert Brady, Chair

Michael Capuano

Daniel E. Lungren

Subcommittee on Elections (4/2)

Zoe Lofgren, Chair

Juanita Millender-McDonald

Charles Gonzalez

Susan Davis

Kevin McCarthy

Vernon J. Ehlers

The CHAIRWOMAN. I have been told that the names have been given now for the Republican members, and I will just read those off.

The Subcommittee on Capitol Security: Robert Brady is the Chair. Michael Capuano and Daniel Lungren are the two members on that committee.

The Subcommittee on Elections: Zoe Lofgren is the Chair, Charlie Gonzalez, Susan Davis, Kevin McCarthy, Vern Ehlers and yours truly are on that subcommittee.

Are there any comments on the establishment of those two subcommittees?

Mr. EHLERS. I am pleased to move the approval of the resolution.

The CHAIRWOMAN. Thank you so much.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes have it, and Resolution Number 2 electing the two subcommittees is in order.

The third resolution that we have here is the Oversight Plan, Resolution Number 3.

This is the last item on the agenda as required by House Rules X. The plan is in the members' packet, and without objection, the reading will be dispensed with.

[The information follows:]

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
110TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION # 3
February 16, 2007

Resolved, that the Oversight Plan of the Committee on House Administration for the 110th Congress, as required pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X, is hereby adopted, as follows:

Committee on House Administration

110th Congress Oversight Plan

Member Services

- Oversee Members' allowance amounts, including structure and regulations.
- Provide guidance and outreach to congressional offices to ensure compliance with Committee regulations.
- Review and propose regulatory changes to the *Members' Congressional Handbook*, a set of regulations governing the expenditure of Members' Representational Allowances.
- Review and propose changes to the *Guide to Outfitting and Maintaining an Office of the U.S. House of Representatives*, a set of regulations governing the acquisition, transfer, and disposal of furnishings, equipment, software, and related services.
- Evaluate the formulas that authorize the Members' Representational Allowances and consider proposals for change to ensure that all Members have adequate resources for representing their constituents.
- Oversee the processing of vouchers and direct payments, including those for payroll.
- Formulate and execute orientation program for new Members after each congressional election.

Committee Funding and Oversight

- Review Monthly Reports on committee activities and expenditures.
- Review *Committees' Congressional Handbook* regulations governing expenditure of committee funds and update regulations as needed.
- Review Primary and any Secondary Expense Resolutions and approve authorization of committee-funding levels in committee and by House Resolution.
- Review Committees' Franking expenditures.

Congressional Accountability Act of 1995

- Monitor application of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) (PL 104-1).
- Review regulations adopted by the Office of Compliance.
- Evaluate resources available to the Office of Compliance and House Employing Offices to facilitate implementation of the Act.
- Conduct general oversight of the Office of Compliance.
- Monitor ongoing judicial proceedings to determine the impact on the CAA.

Franking Commission

- Oversee the Members' use of the congressional frank by providing guidance, advice, and counsel through consultation or advisory opinion on the frankability of congressional mail
- Review proposals to reform mass mailing practices of Members, and regulations governing such mailings, and monitor current prohibition on mass mailings 90 days before a primary or general election.

- Review previously implemented rules to increase disclosure and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.
- Consider revisions of pre-election franking complaint procedures.
- Revise and reprint *Regulations on the Use of the Congressional Frank and Rules on Practice in Proceedings Before the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards*.
- Review the formula to determine the number of postal delivery stops in a congressional district which is a component of the Members' Representational Allowance.

Government Printing Office

- Oversee operations of the Government Printing Office, including the Superintendent of Documents.
- Review the need for legislation to reform government printing by eliminating redundancies, increasing efficiency, and enhancing public access to government publications.
- Examine options to improve operation and structure of the GPO Inspector General's office. Monitor implementation of remedial actions taken to address audit issues identified by the GPO Inspector General.
- Review the printing needs of the House of Representatives to identify the potential for eliminating duplication through greater use of GPO services.
- Examine current GPO printing and binding regulations to determine advisability of change.
- Oversee Superintendent of Documents' Sales and Depository Library Programs.
- Review use of GPO facilities and other assets to identify possible alternatives enhancing value to the Congress and the public.
- Oversee preparation of *Women in Congress*, *Black Americans in Congress*, *Hispanic Americans in Congress*, *Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress*, and other congressionally-authorized publications.

House Officers and House Operations

- Analyze management improvement proposals and other initiatives submitted by the House Officers, the Inspector General, the Capitol Police Board, and the Architect of the Capitol.
- Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations on matters impacting operations of the House and joint entities.
- Provide policy guidance to the House Officers, Inspector General and the joint entities as appropriate.
- Oversee compliance with the House Employee Classification Act (2 U.S.C. 291 *et seq.*).
- Assure coordination among officers and joint entities on administrative and technology matters.
- Continue review of congressional continuity issues, including organizing sessions of Congress at alternate locations, technological support for Member communications and chamber operations and filling vacancies in the House.
- Provide policy guidance and conduct oversight of security and safety issues and congressional entities charged with such roles.

Chief Administrative Officer

- Review procedures for processing contracts with the House that exceed the threshold of \$250,000.
- Continue to review the current financial management system and implementation of the Financial System Replacement project.
- Review the structure of House Information Resources and determine organizational direction of technology services in the House.
- Review and oversee information technology services provided, maintained or hosted by House Information Resources.
- Review new technology initiatives to better serve Members, committees, and the House.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Chief Administrative Officer.
- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review the operations of the House gift shop and methods of proposed management.
- Continue review of House restaurant operations; furniture policy, inventory and selection; and alternatives to the current mail delivery process in order to strengthen the services and tools available to Members and staff.
- Review the printing needs of the Chief Administrative Officer's operation to identify the potential for eliminating duplication through greater use of GPO services.
- Examine Chief Administrative Officer's role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings and other House facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Clerk of the House

- Review the administration of audio transmission on the House floor.
- Review and approve contracts and requests for proposals by the Clerk that exceed the \$250,000 spending threshold.
- Oversee the Document Management System.
- Review progress towards defining a standard for the electronic exchange of legislative information between Congress and legislative-branch agencies.
- Coordinate on matters under the jurisdiction of the House Fine Arts Board.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Clerk.
- Review of semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review the printing needs of the Clerk to evaluate the potential for eliminating duplication through greater use of GPO services.
- Oversee preparation of *Women in Congress*, *Black Americans in Congress*, *Hispanic Americans in Congress*, *Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress*, and other congressionally-authorized publications.

House Sergeant at Arms

- Review security operations in the House, including the House chamber, the galleries, the Capitol, House Office Buildings, and Capitol Grounds.
- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review impact of electronic access to controlled spaces.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Sergeant at Arms.
- Review the security operation of House parking facilities, regulations, and allocation of parking spaces.
- Review the policies and procedures for visitor access to the Capitol.
- Review the printing needs of the Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police Board to identify the potential for eliminating duplication through greater use of GPO services.
- Examine Sergeant at Arms' role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings, and other House facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Review the use of technology generally in the protection of the House of Representatives.

U.S. Capitol Police

- Generally oversee operations of the agency.
- Review and report authorization legislation as necessary.
- Review need for additional USCP facilities and equipment.
- Review analysis of uniformed officer post/duty assignments to determine and authorize force levels to meet the agency's security requirements, especially with the advent of the Capitol Visitors Center and responsibility for U.S. Botanic Garden.
- Monitor human-resources needs of the agency, including civilian component, attrition rates, recruitment efforts and incentive programs for officers and civilian employees.
- Review USCP training program for new recruits, and in-service training.
- Review and approve all department reorganizations, creation of new positions, appointments, terminations, and certain promotions.
- Authorize and oversee the installation and maintenance of new security systems and devices proposed by the USCP Board.
- Review and authorize regulations prescribed by the USCP Board for use of law enforcement authority by the Capitol Police.
- Examine options to restructure security at the Library of Congress and implement legislation to complete the merger between the Library Police and the Capitol Police provided for in Sec. 1015 of Public Law 108-7.
- Examine Capitol Police role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, House Office Buildings and other facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Review the use of technology generally in the protection of the House of Representatives.

House Inspector General

- Review proposed audit plan and audit reports.
- Review comprehensive financial and operational audits of the House, investigate any irregularities uncovered, and monitor necessary improvements.
- Monitor progress of House audits.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Inspector General.
- Direct Inspector General to conduct management advisories to improve implementation and operation of key House functions.

Oversight of Legislative Branch and Other Entities**Information and Technology Coordination**

- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, forums for the sharing of technology plans and capabilities among the legislative branch agencies.
- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, the Legislative Branch Telecommunications group.
- Oversee continuing improvements to the Legislative Information System.
- Oversee work of the Legislative Branch Financial Managers' Council.

Library of Congress

- Oversee the remedial measures taken by the Library in response to audit issues.
- Conduct a review of the progress that the Library has made in providing public access to government information, especially in electronic form.
- Continue oversight of Library and Congressional Research Service operations.
- Oversee completion and opening of the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center at Culpeper, Va.
- Examine options to improve the operation and structure of the Library Inspector General.
- Review implementation of the Library of Congress Fiscal Operations Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-481), the Veterans' Oral History Project Act (Public Law 106-380), the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 (Public Law No: 106-474), and the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act (Public Law 106-99).
- Consider human-resources legislation proposed by the Library.
- Examine options to restructure security at the Library of Congress and implement legislation to complete the merger between the Library Police and the Capitol Police.
- Review the use of technology generally in Library of Congress operations.

Smithsonian Institution

- Review the Smithsonian Inspector General's reports on the status of the Smithsonian.
- Oversee general museum and research facility operations of the Smithsonian Institution.
- Review and oversee Smithsonian Institution budget authorization.
- Consider legislation related to the Smithsonian Institution.

- Provide for the appointment of Citizen Regents to the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents.
- Review proposals for authorization of new Smithsonian facilities.
- Review operations of the National Zoo.
- Conduct additional oversight of Smithsonian Networks.
- Review the use of technology generally in Smithsonian operations.

Architect of the Capitol

- Review the operations of the office of the Architect.
- Review the electronic and procured services provided by the Architect.
- Oversee construction and operational planning for the Capitol Visitors Center project, in conjunction with the Senate and the Capitol Preservation Commission.

Technology Use by the House

- Continue oversight of House Information Resources and other technology functions of the House to ensure timely, accurate electronic information dissemination.
- Oversee implementation of House Rule XI 2(e)(4) requiring committee documentation to be made available electronically, to the maximum extent feasible.
- Review computer security measures.
- Oversee implementation of Committee hearing room upgrade program.
- Oversee and continue to implement an enterprise House Disaster Recovery Program for house offices, committees and member offices.
- Oversee and coordinate the House strategic technology plan.
- Conduct and conclude House technology assessment.

Oversight of Federal Election Law and Procedures

- Recommend disposition of House election contests pending before the Committee.
- Review operations of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency, improve enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act, improve procedures for the disclosure of contributions and expenditures, and consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the FEC's budget.
- Review federal campaign-finance laws and regulations, including Presidential public financing, and consider potential reforms.
- Study the role and impact of political organizations on federal elections.
- Review operations of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), evaluate and consider authorization issues related to EAC governance, examine the implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), and make recommendations on the EAC's budget.
- Examine the impact of HAVA on Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), and consider proposals to improve voting methods for those serving and living abroad.
- Review state and federal activities under the National Voter Registration Act to identify potential for improvement to voter registration and education programs.
- Monitor allegations of fraud and misconduct during all phases of federal elections and evaluate measures to improve the integrity of the electoral process.

New Member Orientation

- Plan, implement, and oversee the New Member Orientation Program for newly-elected Members of Congress.
- Oversee the planning and implementation of the Congressional Research Service New Member Issues Seminar in Williamsburg.

The CHAIRWOMAN. The Oversight Plan consists of matters within the standing jurisdiction of the committee with additional emphasis on subjects to which we may devote special attention either through oversight or legislation. It is, in essence, a broad menu to aid the committee in focusing its work. The Chair recognizes the Ranking Member if he is so inclined to speak.

Mr. EHLERS. I am pleased to move approval of the Oversight Plan.

The CHAIRWOMAN. Thank you so much.

The approval of the committee, the question is on the approval of the resolution.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes have it. The Committee Resolution Number 3 relating to the Oversight Plan is agreed to.

If there is nothing else coming before the committee, I must say that I am sorry I did not say that Congressman Lungren is the former attorney general for the State of California. I don't know why I forgot that.

Mr. LUNGREN. You said lieutenant governor. I tried for another position—

The CHAIRWOMAN. I was trying to up you one or two, but that is okay. We were very pleased to have you for that.

Prior to this meeting, I took several actions on behalf of the committee. I will report them to you shortly with associated documents. Mr. Ranking Member, you will get that, and hopefully, you can pass it on to your members as I will pass it on to mine.

If there are no other comments from any of the members, Mr. Ehlers, any closing?

Mr. EHLERS. No, I just want to congratulate you once again. I look forward to a productive and harmonious Congress. Even though I know we will tangle occasionally on some of the deeply divisive political issues that we face occasionally, most of the time, we are simply concerned about making this institution run well together. I hope that we can do that with grace and good-heartedness and really achieve what is best for this institution and for the people of the country.

The CHAIRWOMAN. Thank you so much.

This committee does run pretty well and pretty smoothly, and there should not be many bumps in the road. If so, I am sure you and I can smooth those out. Thank you again.

To all of the other members and the new members, thank you for coming today and making this meeting a showcase of cooperation.

If there is no objection, the staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the materials and matters considered today.

No other questions, no other business, this committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:29 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]