

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2008

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker,

During your time as a member of the minority party, you rallied against heavy-handed floor tactics by the Republican majority, particularly the practice of letting the clock run past the allotted fifteen minute time period in order to change the outcome of the vote. In many cases you were right, such as the well publicized vote on Medicare Part D.

Upon taking the Speakership, you made several pledges to end this unfair practice. According to the majority's manifesto, *New Direction for America*: "Floor votes should be completed within 15 minutes... No vote shall be held open in order to manipulate the outcome" (p. 24). Then in the opening days of the 110th Congress, we passed a new House rule to stop the practice forever. Specifically, the text of House Rule XX, Clause 2(a): "A record vote by electronic device shall not be held open for the sole purpose of reversing the outcome of such vote."

Now it seems those promises are forgotten and once again the majority party, now under your leadership, engages in this unfair practice anytime you want to change the outcome of a vote.

Last night, all of us watched the fifteen minutes of time expire on the vote on the previous question for H. Res. 1031, "providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 895) establishing within the House of Representatives an Office of Congressional Ethics." Rather than calling the vote at that time with the vote standing at 204-209, the majority party left the vote open far beyond the allocated time. During that time, several members of your party changed their votes, including G.K. Butterfield, Sanford Bishop, Emanuel Cleaver and Bart Stupak. At approximately 10:00 p.m., the chair called the vote at 207-206, and the motion passed after 31 minutes of the vote being held open.

We write to ask you to hold another vote on the Ethics Bill so that it can proceed under regular order and the Rules of the House.

Jack Kingston

Tom D. O.

Therese Kuchin

Phil Perry Galy

W. B. Brad

Steve Usher

Bliss Sailing

Frankenberg

Steve King

Russ E. Atto

Scott Barnett NY-05

Jim Jordan OH-4

Barbara Cullen

Richard [unclear] GA-3

Virgil Good?

Harold Cole

Tom Frensky

Jim Flinn

Baul C Brown

Mark Walker

Helme Drake

May Fuller

John Shadoff

John Carter TX-5

K. H. G. TXV

Mac 7 19

Sam Johnson

Andean

Vera Z. Baker

J. M. G.

Samuel R. Kelley

To Bounties

Ray Smith

Geo. Miller

Mike Pence (12-12)

Mike Pinner

Terry Gault

Frankie Hanks

William H. Smith

James P. Breggitt TX 13

John Hancock

Henry E. Brown

Tom Lewis

Hal Rogers

W. D. Boyer TX 26

M. O. Payne MI

Steve Packer

Patricia J. Taylor

T. Nuttall

K. y. 27

Virginia Fox

DETENSIONS

J. M. R.

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(TX-02)

Ken Calvert

Paul Lambert

Kay Granger

Sue Myrick

Lee Lewis

Marilyn Musgrave

Jim Campbell

Page Rodman