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2 ===== Speaker1_0679015_(Dem, voted no) =====
3 mr. speaker , i thank the gentleman . reclaiming my time , the business that the gentleman from
4 texas has set forth for next week is the energy business . given the schedule the gentleman has
5 just announced , would the gentleman expect the bill to be on the floor both wednesday and
6 thursday ?
7
8 ===== Speaker2_0679016_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
9 mr. speaker , if the gentleman will yield
10 . . .
11 ===== Speaker1_0679017_(Dem, voted no) =====
12 mr. speaker , reclaiming my time, i thank the leader
13 . . .
14 my expectation is you are not going to have a fully open rule but that you would have some
15 modified open rule . am i correct on that ? i yield to the gentleman from texas .
16
17 ===== Speaker2_0679018_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
18 mr. speaker , i thank the gentleman for yielding . obviously , i can not anticipate what the
19 committee on rules may do on this bill .
20
21 ===== Speaker1_0679019_(Dem, voted no) =====
22 mr. speaker , reclaiming my time, some of us do not believe that is quite as obvious as the
23 gentleman does . i yield back to the gentleman .
24
25 ===== Speaker2_0679020_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
26 i appreciate the gentleman yielding . i do recall that in the last congress when we approached
27 the energy bill there was i think at least 20 , if not more , amendments allowed on the bill . i
28 would anticipate that the same approach , because the bill is very similar to the bill we passed in
29 the last congress , would be taken .
30
31 ===== Speaker1_0679021_(Dem, voted no) =====
32 mr. speaker , reclaiming my time , i appreciate the leader 's observation . i know that , on our side
33 , we had a discussion on that bill this morning . all of us believe the energy bill is a very , very
34 important piece of legislation
35 . . .
36 fashion a bill in a bipartisan way that we can see passed and signed by the president .
37
38 mr. speaker , the last item i would ask the majority leader about is , as the gentleman knows , the
39 ethics process in the house is essentially at a standstill . the gentleman has made that observation
40 , obviously ; and we have made that observation as well . efforts to move the ethics process
41 forward have failed so far , both in committee and on the floor , when virtually
42 all of the members on the gentleman 's side of the aisle , now twice , have voted to table motions
43 that would have provided for the appointment of a bipartisan task force to make recommendations
44 to restore public confidence in the ethics process . as the gentleman knows , the gentleman from
45 maryland (mr. cardin) xz4000640 , he was sitting to my left here , although he is now to my
46 right ; maybe he is running for office and wants to position himself ; but the gentleman
47 from maryland (mr. cardin) xz4000640 and mr. livingston performed an outstanding service for
48 this house in coming together and adopting and presenting , proposing a bipartisan ethics process

49 . we had that in place , **as the gentleman knows** , and it was changed , we believe , in a **partisan**
50 fashion . **we oppose that change** , **as the gentleman knows** , as does the former chairman of the
51 committee on standards of official conduct , the gentleman from colorado (mr. hefley)
52 xz4001740 . he and the gentleman from west virginia (mr. mollohan) xz4002810 have a bill ,
53 and that **bipartisan** resolution has now 207 cosponsors , and that would simply return the ethics
54 rules to where they were , **adopted bipartisanly** , **proposed bipartisanly** by the livingston-cardin
55 committee , and it would return to a place where we believe the committee on standards of
56 official conduct would not be at impasse . we are **also** concerned about , **as the gentleman knows** ,
57 the chairman 's proposition that we have a **partisan** division now of the ethics staff , which
58 heretofore has been a **bipartisan** , i might even say **nonpartisan** , staff . **i would respectfully**
59 **inquire** , given that background , **which the gentleman knows , of course , if and when we might**
60 **see house joint resolution 131 on the floor . as i say , it has 207 cosponsors . it reflects the**
61 **bipartisan agreement of the livingston-cardin committee and the bipartisan vote of this house**
62 **some years ago in adopting the livingston-cardin option . in the alternative , of course , when we**
63 **might find an opportunity to support a bipartisan commission that could again look at this and try**
64 **to get us off the dime . i know i have mentioned a number of points , mr. leader , but**
65 **i know that the gentleman believes it is important personally and institutionally** . i have worked
66 with the gentleman institutionally . we want to see this institution not mired in ethical questions
67 of our side or of the gentleman 's side . i think that either direction might get us there . mr.
68 speaker , i ask the leader respectfully if he thinks that we might proceed in either direction , or
69 perhaps both , and i yield to my friend .

70

71 ===== Speaker2_0679022_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====

72 **mr. speaker , i appreciate the gentleman yielding** . this is a very , very important issue that
73 upholds the integrity of the house , that has to do with the image of the house in making sure that
74 the house can enforce its own rules in a bipartisan way . i would **just remind the gentleman** , with
75 all the work that the gentleman from maryland (mr. cardin) xz4000640 and mr. livingston did ,
76 which is excellent work , unfortunately , we can not anticipate unintended consequences ; and
77 **once we start implementing that wonderful work , we find out that there are some flaws that need**
78 **to be corrected** . the speaker of the house looked at the last few years and decided that the rules
79 allowed the use of the committee on standards of official conduct for **partisan** purposes , and its
80 ability to act in a **bipartisan** way was **seriously hindered** . most importantly , there were some
81 **due-process issues** to protect members of their **due-process rights** . i will give **my colleagues** one
82 example . the committee , **on its own** , decided to change the way they operated from the past . in
83 the past , when the committee wanted to warn a member about certain actions that were not in
84 violation of the rules , they used to send a private letter to that member . this committee and the
85 last committee had **decided on their own that , without consulting** with the affected member , to
86 send a public letter and release the underlying documents to support their position , without the
87 opportunity for a member to face the committee and discuss those letters of warning , the speaker
88 felt very strongly that that **undermines the rights** of every member , both democrat and republican
89 , to **due process** . the speaker , in his office , looked at the standing rules of the 108th congress in
90 this regard and felt that some minor changes needed to be made ; one , to protect the committee
91 from being **politicized** ; and , two , to protect members ' **rights of due process** . that suggestion by
92 the speaker , as the gentleman knows , was brought to this house and debated extensively on this
93 house floor , and those amendments to the rules were passed by the entire house , with some nay
94 votes , i understand . i think it is **unfortunate** that **we have found ourselves in this position** ,
95 particularly when the speaker was trying to **protect the rights of the members** and certainly , more
96 importantly , **protect the integrity of the institution that we have reached this point** . i am advised
97 through the speaker that the chairman of the committee on standards of official conduct is
98 working with his ranking member , and i would hope that they would come to some sort of

99 agreement in how we get past this impasse . otherwise , the **rights** of members will **not be**
100 **protected** , and i find that **extremely unfortunate** .
101
102 ===== Speaker1_0679023_(Dem, voted no) =====
103 mr. speaker , reclaiming my time
104 , **i thank the leader for his thoughtful response** . **we have a difference of view**
105
106 . . .
107 ===== Speaker2_0679024_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
108 **will the gentleman yield ?**
109
110 ===== Speaker1_0679025_(Dem, voted no) =====
111 **i certainly will , but let me make one additional point** =====
112
113 . . .
114 ===== Speaker2_0679026_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
115 **will the gentleman yield ?**
116
117 ===== Speaker1_0679027_(Dem, voted no) =====
118 **and** i will be glad to yield my friend .
119
120 ===== Speaker2_0679028_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
121 mr. speaker , i appreciate the gentleman 's concerns
122
123 . . .
124 ===== Speaker1_0679029_(Dem, voted no) =====
125 mr. speaker , reclaiming my time , i thank again the gentleman for his thoughtful remarks . **we**
126 **see it differently** ,
127
128 . . .
129 ===== Speaker2_0679030_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
130 **will the gentleman yield ?**
131
132 ===== Speaker1_0679031_(Dem, voted no) =====
133 i **certainly** will yield to the leader , but before i do , do you see my point , mr. leader ?
134
135 . . .
136 i yield to my friend .
137
138 ===== Speaker2_0679032_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
139 **if the gentleman will yield** , the gentleman has made my point . under the old rules , both sides
140 could protect themselves .
141
142 ===== Speaker1_0679033_(Dem, voted no) =====
143 **no , sir . reclaiming my time , mr. leader .**
144
145 ===== Speaker2_0679034_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
146 if the gentleman is not going to let me respond and **interrupt me** , then this **colloquy** can end .
147

CS6742, Feb 17, 2011: excerpt from a US Congressional floor debate
(<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/home/llee/data/convote.html>)

145 ===== Speaker1_0679035_(Dem, voted no) =====
146 i want to apologize to the gentleman .
147
148 ===== Speaker2_0679036_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
149 thank you . i appreciate that .
150
151 ===== Speaker1_0679037_(Dem, voted no) =====
152 i will yield back to him .
153
154 ===== Speaker2_0679038_(Rep, voted yes).txt =====
155 as i was saying before i was interrupted , and i appreciate the gentleman yielding ,
156