I believe that this procedure is contrary to the Constitution, and that my approval of it would threaten an erosion of the constitutional powers and responsibilities of the President. I have therefore directed the Attorney General to become a party plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a similar provision in the Federal Election Campaign Act.

In addition, this provision would allow the House of Representatives to block adoption of what is essentially an amendment to a treaty, a responsibility which is reserved by the Constitution to the Senate.

This legislation would forge impermissible shackles on the President's ability to carry out the laws and conduct the foreign relations of the United States. The President cannot function effectively in domestic matters, and speak for the Nation authoritatively in foreign affairs. His decisions under authority previously conferred can be reversed by a bare majority of one House of Congress.

The Convention—which has already been approved by the Senate—makes important changes in the international rules for safe navigation. It will enter into force in July 1977. The United States should become a party to it. If the United States does not implement the Convention before it enters into force, there will be major differences between the navigational rules followed by U.S. ships and by the ships of other countries. These differences will increase the danger of collisions at sea and create hazards to life and property at sea.

I strongly urge the 95th Congress to pass legislation early next year that will be consistent with our Constitution, so that the United States can implement the Convention before it enters into force.

October 1, 1976

G. R. Ford

THE WHITE HOUSE.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4121. A letter from the Vice Chairman, Father Marquette Tercentenary Commission, transmitting the final report of the Commission, pursuant to section 4117. A letter from the General Accounting Office, transmitting a report on the release of budget authority to finance the obligation pursuant to section 1019(b) of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, to the Committee on Appropriations.

4119. A letter from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting the annual report of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home for fiscal year 1976, pursuant to section 1019 of the annual general inspection of the home for 1976 by the Inspector General, pursuant to the act of May 21, 1936 (56 Stat. 100; 4119). A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Defense, transmitting the annual report and audit of the American National Red Cross for the year ended June 30, 1975, pursuant to section 6(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act; to the Committee on Government Operations.

4115. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report on actions taken on recommendations contained in the budget for fiscal year 1976 of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, dated July 25, 1975, pursuant to section 6(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act; to the Committee on Government Operations.

4117. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to section 102 of Public Law 92-403; to the Committee on International Relations.

4116. A letter from the General Counsel, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, transmitting an interim report on progress in the implementation of the expenditures of arms control measures mutually agreed to by the United States and the Soviet Union, pursuant to section 142 of Public Law 94-141; to the Committee on International Relations.

4118. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Consumer Safety Commission, transmitting the annual report of the Commission, pursuant to section 27(j) of the Consumer Product Safety Act; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

4119. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Energy Administration, transmitting a report on changes in market shares of retail natural gas supplied in the United States, pursuant to section 4(e)(3) (A) of the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1970; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

4120. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting his initial report on the operation of the speedy trial plans adopted by the U.S. district courts under title I of the Speedy Trial Act, and the operation of preretirement agencies established in 10 district courts on a demonstration basis under title II of the act, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3155 and 3167; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4121. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting a supplement to the first annual report recommending deauthorization of certain projects, pursuant to section 12 of Public Law 93-251; (H. Doc. No. 94-654) to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation.

4122. A letter from the chairman, Joint Committee on Congressional Operations, transmitting a draft of a proposed resolution to amend the House rules for the purpose of avoiding in the reduction of the number of committees meeting on certain days of each month, pursuant to section 206 of the Compliance Reform Amendment Act of 1975 (H. Res. 98); to the Committee on Rules.

4123. A letter from the Vice Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting the seventh quarterly report on trade between the United States and nonmarket economy countries, pursuant to section 410 of the Trade Act of 1974; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

RECEIVED FROM THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL

4128. A letter from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting a report on "buy-national" practices of the United States and some of its major trading partners; to the Committee on Government Operations.

4127. A letter from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting a report on the effectiveness of the Army's direct supply support system; jointly, to the Committee on Government Operations, and Armed Services.

4128. A letter from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting a report on the need to promote socialization of research and development administration in publishing and distributing copies of a pamphlet entitled "Science, Technology, and the Environment." A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget; to the Committee on Government Operation, and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XXII, reports of committees were delayed for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. ULLMAN: Committee of conference. Conference report on H.R. 10210 (Rept. No. 94-1355; H.R. Res. 35384, ordered to be printed.


Mr. FOLEY: Committee on Agriculture. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Agriculture Department, transmitting the annual report of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1976, pursuant to section 10 of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Act; to the Committee on Agriculture; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce; and to the Committee on Government Operations; with the recommendation that this letter be made part of the record of the committee.

Mr. BUCKLEY: Committee on the Judiciary. H. Res. 721. Resolution expressing the sense of the House relative to the appointment of a special committee to consider recommendations for the reform of the military justice system; ordered to be printed.

Mr. FOLEY: Committee on Agriculture. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a letter from the District Engineer, Federal Energy Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting an initial report on the operation of the federal parks and forests which are subject to use by the Federal Energy Administration; ordered to be printed.

Mr. FOLEY: Committee of conference. Conference report on H.R. 10210 (Rept. No. 94-1355; H.R. Res. 35384, ordered to be printed.

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