February 5, 1976
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
2515

By Mr. MONDALE (for himself, Mr. PACKWOOD, Mr. STEVENSON, Mr. BAKER, Mr. ABOUREREZK, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CLARK, Mr. CRANSTON, Mr. DURKIN, Mr. PHILIP A. HART, Mr. HUDDELSOHN, Mr. BROOKE, Mr. HUMPHREY, Mr. INOUTY, Mr. BIBLONIC, Mr. McGovern, Mr. McINTYRE, Mr. MUSKIE, Mr. RANDOLPH, Mr. RISCOFF, and Mr. SCHWEIKER):

S.J. Res. 166. A joint resolution to establish a Bicentennial Commission on Presidential Nominations. Referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Senator from Oregon, Mr. PACKWOOD, the distinguished Senator from Illinois, Mr. STEVENSON, and the distinguished Senator from Tennessee, Mr. BAKER who worked with me in drafting this proposal, I am introducing a joint resolution to create a Bicentennial Commission on Presidential Nominations.

We are pleased that we have been joined by an impressive list of co-sponsors—Mr. ABOUREREZK, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BOOKE, Mr. CLARK, Mr. CRANSTON, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DURKIN, Mr. Philie HART, Mr. HUDDELSOHN, Mr. HUMPHREY, Mr. INOUTY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. McGovern, Mr. McINTYRE, Mr. MUSKIE, Mr. RANDOLPH, Mr. RISCOFF, and Mr. SCHWEIKER.

We are convinced that the nominating system, including an analysis of State laws, party regulations and the candidates should be guaranteed access to the television media.

The nominating system is in dire need of review.

There is always considerable interest in the nominating process during a Presidential election year, but unfortunately it quickly fades after the election. Even though we believe this interest is higher now than ever before, we fear the same thing might happen again. The Commission would report back with its findings and recommendations in early 1977, giving Congress the unique and compelling opportunity to act well in advance of the 1980 elections.

Whatever alternative system may be recommended by this Commission and adopted by the Congress we believe we can do much better than the present system. We also believe there is no more fitting effort we could undertake in this bicentennial year than to try to improve one of the most important elements of our democratic process.

I ask unanimous consent that this resolution be printed at this point in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. Res 166

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That this joint resolution provide for the establishment of a "Bicentennial Commission on Presidential Nominations Resolution".

DECLARATION OF POLICY

SEC. 2. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to improve the system of nominating candidates for election to the office of the President of the United States by studying such system in a broad perspective over the past 200 years of our history.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION

SEC. 3. (a) There is established the Bicentennial Commission on Presidential Nominations (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

(b) The Commission shall be composed of 20 members to be appointed as follows:

(1) six members shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, of whom at least two shall be members of the Senate and at least two shall be elected or appointed State officials;

(2) six members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of whom at least two shall be members of the House and at least two shall be elected or appointed State officials;

(3) six members shall be appointed by the President; and

(4) two members shall be the chairman of the two national political parties and shall serve ex officio.

(c) At no time shall more than three members appointed under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (b) be individuals with a common political affiliation.

(2) Six members shall constitute a quorum. The chairman of the Commission may conduct hearings. The chairman of the Commission shall be selected by the members from among the other members, other than ex officio members.

(3) The Commission shall in no way limit the powers and administrative provisions of this resolution.
Federal agency or executive department, as the Commission deems advisable.

(b) Per diem and mileage allowances for witnesses requested to appear under the authority conferred by this section shall be paid from funds appropriated to the Commission.

(c) Subject to such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Commission, the chairman shall have the power to:

(1) appoint and fix the compensation of an executive director, and such additional staff personnel as may be necessary, without regard to chapters 53 or 55 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and with regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, governing the General Schedule pay rates, but at such rates not in excess of the maximum rate for GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as is authorized by section 109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed $100 a day for individuals.

Compensation of Members

Sec. 6. (a) Members of the Commission who are otherwise employed by the Federal Government shall be entitled to the compensation, per diem and travel expenses which are paid to officers of the Executive or legislative branch of the Federal Government, and their junior officers, but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in carrying out the duties of the Commission.

(b) Members of the Commission not otherwise employed by the Federal Government shall receive per diem at the maximum daily rate for members of the Executive branch of the Federal Government when they are engaged in the performance of their duties as members of the Commission and shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in carrying out the duties of the Commission.

Timeliness of Appointments

Sec. 7. It is the sense of the Congress that the appointments of individuals to serve as members of the Commission be completed within 90 days after the enactment of this resolution.

Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 8. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution.

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, today, Senators Mondale, Baker, Stevenson, and I are introducing a resolution to establish a Bicentennial Commission on Presidential Nominations. Seventeen of our colleagues have joined us in sponsoring this resolution.

The Commission will be charged with investigating the Presidential nominating process and determining the most effective means of reforming it. The 20 Members appointed from within the Senate and House as well as the administration and the two major political parties, will undertake a mammoth, but much-needed and long-overdue task. In addition to comparing different state primary and caucus procedures, they will explore Presidential campaign financing and the effect of the news media on elections. Although the lateunfolded changes of the 1976 election procedures, we expect the Commission's report and recommendations a year after they begin their task, leaving ample time to discuss and implement the recommendations for 1980 as to the best method for Presidential elections

The first of 30 primaries will be held in a few short weeks. Thirty times in the next 6 months Americans will be inundated with Presidential election results as to who is the front runner and who has fallen irretrievably behind. The number of Presidential primaries continues to increase, and we have yet to find an acceptable means of controlling this needless proliferation. At the present date, soon all 50 States may have individual State primaries vying for national attention. This is a needless waste of energy, money, and time.

Years ago, people were content to let "someone else" make the decision of who should be nominated for President. Now, expectations have increased, and rightly so. With the trends in openness in Government, the days of the backroom boys and midnight caucuses have disappeared. But with the modern primary process, this "shuttle candidacy," where the candidate steps off the plane with a jet-lag grin, is an exhausting, wasteful exercise. There must be a better way than breakfast in New Hampshire, lunch in Florida, and dinner at the California caucus. This is not the best measure of any candidate's talent; it is an exercise of political expression. I urge my colleagues to join with me in sponsoring this resolution.

Additional Cosponsors of Bills and Resolutions

S. 2903

At the request of Mr. Beall, the Senator from Florida (Mr. Stone) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2903, a bill to permit the review of regulatory rules and regulations by the Congress.

Senate Resolution 104

At the request of Mr. Hathaway, the Senator from Florida (Mr. Stone) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Farnam) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 104, relating to the Select Committee on Small Business (to provide limited legislative authority).

Senete Resolution 266

At the request of Mr. Humphrey, the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Fannin) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 266, relating to the Select Committee on Indian health facilities.

Senete Joint Resolution 109

At the request of Mr. Buckley, the Senator from Utah (Mr. Garn) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Holt) were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 109, a joint resolution relating to the European Security Conference.

Senete Joint Resolution 148

At the request of Mr. Brock, the Senator from Idaho (Mr. McClure) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 148, a joint resolution to clarify and reframe Government purchasing policies.

Senate Resolution 381—Submission of a Resolution Relating to the 50th Anniversary of American Commercial Aviation

(Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.)

Mr. CANNON submitted the following resolution:

S. Res. 381

Whereas, in 1925 the Congressional Air Mail Act was enacted into law to authorize the United States Post Office Department to speed the mails by increasing the use of commercial aircraft, which Act in 1926 awarded mail contracts to 12 new airlines flying 15 routes connecting with the Post Office Department's central transcontinental service, thus creating the foundation of our great national air transportation system, and

Whereas, in 1926 a supporting Congressional Air Commerce Act created the Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce (now the Federal Aviation Administration) to administer the necessary airways, provided ground-to-plane radio communications, lighting, weather and other aids to air navigation, encouraged local authorities to provide airports, and issued rules and regulations for operation of commercial aircraft, which Acts were the legislative cornerstones of commercial aviation, and

Whereas, in 1976 the United States is in the 50th year of our Nation's Bicentennial Year, the Aviation Historical Foundation is commemorating this 50th anniversary of the birth of Commercial Aviation by collecting such informal oral history and documentation, creating a permanent record of the industry's progress, stimulating public interest and display and dissemination and by encouraging appropriate ceremonies to celebrate the occasion and recognize the many contributors by all Government agencies and the aviation industry, and

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service having definitely proved that carriage of mail by airplane is speedy and reliable has discontinued its special air mail service and now is carrying all first class mail to distant points by air, and thus is issuing a special commemorative stamp in March depicting the planes used in the first official air mail flights between Detroit and Cleveland and Detroit and Chicago on February 15, 1926, from Elkins Field, Elkins, West Virginia, on April 6, 1926, for which special collector's covers are being provided by the Aviation Historical Foundation.

It is therefore recommended that the President of the United States that the 50th anniversary of the birth of American Commercial Aviation be officially recognized and that all concerned governmental agencies be requested to participate in appropriate national and local ceremonies celebrating the 50th anniversary of commercial aviation.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. President, 1976 is America's Bicentennial Year, but it also marks another anniversary in our history—an anniversary of a fledgling industry that began 50 years ago and grew to a point where today it affects the lives of nearly every citizen of the United States. This year, 1976, marks the 50th anniversary of American Commercial Aviation.

Mr. CANNON. The Congressional Air Mail Act was enacted into law to authorize the U.S. Post Office Department to speed the mails by increasing the use of commercial aircraft. One later year contracts were awarded to 12 new airlines to fly 15 routes connecting with the Post Office Department's central transcontinental service.