

Dunn:

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-chairman.

I had a little more of prosaic concern.

I was thinking what is the worse waste of time while I am in Congress? I think most of us would recognize that, that is travel time, time in airplanes, time in airports. I jotted these notes while I was waiting for an incredibly late airplane, in Atlanta, again. I thought I'd share some ideas of how we might affect the travel time and benefit us all with more time to spend. Historically, Members' have spent more time in Washington, and more time with each other. I think the Senior Members of Congress would relate to you the time spent socializing; both within the party, and across the aisle. This would help them get along, and help them get a more bipartisan attitude towards governing. Its harder to hate people when you are up close to them.

The changes were made when Speaker Gingrich started in 1995. He wanted everyone to go back and spend more time at home, and get closer to their district. To get better known there. I would maintain, and I have had one of my interns look back at the days at home, and I would say that we are not spending any more time at home than we used to spend. In fact, we are just spending more time traveling.

I propose that we give back some of that time. Basically, cut the travel time and give that time back. We can give it back to ourselves, where we think we need it. Whether it is in Washington as it might be in the first year of a session. Or back in the district when you are campaigning in the off years. The calendars that I will submit separately to you, respects all of the holidays: Christian, Jewish, Federal, Father's Day, Mother's Day, everything gets respected in there.

I want to reflect on some of the potential benefits that would then work for all of us. We would have more productive work weeks in Washington, longer periods of time consecutively at home, and up here. Stronger social ties among the Members and I think we would recognize substantial savings in terms of money as well as time. This is just an idea for how we can condense the time here and condense the time back at home and you can shift it anyway you want. This is a very malleable schedule, and I will submit the calendars for the record. Thank you very much.