

Chairman Howard L. Berman
Testimony before the Committee on House Administration
January 27, 2010

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Committee on Foreign Affairs use of funds during the 1st session of the 111th Congress. In that 1st session, the Committee was allocated a total budget of \$9,243,406, which represented an increase of 4.78 percent over the previous year.

Consistent with past Committee practice, including when Republicans were in the majority, 12% of the total budget was set aside for administrative expenses for both majority and minority offices. The remaining 88% was allocated to staff salaries, of which the majority received 66.6% and the minority 33.3%.

Over the past year the majority has experienced some gaps in staffing as a result of staff leaving to work in the Executive Branch and the private sector, particularly among our senior staff. However, as of today, the majority is almost fully staffed and we expect to be 100% staffed in the near future, and for the remainder of the 111th Congress.

As of January 21, 2010, the Committee had a budget surplus of \$655,668. That figure does not reflect approximately \$32,000 of information technology equipment purchased for the minority and majority offices. After these payments are processed, our final year-end surplus should be approximately \$623,668.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I believe that we have been responsible stewards of taxpayer funds, and that we have treated the minority in a fair and balanced manner on matters related to the Committee budget. I would be happy to answer any questions.