

CALLING FOR INVESTIGATION OF
THE FOREIGN CONTRACT LOOP-
HOLE REGARDING FRAUD

(Mr. WELCH of Vermont asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, there's a new regulation that was in the process of being promulgated that did a practical and sensible thing for taxpayers: it required contractors who receive over \$5 million of taxpayer money to report fraud when they are aware it happened.

At the last minute, there was an exemption that was put in so that foreign contracts were not subject to taxpayer protection. That makes no sense and flies in the face of reason.

By exempting overseas contracts, and this is Iraq and Afghanistan particularly, the Bush administration is sending an unambiguous message: it's okay to rip off taxpayers when you spend money abroad; just don't do it at home.

Not only must we stop this reckless rule, but we must have answers: What was the rationale for the loophole? How did the loophole get slipped into the proposed rule? And who advocated for it?

Through a thorough investigation, we will stop this rule and get some answers.

THE SAVE ACT

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to one issue that I believe we all agree on, and that is the safety and security of American citizens.

Our Nation's borders are our first line of defense. The first step in any immigration plan is to provide for a secure and impenetrable border.

I have introduced a discharge petition on Representative HEATH SHULER's bill, the SAVE Act, which provides a clear, three-point plan to get tough on illegal immigration. The plan is simple:

Increased secured security along our borders, mandatory worksite enforcement, and greater interior enforcement.

This issue deserves debate, and I am proud to reach across the aisle to work with Mr. SHULER on this bipartisan bill. I urge all of my colleagues to join me and Mr. SHULER and sign this bipartisan petition before you leave today.

It's time to demonstrate that Congress is serious about illegal immigration. The American people expect and deserve our quick and complete attention to securing our borders and protecting our Nation.

□ 1015

THE TOOLS ARE IN PLACE TO
PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the White House and congressional Republicans continue to play games with our Nation's national security. Rather than working with us to modernize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Republicans insist that this House simply rubber-stamp a bill that passed the Senate earlier this year.

House Democrats refuse to do that. Instead, just as we did last November, we will bring a balanced bill to the floor today that gives our intelligence community the tools it needs to track terrorists and prevent another attack while also protecting the constitutional rights of innocent Americans.

We believe this approach produces the best results for our intelligence community, and that is why we refuse to simply rubber-stamp the Senate bill.

Mr. Speaker, when House Republicans allowed the President's Protect America Act to expire last month, they did so knowing that all of the authorities granted the intelligence community in that act would be in place until this summer. We had time to get this legislation right, and today we intend to pass a strong compromise bill that should garner support on both sides of the aisle.

SAVE ACT

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, when a dam breaks, the first action you must take is to stop the flow, to plug the hole. And the same rule applies to illegal immigration.

There are as many as 15 to 20 million illegal aliens in this country today, and we realize the dam is broken. To fix it, we have got to start with border security and enforcement first.

The SAVE Act, which helps fix the dam by hiring 8,000 more border guards and using military equipment for border security, is a good bill. By strengthening workplace enforcement, it dries up easy access to American jobs and stems the tide of illegal immigration.

Despite broad bipartisan support, and even a Democrat sponsor of this bill, the liberal leadership of this House won't bring this up for a vote because they prefer amnesty and government tax dollar giveaways, not real border security.

I ask them to stop playing political games with our immigration policy and with our national security and bring this bill up for a vote.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call

up House Resolution 1041 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1041

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3773) to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI, a motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

SEC. 2. During consideration of the motion to concur pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the motion to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAS-TOR). The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1041 provides for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 3773, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee to concur in the Senate amendment with the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way on the crucial issues of intelligence-gathering. I commend Chairmen CONYERS and REYES for their diligence in providing much-needed attention in evaluation of FISA, while ensuring that we provide our Nation's intelligence community with the necessary tools and resources to prevent a future terrorist attack on our Nation.