

We believe in fighting for economic justice and security in the United States and global economies. We also believe in protecting and preserving civil rights and civil liberties. We also believe in promoting global peace and security. These are some of the essential core beliefs of the Progressive Caucus, and you can count on us to come, week in, week out, with the progressive message to talk about how these critical values impact you.

Tonight we have spent time, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE and Congressman RAÚL GRIJALVA, talking about the imperial presidency that we have just seen ushered out of the door. We have seen a 500-page report, this big, thick, giant, humongous, enormous report full of facts and information in detail about allegations that the Bush administration may have overstepped its constitutional bounds. We believe this needs to be looked into. We believe the groundwork has been laid for an inquiry for a blue ribbon panel.

The vehicle, we believe, that should be used to get to the bottom, to get to the truth, is H.R. 104. H.R. 104, which Members and their community can look it up and read it, but what it would tell you if you looked it up is it would contain 47 separate recommendations designed to restore our Constitution's traditional system of checks and balances.

Chief among the recommendations are, one, continuation of congressional oversight; two, independent probes by the Justice Department; three, creation of a blue ribbon commission to fully investigate the activities; and they go on and on and on. You can look up the report online. It's there for you to look at it, at judiciary.house.gov/hearings/printers/110th. You can look it up that way.

Finally, we want to look into and don't want the American people to forget that our constitutional system is delicate. It must be maintained. It is a three-part system of checks and balances, executive, judiciary and legislative. The legislative branch is the first one mentioned in the Constitution.

We are a coequal branch of government. We don't work for the President, not the President we just got, Barack Obama, although we support him and wish him well. He is not our boss. The people are our boss. Also, we don't work for the President. We have a duty and an obligation to provide oversight to the executive.

We need to get to the bottom of allegations of torture and inhumane treatment, extraordinary rendition, warrantless domestic surveillance, the U.S. Attorney General scandal, a contrived drive to go to war with Iraq, signing statements to override laws of the land, intimidation and silencing of critics. We need to get into what happened with Valerie Plame. Why didn't Rove, Bolton and Myers show up to the Judiciary hearing after they were duly served? These are issues the American

people have a right to know, and we intend to get to the bottom of it.

This is going to conclude the Progressive Message. Mr. Speaker, it has been a wonderful hearing.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BOUCHER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and January 22 on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. LUMMIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, January 27 and 28.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHOCK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, January 27 and 28.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MASSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Thursday, January 22, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

177. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a document entitled, "Gasoline Savings From Ethanol Use by State"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

178. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Global Security Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's fiscal year 2008 report on the Regional Defense

Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2249c; to the Committee on Armed Services.

179. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [44 CFR Part 67] received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

180. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Minimum Capital Ratios; Capital Adequacy Guidelines; Capital Maintenance; Capital; Deduction of Goodwill Net of Associated Deferred Tax Liability [Docket No.: OTS-2008-0019] (RX: 1550-AC22) received January 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

181. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Teaching American History Grant Program Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.215X. — received January 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

182. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's intent to sign a Project Agreement concerning the Development of Advanced Non-Acoustic Sensing Technologies under the Agreement between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for Technology Research and Development Projects, Transmittal No. 22-08, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

183. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's intent to sign a Project Agreement concerning the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle under the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Australia concerning Cooperation on Land Force Capability Modernization, Transmittal No. 18-08, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

184. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's intent to sign a Project Agreement concerning the C-130J Block 7 and 8.1 Upgrade among Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, Transmittal No. 21-08, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

185. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Cote d'Ivoire that was declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

186. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national