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No. 16

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 27, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON-LEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

### TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND M. FITZGERALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I come to the well and before my colleagues to remember one of my employees who was with me for 5 years and a true Chicago South Sider, an individual who worked diligently here in the Washington, D.C. community for many, many years, Ray Fitzgerald.

Ray was my legislative director for 5 years. Before that, he worked for the State of Illinois in Gov. Jim Edgar's administration. He then moved to the

Science Committee for 1 year, and then came to my office.

Ray, during his time here, met the love of his life, Kristin Wolgemuth, who also was a Congressional staffer and also from Chicago, and who had worked for Harris Fawell, a Congressman and Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT from the Chicagoland area. They fell in love, got married, and then were able to enjoy D.C. and the community and work hard for this country. They have three children; Nora, 7, Maggie, 4, and Lucy, 2. Ray was a devout Roman Catholic, and Ray was able to live his faith, along with his wife, Kristin, and affect many lives positively.

Ray just last week lost his life in a terrible battle with cancer. Many of us from around the country attended his funeral yesterday in Chicago and the wake the night before. The wake was as large as you would expect when you have a loved one who has left you. Of course, the funeral was just as large, and I appreciated the funeral service focusing on the hope of salvation to those who believe, and remembering Ray's life.

But the thing that highlighted Ray's service here in Washington and the respect he garnered was his honesty, his transparency, the friendships that he developed and his work effort. Many people from the Washington, D.C. area went out for the wake and for the funeral yesterday, and we will pass the word out to the Washington, D.C. community about a memorial service that will be conducted here in Washington in the weeks to come. Kristin and the girls are coming out, along with Ray's mother and other family members and friends.

What was as important in this fight with cancer was the ministry that Kristin and Ray did as they struggled with what is God's will. Many times we pray for God's will to be done, hoping that it is the answer to our desires and aspirations and prayers. God's will in

this case was not for Ray to stay here on Earth, but to take him up in His loving arms with Him in Heaven and thus be truly healed.

This battle that was waged joined numerous people from across the country as Kristin was faithful in providing us the highs and the lows of the battles; the times when they were able to take the girls out to parks and to zoos and the times the family was very hopeful, but also times when Ray was really physically just struggling. She continued to ask for prayer and support and focus on her husband, her family and that loving environment.

One of the last e-mails I sent to them was talking about how they were able to comply with God's will. I really hated when Ray left Washington, D.C. He was a trusted confidant and a good friend. But, in hindsight, I see how God was preparing for his departure to get him in and around his family. He has five sisters. His mother is still there. Kristin has an extended family in that area. They were there to lift Ray, Kristin and the girls up and provide the love and care that they needed in this battle, and they will be there for the duration of strengthening the family and helping Kristin raise these three young girls.

I would like to share one of the last e-mails that Kristin sent to us as a whole on the announcement of her husband's death.

She writes, "Loved ones, oh to never have to write this e-mail. After meeting with all of Ray's doctors yesterday and today it is clear that they have done all they can do to fight his cancer."

"Despite the many rounds of chemo, the cancer is growing and getting stronger and Ray is much too weak to endure another round of chemo. Even if he weren't so sick, Ray's liver status renders chemo dangerous and ineffective."

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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In this, she is talking about putting him into hospice, and Ray died shortly after that.

Now, think of a young wife and mother of three children, ages 7, 4 and 2, to be so strong in faith. She always would end her e-mails with the phrase "not afraid and not alone," and this is in the 10 month battle with cancer. "Not afraid and not alone." In the funeral yesterday, I thought I heard Kristin say many people attributed that to her. She attributed it to her husband.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATIE STAM, MISS AMERICA 2009, AND RYAN GUTHRIE, CHIEF OF STAFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE STAM, MISS AMERICA 2009

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise for two reasons this morning, on this snowy day in Washington, DC.

Number one is to congratulate Katie Stam, who is the new Miss America, who won her crown last Saturday in Las Vegas. Katie is from my hometown of Seymour, Indiana, and we could not be more proud of Katie and her accomplishments, more than ever before. This is a real tribute to her. She is a talented young lady. I know her personally. I had the opportunity to speak with her on Sunday to congratulate her on her accomplishments. She is a great singer and a beautiful woman.

She is also a friend of the family. She and my youngest daughter, Libby, know each other very well, and we all speak very highly of Katie. I know for certain that she is going to represent not only Seymour, not only Indiana, but the entire United States of America as America's not only beautiful person outside, but beautiful person inside as well.

We are immensely proud of Katie. I know her family very well. They are great people. It is just a proud moment for all of us to stand here in the well of the House today to congratulate Katie on all of her accomplishments that she has done.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN GUTHRIE, CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, the second reason that I rise here this morning is to honor my Chief of Staff, Ryan Guthrie, who is moving on to bigger and better things.

Ryan Guthrie has been with me since day one, when I began the campaign for Congress back in 1998. He is a graduate of Indiana University. He is also from Seymour, Indiana, my hometown. He has been with me from the get-go.

Madam Speaker, in this business of politics you get to a point where you have to depend reliably on people that you trust, and I can't think of anybody that I trust more than Ryan Guthrie. He has been a stalwart companion of mine. He has been there with me from day one. He has been through the battles. He has been through the victories and through the defeats. We have

laughed and cried together, and I am going to miss him very much, but I wish him well.

#### NEW LEGISLATIVE PROCESS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, we are hearing a lot here on Capitol Hill about Otto von Bismarck's old sausage metaphor, that one doesn't want to watch either sausage or legislation being made. Well, for too long, Madam Speaker, the legislative process in this House was a scene right out of Upton Sinclair's graphic novel, "The Jungle."

But currently with a new Congress and new Administration I would say that it has been a breath of fresh air watching this legislative process. It has been open. The ingredients have been great. The legislative leadership, the new President and his administrative team, have been involved, talking with people in both parties, in both chambers, and we are moving towards a package that I think people ought to embrace enthusiastically.

The economic stimulus is moving into stage II, almost the home stretch. We are putting down positions, principles and guidelines. Any timetable at this juncture is perhaps artificial in nature. The target figure of \$825 billion or \$800 billion or \$850 billion is a little arbitrary and subject to amendment, to adjustment. Such parameters are useful, maybe necessary. They are not set in stone, and it is necessary that we do this right. What we can agree upon is to make the economic impact as soon as possible while we help rebuild and renew America to make it better.

I am concerned as the process moves forward, particularly as it relates to the infrastructure portion, that we make sure that the money gets to where it needs to go.

□ 1045

Primarily, I want to make sure that our metropolitan areas around the country are not shortchanged.

The last Surface Transportation Act was held up for 2 years because people were arguing about whether States got an allocation that was fair enough. But the greatest disparity for transportation funding in this country was between metropolitan areas, which seldom got their fair share: 78 cents on the dollar in Dallas, southern California shortchanged by over \$1 billion.

One of the things we ought to do now, in this package while it's still in the formative stage, is to make sure that we use the existing STP allocation for all funds, not just part of the transportation funding. This formula would guarantee that metropolitan areas get their fair share and not concentrate money unduly in State departments of transportation.

The second suggestion I would make is that we not use a lot of onerous paperwork to make sure that people are complying with the use-it-or-lose-it provisions.

We have very powerful compliance tools. We could simply make modest reductions in future revenue streams for people that don't make their target—hold them accountable, get the spending, and be able to protect the Treasury.

Third, we ought to consider having local incentives for people that are actually going to reach in and put more of their own money into projects, being able to provide some modest incentive so that we reward and not penalize those who will get more money into the economy faster.

Last, we ought to assure that States put the money where it can be spent. For example, if the State of New York has areas that can't take advantage of their allocation in time, but there are areas that can, we encourage the shift. The City of New York has almost \$2 billion worth of projects that could meet that 2010 guideline. We ought to put language into this bill that encourages States to reallocate to areas that can use it, not risk losing it.

We ought to make sure that we don't shortchange transit investments. I think we ought to go back to the marker laid down by Chairman OBERSTAR last December, of \$12 billion; that ought to be a recommendation as a floor for transit. This would assure that we are able to make investments in these transportation activities that actually create more jobs than other types of transportation investments. Transit is very job intensive.

A perfect example is a project we have in Portland, Oregon, where we have had stuck in the Department of Transportation a "small-start" streetcar expansion project for months. It meets all the statutory criteria, but the Bush Department of Transportation and their FTA and OMB could not figure out how to allocate the money. They couldn't even issue "small start" administrative rules that complied with the statute.

This is an opportunity to be able to jump start something that would not only be millions of local dollars for the transit project, but it would incent millions more for related development along the alignment. And it's not just Portland, Oregon; it's Tucson, it's Seattle. We have a chance to jump start a new American industry for streetcars for the 80 communities around America who want to move in this direction, even manufacturing streetcars in America for the first time in two-thirds of a century.

I urge we move in a positive way. Support transit, support our metropolitan areas, get our economy moving while we revitalize our communities.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair