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House of Representatives

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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 COMING FINANCIAL STORM: BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE URGENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I know it sometimes takes a crisis to move Congress to action. We are in financial crisis mode today, and while there never is a convenient time to make hard decisions, the longer we wait, the more dramatic the required remedy will be.

Americans everywhere understand that we are in trouble. When you wrap your head around the following facts and figures, it's stomach-turning that things have gotten this bad—over \$56 trillion in unfunded obligation through Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; the national debt nearing \$11 trillion; and China, which violates human rights and has Catholic priests and evangelical pastors in jail, and has plundered Tibet, now holds the paper on 1 out of every 10 American dollars.

David Walker, former U.S. Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office, has said that the sum of these statistics equals storm off our coast that is strong enough to "swamp our ship of State."

The narrative that accompanies the staggering statistics, I believe, is even more compelling. Entitlement spending is squeezing the life out of every discretionary dollar this committee appropriates: Math and science initiatives, so that our children receive the education that will enable them to compete in the global economy; med-

ical research initiatives that will help us find the cure for cancer, autism, and Alzheimer's; infrastructure projects to build safe roads and bridges. All are at risk if Congress continues to keep its head in the sand while the financial tsunami moves closer to shore.

In recent weeks, the Congressional Budget Office has projected that the Federal budget deficit will balloon to \$1.2 trillion this fiscal year alone. That doesn't include the \$800 billion economic stimulus package recently passed by the House, a package which I believe represents a missed opportunity for Congress to address the Nation's financial future in a truly bipartisan manner.

Congressman COOPER and I have been speaking out about the dangers of runaway spending and the need for lawmakers to come together to tackle this issue. We joined together to introduce bipartisan legislation in the last Congress to create a commission to review Federal spending, with everything—entitlement and tax policy—on the table.

The SAFE Commission, short for Securing America's Future Economy, will look beyond the Beltway for solutions, holding at least 12 town meetings, one in each of the Federal Reserve districts, over a span of 12 months, in order to hear directly from the American people. After having a supermajority of the commission's members in agreement on the package of recommendations, the House would vote up or down on the commission's recommendations. Modeled after the Base Closing Commission process, Congress would be forced to act.

I offered the SAFE Commission as an amendment to the House-passed stimulus when it came through the Appropriations Committee and, because it failed more in the process rather than the substance, I also submitted it to the Rules Committee, the ability to offer the amendment, and I was disappointed that the Rules Committee

denied full debate on this measure, which is a bipartisan measure which would have given every single Member of the House who understands the dangers of runaway entitlement spending the chance to be on the record on this issue.

You may ask why Congress would need a commission with teeth to deliver its responsibilities. Quite frankly, I worry that the Congress is not up to the job, and we will allow our children and our grandchildren to languish in a political divide. The SAFE Commission process gives us the necessary push to get the job done.

One of the most compelling statements I have read about our current state of affairs comes from an unlikely source. Richard Fisher, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, has called our situation "catastrophic," noting that, "doing deficit math is always a sobering exercise." He said, "It becomes an outright painful one when you apply your calculator to the long-run fiscal challenge posed by entitlement programs."

It's out of the ordinary for the Federal Reserve to publicly express an opinion on fiscal policy matters, but these are not ordinary times.

In closing, make no mistake. This could well be the hardest economic issue our Nation will ever be faced with. But we cannot afford to wait to act. The futures of our children and our grandchildren hang in the balance. This is an economic, it is a moral, and a generational issue, and I believe Congress, this Congress has the ability to come together and do what the American people want us to do. If we do not do it, if we do not do it, history will judge the 111th Congress in a very harsh manner.

□ 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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ECONOMIC STIMULUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, President Obama said from the outset that we need a bipartisan plan that creates jobs first and foremost. House Republicans are prepared to work with our new President on a plan that does just that. Why? Because Americans are looking for real solutions to the legitimate economic problems facing families and small businesses around our country.

Americans like Dan, a constituent of mine, who worked for 30 years for a company in my district. He was laid off last month when his company downsized. His wife e-mailed me recently saying, and I will quote, "We struggle, but we manage to pay our mortgage, not spend more than we have, and we have learned to cut back. Please stop the insanity of more taxpayers' money going out in the 'stimulus' handouts."

This is the first time that this couple has contacted my office. They didn't contact me because of the burdens they are facing. They contacted me because of the burdens this trillion dollar-plan will place on future generations. This couple has two college-age sons, both who were aspiring to have advanced degrees. In addition to the debt they will incur for their education, she's very concerned about the debt their sons will have to shoulder as a result of our actions.

Madam Speaker, there are men and women like this couple all across our country who deserve better than this \$1 trillion handout. It creates too few jobs, piles too much debt on our children and grandchildren, and includes too much wasteful spending.

In short, I don't believe that it meets President Obama's standard, a standard where he wants to preserve and create new jobs in America, as do Republicans here in this Congress.

My colleagues and I, I think, are offering a better solution—an economic recovery plan that will create twice as many jobs as the plan proposed by the House Democrats last week, in half the time and at half the cost. This fast-acting tax relief lets families, small businesses, homebuyers, and job seekers keep more of what they earn and, in fact, does create twice as many jobs.

After Wednesday's vote, President Obama said, "I hope that we can continue to strengthen this plan before it gets to my desk." Well, on behalf of the couple that contacted me in my district, and millions of other Americans, let's hope that the Senate can do a better job and, when we get to conference, have a bill that really will help American families and small businesses create new jobs in America and heal our ailing economy.

A REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVE

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

Mr. PENCE. Our Nation is in a recession, and millions of Americans are hurting. Many have lost their jobs. Many more millions worry that they will be next. It is absolutely right that our new President and this Congress take decisive action to stimulate this economy. But the legislation brought to the floor last week and the legislation being considered on the Senate floor this week in the form of the Democrat stimulus bill is not the answer.

Last week, House Republicans unanimously rejected the so-called stimulus bill that was brought to the floor by Democratic leadership, and we urge our Senate colleagues to do likewise. House Republicans unanimously opposed the Democrat spending bill for a variety of reasons. But, among them first, the bill that Democrats brought to the House was not about stimulating this economy, but more about stimulating government and debt.

It included wasteful government spending that has nothing to do with creating jobs. As I asked on this floor last week, what does \$50 million to the National Endowment for the Arts have to do with creating jobs in Indiana? What is \$400 million for climate change research going to do to move people from the unemployment line to the factory line?

In legislation before the Senate this week, \$20 million for the removal of small- to medium-sized fish passage barriers; or \$25 million to rehabilitate off-roading trails for ATVs is not going to put this economy back on track. And it was exactly that kind of wasteful government spending that resulted in unanimous Republican opposition last week.

Well, the average American is starting to catch on. We are starting to see support for this so-called stimulus bill eroding around the country. And leading economists are catching on as well. As the Republican leader just said moments ago, we opposed this bill unanimously, not just for what was in it, but for what wasn't in it.

The Republicans have what we believe to be and what history proves is a better solution to get this economy moving again. Republicans proposed a broad range of fast-acting tax relief proposals that would bring immediate relief to working families and small businesses, giving the American people and American families more of their hard-earned dollars to get this economy moving again.

The bill that House Democrats brought to the floor last week was not then about stimulating the economy. Under the guise of stimulus, House Democrats brought a partisan bill to the floor. It was really more of a wish list of longstanding liberal priorities that have little to do with putting our economy back on its feet.

Now, having originally promised that a stimulus bill would be temporary and

targeted, House Democrats brought to the floor this week, and the Senate is considering now, legislation that is more about, as the Speaker said, and I quote her with great respect, "taking America in a new direction."

Well, respectfully, Madam Speaker, I thought what we were doing was trying to pass a temporary stimulus bill that would create jobs, not reorder all the priorities of the Federal Government along liberal Democratic lines.

The truth be told, not only are the American people catching on about this bill, but many leading economists are. Some 300 economists recently published a full-page newspaper advertisement opposing this bill. Conservative economist Martin Feldstein, who last year declared his support for a fiscal stimulus bill, came out late last week describing the legislation that came before the House as "an \$800 billion mistake."

Feldstein wrote, I believe in the Washington Post, "The problem with the current stimulus bill is not that it is too big, but that it delivers too little extra employment and income for such a large fiscal deficit. It is worth taking the time to get it right."

House Republicans, leading economists, and average Americans are opposing this so-called stimulus bill for one reason, and one reason only. It won't work. And it's a disservice to taxpayers.

More big government spending on a liberal wish list of programs won't cure what ails the American economy. And House Republicans do have a better solution—fast-acting tax relief for working families and small businesses. And, according to analysis and economic models used by President Obama's own economic advisors, when those models are applied to our plan, the results are clear—not the 2 million to 3 million jobs that the Democrat plan boasts that it will create in the next several years. Rather, 6 million jobs would be created under the Republican proposal, at half the cost. Twice the number of jobs at half the cost.

Better solutions. Let's put politics aside and do what is best for the American people.

 STIMULATING THE NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I want to thank my colleagues for the great information that they have shared today and how they have laid out the issue that we're dealing with, but I want to add some more to that.

Yesterday, the Treasury Department announced that it will need to borrow \$493 billion in the first 3 months of 2009, the highest amount ever borrowed in the first quarter. This is on top of the record debt racked up in the last

quarter of 2008—\$569 billion. It is important to emphasize here that the only money the Federal Government has is that which it takes from tax-paying citizens or borrows from foreign countries. We have never in the history of our Nation taken on this much debt this quickly. For those keeping track at home, that's \$1.062 trillion in 6 months. Did I mention that this is more than \$1 trillion in new debt in a mere 6 months does not include the so-called "stimulus" plan, which now costs \$900 billion? Folks, the Federal Government is broke. Every single dollar of new spending is added to our national debt. And how do we pay back this debt? That's easy. New taxes. Higher taxes.

In the meantime, we keep hearing how this borrow-and-spend stimulus plan is going to quickly create jobs. How does upgrading the Department of Agriculture's computers create jobs quickly? Or \$650 million for DTV coupons, or a billion for Census follow-up in 2010 or \$7 billion for a GSA fund that is already running a surplus?

Well, this kind of spending doesn't create jobs. It creates debt. It has no business in legislation billed as "job creating." Some of this spending may actually have merit, but it belongs in the budget process, not tacked onto a must-pass bill because it couldn't stand a chance in the actual budget.

This kind of back-room deal-making and wasteful spending is just the kind of Washington business-as-usual that Americans are tired of. If we are going to have an economic recovery package, let's do it right.

Despite our colleagues on the other side of the aisle saying we do not have a plan, Republicans have proposed a package of tax relief and unemployment assistance that will create twice the jobs at half the cost. Let me repeat that. The Republican proposal creates twice the jobs at half the cost. And the GOP plan addresses the underlying cause of our economic distress in the U.S. housing market.

I want to thank my colleague from Virginia, ERIC CANTOR, for helping to spearhead this plan and for setting up a helpful Web site that discusses the Republican economic recovery plan at republicanwhip.house.gov. This plan will help small businesses start hiring and will get the housing market moving again. And it acknowledges that every dollar the government borrows today must be paid back by our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren tomorrow.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, may the gifts of Your Presence, unity and peace, inspire aspirations of greatness in the people of the United States and in their representatives serving here in the 111th Congress.

With a great diversity of backgrounds and opinions, while facing wedge issues that so easily divide people, encourage all Americans to work hard at understanding complex problems with depth and clarity of thinking. Teach them to be patient and persevering in their relationships with others, and help them to transcend differences by praying for one another.

Then, both in dialogue and debate, develop within Your people better skills of listening. I am sure even You, Lord, would prefer us to simply say, "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening," rather than go on and on with our complaints and petitions. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, this week we have yet another opportunity to ensure that every child in America has access to health care. And during these tough economic times, it is even more critical that we move quickly and send the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act to President Obama for his signature.

In my State of North Carolina, there are about 240,000 children enrolled in the program. But we still have an estimated 296,000 children who lack health insurance. By passing this bill, Madam

Speaker, we can reduce that number by 46 percent. Our children need health insurance now.

I hope you will join me in approving this important bill this week when it comes to the floor.

BAILOUT BONUS BANDITS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, more fallout continues from the bailout. Congress gave the people's money to AIG last year in the amount of \$152 billion. AIG has decided to spend \$400 million on bonuses for 400 executives. That sounds like about \$1 million per executive to me.

But they aren't alone. The Wall Street fat cats demanded and received \$350 billion in bailout money, and gave \$18 billion to their big-shot executives. Do you know that those are the same executives that helped get us in this current economic mess? It looks like they are being rewarded for bad conduct.

But the real problem is the bonus money doesn't belong to AIG or the "Wall Street Banking Boys Gang." It's one thing for a free market, private company to spend their money any way they choose. That's capitalism. But the free enterprise system was altered when those companies started demanding and taking taxpayers' money. Most normal citizens who are scraping to make ends meet, like the Joe Sixpacks in America, don't like the way the bailout bandits are spending and wasting their taxpayer money.

Madam Speaker, when Big Business gets in bed with Big Government, in the morning, the government mistress will tell Big Business how to spend the money.

And that's just the way it is.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. There's talk now that the banks will receive an additional \$1 to \$2 trillion in bailout funds. That would bring the total amount to \$2.7 trillion, which equates to about a little bit more or less than \$9,000 per person. I want you to think about that in terms of the fact that there are 50 million Americans without any health insurance and another 50 million who are underinsured. Health care for the American people should be a defining purpose of our government. And yet, we are giving money to these corporations and these banks who won't create jobs, who won't save homes and who will hoard the money.

It's time that we had a universal health care system such as is provided in H.R. 676, the bill that I'm cosponsoring with JOHN CONYERS, that once and for all says that the health of the

American people is a defining purpose of government.

We have to start thinking about the American people. They need a bailout. They need to be bailed out of their difficulties with insurance companies. They need to have a job. They need pension security. It is time to stand up for the people and stop these bailouts.

THE VETERANS' HERITAGE FIREARMS ACT

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

Mr. REHBERG. During World War II and the Korean War, veterans serving overseas often brought back firearms collected on the battlefield. These were trophies of their service, not tools for criminal activity. And yet, after fighting for the preservation of our freedom, a badly written law has made criminals out of American heroes. Unless weapons have been registered with the Federal Government, the veteran, or their heir, can be convicted of illegally possessing the firearm.

This is an offense of justice. That is why I have introduced the Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act, which provides a limited amnesty for veterans who possess these relics to register their firearms without fear of prosecution. This amnesty also extends to any lawful heirs who inherited these weapons.

It's time to stop treating our veterans like criminals. It's time to start treating them like the heroes that they are.

A DREAM TURNS INTO A NIGHTMARE

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, last week I received an e-mail from a constituent, Lori Adams, who runs the Silver Lake Country Market in Perry, New York. Her e-mail reads, "I thought owning a business would be a dream, but it feels more like a nightmare. I keep thinking we are gaining ground only to slide back. I've had to make tough choices to stay open. When I hear about the stimulus and the bailouts for people who made bad choices, I feel even more defeated. When is Washington going to realize it's the small businesses that are on the front-line of this crisis?"

This is an example of the countless messages I have received over the past weeks from families and small business owners struggling to survive and outraged by how Washington continues to spend their money without restraint. For every dollar this so-called "stimulus" devotes to tax relief for small businesses, Washington gets to keep \$6 to create new government programs.

We need a timely, fiscally responsible plan that helps small businesses innovate, creates good paying jobs and grows the economy for our families,

not adding to an already bloated Federal Government.

LET'S SUPPORT THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday I spoke to some small business owners in South Carolina, including Betty Jackson at The Sunset Grill in West Columbia. They are concerned with the billions in spending some in Congress are proposing. They also know that we need to take action and create jobs. I was grateful to tell them that big spending is not the only solution. There are fiscally responsible solutions that put more money back into the pockets of taxpayers, help American businesses create jobs and help boost our housing market.

Congress does not have to choose between a big spending agenda and no action. We can create jobs while holding the line on spending. We can help small businesses without expanding government.

Our constituents go to work every day to make our communities wonderful places to live and to raise families. We must not forget, when we talk about billions of dollars in spending, that this is the taxpayers' money and not the government's money.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

SENATE COMPOUNDS WASTEFUL SPENDING

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is important that we continue to help the American people understand what is in this so-called "stimulus bill." The bill passed last week, but in addition to every Republican voting "no," there were 11 brave Democrats who also voted "no." That has not been told much on the news.

Here are some more facts about how the Senate, which is now debating the bill, has made this awful bill even worse. When the public knows the facts, it then can react and tell its Members what they should and shouldn't do. The Senate added \$88 million for ATV trails, park trails, fish and wildlife trails and fish passages. There is \$524 million to create 388 jobs in the United States through the State Department Capital Investment Fund. This equals \$1.35 million per job created. There is \$696 million for the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation, \$70 million for a support computer for climate research, \$34 million of renovations at the Department of Commerce and \$20 million for IT improvements to the Bu-

reau of Industry and Security. The American people are angry, and they should be.

□ 1415

WHERE DO WE BORROW IT FROM?

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, when we speak of running up \$2 trillion of debt to pay for this year of unprecedented spending, where does that money come from? We don't have it, so we borrow it. Where do we borrow it from? We'll borrow that \$2 trillion from the same pool of funds that would otherwise have been available for employers seeking to add jobs, or homebuyers seeking to buy homes or consumers seeking to buy new cars and appliances. But now that money won't be there for consumers or homebuyers or employers to borrow to expand the economy because government has borrowed it instead to increase government programs like the National Endowment for the Arts.

Madam Speaker, when are we going to stop hurting the economy and start helping it?

SO-CALLED ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, some people look at the huge, so-called economic stimulus bill and think it's a Christmas present. But the Federal Government is not Santa Claus. Elves are not producing this money. This money isn't free, and the American people will get the bill.

The \$1 trillion in spending and interest equals more than \$9,000 for every taxpayer. And the unprecedented deficit will inevitably hike inflation and damage the economy.

Only \$90 billion, or 12 percent of this spending spree, will stimulate the immediate creation of jobs which are needed now. Most of the spending doesn't occur for 2, 3 or 4 years.

It would be far more effective to provide tax incentives and investment credits to the small businesses of America that already create 70 percent of all the jobs.

FISCAL CONSERVATIVES

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, fiscal conservatives may be outnumbered today in the Congress of the United States, but we take our obligation to lead very seriously. We understand, with common sense, that each one of us as Americans are endowed

with, that this spending spree the liberal majority has engaged in is a lot like attempting to run up your MasterCard to pay off your mortgage. All this money that's being spent so rapidly by this liberal majority is coming out of our grandchildren and great-grandchildren's pockets. It's all borrowed money.

The bond market has never seen this much money come on to be sold at one time. There may be as much as the \$3 trillion in debt sold over a 30-day period.

We fiscal conservatives have laid out a commonsense alternative of immediate tax cuts. What better way to stimulate the economy and get the job market growing again and to put money in people's pockets and let them keep the money to begin with?

We support and have endorsed Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT's idea of a 2-month tax holiday. Rather than spend all this money, why don't we let people keep it, not pay any income tax for a 2-month period, that they can spend that money as they wish, invest it, save it. That's the way to grow jobs in America right away.

CONGRESS CAN AND MUST DO BETTER

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, you know, last week our Democrat leadership in this House passed their \$1 trillion spending bill, and now we will see what our colleagues across the hall in the Senate are planning to do with that.

But, Madam Speaker, I think it's important to note, we Republicans know that excessive spending is not stimulus. And last week's bill was a spending bill. We know that the permanent way to work through to stimulus is to have it targeted, to have it temporary, to have it focused and to make certain that it is there to give jobs. We know the best way to do this is through tax incentives, tax reductions, regulatory relief, making certain that the private sector can create the jobs, because there is no economic stimulus that is better than a job. That is the best way to do this.

Now, also, Madam Speaker, the Democrat leadership in this House has seen us with a \$1.2 trillion deficit for this fiscal year in 2008. That's the spending they did in 2008. I mean, swiping those numbers off the credit card. They are at it again with another \$1.2 trillion, adding that to our national debt.

It is time for everyone to stand up and oppose the Democrat stimulus bill.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair

announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mr. HINCHAY, New York
Mr. HILL, Indiana
Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, California
Mr. CUMMINGS, Maryland
Mr. SNYDER, Arkansas
Mr. PAUL, Texas
Mr. BURGESS, Texas
Mr. CAMPBELL, California

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, 111th Congress, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming:

Mr. BLUMENAUER, Oregon
Mr. INSLEE, Washington
Mr. LARSON, Connecticut
Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, South Dakota
Mr. CLEAVER, Missouri
Mr. HALL, New York
Mr. SALAZAR, Colorado
Ms. SPEIER, California

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

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

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my frustration, and that of my constituents, over the irresponsible and reprehensible actions of some of those very financial services corporations that you and I and every American taxpayer have helped financially over the last few months.

In October 2008 we heard about AIG's corporate retreat, complete with manicures and lavish meals. Last week we got news that Wall Street handed out \$18 billion in bonuses. And just this weekend, Bank of America spent \$800,000 on tents for their Super Bowl party.

I could go on and on. The American people deserve better. We must demand better.

That's why as chairman of the House Financial Services Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, I will be demanding greater oversight and accountability for companies receiving taxpayer funds and working in a bipartisan way to develop a structure that will regulate and supervise financial institutions and transactions.

I've also spoken to my distinguished colleague from Missouri, Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL, who filed the original bill in the Senate and who shares my frustration. She's been a strong advocate for greater accountability and transparency, and I am proud to join with her to promote legislation to help address these abuses by financial services corporations receiving TARP funds.

Tomorrow I will introduce the Executive Pay Act, which would ensure that no employee of a financial institution or other entity that receives funds under TARP may receive annual compensation including bonuses and stock options in excess of that paid to the President of the United States.

I think we need to move together here to restore the confidence of the American people in what we are trying to do to save our economy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CAMPUS SAFETY ACT OF 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 748) to establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 748

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Center to Advance, Monitor, and Preserve University Security Safety Act of 2009" or the "CAMPUS Safety Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY.

Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

"PART LL—NATIONAL CENTER FOR CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY

"SEC. 3021. NATIONAL CENTER FOR CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY.

"(a) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE CENTER.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services is authorized to establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety (referred to in this section as the 'Center').

"(2) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services is authorized to award grants to institutions of higher education and other non-profit organizations to assist in carrying out the functions of the Center required under subsection (b).

"(b) FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTER.—The Center shall—

"(1) provide quality education and training for campus public safety agencies of institutions of higher education and the agencies' collaborative partners, including campus mental health agencies;

"(2) foster quality research to strengthen the safety and security of institutions of higher education;

"(3) serve as a clearinghouse for the identification and dissemination of information,

policies, procedures, and best practices relevant to campus public safety, including off-campus housing safety, the prevention of violence against persons and property, and emergency response and evacuation procedures;

“(4) develop protocols, in conjunction with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Education, State, local, and tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, private and nonprofit organizations and associations, and other stakeholders, to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from, natural and man-made emergencies or dangerous situations involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of the campus community;

“(5) promote the development and dissemination of effective behavioral threat assessment and management models to prevent campus violence;

“(6) coordinate campus safety information (including ways to increase off-campus housing safety) and resources available from the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education, State, local, and tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations and associations;

“(7) increase cooperation, collaboration, and consistency in prevention, response, and problem-solving methods among law enforcement, mental health, and other agencies and jurisdictions serving institutions of higher education;

“(8) develop standardized formats and models for mutual aid agreements and memoranda of understanding between campus security agencies and other public safety organizations and mental health agencies; and

“(9) report annually to Congress and the Attorney General on activities performed by the Center during the previous 12 months.

“(c) COORDINATION WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES.—In establishing the Center, the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services shall—

“(1) consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Education, and the Attorney General of each State; and

“(2) coordinate the establishment and operation of the Center with campus public safety resources that may be available within the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Education.

“(d) DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—In this section, the term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,750,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, over the past few years we have seen a number of tragic incidents of violence at colleges and universities, including the disastrous events at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University. Therefore, we have introduced the Center to Advance, Monitor and Preserve University Security Safety Act of 2009, or the CAMPUS Safety Act of 2009.

This bill will help schools to more effectively prevent such incidents, and to more effectively respond if such events do occur. It creates a National Center of Campus Public Safety, a program to be administered through the Department of Justice.

The center will train campus safety agencies, promote research in improving campus safety, and be a clearinghouse for campus safety information. The director of the center will have authority to award grants to institutions of higher learning to help them meet their enhanced public safety goals.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas, the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. GOHMERT, for his support of this important bipartisan measure.

I urge colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In 2 weeks, teachers, students, alumni and friends of Northern Illinois University will gather to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the tragic shootings that occurred at the university's campus. As you may recall, on February 14, Valentine's Day 2008, a gunman stormed a classroom at NIU and opened fire, killing five students and wounding 16 others before killing himself.

Later this year, in April, similar groups of individuals associated with Virginia Tech will commemorate the 2-year anniversary on that campus shooting that killed 27 students and five faculty members. We now know that the shooter was a mentally disturbed individual who was able to purchase two handguns in any event. He brought those handguns to the campus and began a shooting spree that spanned several hours and occurred in both dormitories and classrooms throughout the campus complex.

As we remember the tragic shootings at Northern Illinois University and Virginia Tech, and think of the violence that occurs in public schools across the country, it is appropriate for Congress to act and provide resources to schools and law enforcement officials to help protect our greatest resource, and that is our children in our schools. School and college campuses should be safe environments for all students to learn. Today, campus security requires much more than ever before, including the campus police, emergency alert systems and emergency response plans.

H.R. 748 authorizes the Department of Justice to establish a National Center for Campus Public Safety to award grants to colleges and universities and other nonprofit organizations. It also provides education and training for campus public safety agencies, and promote research to improve the security of colleges and our universities.

The center may coordinate with other Federal agencies to prevent and respond to natural disasters, incidents of campus violence or even other emergencies. The center also may promote the development of an effective behavioral health threat assessment to prevent campus violence.

In the 110th Congress, Chairman BOBBY SCOTT and ranking member LOUIE GOHMERT of the Crime Subcommittee worked together to cosponsor a version of this bill, which was passed by the House on a voice vote. The Senate was unable to take up this bill last year, so many of my colleagues reintroduced the bill this term. It is my hope that the other body will consider and pass this legislation during the Congress.

Through this legislation and other programs across the country, we can endeavor to prevent violence on our college and university campuses. And I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 748.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I would inquire if the gentleman has other speakers.

Mr. POE of Texas. Yes, two.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I reserve my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

□ 1430

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, there certainly is no higher priority for all of us than the safety of our sons and daughters, and that safety involves not only their physical safety but their financial safety. The financial safety of our young men and women across this country is held in the palms of the hands of this Congress. In fact, this new liberal majority in Congress has been spending money so fast, and we have only been in session for 17 legislative days.

Madam Speaker, in thinking about the financial safety of these young people, if you look at just the time that Congress has been zeroed in on this so-called stimulus bill, Congress has spent \$1.3 trillion in 9 legislative days. Let me repeat that. We have this new liberal majority. The country voted for change, but I am not sure this is the change that people wanted or expected. The change we got was spending money at an ever faster rate. \$1.3 trillion has been spent by this liberal majority in 9 legislative days. That means that this new majority in Congress is spending money at a rate of \$100 million a minute. Now that needs to sink in for a minute. For the change that we got,

this new Congress is spending money at the rate of \$100 million a minute.

That is not unlike if I were to try to pay my mortgage with my MasterCard. Now, everyone knows you cannot do that. I cannot pay my mortgage with my MasterCard, but I would get a lot of frequent flyer miles out of that. It is as dangerous, I should say, to pay your mortgage with your MasterCard as it is for this Congress to imperil the financial safety of future generations by spending borrowed money we do not have.

This is an unprecedented spending spree that has much more to do with rewarding the constituency of the liberal majority—the trial lawyers and the labor unions—rather than stimulating the economy and protecting the financial safety of future generations.

We fiscal conservatives understand instinctively that the best way to protect the financial safety of future generations is to simply let Americans keep more of their own money by cutting their taxes, by giving them a tax-free holiday. How about that? That would be a straightforward, simple, immediate way to inject money into the economy, which is for people to spend and to invest as they wish rather than for the Federal Government to make the united policy decision that it is necessary to engage in deficit spending in order to stimulate the economy.

Rather than pumping the money out to labor unions and to trial lawyers and to new government programs and expanding the bureaucracy, why don't we simply inject that money into giving Americans X number of tax-free days where you keep 100 percent of your money, where you can invest it, save it, and spend it as you wish? In my opinion, there is no better way. I think that is something that every American can understand. There is no simpler, quicker or better way to stimulate job growth and to strengthen the economy than to simply let Americans keep more of their hard-earned money. That is the way to protect the financial stability of future generations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield the gentleman from Texas an extra minute.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, as we go through this debate today and look to protect the physical and financial safety of future generations, it is important for this Congress to remember that every dollar we spend today is truly borrowed money. It is money that is going to have to be paid for by future generations, and we have an obligation—all of us as guardians of the Treasury—to remember the financial safety and security of our children and grandchildren.

In every spending decision we make, why aren't we approaching this from the perspective of we have got the biggest debt in the history of the Nation? We have got the biggest deficit in the history of the Nation. Therefore, the answer is "no" to new spending. We

need to not only cut taxes but to cut spending at the same time. We need to all of us stay focused on what is truly in the best interests of these young people. How do we best protect their physical and financial security? By protecting the financial solvency of the United States of America.

Our most sacred obligation, it seems to me as Representatives of the people, is to protect the financial safety and security of the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. POE of Texas. I will yield to the gentleman 1 extra minute.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I believe this is an unprecedented spending spree. When you analyze the history of the Congress of the United States, I would challenge anyone to find another time in our history when the Congress has ever spent at the rate of \$100 million a minute. I don't think that has ever happened before. \$100 million a minute. \$1.3 trillion in 9 days. Now, the entire annual budget of the United States is about \$900 trillion.

I have the privilege of serving on the Appropriations Committee, by the way, where my starting answer on all spending requests is "no." "Yes" is very hard to earn. I am very careful about the few things that I ask support for in the sciences and in medical scientific research.

We have this new liberal majority in Congress. The change that this new majority and the new President promised has led to a spending spree of \$100 million a minute. That has given this country a \$1.3 trillion so-called stimulus spending bill in 9 legislative days, exceeding the annual budget of the United States, which is about \$900 billion. This is unprecedented. It is dangerous. It imperils the financial safety of future generations, Madam Speaker, and I hope Congress throws this spending bill out in favor of tax cuts.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close if the gentleman has concluded and will yield back.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have an additional speaker. I yield as much time as he wishes to consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR).

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I know that the subject of this particular piece of legislation has to do with campus safety, and I know we are all concerned about campus safety. In fact, this is a separate bill relating to campus safety, which makes the point, Madam Speaker:

If you look at the current proposal dealing with our economy and the economic ruin that families are facing, there is \$6 billion allocated in that bill to colleges and to universities. That gives me great cause for concern. What in the world does that have to do with stimulating our economy and with allowing families and small businesses in this country to get back on their feet?

Again, I would say to my colleague and friend from Virginia, as well as to the gentleman from Texas, that the bill on the floor does have to do with college campus safety. That is where a \$6 billion allocation appropriation to colleges and universities should belong, not in a stimulus bill.

Listen, the people of this country are expecting Washington to finally clean up its act and to respond accordingly so that we can get our economy back on track. In fact, the latest Gallup poll that was taken this weekend shows that only 38 percent of Americans support the congressional Democrats' spending bill. Speaker PELOSI's bill in this House contains billions of dollars of continued Washington spending in the same old fashion. It has got plenty of pork in it. It has got \$137 billion while creating 32 new Federal programs.

I would say that some of these programs have laudable goals. There is no question that we need to address so many things going on in this country. Right now, though, the priority is this economy, and when we are talking about a stimulus plan, a stimulus plan should be focused like a laser on the preservation, on the protection and on the creation of jobs. Again, it may not be bad that we are looking to spend more money in terms of helping safety on our college campuses, but that belongs in a separate bill, not in a spending bill aimed at stimulating this economy.

I would say that the Members on our side of the aisle continue to want to work with the majority to try and craft a bill that delivers results. President Obama was elected partly due to the hope that he instilled in so many Americans that he would change the way that Washington works, that we finally in this town would be accountable to the people who pay the taxes so that we could deliver the results and so that we could deliver on job creation and on opportunities for our children and for the next generation.

Madam Speaker, the bill that passed this House last week does not rise to that standard, and I implore the Speaker and her colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us. We have put forward a plan that involves real stimulus, that is very focused on the folks—on the entrepreneurs, on the small businesspeople and on the self-employed—who actually do create the jobs in this economy. We need to provide them with relief. We need to provide relief to the working families—to the taxpayers who are suffering under this heavy burden for which they have got to pay every single day that they are at work.

Madam Speaker, again, I urge our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us so that we can arrive at a bill that provides true stimulus and that delivers results.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the other side for their support of the underlying bill and for their comments that give rise to the challenge we may have in actually funding the legislation.

Sixteen years ago, we had a Democratic majority, and we passed a budget and an economic plan. It passed without a single Republican vote—not one in the House, not one in the Senate. It was signed by President Clinton. In 8 years, we eliminated the debt.

As a matter of fact, at the end of the 8 years, when Chairman Greenspan was testifying before Congress, the questions he was asked were questions like: What will happen when we pay off the national debt? What will happen to the bond market? What will happen to interest rates when we pay off the national debt?

It was anticipated that year that we were to clear up all of the debt held by the public. The median income went up about \$7,000. Tens of millions of jobs were created. The Dow Jones industrial average more than tripled. Then in 2001, the Republican plan was adopted—the Republicans who have been lecturing on for the last few minutes about the economy.

As a direct result of their plan, we had the worst job performance since the Great Depression. The Dow Jones Industrial Average did not triple. It went down. The median income actually went down. We did not pay off the national debt. We almost doubled the national debt. We are now in a situation where we have to dig ourselves out of that mess. Everyone regrets the necessity of having to have a huge stimulus plan to get us out of the mess, but that is what we have had to do. We would like to listen to the other side and to their ideas, but unfortunately, as a result of recent history, we know where those ideas will put us. So we have a stimulus plan. Hopefully, it will get us out of the mess we are in so that we will have the funds to fund the CAMPUS Safety Act of 2009.

I would hope that the House would support the bill and would support the authorization. Then the next job we will do will be to actually fund it in order to get us out of the economic mess that we are in.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the CAMPUS Safety Act of 2009, H.R. 748.

First let me start by thanking Congressman SCOTT for his continued leadership on campus safety issues. He has been a steadfast supporter of establishing a National Center for Campus Public Safety as well as improving hate crime reporting on campuses under the federal Jeanne Clery Act.

Creation of a National Center for Campus Public Safety grew out of recommendations from a 2004 National Summit on Campus Public Safety convened by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS Office. The purpose of the Center is to support the field,

foster collaboration and lasting relationships, facilitate information sharing, and provide quality education on safety issues facing colleges in a post-September 11, 2001 world.

After the tragic incidents of gun violence at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, at Northern Illinois University on February 14, 2008, and on other campuses across the country, we were reminded just how important this work is and it took on a new urgency. The Center will be able to help campuses create partnerships with mental health professionals and others to catch problems before they escalate and implement proven strategies to respond should another tragedy strike.

This effort is also consistent with and an important follow-up to legislation I sponsored that was enacted last year as part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, P.L. 110-315. This new provision, known as the Virginia Tech Victims Campus Emergency Response Policy and Notification Act, or "VTV Act" and a part of the federal Jeanne Clery Act, requires institutions to enact comprehensive emergency response plans that include means to issue immediate warnings when an emergency threatens the campus.

I look forward to the Center working with the U.S. Department of Education, the agency with jurisdiction over the Clery Act, and campuses across the country to help them fully implement these life-saving notification requirements. Making sure that institutions have a central resource to turn to for assistance with this will be one of the most important things that we in Congress can do to help secure our Nation's campuses.

Important groundwork for the Center has already been laid. In 2006 the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, Inc., IACLEA, received a grant to develop a strategic plan for the Center. Among other things they convened an advisory board comprised of key constituency groups to help guide this process.

I was especially pleased to see that a leading voice for students and families on campus safety issues—Security On Campus, Inc., SOC—was included at the table. It is imperative that SOC and other groups that represent the interests of those the Center is intended to protect, along with campus public safety professionals, continue to be heard as this process moves forward.

I would encourage the Attorney General and his staff to make sure that the COPS Office continues to reach out to diverse constituency groups and organizations that may have important resources to bring to bear.

Establishment of a National Center for Campus Public Safety will be a tremendous asset for our Nation's colleges and universities as they work to protect their students, employees, and others on campus.

I support the bill and ask my colleagues to join me.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 748.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING ACT OF 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 738) to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 738

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. STATE INFORMATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS WHO DIE IN THE CUSTODY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year after the expiration of the period specified in subsection (c)(1) in which a State receives funds for a program referred to in subsection (c)(2), the State shall report to the Attorney General, on a quarterly basis and pursuant to guidelines established by the Attorney General, information regarding the death of any person who is detained, under arrest, or is in the process of being arrested, is en route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, State prison, State-run boot camp prison, boot camp prison that is contracted out by the State, any State or local contract facility, or other local or State correctional facility (including any juvenile facility).

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The report required by this section shall contain information that, at a minimum, includes—

- (1) the name, gender, race, ethnicity, and age of the deceased;
- (2) the date, time, and location of death;
- (3) the law enforcement agency that detained, arrested, or was in the process of arresting the deceased; and
- (4) a brief description of the circumstances surrounding the death.

(c) COMPLIANCE AND INELIGIBILITY.—

(1) COMPLIANCE DATE.—Each State shall have not more than 120 days from the date of enactment of this Act to comply with subsection (a), except that—

(A) the Attorney General may grant an additional 120 days to a State that is making good faith efforts to comply with such subsection; and

(B) the Attorney General shall waive the requirements of subsection (a) if compliance with such subsection by a State would be unconstitutional under the constitution of such State.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDS.—For any fiscal year after the expiration of the period specified in paragraph (1), a State that fails to comply with subsection (a), shall, at the discretion of the Attorney General, be subject to not more than a 10 percent reduction of the funds that would otherwise be allocated for that fiscal year to the State under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.), whether characterized as the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Programs, the Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, or otherwise.

(d) REALLOCATION.—Amounts not allocated under a program referred to in subsection (c)(2) to a State for failure to fully comply with subsection (a) shall be reallocated

under that program to States that have not failed to comply with such subsection.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the terms “boot camp prison” and “State” have the meaning given those terms, respectively, in section 901(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3791(a)).

(f) STUDY AND REPORT OF INFORMATION RELATING TO DEATHS IN CUSTODY.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Attorney General shall carry out a study of the information reported under subsection (b) and section 3(a) to—

(A) determine means by which such information can be used to reduce the number of such deaths; and

(B) examine the relationship, if any, between the number of such deaths and the actions of management of such jails, prisons, and other specified facilities relating to such deaths.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall prepare and submit to Congress a report that contains the findings of the study required by paragraph (1).

SEC. 3. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year (beginning after the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act), the head of each Federal law enforcement agency shall submit to the Attorney General a report (in such form and manner specified by the Attorney General) that contains information regarding the death of any person who is—

(1) detained, under arrest, or is in the process of being arrested by any officer of such Federal law enforcement agency (or by any State or local law enforcement officer while participating in and for purposes of a Federal law enforcement operation, task force, or any other Federal law enforcement capacity carried out by such Federal law enforcement agency); or

(2) en route to be incarcerated or detained, or is incarcerated or detained at—

(A) any facility (including any immigration or juvenile facility) pursuant to a contract with such Federal law enforcement agency;

(B) any State or local government facility used by such Federal law enforcement agency; or

(C) any Federal correctional facility or Federal pre-trial detention facility located within the United States.

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—Each report required by this section shall include, at a minimum, the information required by section 2(b).

(c) STUDY AND REPORT.—Information reported under subsection (a) shall be analyzed and included in the study and report required by section 2(f).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 738 will strengthen the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000, a law which encourages constructive oversight of the conduct, of the arrests, of imprisonment, and of other forms of detention in our Nation's prisons and jails. If we are to have meaningful oversight, we have to at least know how many people are dying in our jails and prisons.

□ 1445

The Death in Custody Act simply requires States and localities to simply report the fact that a death occurred and a brief description of what happened.

The bill reinforces the 2000 act's reporting requirements by authorizing the Attorney General to withhold a portion of the State's Byrne-Justice Assistance Grants if it is not in compliance with those requirements.

It will help improve oversight in two other additional ways. First, it applies the reporting requirements to Federal law enforcement authorities as well as States. As a result, Congress will have information for the entire incarcerated population in the United States, not just the State systems.

Second, H.R. 738 directs the Attorney General to examine data collected by the Bureau of Justice since the original act became effective to identify what practices are most effective in lowering the death rate in our Nation's prisons and jails. For example, the bureau reported in August of 2005 that there had been a 64 percent decline in suicides in custody and a 93 percent decline in homicides in custody since 1980.

The Attorney General's study should provide Congress with useful guidance on why the death rate was reduced, and what we can do to continue to lower it. Like the original Death In Custody Reporting Act of 2000, the bill enjoys broad bipartisan support. Statistics collected under the original act demonstrate that it can be exceptionally successful because those administering prisons and jails know that they will have to report each death in their custody and they may be held accountable for those deaths. And this bill not only continues the program but strengthens it. And I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 738, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009. As my colleague, Chairman SCOTT, has mentioned a few moments ago, Congress passed a similar piece of legislation in the 110th Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support.

The Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000 directs the Bureau of Justice Statistics within the Department of

Justice to collect data on deaths that occur in two primary stages of the criminal justice system: First, deaths occur “in the process of arrest” or during transfer after arrest; and second, deaths that occur in jail and in prisons.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics report that between 2001 and 2006 there were 18,550 State prisoner deaths. Likewise, there were an additional 5,935 local prisoner deaths and 43 juvenile deaths between 2000 and 2005.

Half of all State prison deaths are the result of heart disease and cancer; two-thirds involve inmates age 45 and older; and two-thirds are the result of medical problems which were present at the time of admission when they were incarcerated.

Although illness-related deaths have slightly increased in recent years, the homicide and suicide rates in State prisons have dramatically decreased over the last 25 years.

H.R. 738 reauthorizes this data collection program and directs the Attorney General to not simply collect the data but to study it, as well as to determine how to reduce deaths in custody in the future.

H.R. 738 incorporates several changes adopted by the Senate during the last Congress. In addition to collecting data from State and local agencies, the Attorney General is now directed to also collect data on the number of deaths that occur in Federal facilities each year.

The bill also ensures that those States that make a good faith effort to report this important data to the Attorney General will not automatically lose 10 percent of their Byrne-Justice Assistance Grants funding if their data submissions are untimely. The collection of this data will help Federal, State, and local governments examine the relationships between deaths in custody and the proper management of jail and prison facilities. It will also provide important information to Congress on how we may need to improve Federal custody procedures.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I will be prepared to close when the gentleman from Texas has yielded back his time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have two additional speakers, and I wish to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Speaker, we are considering today a piece of legislation to report on the deaths of prisoners in Federal custody. As part of the responsibility of this Congress, we have to make sure those prisons are paid for. We've got to have the money to make sure we can pay for the operation of those prisons and keep those prisoners safe.

In order to have that money, we've got to exercise fiscal responsibility

here as guardians of the Treasury. Our highest priority as the elected representatives of the people who pay the taxes that pay for these lights, that pay for this House Chamber, we've got an obligation to protect their financial safety and security for the future. Not only the safety and securities of these prisoners, but more importantly, the safety and security of the American people.

In order to make sure we've got that money available, we need to be very, very thoughtful and careful and remember that we face a deficit of over \$1 trillion, a national debt of over \$10 trillion, unfunded liabilities of \$60 trillion-plus. The Comptroller tells us if you were to sell off every asset in America that proceeds might generate \$62 trillion.

So we've reached a point as a Nation, Madam Speaker, where our national assets—all of the private property owned by every one of us; sell the real estate, sell all your possessions—might generate \$62 trillion. That's how much unfunded liability we've got out there that our kids and grandchildren are going to have to pay for Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid.

And now all of this new spending that the majority—the new liberal majority has engaged in the biggest, most unrestrained profligate spending spree in the history of America in a short 17-day period—the change that the new majority has given America is it's spent \$1.3 trillion in a short 17 days. Not sure how we're even going to be able to assure the safety of prisoners in Federal custody much less the safety and security of Americans across the Nation when in 17 days we spent 50 percent, almost 50 percent more money than the entire annual budget of the United States.

My colleague, Chairman SCOTT, a man of good faith and sincerity, says he hopes that this financial stimulus package works. That's not enough. That's a scary hope. Where are the legions of economists? Where are the witnesses? Why wasn't there any testimony?

We had an appropriations hearing of about 6 hours to spend about \$800 billion, our piece of this bill. Ways and Means had a hearing of maybe about 6 hours. Normally, the entire annual budget of the United States, about \$900 billion, requires a year's worth of hearings, hundreds of witnesses, hundreds of hours of committee hearings and thoughtful deliberations by the committees of the Congress to generate the annual budget for the United States of about \$900 billion.

Yet this new liberal majority, this utterly unrestrained liberal majority in Congress has managed to spend in a short 17-day period \$1.3 trillion of borrowed money. Again, it's like me paying off my mortgage with my Master Card. It makes no sense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. CULBERSON. And instead of, for example, this legislation that we've got on the floor today, Madam Speaker, to protect and report on the safety of prisoners in the prison system, one of the many responsibilities of Congress, this utterly irresponsible profligate spending that the new liberal majority has engaged in to stimulate the economy, 800 million for Amtrak, 4 million for climate change. What is this? We're going to have \$200 million for AmeriCorps, \$3 billion for prevention and wellness programs, including sexually transmitted diseases, \$4.2 billion for neighborhood stabilization activities. What is that? What does that have to do with protecting the financial safety and security of the American people?

We're spending money. I am a fiscal conservative. And by the way, Mr. SCOTT, I voted against most of those big spending programs that were pushed over the last 8 years. I have done my best, as a fiscal conservative, to vote against Medicare prescription drug, voted against the farm bills, voted against No Child Left Behind, voted against as much of these new big authorization spending programs as I can because I'm trying to think about what obligation I'm passing on to my daughter and future generations.

Madam Speaker, the best way to protect the safety of prisoners in prisons and the safety of the American people is for this Congress to cut spending and cut taxes and quit spending money we don't have.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Thank you, I appreciate it.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 738. I appreciate the good work and the action of the Congress and believe that this act will actually encourage better government which our citizens certainly support.

I also want to thank the men and women who are serving in these prisons. They go underappreciated and, in my opinion, undercompensated. That's why it gives me so much frustration as I see the out-of-control spending that this Congress is willing to pass forward.

I read about \$88 million for an ice-breaking ship in the polar region, and yet we're not taking care of the men and women who are there in the prisons protecting us against these criminals; \$248 million for furniture at the new Homeland Security headquarters. I just physically do not understand why this government, which is \$10 trillion in debt, which already has a \$3.1 trillion budget, a budget that over the course of the last 12 years has doubled, that there is not enough financial constraint because we need to take care of those men and women who are there protecting us in those prisons.

And while this act will go a long way to helping us understand what's happening within the system, I just am so frustrated and fed up with the Federal Government that cannot rein in spending as this so-called stimulus package has \$400 million for the Centers of Disease Control to screen and prevent STDs—there does not seem to have the priorities in place that we need as a Federal Government—\$75 million for smoking cessation activities.

Again, I think the American people demand limited government, fiscal discipline, which seems to be lacking in this Congress as the Democrats push forward, this liberal spending that we continue to see time and time again. \$10 million to inspect canals? \$10 million to inspect canals. I was actually glad to see a bill out there that actually had the word "millions" instead of "billions."

Now this bill, this act, that we look at today, H.R. 738, Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009, will go a long ways to making government better, but please let's take care of the men and women who are serving us; and let's take get rid of this excessive spending, rein in spending. We can't be all things to all people, but let's make sure that we do those things that matter most to the American people and get rid of this stimulus bill and get rid of the excessive spending that does nothing but put us further and further into debt.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009 has bipartisan support, and I appreciate the gentleman from Texas stating that support.

And I would also like to remind people, as the other side has, that we're going to have to come up with funds to do the research to make best use of the statistics that we gather.

There are essentially two totally different economic theories in place that we're consideration. One was in place for 8 years beginning in 1993, and the other was in place from 2001 till last year. The Democratic theory that passed without a Republican vote in either the House or the Senate created 8 years where we eliminated the entire deficit. If we hadn't messed up the budget, we would have, in 10 years, run up a \$5.5 trillion surplus, more than enough to pay Social Security for 75 years without reducing benefits.

We had created tens of millions of jobs, median income was up over \$7,000, the Dow Jones Industrial Average more than tripled. I think that was a good result.

We also have the Republican theory of economics that was in place beginning in 2001 that passed with the Republican House and Republican Senate and the Republican President. As a direct result of that plan, we had the worst job performance since the Great Depression; the Dow Jones Industrial

Average didn't triple, it went down; median income went down, and we ran up the national debt so much that it's almost doubled in the last 8 years rather than being eliminated as it would have been had the Democratic plan continued without getting messed up.

The stimulus that's been disparaged is necessary to try to dig us out of the mess that we're in. We all regret the fact that we need a stimulus, but had we not had the mess that we're in, we wouldn't have needed the stimulus.

And so, Madam Speaker, I close in support of the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009. It will continue the reporting that we've had and make best use of the statistics so that we can reduce these preventable deaths in the custody of law enforcement officers.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague Congressman BOBBY SCOTT for his leadership in seeking to bring transparency to the operation state and local prisons.

Congressman SCOTT's legislation, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009, compels state and local governments to report deaths of prisoners in state prisons and local jails, and juvenile correctional facilities. This reporting is an incredibly useful oversight tool, and ensures accountability and transparency in our state and local facilities.

The data that will be reported under the bill will allow public officials and those in the non-profit sector to track mortality rates as related to illness, suicide, homicide, drug and alcohol use, and other causes of death. This data is crucial if we hope to reduce deaths in custody, and promote safer custody through the reduction of suicide, drug abuse, violence, and the provision of proper medical care.

Again, I applaud Congressman SCOTT for his efforts and leadership and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

□ 1500

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 738.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 82)

raising awareness and encouraging prevention of stalking by establishing January 2009 as "National Stalking Awareness Month".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 82

Whereas in a 1-year period, an estimated 3,400,000 people in America reported being stalked, and 75 percent of victims are stalked by someone who is not a stranger;

Whereas 81 percent of women, who are stalked by an intimate partner, are also physically assaulted by that partner, and 76 percent of women, who are killed by an intimate partner, were also stalked by that intimate partner;

Whereas 11 percent reported having been stalked for more than 5 years and ¼ of victims reported having been stalked almost every day;

Whereas one in four victims reported that stalkers had used technology, such as e-mail or instant messaging, to follow and harass them, and one in 13 said stalkers had used electronic devices to intrude on their lives;

Whereas stalking victims are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, such as changing their identities; relocating, changing jobs, and obtaining protection orders;

Whereas one in seven victims moved in an effort to escape their stalker;

Whereas approximately 130,000 victims reported having been fired or asked to leave their job because of the stalking, and about one in eight lost time from work because they feared for their safety or were taking steps, such as seeking a restraining order, to protect themselves;

Whereas less than half of victims report stalking to police and only 7 percent contacted a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime that cuts across race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law and under the laws of all 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas there are national organizations, local victim service organizations, prosecutors' offices, and police departments that stand ready to assist stalking victims and who are working diligently to craft competent, thorough, and innovative responses to stalking;

Whereas there is a need to enhance the criminal justice system's response to stalking and stalking victims, including aggressive investigation and prosecution, and to increase the availability of victim services across the country tailored to meet the needs of stalking victims; and

Whereas the House of Representatives urges the establishment of January 2009 as National Stalking Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) National Stalking Awareness Month provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking;

(B) all Americans should applaud the efforts of the many victim service providers, police, prosecutors, national and community organizations, and private sector supporters for their efforts in promoting awareness about stalking; and

(C) policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and human service agencies, college campuses and universities,

and others should recognize the need to increase awareness of stalking and the availability of services for stalking victims; and

(2) the House of Representatives urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote awareness of the crime of stalking through National Stalking Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 82 is a bipartisan measure and will help raise awareness of the terrible toll that stalking is taking in our society. Every year, stalking affects millions of Americans of both genders and of all races and ages.

The consequences of stalking can be extremely serious. The fear and mental anguish can leave stalking victims paralyzed. Stalkers cause their victims severe emotional distress, including anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction and depression, which can affect all aspects of life, including family, social activities and work.

In fact, many stalking victims have been forced to relocate their residences and also frequently needed psychological counseling. Approximately 130,000 victims reported being fired or forced to find work elsewhere because they've been stalked.

Stalking also leads to physical attacks on the victim. This explains why most States and the Federal Government treats stalking as a felony. Over 75 percent of women murdered by an intimate partner have been stalked by that partner. Advances in technology have given stalkers ever-increasing access to their victim's personal information, making the victim even more vulnerable.

I'd like to commend my Judiciary Committee colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 82.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to have introduced House Resolution 82, establishing January as National Stalking Awareness Month.

I hope this resolution serves as a unifying force for the community leaders,

policy-makers, and victim service providers. The goal of this resolution is to raise awareness and encourage prevention of stalking by establishing January 2009 as National Stalking Awareness Month.

Stalking, conduct intended to instill fear in a victim, is a crime that occurs in every State in our country. As the cochair and founder of the Congressional Victims Rights Caucus, I have spoken to countless victims and victim service providers about the dangers of stalking and the tragedies that have occurred in their lives.

A January 2009 report from the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics found that during a 1-year period an estimated 3,400,000 people in America reported being stalked. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, this is an increase of 2 million victims per year in the last decade. These statistics are a jarring reminder of the scope and seriousness of this crime.

The Department's study also found that nearly three out of four victims knew their stalker, and approximately one in four victims reported some form of cyberstalking.

Stalkers pursue and harass their victims and are often relentless. Cyberstalkers systematically flood their target's e-mail inbox with obscene, hateful or threatening messages.

Cyberstalkers may also assume the identity of their victim and post information, fictitious or not, to solicit unwanted responses from other people. Although cyberstalking does not involve physical contact with a victim, it is still a serious crime. The widespread use of the Internet and the ease with which hackers can find personal information has made this form of stalking more accessible to criminals.

By establishing January 2009 as National Stalking Awareness Month, Congress can help to educate Americans about the severity of stalking and encourage victims to report these crimes to the police. We recognize and applaud the many law enforcement agencies and victims' services for their effort to combat stalking and increase awareness of services available to stalking victims.

Stalking has only been criminalized for 28 years. Unlike domestic violence stalking is about power and control over the victim. While stalking is now a crime in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Federal Government, stalking often leads to other crimes, including physical assault, sexual assault and sometimes homicide. Stalking laws are basic to the individual right of each person in this country to be left alone and their right of privacy.

The best way to attack the threat of stalking is through law enforcement and education, and I encourage victim service providers, law enforcement prosecutors and community leaders to promote awareness of stalking, and I thank them for their efforts every day in making the lives of victims better.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, Judge POE is exactly right. Our most fundamental right as Americans is the right to be left alone. It is important legislation and appreciate the judge bringing it to us.

We're going to hear from our good friend Congressman ROYCE in a minute who has been working on this legislation for many years. We will hear from him in just a moment.

I want to make sure, however, we as a Congress are focused on the financial hurricane stalking America just over the horizon. The financial, really if we're not careful, the urgency of this financial hurricane is something we cannot afford to ignore any longer.

We, as a Congress, have as our highest priority again the preservation of the security and financial safety of future generations. We're guardians of the Treasury. We're responsible for ensuring that we're not spending money we don't have; yet this so-called stimulus bill has added to the urgency of this financial hurricane stalk in America.

This \$1.3 trillion spending spree that the new liberal majority has engaged has, in fact, created at least 32 new Federal programs at a cost of about \$137 billion. This spending spree of \$1.3 trillion over these 17 legislative days has a lot more to do with expanding the power base of the liberal majority and growing the Federal Government's power than it does with stimulating the economy.

In my opinion, this legislation will do, in fact, far more to turn America into France ultimately than it will to restore the strength and vibrancy of America's free market economy, and that's the best way to stave off this financial hurricane stalking America today.

We, I think, as fiscal conservatives may be outnumbered today, Madam Speaker, but we have an obligation to stand up and speak out at every opportunity. We are entrusted by our constituents with the responsibility to lay out thoughtful, fiscally responsible alternatives to the profligate spending we see coming from the other side. At a time of real national emergency, when we're seeing disturbing trends in job losses, when average Americans want to make sure that we as a Congress are being only good stewards of their money, well, what are we doing to ensure the security of their next paycheck? What are we doing to reassure Americans that we're doing everything in our power to protect the security of their job, to make sure that they don't have fear stalking their household that they are going to lose

their job or lose the security of that health care coverage that they've always had?

This liberal majority, instead, has been focused on creating brand new programs to pay for public school construction. That's an area that the Federal Government has traditionally steered away from because of the massive cost. This stimulus bill that, again, is going to do far more to grow the government than grow the economy, this stimulus bill promoted by the new liberal majority in Congress, has set aside about \$14 billion for school modernization and repair; \$6 billion for higher education modernization and repair. That means for the first time that Federal taxpayers are assuming the responsibility for rebuilding and repairing local public school buildings, all these traditionally the responsibility of local taxpayers, locally issued bonds by school districts and universities across the country.

I know the Houston Independent School District tells me just to complete, off-the-cuff figure, they estimate they've got in the Houston Independent School District alone about \$4 to \$5 billion worth of need to rebuild, repair existing school buildings. Imagine the size of that obligation that this new liberal majority has now created for future generations to pay for.

We are in this, as fiscal conservatives, doing everything in our power to enlighten the American people, to let the public know, Madam Speaker, that there's a thoughtful, fiscally conservative alternative out there, America. We want to cut your taxes and cut spending to get this economy moving. We vigorously oppose this effort to grow the government and saddle future generations with more debt.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE). He is the original sponsor of the stalking legislation.

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I also agree that on the issue on this omnibus spending spree that we're calling a stimulus bill, that where we increase from \$1 trillion, add another trillion and push up the deficit to 10 percent of the GDP, this is not the answer.

But let me talk for a minute about the stalker bill because I'm the author of the first stalker act, both here in the Federal Government and at the State level in California.

In Orange County, California, we had four young women who were killed in the span of 6 weeks, and law enforcement had told me at the time that if they had been able to intervene they could have protected them. One law enforcement officer said the hardest thing he ever had to do in his life, he was waiting to try to apprehend the man who was going to kill his girlfriend. The man succeeded and then killed himself. It was 30 seconds too late for the officer to prevent that, or a minute too late.

So the Federal law and the State law, the California law has now, frankly, been copied by all 50 States. But I wanted to share with my colleagues here that our Federal anti-stalker law has now been passed in Japan. It's been passed in countries in Europe and elsewhere around the world. I'm still getting calls from legislators about the need to set up this deterrence, so that when a credible threat is given against a victim of a crime, she knows when she's being threatened and stalked, that that's a felony, that she can take out a restraining order; she can thus make that a felony and get law enforcement involved in order to protect her.

Let me just say that I think this resolution is important because what it does is raise the level of awareness around the country as to the necessity of not only law enforcement, judges, but the average citizen to be aware of this. And those who are involved, men and women who are involved in stalking their victims should understand that under State and Federal law they risk serving serious time in Federal and State penitentiary if they continue with this pattern of threats and behavior.

Let me also say that I think that in our society it is really time to figure out how the victims can get access to the information about the laws that we pass, because too many times we have people—and this even includes in law enforcement—who are not cognizant of the fact that they can step in here and get involved and prevent serious harm before it occurs.

So just in closing and yielding back my time, I commend the sponsors and cosponsors of this resolution, because in calling attention to this special week, National Stalking Awareness Month, calling attention to this, my hope is that all of you can make those potential victims of this crime more knowledgeable so that they understand they have recourse, so that steps can be taken before they're physically harmed.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

Mr. RADANOVICH. I thank the gentleman from Texas for that.

Last week, Madam Speaker, I joined a bipartisan group of colleagues in opposing a recklessly wasteful economic stimulus package that promised \$32 billion for my home State of California, currently suffering from 8.2 percent unemployment.

California does not need \$32 billion worth of spending to stimulate the economy because, at the same time, our State water supply has been hijacked by the irresponsible Endangered Species Act. A simple flip of the switch at the pumps at the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta could save 40,000 jobs and rescue a \$90 billion industry from the brink of disaster.

Instead, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem more interested

in spending money like drunken sailors and watch the Endangered Species Act literally dehydrate one of America's most prosperous industries.

□ 1515

Every one of my colleagues from California has no excuse not to join me in calling for a temporary suspension of the Endangered Species Act to immediately start the flow of water from the delta pumps in California.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE). This is a great piece of legislation.

There are too many of our fellow citizens who don't feel the safety and security that the rest of America feels. They feel the weight of somebody watching them or pestering them. They are worried about that when they go to the grocery store, they are worried about that when they go to the gas station. There's a feeling that sinks in on you that all too many people recognize. And this will address the stalking component of it. It's something that I think the rest of America also feels when they look at our economy and what this Congress is failing to do. It's failing to be responsible with the people's money. It's not the government's money.

As we look at \$10-plus trillion debt and a so-called stimulus bill that I think most of us recognize will not stimulate the economy, we can only look at that and recognize that it's our children and grandchildren that will be burdened with this debt. That they will have to pay it.

We are \$10 trillion in debt. Last year, we paid \$429 billion just in interest on that debt. And the people that I talk to, the people from Utah and from around the country that are peppering us with information and feedback, are absolutely fed up. They don't want to have that burden. And every time we spend a dollar, a dollar we don't have, and can't afford, we create a burden upon the American family.

\$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts. It will do nothing to stimulate our economy. Absolutely nothing. \$650 million for the conversion to digital television, for goodness sake. We don't have the money to do that. \$13 million for research related to volunteer service; \$70 million for a support computer for climate research; \$524 million to create, "388 jobs in the United States" through the State Department Capital Investment Fund.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I'd like to refocus. The purpose of this bill has to do with stalking. A few years ago, most of us didn't even know what stalking was. And now, most Americans know someone or personally have been affected by a stalker out there, whether it's a physical stalker or whether it's someone on

cyberspace. It has become a growing crime in this country.

Madam Speaker, as I mentioned before, I think the Constitution, in essence, says one thing—that we, as people, as individuals, have the right to be left alone. And criminals who stalk to harass and to put fear in the souls and the minds of individuals should be, of course, prosecuted.

I thank Mr. ROYCE for his endeavors years ago to make this crime a national crime, and also an awareness of most individuals. So I urge support of this legislation, this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we have been lectured again by the party that authored the economic mess that we have been in for the last 8 years about economic theory. I just want to remind everyone what that economic theory created. It erased a \$5½ trillion surplus and replaced it with at least a \$3½ trillion debt. There was no comment about fiscal responsibility and our grandchildren paying off the debt while they were doing that to public.

And, while overspending the budget by \$9 trillion, or even more, they incredibly managed to produce the worst job performance since the Great Depression. And now they are criticizing those who support the economic theory that created the \$5½ trillion surplus and tens of millions of jobs.

If you just want to look at economic activity, and not just the jobs, if you look at what happened to the Dow Jones Industrial Average. If the last 8 years of the Dow Jones Industrial Average had done in the last 8 years what it had done during the preceding 8 years under the Democratic economic theory, the Dow Jones Industrial Average would be approximately four times bigger than it is now.

So look at your 401(k) and imagine if it had been four times bigger. That is where it would be if the economic results of the Democratic theory of the 1990s had been in effect. I think most of the people would like to see their 401(k)s and IRAs four times bigger than it is today.

So we will let the people decide which economic theory they would rather have—the one that we have been lectured from, or the one that was put into effect in 1993 and the one we are trying to get the economy back on track with a stimulus package, which many economists think is too small for the big mess that we are in.

In any case, Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Texas for introducing the legislation establishing January, 2009, as National Stalking Awareness Month. I hope that we would adopt the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the

rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 82.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 103) supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 103

Whereas communities across the country carry out activities to raise awareness about teen dating violence during the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009;

Whereas 1 in 11 adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating violence;

Whereas 1 in 5 teenagers in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner;

Whereas 1 in 3 female teenagers in a dating relationship has feared for her physical safety;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive;

Whereas 27 percent of teenagers have been in dating relationships in which their partners called them names or put them down;

Whereas 40 percent of the youngest teens, those between the ages of 11 and 12, report that they have friends who are victims of verbal abuse in dating relationships;

Whereas 1 in 5 teenagers between the ages of 13 and 14 say they have friends who are victims of dating violence;

Whereas 1 in 2 teenagers in a serious relationship has compromised personal beliefs to please a partner;

Whereas 29 percent of girls who have been in a relationship said that they have been pressured to have sex or to engage in sexual activities that they did not want;

Whereas technologies such as cell phones and the Internet have made dating abuse more pervasive and more hidden;

Whereas 30 percent of teenagers who have been in a dating relationship say that they have been text-messaged between 10 and 30 times per hour by a partner seeking to find out where they are, what they are doing, or who they are with;

Whereas 72 percent of teenagers who reported that they had been checked up on by a boyfriend or girlfriend 10 times per hour or more by email or text messaging did not tell their parents;

Whereas parents are largely unaware of the cell phone and Internet harassment experienced by teenagers;

Whereas nearly 3 in 4 teens say that dating relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger;

Whereas 69 percent of all teenagers who had sex by age 14 said they have experienced

1 or more types of abuse in a dating relationship;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, putting them at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and revictimization as adults;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases where the pattern of violence has been established in adolescence; and

Whereas National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week benefits schools, communities, families, and individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or sex: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week to raise awareness of teen dating violence in the Nation;

(2) encourages the people of the United States, State and local officials, middle schools and high schools, law enforcement agencies, and other interested groups to observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness that teen dating violence is a crime and to encourage efforts to prevent and deter it; and

(3) supports a reexamination of the Nation's criminal and civil laws regarding teen dating violence to ensure that such laws create an effective deterrent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 103 designates this week, February 2 through February 6, as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. It is designed to bring public attention to the problem of teen dating violence, and the need for more effective prevention and deterrence.

According to the recent report by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of emotional, verbal, or physical abuse from a dating partner. This alarming statistic far exceeds rates at which other types of violence are affecting youth in this country.

The study also find that girls exposed to dating violence are more likely to be subjected to other forms of violence. These victims are also more likely to engage in unsafe sexual activity, to have a higher incidence of substance abuse, and to have thought about or attempted suicide, than boys or girls that have not been abused.

The study revealed that most victims of dating violence are subject to multiple acts of violence and aggressive behavior, which increases in frequency and intensity. For example, 63 percent of young people who reported having been slapped, hit, or kicked by their partner indicated that the abuse occurred on two or more occasions.

Teenage girls are more likely than adult women to be victims of dating violence, and are more likely to be injured as a result of that violence.

With deaths and injuries resulting from teen dating violence on the increase, we must recognize this type of behavior as a crime as well as a serious public health concern. We must ensure that our young people are made aware of the seriousness of these offenses. And ensure that our laws provide an effective deterrent.

Today's resolution should encourage families and communities around the country to educate their young people about this problem, and to seek their help in preventing it. I'd like to commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for his leadership in introducing this resolution. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of this resolution, which supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. I want to commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for sponsoring this legislation.

This nationwide effort seeks to increase public awareness and educate citizens about the prevalence of dating violence. The Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Initiative was spearheaded by teenagers across the Nation who chose to take a stand and put a stop to teen dating violence. The Initiative began in 2004, and is now supported by over 50 national, State, and local organizations.

The call to end teen dating violence was formally recognized by the House in 2006. Including today, this body has three times designated the first week in February "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week" in an effort to bring more public awareness to a problem confronting today's teens.

Last year, an organization called Teen Research Unlimited surveyed parents, teens, and tweens—tween is someone between 11 and 14, Madam Speaker—about dating violence. The results of this poll demonstrated the depth of the problem of teen dating violence.

According to the poll, one in five teens who have been in a serious relationship report being struck in anger—either kicked, hit, slapped or punched—by a boyfriend or girlfriend. Further, one in three girls who have been in serious relationships say they have been concerned about being physically hurt by the individual that they are concerned about.

However, dating violence among children is not limited to physical, emotional, and sexual assault. It can also take on the form of harassment via computer or cell phone text messaging or e-mail. In fact, 40 percent of the tweens who have dated now know friends who have been called names, put down, or insulted via cell phones or social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook.

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week provides an opportunity for parents to engage their children about dating violence and abusive relationships. The Teen Research Unlimited poll indicates that parents often do not know that their children are in relationships, let alone abusive relationships.

More than three times as many tweens—20 percent—as parents—six percent—admit that parents know little or nothing about the dating relationships of those tweens.

I encourage parents to use this week to talk with their children about dating and violence. To start the dialog, parents or teens can call the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline at 866-331-9474. The Helpline promotes awareness of healthy dating relationships by making vital resources available to help teens experiencing dating violence and abusive relationships.

I encourage my colleagues to support this House resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of the resolution, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SCOTT for yielding. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution that I introduced that supports National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

Let me begin by thanking Chairman CONYERS and Chairman SCOTT and all of the staff who worked so hard to bring this resolution to the floor. Youth dating violence is a trend that is spreading across our country. It does not discriminate based on race, sex, class, or sexual orientation.

□ 1530

In 2005 many of my colleagues and I mourned the loss of April Love. She was an outstanding Congressional Black Caucus Foundation summer intern from Arkansas who was killed by her boyfriend. April was really a shining star, a southern belle, with a heart of gold and a brain to match.

In the past few years, metro Atlanta witnessed similar, terrible incidents of youth dating violence. In separate cases, two teenage girls were shot and killed by their abusive boyfriends.

Some relationships that begin innocently enough soon spiral out of control, and no one has any idea how they missed the signs. And technology has made it easier for abusive relationships

to go undetected by parents and loved ones.

We must bring attention to this unbelievable series of incidents that are spreading around our country. Fear, stalking, violence, and abuse are unacceptable and always shocking.

Madam Speaker, we must break this chain and educate young people about the importance of developing healthy relationships.

During this week, I urge all of my colleagues to educate themselves and all of their citizens about this important issue.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me this time.

Our country is facing tough economic times. When you look across the country, you see families tightening their belts. You see States cutting back to balance their budgets. Washington seems to be the only place that is going on a wild spending spree during these tough economic times. We need to help our families and our businesses and our entrepreneurs by providing tax relief to create good jobs, rather than saddling our children and grandchildren with hundreds of billions of dollars in additional national debt.

As we debate the importance of stimulating our economy, it is critical that we act responsibly and that we get it right this time.

The Democratic leadership's massive spending bill does not do enough to help middle-class families and small businesses. A Congressional Budget Office report just came out saying that more than half of the Democrats' proposed spending bill will not even begin until after 2010. This defeats the purpose of stimulus.

I have joined with other Members of Congress to propose an alternative plan called the Economic Recovery and Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2009. H.R. 470 focuses on cutting taxes to create jobs quickly and get our Nation's economy back on track. Rather than adding hundreds of billions of dollars in new national debt, our alternative plan will create jobs by cutting taxes for middle class families and small businesses, while also protecting future generations by reining in out-of-control spending here in Washington, D.C.

When President Barack Obama called for a bill to stimulate our Nation's economy, I don't think he or the American people expected it to be hijacked by the liberals in Congress and turned into a big government spending bill.

Last week there were a dozen Democrats who joined in a bipartisan vote against this massive spending bill. In fact, just yesterday the Speaker of the House's spokesperson said of those voting against the spending bill, "Many of the districts are more conservative and they campaigned on fiscal responsibility, and we understand that."

What the Speaker of the House was saying is she is recognizing that people

who voted against the bill last week were voting for fiscal responsibility. The American people are learning more about this bill every day, and they are starting to recognize that it is nothing more than a wild spending bill of failed, old, big government programs.

We need to set a different path. We need to get it right this time. We need to pass a bill that actually cuts taxes and gets our economy back on track.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I would like to thank my colleague for yielding. I have been sitting here and I have been listening to the people on the other side. It is unbelievable; it is unreal. Our country is in trouble; deep trouble. The economy is in a ditch.

This President has offered a plan, a plan that he believes and 85 percent of the American people believe that it will work. Have you been reading the newspapers, watching television, or seeing the polls?

It is time for us to wake up and do what is right, do what is fair.

When President Clinton left the White House, he left a surplus. He put more than 22 million people to work. Under the last administration, you left a debt. Hundreds and thousands of millions of citizens have lost their jobs, and now you are standing here today whining.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, while I rise in support of the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week, I have to say that I have been reading the polls and I have been listening to the people who have called in. And they have come in from across the Nation. They do not believe because they know that this stimulus package that is moving forward will not grow jobs.

We want to spend \$100 million to reduce the hazards of lead-based paint. It is time we do get serious about what is going on in this country. More government spending, deficit spending, is not the way to our future. It is absolutely not the way to our future. We are running this government on a credit card, and it is wrong.

The people can't live their lives on a credit card, and those who do are in trouble. It is a sinking, deep-seated feeling. And those of us here representing our States, we all care passionately about this country. Nobody has a monopoly on pride. Nobody has a monopoly on patriotism. We all want to do what is best for our country.

But I am also here to say that all of this spending is not the way we are going to solve our problems. When government comes in and picks winners and losers, there are too many people who lose.

I am a freshman here. I am first to tell you the Republicans who had the

House, the Senate and the Presidency, they blew it. But we also have to come to grips that it is this House of Representatives that over the last 2 years has controlled the United States Congress. They are the ones who have spent the money. They are the ones who have control. And there is plenty of blame to go around. The question is how are we going to move forward?

When you look down this laundry list, \$110 million to the Farm Service Agency to upgrade computer systems, everybody knows that is not going to get somebody a job.

We need a game changer in this country. Putting more money onto our credit cards is not the way we are going to solve our problems.

This laundry list of things that passed this body and that the Senate is contemplating, \$200 million for public computer centers at a community college is not going to grow our economy; \$10 million to inspect canals in urban areas, probably a worthy project, but we have a \$3.1 trillion budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. There is \$13 million for research related to volunteer service. We need a game changer in this country. We need to look at tax policy, and we need to look at those things that are actually going to grow this economy.

We have a \$3.1 trillion budget in this country. We have offered stimulus packages. We have offered bailouts. Maybe the way to grow our economy is not to try to spend every dollar that comes before this body. It is the American people's money. It is not our money.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, it has been my privilege to serve alongside the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) who I admire. The man is a legend and a great leader in the civil rights movement. He is a thoughtful man with a good heart and sincere principles. These are sincere, earnest differences of principle here, Mr. LEWIS. We have deep concern for the future course of the Nation, the financial solvency of the country. And it is a source of real concern to us. Teen violence is a source of concern, but I have to tell you, the reason we are speaking out here today is we have had so little opportunity to speak out in committee. There has been so little debate in committee and on this floor of this massive spending bill, not enough time to educate the American public about the details of the bill because it was dropped on us with so little notice, written largely in secret, dropped into the Appropriations Committee and the Ways and Means Committee without much notice to the public, without an opportunity for them to scrutinize it.

We are spending \$1.3 trillion in 17 legislative days when the annual discre-

tionary budget of the United States is about \$900 billion, prepared very thoughtfully and carefully over many months by the Appropriations Committee with hundreds of hearings and witnesses and thoughtful deliberation. All of us want to see this economy get back on track and get us out of the ditch, but it is just self-evident that in 17 legislative days, with a few hours of committee hearing, a few hours of floor debate, for this liberal majority in Congress to spend \$1.3 trillion, and then the very best we have heard is you guys hope it is going to work, it is not enough.

As the gentleman from Utah said quite eloquently, we are living on a national credit card. This is like we are paying the mortgage with a MasterCard. I think it was Winston Churchill who said for a nation to attempt to tax and spend its way into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket attempting to lift himself up. This is not the way for this Nation to get the economy moving again.

We as a fiscally conservative minority have come together to stand behind a package of tax cuts that would immediately allow people to spend and invest their own money, to save or to spend it, to create jobs as they wish. We as a fiscally conservative minority have few opportunities in the House to speak directly to the American people, so this opportunity we have here today to talk about teen violence and to think about the safety and security of future generations is one of the few opportunities we have, Mr. LEWIS, to lay out in all sincerity a very earnest and heartfelt, principle-based difference of opinion with the liberal majority, that we want to see this Nation succeed and be prosperous. And we know in our hearts, common sense tells us, that the way to prosperity is not through more spending based on debt. The way back to prosperity is by cutting profligate spending and cutting taxes so the American people have more of their own money to invest and save and to create jobs for the future.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend.

I was just home. I am proud to tell the body I was just home in my home State this past weekend. After that and after our vote last week, it is clear to me that the American people and the people in the 22nd District of Texas get it. Quite simply, they realize we cannot spend our way out of the current predicament. It is not fair to future generations.

God has blessed me. I have a beautiful 12-year-old daughter and an outstanding 8-year-old son. I ran for Congress because we cannot continue to spend like we see up here in Washington, D.C. We cannot put that burden on that generation. If we don't take courageous steps here now, this year, that generation, my son's generation,

my grandson's generation, if God blesses me with grandchildren, they are going to be the first generation in American history that are going to be collectively less well off than the preceding ones; and that is wrong.

We Republicans have a plan, a plan that will bolster our economy. It will offer jobs, get jobs created quickly by tax cuts, tax cuts to families, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. That works. It is proven.

We had bipartisan opposition here on the floor of the House last week. The American people get it. The people in the 22nd District of Texas get it. We cannot continue to mortgage our children's future.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I am very concerned today about teen violence. There is a lot we need to do about teen violence. But in dealing with the stimulus bill, I see that we are spending our money every place but teen violence. The stimulus bill passed by the House last week and now pending in the Senate is nothing more than a Trojan horse. It has all of the labels that make it sound effective, but when we look into the details, we see a myriad of new social programs and entitlements, busting our budget for many years to come.

Economists uniformly insist that a stimulus package must be quick and create jobs. The version that just passed does neither. They have shown us that cutting tax rates for individuals and small businesses is the best way to accomplish this.

Madam Speaker, I support the Republican alternative that would immediately boost our economy by cutting taxes for those who actually pay them. This plan would create 6 million jobs over the next 2 years. That is twice the jobs at half the cost. This plan saves future generations from a crushing debt burden, and shows that Congress can act in a fiscally responsible way. I realize that the stimulus package is currently in the Senate, but if it comes back, I really think that we need to make a very complete reconstruction of the stimulus bill. I ask that we make this Trojan horse a dead horse, and that we pass commonsense legislation to get this economy back on a sound footing.

□ 1545

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have no other speakers on this bill. I urge its adoption. Once again, I want to thank Mr. LEWIS from Georgia for sponsoring this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, again we've been lectured on economic theories. And we agree that there is a significant difference between the two sides on economic theory. And we've been begged to adopt the economic theory proposed by those on the other side.

I would just want to inquire exactly what result they like as a result of their economic theories? We've heard about paying the mortgage with the credit card. Well, the result in the economic theory from that side was an elimination of a \$5½ trillion surplus and the creation of a \$3½ trillion deficit mostly created by borrowing from foreign governments. Exactly what part of that is good? What part of job creation is good? Tens of millions of jobs were created under the Democratic economic theories, worse job performance since the Great Depression was under the Republican theories. What is good about that? What is good about income over the last 8 years, median income that has actually gone down? It went up \$7,000 a family during the 1990s. It went down over the last 8 years. What is good about that? What is good about the Dow Jones Industrial Average going down? It more than tripled from 1993 through 2000, more than tripled. It has actually gone down. Exactly what is good about that?

We've been lectured over and over again about how great these theories are. Maybe they don't like jobs. Maybe they like a deficit. Maybe they like incomes going down or the Dow Jones Industrial Average going down. I would like to see the Dow Jones Industrial Average go up, income go up, surplus rather than deficits and jobs created. But we will let the people decide.

In the meantime, we would like to thank the gentleman from Georgia for introducing the National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week and hope that we will adopt the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 103.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REDUCING OVER-CLASSIFICATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 553) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to prevent the over-classification of homeland security and other information and to promote the sharing of unclassified homeland security and other information, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 553

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reducing Over-Classification Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A key conclusion in the Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (commonly known as the "9/11 Commission") was the need to prevent over-classification by the Federal Government.

(2) The 9/11 Commission and others have observed that the over-classification of homeland security information interferes with accurate, actionable, and timely homeland security information sharing, increases the cost of information security, and needlessly limits public access to information.

(3) The over-classification problem, which has worsened since the 9/11 attacks, causes considerable confusion about what information can be shared with whom both internally at the Department of Homeland Security and with its external partners. This problem negatively impacts the dissemination of homeland security information to the Department's State, local, tribal, and territorial homeland security and law enforcement partners, private sector customers, and the public.

(4) Excessive government secrecy stands in the way of a safer and more secure homeland. This trend is antithetical to the creation and operation of the information sharing environment established under section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 485), and must be halted and reversed.

(5) To do so, the Department should start with the understanding that all departmental information that is not properly classified, or marked as controlled unclassified information and otherwise exempt from disclosure, should be made available to members of the public pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Freedom of Information Act").

(6) The Department should also develop and administer policies, procedures, and programs that promote compliance with applicable laws, executive orders, and other authorities pertaining to the proper use of classification markings and the United States National Archives and Records Administration policies implementing them.

SEC. 3. OVER-CLASSIFICATION PREVENTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 210F. OVER-CLASSIFICATION PREVENTION PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and administer policies, procedures, and programs within the Department to prevent the over-classification of homeland security information, terrorism information, weapons of mass destruction information, and other information within the scope of the information sharing environment established under section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 485) that must be disseminated to prevent and to collectively respond to acts of terrorism. The Secretary shall coordinate with the Archivist of the United States and consult with representatives of State, local, tribal, and territorial government and law

enforcement, organizations with expertise in civil rights, civil liberties, and government oversight, and the private sector, as appropriate, to develop such policies, procedures, and programs.

"(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Reducing Over-Classification Act of 2009, the Secretary, in administering the policies, procedures, and programs required under subsection (a), shall—

"(1) create, in consultation with the Archivist of the United States, standard classified and unclassified formats for finished intelligence products created by the Department, consistent with any government-wide standards, practices or procedures for similar products;

"(2) require that all finished intelligence products created by the Department be simultaneously prepared in the standard unclassified format, provided that such an unclassified product would reasonably be expected to be of any benefit to a State, local, tribal or territorial government, law enforcement agency or other emergency response provider, or the private sector, based on input provided by the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group Detail established under section 210D;

"(3) ensure that such policies, procedures, and programs protect the national security as well as the information privacy rights and legal rights of United States persons pursuant to all applicable law and policy, including the privacy guidelines for the information sharing environment established pursuant to section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 485), as appropriate;

"(4) establish an ongoing auditing mechanism administered by the Inspector General of the Department or other appropriate senior Department official that randomly selects, on a periodic basis, classified information from each component of the Department that generates finished intelligence products to—

"(A) assess whether applicable classification policies, procedures, rules, and regulations have been followed;

"(B) describe any problems with the administration of the applicable classification policies, procedures, rules, and regulations, including specific non-compliance issues;

"(C) recommend improvements in awareness and training to address any problems identified in subparagraph (B); and

"(D) report at least annually to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the public, in an appropriate format, on the findings of the Inspector General's audits under this section;

"(5) establish a process whereby employees may challenge original classification decisions made by Department employees or contractors and be rewarded with specific incentives for successful challenges resulting in the removal of classification markings or the downgrading of them;

"(6) inform employees and contractors that failure to comply with the policies, procedures, and programs established under this section could subject them to a series of penalties; and

"(7) institute a series of penalties for employees and contractors who repeatedly fail to comply with the policies, procedures, and programs established under this section after having received both notice of their non-compliance and appropriate training or retraining to address such noncompliance.

"(c) FINISHED INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT DEFINED.—The term 'finished intelligence product' means a document in which an intelligence analyst has evaluated, interpreted,

integrated, or placed into context raw intelligence or information.”.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF OVER-CLASSIFICATION PREVENTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 210G. ENFORCEMENT OF OVER-CLASSIFICATION PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

“(a) **PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS.**—The Secretary shall—

“(1) assess the technologies available or in use at the Department by which an electronic personal identification number or other electronic identifying marker can be assigned to each Department employee and contractor with original classification authority in order to—

“(A) track which documents have been classified by a particular employee or contractor;

“(B) determine the circumstances when such documents have been shared;

“(C) identify and address over-classification problems, including the misapplication of classification markings to documents that do not merit such markings; and

“(D) assess the information sharing impact of any such problems or misuse;

“(2) develop an implementation plan for a Department standard for such technology with appropriate benchmarks, a timetable for its completion, and cost estimate for the creation and implementation of a system of electronic personal identification numbers or other electronic identifying markers for all relevant Department employees and contractors; and

“(3) upon completion of the implementation plan described in paragraph (2), or not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Reducing Over-Classification Act of 2009, whichever is earlier, the Secretary shall provide a copy of the plan to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

“(b) **TRAINING.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Archivist of the United States, shall—

“(1) require annual training for each Department employee and contractor with classification authority or those responsible for analysis, dissemination, preparation, production, receiving, publishing, or otherwise communicating written classified information, including training to—

“(A) educate each employee and contractor about—

“(i) the Department’s requirement that all classified finished intelligence products that they create be simultaneously prepared in unclassified form in a standard format prescribed by the Department, provided that the unclassified product would reasonably be expected to be of any benefit to a State, local, tribal, or territorial government, law enforcement agency, or other emergency response provider, or the private sector, based on input provided by the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group Detail established under section 210D;

“(ii) the proper use of classification markings, including portion markings; and

“(iii) the consequences of over-classification and other improper uses of classification markings, including the misapplication of classification markings to documents that do not merit such markings, and of failing to comply with the Department’s policies and procedures established under or pursuant to this section, including the negative consequences for the individual’s personnel evaluation, homeland security, information shar-

ing, and the overall success of the Department’s missions;

“(B) serve as a prerequisite, once completed successfully, as evidenced by an appropriate certificate, for—

“(i) obtaining classification authority; and

“(ii) renewing such authority annually; and

“(C) count as a positive factor, once completed successfully, in the Department’s employment, evaluation, and promotion decisions; and

“(2) ensure that such program is conducted efficiently, in conjunction with any other security, intelligence, or other training programs required by the Department to reduce the costs and administrative burdens associated with the additional training required by this section.

“(c) **DETAILEE PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall—

“(1) implement a Departmental detailee program to detail Departmental personnel to the National Archives and Records Administration for one year, for the purpose of—

“(A) training and educational benefit for the Department personnel assigned so that they may better understand the policies, procedures and laws governing original classification authorities;

“(B) bolstering the ability of the National Archives and Records Administration to conduct its oversight authorities over the Department and other Departments and agencies; and

“(C) ensuring that the policies and procedures established by the Secretary remain consistent with those established by the Archivist of the United States;

“(2) ensure that the program established under paragraph (1) includes at least one individual for each Department office with delegated original classification authority; and

“(3) in coordination with the Archivist of the United States, report to Congress not later than 90 days after the conclusion of the first year of the program established under paragraph (1), on—

“(A) the advisability of expanding the program on a government-wide basis, whereby other departments and agencies would send detailees to the National Archives and Records Administration; and

“(B) the administrative and monetary costs of full compliance with this section.

“(d) **SUNSET OF DETAILEE PROGRAM.**—Except as otherwise provided by law, subsection (c) shall cease to have effect on December 31, 2012.

“(e) **FINISHED INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT DEFINED.**—The term ‘finished intelligence product’ has the meaning given the term in section 210F(c).”.

SEC. 5. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101(b)) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 210E the following new items:

“Sec. 210F. Over-classification prevention program.

“Sec. 210G. Enforcement of over-classification prevention programs.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to include an exchange of letters between the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and myself.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, February 2, 2009.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON:

I am writing about H.R. 553, the Reducing Over-Classification Act of 2009, which was introduced by Rep. Harman on January 15, 2009, and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security.

I appreciate your effort to consult with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform regarding H.R. 553. In particular, I appreciate your willingness to work with me to move a governmentwide over-classification bill to the House floor in the near future.

In the interest of expediting consideration of H.R. 553 and in recognition of your efforts to address my concerns, the Oversight Committee will not request a sequential referral of this bill. I would, however, request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Oversight Committee should H.R. 553 or a similar Senate bill be considered in conference with the Senate.

Notwithstanding the Oversight Committee’s agreement to forgo a sequential referral, I believe it is important to reiterate my general concern about H.R. 553 as it applies to the Department of Homeland Security. H.R. 553 creates procedures for the Homeland Security Department to follow in order to reduce the over-classification of information. Several congressional investigations and the 9/11 Commission have emphasized, however, that over-classification is a governmentwide problem that requires a governmentwide solution. Accordingly, I favor an approach that requires all agencies to follow the same classification protocols and encourages the sharing of information between agencies and with the public to the maximum extent possible.

Again, thank you for your efforts to address my concerns with H.R. 553. I look forward to working with you to reduce the significant problem of over-classification throughout the federal government.

This letter should not be construed as a waiver of the Oversight Committee’s legislative jurisdiction over subjects addressed in H.R. 553 that fall within the jurisdiction of the Oversight Committee.

Please include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

EDOLPHUS TOWNS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,

Washington, DC, February 2, 2009.

Hon. EDOLPHUS TOWNS,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 553, the “Reducing

Over-Classification Act of 2009," introduced by Congresswoman Jane Harman on January 15, 2009.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I acknowledge that H.R. 553 contains provisions that fall under the jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I appreciate your agreement to not seek a sequential referral of this legislation and I acknowledge that your decision to forgo a sequential referral does not waive, alter, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Further, I recognize that your Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of conferees on the bill for the portions of the bill that are within your jurisdiction, and I agree to support such a request.

I will ensure that this exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 553. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support this bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, last month, millions of people came together from around the Nation and the world to witness history. The swearing in of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America ushered in a new, brighter day for our Nation. It also ushered in a new, more open approach to governing that emphasizes partnering with State and local governments. Nowhere is there a greater need for a new approach than when it comes to how government manages information.

During the Bush administration, critical information was routinely over-classified, thereby keeping it out of the hands of our Nation's "first preventers," the police and sheriffs on the front-lines.

The legislation that we are about to consider is one of three homeland security bills that we are considering today. Together, they reflect a new and commonsense approach to homeland security.

Ms. HARMAN introduced H.R. 553, the Reducing Over-Classification Act of 2009, to make the Department of Homeland Security a model when it comes to properly classifying data. To make America more secure, DHS must share as much information as possible with its partners on the State, local and tribal levels as well as the private sector. They are the people who are among the best-positioned to take action when terrorists threaten America's homeland.

Yet in recent years, Madam Speaker, too much of the intelligence products generated by DHS are stamped "Secret." Given that few first preventers have security clearances, they are effectively blocked from information they need.

There is a better way. H.R. 553 would ensure that classification is limited to narrow cases, thereby promoting the

creation of unclassified intelligence products from the outset. Additionally, Ms. HARMAN's bill will start DHS on the path to creating a culture of accountability.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 553 is a commonsense bill that will help foster better information sharing to improve security throughout our Nation. I urge the passage of this important homeland security legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 553, the Reducing Over-Classification Act of 2009, which seeks to address the problem of over-classification of sensitive information.

While classification has an essential role in protecting our country from harm, over-classification is a very serious problem within the Federal Government, and Chair HARMAN should be commended for her hard work on the bill.

H.R. 553 rightfully concludes that over-classification could interfere with sharing of critically important homeland security information. Unfortunately, because of jurisdictional issues, this bill only applies to the Department of Homeland Security. So, while the goals of this bill should be supported, we remain concerned that this bill may lead to policies that are not uniform throughout the Federal Government.

As this legislation moves forward, we would encourage the Congress to adopt a government-wide approach to the problem of over-classification so that agencies and departments operate with a uniform set of classification policies.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield, for as much time as she may consume, to the gentlewoman from California, the person who sponsored the legislation, Ms. HARMAN.

Ms. HARMAN. I thank our chairman for yielding and commend him for his role on this bill and the two that will follow. Let me also point out, Madam Speaker, that our committee is an extremely bipartisan committee. This legislation, I would say to the manager on the Republican side, was reported unanimously by our subcommittee last year, unanimously by our full committee, and was adopted by voice vote on the House floor. This legislation, which applies only to the Department of Homeland Security, was the result of a very careful set of hearings. There may be arguments to deal with this subject in other parts of the government, but I believe this legislation, and the careful way it was considered, is a model for what the House should be doing. And I urge its prompt enactment again.

Madam Speaker, America's first preventers faced an enormous challenge 2 weeks ago, as Chairman THOMPSON

said. They protected key members of the old and new administrations, especially the First Families. Though the so-called "Purple Tunnel of Doom" incident meant many ticket holders could not get in, a thoroughly preventable fiasco, our first preventers did manage a crowd of millions for the largest American Presidential inauguration ever, working almost seamlessly with Federal counterparts to do so.

The most important part of this extraordinary feat was the efficient sharing of accurate, actionable and timely information, especially information about threats, with police officers on the ground.

Now that the inauguration is over, local law enforcement shouldn't have to return to business as usual. Information sharing, we should all be reminded, was a huge problem leading up to 9/11. And 8 years later, we still have unfinished business.

Though hard to believe, sheriffs and police chiefs cannot readily access the information they need to prevent or disrupt a potential terrorist attack because those at the Federal level resist sharing information. Over-classification and pseudoclassification, which is stamping with any number of sensitive-but-unclassified markings, remain rampant.

Protecting sources and methods is the only valid reason to refuse to share information. It is no exaggeration that people die and our ability to monitor certain targets can be compromised if sources and methods are revealed. As one who served on our Intelligence Committee for 8 years, I saw this up close and personal. But, Madam Speaker, classifying information to protect turf or avoid embarrassment is wrong. As I mentioned, I served for many years on the Intelligence Committee and became incredibly frustrated with this practice, which the Bush administration elevated to an art form. And sadly, the practice has spread to our newest Federal agency, the Department of Homeland Security.

Madam Speaker, the next attack in the United States will not be stopped because a bureaucrat in Washington, D.C. found out about it in advance. It will be the cop on the beat who is familiar with the rhythms and nuances of his or her own neighborhood who will foil that attack.

H.R. 553 is an attempt to establish a gold standard at DHS when it comes to classification practices. It requires that all classified intelligence products created at the department be simultaneously created in a standard unclassified format if such a product would help local law enforcement keep us safe.

□ 1600

This is unprecedented. Furthermore, the bill requires portion marking, the identification of paragraphs in a document that are unclassified, permitting the remainder of the document to remain unclassified.

I misspoke, Madam Speaker. The portion marking is for portions that are classified, to leave the remainder of the document unclassified.

The measure will promote accountability by requiring the DHS Inspector General to randomly sample classified intelligence products and identify problems that exist in those samples. It also directs the Secretary to develop a plan to track electronically how and where information classified by DHS is disseminated, so that misuse can be prevented.

And finally, the legislation requires the Secretary to establish extensive annual training on the proper use of the classification regime, and penalties for staff who repeatedly fail to comply with applicable classification policies.

Madam Speaker, a key to homeland security is personal preparedness. A prepared public is not likely to be terrorized. Access to important unclassified information is essential to ensure preparedness, and this bill protects the public's right to know. It enjoys broad support by privacy and civil liberties groups.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of first preventers and first responders everywhere, I urge passage of this essential bipartisan legislation, again commend our committee members and staff for their work on this legislation, and urge its prompt consideration following our action by the Senate.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I am glad that we are considering this legislation today, which will be helpful to local law enforcement agencies who are such a vital part of our homeland security. We have, in Congress, I think, for too many years not done enough to bring local law enforcement into the homeland security network that's essential to protecting this Nation against attack from terrorists, people who would enter this country to hurt us, crossing our borders. I am although strenuously opposed to the scale of this spending bill that the liberal majority has pushed through this House with so little public input, so little public notice, so few public hearings. The scale of the bill is one that we in the long term, I think, will find a crushing burden on our kids and grandchildren. At least the legislation includes some small fraction of money for ports of entry. I understand the legislation includes funding to help strengthen airport security. However, the Democrat, the liberal stimulus bill does not include funding for expanding and building more rapidly the border fence, as it should.

This so-called stimulus bill of almost \$1.3 trillion spending spree that we have seen in the first 17 days of this new majority in Congress, the money that is spent in this stimulus bill only focuses on the little piece that focuses on homeland security, focuses on land ports of entry and airports. I would

certainly encourage the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee to work with our subcommittee on appropriations. I serve on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. We would like to work with you in finding ways to send more funding to our local border sheriffs, to our local law enforcement agencies that are working along the border to secure this country against narcoterrorists and extremist Islamic terrorists coming across our border, southern and northern. We need to do far more to work in cooperation with these local law enforcement agencies. And the precious dollars that we spend in this Congress, the hard-earned tax dollars of our constituents, when we do need to spend them, should be focused on things like national security, like protecting the security of this Nation when it comes to the border.

It's just inexcusable that this profligate stimulus bill that the majority has put together, has things utterly unrelated to job growth, such as neighborhood stabilization activities, \$4.19 billion for groups like ACORN. How desperately that money is needed to strengthening our southern border, to helping reimburse local law enforcement agencies for housing foreign nationals in county jails, the SCAP program, the State and County Alien Assistance Program, to help the local taxpayers pay for the cost of housing foreign nationals who are in this country illegally and arrested by local sheriffs and housed in county jails at massive expense. Why aren't we helping these local taxpayers and local jailers who are doing their part for Homeland Security instead of spending money on ACORN neighborhood stabilization activities? \$3 billion for prevention and wellness programs utterly unrelated to job growth. If we were spending some of this money for local jails to house criminal foreign nationals, they would be hiring more local, more law enforcement officials in that local jail, that would at least be some job growth and help make the streets of our communities safer when it comes to homeland security.

\$400 million for climate change research? What's that got to do with the short-term recovery of the economy of the United States?

Our highest priority today, as we stand here today, at the beginning of February 2009, is to reassure the American public that we are being responsible with their tax dollars and doing everything in our power to strengthen the economy and be sure that people are going to have a paycheck and a job next month.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the chairman of the Management Information Oversight Subcommittee, Mr. CARNEY from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of H.R. 553, the Reducing the Over-Classifica-

tion Act of 2009. It's an essential part of our national security, and this act is identical to one that passed the House last year, H.R. 4806.

I was proud to work on that legislation with Ms. HARMAN and my other Intelligence Subcommittee colleagues last year, and I am pleased that we are moving it anew this Congress. Our goal is a simple one, to make DHS the gold standard when it comes to classification practice.

As someone with many years of intelligence experience as a member of the U.S. military, I know that intel is useless if it doesn't get to the people who need it. And I have witnessed personally the missed opportunities that can arise from over-classification.

That's why H.R. 553 is designed to ensure that as much homeland security information as possible is shared with the Department's State, local, tribal and private sector partners, the men and women on the front lines of the Nation's homeland security efforts.

As the 9/11 Commission and others have noted, it is those officers who, during their day-to-day police work, are most likely to uncover a terrorist plot in the making, and those who are best positioned to disrupt or even prevent it. They are not only our first responders, they are also our first preventers.

Unfortunately, what we have heard time and again from those officers is not encouraging. They are not getting important information that can keep people safe because too much of it is stamped "Top Secret."

H.R. 553 will promote accountability and best practices at DHS by requiring employees and contractors to use the classification regime the way it was intended: To protect sensitive sources and methods, not to hide embarrassing facts or protect political turf.

Among other things, H.R. 553 will promote accountability by requiring that all classified intelligence products created at the Department be simultaneously created with a standard unclassified format as well if such a product would help police and sheriffs keep us safe. This will help change the intelligence culture that is still far too comfortable with classifying rather than sharing.

H.R. 553, likewise, will promote accountability by requiring the Secretary to create an auditing mechanism for the DHS Inspector General that randomly samples classified intelligence products, identifies problems that exist in those samples, and recommends improvements to fix them.

To further engage Department staff in their efforts to get classification right, H.R. 553 requires the Secretary to establish a process through which employees may challenge original DHS classification decisions and be rewarded for bringing those abuses to light.

The legislation further requires the Secretary to establish penalties for staff who repeatedly fail to comply

with applicable classification policies, despite notice of their noncompliance and an opportunity to undergo retraining.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania yield for a brief question?

Mr. CARNEY. I will not. I will finish my statement at this time.

Mr. CULBERSON. And I can ask at the end of your statement?

Mr. CARNEY. Perhaps. H.R. 553 is a bipartisan fix to a decades-old problem that will only get worse if we don't act now.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ms. HARMAN for her leadership on this bill. And on behalf of first preventers, first responders everywhere, I urge passage of this essential legislation.

Mr. CULBERSON. Would the gentleman yield for a brief question?

Mr. CARNEY. Yes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Thank you, Mr. CARNEY. I wanted to ask if you could please, sir, I would like to know how spending \$50 million for the National Endowment of the Arts and \$3 billion on sexually transmitted diseases is going to stimulate the economy in Pennsylvania or anywhere else. How will spending money on the NEA and sexually transmitted diseases stimulate the economy in Pennsylvania?

Mr. CARNEY. Those provisions are removed from the stimulus package, if I'm correct.

Mr. CULBERSON. The National Endowment of the Arts funding, the prevention and wellness programs, \$3 billion. How will spending \$3 billion on prevention and wellness programs stimulate the economy in Pennsylvania?

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

Mr. MCHENRY. I thank my colleague from Texas for the opportunity to speak on this legislation today.

And I think Congress agrees, I think we are going to have a nice bipartisan vote on this legislation. I want to thank the chairman for his hard work on this legislation.

But we have a greater issue that we also need to talk about today, Mr. Speaker. And action is truly needed to rebuild our economy. We know that. The American people know that. And our elected leaders know that we have to not only have good policies for homeland security and national security, but our economic security at home. And unfortunately, the Democrat majority in their so-called stimulus bill, which is really nothing more than a spending bill, does nothing of the sort. It devotes, "tens of billions of dollars to causes that have little to do with jolting our economy out of recession," as the Associated Press says.

Only 3 percent of the funds in the so-called stimulus bill, or the pork barrel bill, are dedicated to road and highway infrastructure projects. And just 2.7 percent is dedicated to small business

tax relief, even though we know that 90 percent of Americans are employed by small businesses, and most of the new jobs that this country creates are created by small businesses. And the Democrats' answer to stimulating the economy is not by helping small businesses, but by creating 32 new government programs and spending \$646,214 per government job that is created under that bill.

To make matters worse, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office reported that over half the money will be spent between 2011 and 2019, after most economists say this economy will have recovered and we will be out of this recession.

Look, this was nothing more than a partisan opportunity to lard up and load up this piece of legislation and add a bunch of different liberal spending priorities. It's not about a stimulus. It's not about helping the American people through these economic times.

And with so many of my constituents struggling in Western North Carolina just to keep their head above water, this Congress passed an \$819 billion spending bill that will do nothing but add to our debt and deficit and cause us massive inflation in the years to come, as well as mounting debt every day. And I'm in agreement with so many of these economists who predict that this legislation will have a disastrous effect on our long term economic security in this country and will do little to stimulate this economy.

Well, the one thing that is certain is the result of this type of legislation will be a massive tax increase by this Democrat Congress in the future. I think this is highly unfortunate.

I think we should come together, as President Obama has said, and work for a bipartisan piece of legislation that will have tax cuts for small businesses in this country, as well as proper infrastructure spending that will help our economy regain its footing, so we can get back to economic growth and creating new jobs and good jobs for my constituents in Western North Carolina, as well as all Americans in all 50 States.

And so with that, I urge this congressional leadership to work together and listen to what President Obama has said.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and I am prepared to close if the gentleman from Texas is.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I have one more speaker.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I reserve.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

(Mr. CASSIDY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1615

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I would classify "intelligence" as important,

but when I was back in my district last weekend, what folks asked me about was the stimulus package. They sense that something is needed, but they also sense, as, I think, all of us do, that what is most important are tax cuts and infrastructure development. Yet the bill that came out last week reminded me a little bit as though my wife had sent me to Wal-Mart and had said, "I want you to get some bread and meat," and instead, I come back with a DVD and a grill. Now, DVDs and grills are great, but someday, you have got to pay the credit card bill.

Right now, we have to focus on the bread and meat—the jobs and the infrastructure—not on the DVDs and grills. I keep on thinking: What would Dave Ramsey say? He is the guy who kind of advises couples on how to get out of financial difficulty. Dave would say, "Get a job, and stop spending on your credit card." Now, the parts of this that are infrastructure and tax cuts are "get a job," but the part of this that is maxing out the credit card and that is putting \$2,700 worth of debt on my children and grandchildren going henceforth is the part that Dave would advise against.

I ask that we in Congress follow Dave Ramsey's wisdom—that we focus on tax cuts and infrastructure and forgo the rest.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I do not have any more speakers.

Mr. OLSON. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are discussing today rightfully focuses on our physical security. But what of our economic security? What of our future? What of our freedom?

Mr. Speaker, I represent a State that is known for rolling up their sleeves and for working hard. Texans know that prosperity does not come from borrowing and spending but, rather, from working hard and from saving for the future. As I spent this last weekend down in my district, speaking with my constituents about the need to help the economy, the overwhelming message I heard was of the concern that, once again, Washington was out of touch.

My constituents do not want to support a stimulus that creates 30 new government programs. They want a real stimulus that creates real, new jobs. They want tax relief for hard-working Americans, and they want economic relief for businesses, small and large, in order to rebuild our economy. They find the prospect of saddling their children and grandchildren with trillions of dollars of debt to be unthinkable.

Make no mistake. The bipartisan coalition that opposed this misguided measure last week acted simply not to obstruct but, rather, to promote commonsense measures for economic growth. We voted for tax cuts, for better jobs, for long-term growth over short-term gimmicks, and for the post-partisan environment that we saw on

the west front of this very building on January 20.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first thank Ms. HARMAN for her leadership on this bill. She brought it up through her subcommittee on Homeland Security and in the full committee. Mr. REICHERT, who is no longer on the committee, was ranking member.

As already noted, it passed out of the committee unanimously, and it was passed here on the floor likewise. So, basically, any hesitation or reservation on this bill is being noted for the first time, and I would hope that we do not mix a good bill with other politics of this body. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, we have new leadership here in Washington. It is committed to change for our Nation. With this bill, we have a profound opportunity to deliver a change for the better at the Department of Homeland Security.

The overclassification of materials impedes information sharing with State, local and tribal law enforcement. It also impedes information sharing with the owners and operators of critical infrastructure. Given that over 85 percent of our Nation's critical infrastructure, including electrical grids, airports, power plants, and mass transit systems, are all in the hands of nongovernmental entities, it is critical that DHS establish robust, stable lines of communication.

Last year, this legislation, as I indicated, was passed unanimously out of the committee, and was approved by this House by voice vote. Today, we have the opportunity to send it over to the Senate with another strong message for change.

Before I yield back, I want to express my profound disappointment that this bipartisan bill is seen as an opportunity for empty partisan attacks dealing with the economic stimulus. It is fine to attack the stimulus, but you need to attack it in its consistent form and not just attack it in good bills like this—bills that pass bipartisan in our committee and again by voice vote on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge passage of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 553.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FAST REDRESS ACT OF 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 559) to amend

the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an appeal and redress process for individuals wrongly delayed or prohibited from boarding a flight, or denied a right, benefit, or privilege, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 559

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely Redress Act of 2009" or the "FAST Redress Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF APPEAL AND REDRESS PROCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WRONGLY DELAYED OR PROHIBITED FROM BOARDING A FLIGHT, OR DENIED A RIGHT, BENEFIT, OR PRIVILEGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 890A. APPEAL AND REDRESS PROCESS FOR PASSENGERS WRONGLY DELAYED OR PROHIBITED FROM BOARDING A FLIGHT, OR DENIED A RIGHT, BENEFIT, OR PRIVILEGE.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a timely and fair process for individuals who believe they were delayed or prohibited from boarding a commercial aircraft or denied a right, benefit, or privilege because they were wrongly identified as a threat when screened against any terrorist watchlist or database used by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) or any office or component of the Department.

"(b) OFFICE OF APPEALS AND REDRESS.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish in the Department an Office of Appeals and Redress to implement, coordinate, and execute the process established by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a). The Office shall include representatives from the TSA and such other offices and components of the Department as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(2) COMPREHENSIVE CLEARED LIST.—The process established by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the establishment of a method by which the Office, under the direction of the Secretary, will maintain and appropriately disseminate a comprehensive list, to be known as the 'Comprehensive Cleared List', of individuals who—

"(A) were misidentified as an individual on any terrorist watchlist or database;

"(B) completed an approved Department of Homeland Security appeal and redress request and provided such additional information as required by the Department to verify the individual's identity; and

"(C) permit the use of their personally identifiable information to be shared between multiple Departmental components for purposes of this section.

"(3) USE OF COMPREHENSIVE CLEARED LIST.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

"(i) except as provided in subparagraph (B), transmit to the TSA or any other appropriate office or component of the Department, other Federal, State, local, and tribal entities, and domestic air carriers and foreign air carriers that use any terrorist watchlist or database, the Comprehensive Cleared List and any other information the Secretary determines necessary to resolve misidentifications and improve the administration of the advanced passenger prescreening system and reduce the number of false positives; and

"(ii) ensure that the Comprehensive Cleared List is taken into account by all appropriate offices or components of the Department when assessing the security risk of an individual.

"(B) TERMINATION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The transmission of the Comprehensive Cleared List to domestic air carriers and foreign air carriers under clause (i) of subparagraph (A) shall terminate on the date on which the Federal Government assumes terrorist watchlist or database screening functions.

"(ii) WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which the transmission of the Comprehensive Cleared List to the air carriers referred to in clause (i) of this subparagraph terminates in accordance with such clause, the Secretary shall provide written notification to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate of such termination.

"(4) INTERGOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS.—The Secretary may—

"(A) enter into memoranda of understanding with other Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies or entities, as necessary, to improve the appeal and redress process and for other purposes such as to verify an individual's identity and personally identifiable information; and

"(B) work with other Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies or entities that use any terrorist watchlist or database to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the Comprehensive Cleared List is considered when assessing the security risk of an individual.

"(5) HANDLING OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Chief Privacy Officer of the Department, shall—

"(A) require that Federal employees of the Department handling personally identifiable information of individuals (in this paragraph referred to as 'PII') complete mandatory privacy and security training prior to being authorized to handle PII;

"(B) ensure that the information maintained under this subsection is secured by encryption, including one-way hashing, data anonymization techniques, or such other equivalent technical security protections as the Secretary determines necessary;

"(C) limit the information collected from misidentified passengers or other individuals to the minimum amount necessary to resolve an appeal and redress request;

"(D) ensure that the information maintained under this subsection is shared or transferred via an encrypted data network that has been audited to ensure that the anti-hacking and other security related software functions perform properly and are updated as necessary;

"(E) ensure that any employee of the Department receiving the information maintained under this subsection handles such information in accordance with section 552a of title 5, United States Code, the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296), and other applicable laws;

"(F) only retain the information maintained under this subsection for as long as needed to assist the individual traveler in the appeal and redress process;

"(G) engage in cooperative agreements with appropriate Federal agencies and entities, on a reimbursable basis, to ensure that legal name changes are properly reflected in any terrorist watchlist or database and the Comprehensive Cleared List to improve the appeal and redress process and to ensure the

most accurate lists of identifications possible (except that section 552a of title 5, United States Code, shall not prohibit the sharing of legal name changes among Federal agencies and entities for the purposes of this section); and

“(H) conduct and publish a privacy impact assessment of the appeal and redress process established under this section and transmit the assessment to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

“(6) INITIATION OF APPEAL AND REDRESS PROCESS AT AIRPORTS.—At each airport at which—

“(A) the Department has a presence, the Office shall provide written information to air carrier passengers to begin the appeal and redress process established pursuant to subsection (a); and

“(B) the Department has a significant presence, provide the written information referred to in subparagraph (A) and ensure a TSA supervisor who is trained in such appeal and redress process is available to provide support to air carrier passengers in need of guidance concerning such process.

“(7) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the status of information sharing among users at the Department of any terrorist watchlist or database. The report shall include the following information:

“(A) A description of the processes and the status of the implementation of this section to share the Comprehensive Cleared List with other Department offices and components and other Federal, State, local, and tribal authorities that utilize any terrorist watchlist or database.

“(B) A description of the extent to which such other Department offices and components are taking into account the Comprehensive Cleared List.

“(C) Data on the number of individuals who have sought and successfully obtained redress through the Office of Appeals and Redress.

“(D) Data on the number of individuals who have sought and were denied redress through the Office of Appeals and Redress.

“(E) An assessment of what impact information sharing of the Comprehensive Cleared List has had on misidentifications of individuals who have successfully obtained redress through the Office of Appeals and Redress.

“(F) An updated privacy impact assessment.

“(c) TERRORIST WATCHLIST OR DATABASE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘terrorist watchlist or database’ means any terrorist watchlist or database used by the Transportation Security Administration or any office or component of the Department of Homeland Security or specified in Homeland Security Presidential Directive–6, in effect as of the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(b) INCORPORATION OF SECURE FLIGHT.—Section 44903(j)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(iii)—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (II) through (VII) as subclauses (III) through (VIII), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subclause (I) the following new subclause:

“(II) ensure, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the FAST Re-

dress Act of 2009, that the procedure established under subclause (I) is incorporated into the appeals and redress process established under section 890A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.”;

(2) in subparagraph (E)(iii), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, in accordance with the appeals and redress process established under section 890A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002”;

(3) in subparagraph (G)—

(A) in clause (i), by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The Assistant Secretary shall incorporate the process established pursuant to this clause into the appeals and redress process established under section 890A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.”;

(B) in clause (ii), by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The Assistant Secretary shall incorporate the record established and maintained pursuant to this clause into the Comprehensive Cleared List established and maintained under such section 890A.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking section 44926 (and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 449 of title 49).

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101(b)) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 890 the following new item:

“Sec. 890A. Appeal and redress process for passengers wrongly delayed or prohibited from boarding a flight, or denied a right, benefit, or privilege.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H.R. 559, the Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely Redress Act—or the FAST Redress Act—was first introduced by Representative CLARKE in the last Congress. Ms. CLARKE is to be commended for her effort in steering this legislation through the House in a cooperative, bipartisan way.

H.R. 559 was marked up and was approved on a bipartisan basis by the Committee’s Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee in the last Congress. Last June, the bill was unanimously passed by the House, but unfortunately, it was not signed into law. With our new President, I believe this bill will soon become law.

Everyone complains about the lack of sanity in the watch list process, but

few have dared to wade into all the ins and outs of the system. Representative CLARKE has done just that, and this legislation is the product of her thoughtful undertaking.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, this issue is of great concern to me as well. We must have prudent security policies, and these policies must ensure that people are not improperly identified as potential terrorists or are on any watch list or database. This bill promotes security while also protecting civil liberties. President Obama’s swearing-in began a new era in our homeland and national security policies, and smart legislation, like these measures before us today, will be well served by our new leadership.

Certainly, the practice of watch-listing individuals plays an important role in identifying possible terror suspects. It is important to keep in mind that the watch list is only as good as the information on it. Without accurate, complete and reliable information, the purpose of a watch list is frustrated, and the database becomes unreliable.

Fixing the watch list and reducing misidentifications is a particularly difficult challenge. To meet this challenge, all of the intelligence and law enforcement components that populate the list need to come together and need to agree to clean it up. Unfortunately, this has not happened.

Since February 2007, over 32,000 Americans have sought redress through the DHS Traveler and Redress Inquiry Program, also known as DHS TRIP. Each individual voluntarily provides personal information to establish his or her identity. When there is a determination that this person is not a threat, his name is placed on a cleared list that is maintained by the Transportation Security Administration. This cleared list is populated with names of individuals who have the same or similar names as someone on the no fly or selectee list, but they have proven that they are not the people on the list. The cleared list is then only shared with the airlines for screening purposes, not with all other agencies that use the watch list.

Under H.R. 559, the updated information would be shared throughout DHS and with other Federal agencies that use the terrorist watch list or database. This would ensure that individuals who are cleared under the redress process are not stopped as potential terrorists by other Federal agencies.

Specifically, H.R. 559 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish the Office of Appeals and Redress to provide a timely and fair redress process. The Office of Appeals and Redress is directed to maintain a comprehensive cleared list that contains the names of individuals who have been misidentified and who have corrected erroneous information. The comprehensive cleared list would be made available to those who would use the terrorist watch list or database to resolve misidentification.

The bill directs TSA, CBP, the Coast Guard, and other DHS components to reference the Comprehensive Cleared List when assessing the security risk of an individual. This will ensure that individuals, such as our esteemed colleague from Georgia, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, will not be repeatedly stopped or delayed or will not have to seek redress from different components in the same Federal agency. Importantly, the measure includes protections to ensure that personally identifiable information is handled in accordance with privacy laws. Once enacted, individuals who go through the trouble of clearing their names will not have to repeat the exercise again and again.

With the inauguration of President Obama, America enters a new chapter, and this bill moves our security policies forward in a manner that protects our homeland and our civil liberties.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of every JOHN LEWIS and others who are frequently misidentified on the watch list, I urge swift passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely Redress Act of 2009.

At the outset, I would like to thank Ms. CLARKE of New York for her bipartisan outreach in crafting this worthy piece of legislation. Her efforts to ensure that Republican concerns were addressed before bringing this legislation to the floor are truly admirable and appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, throughout numerous hearings and briefings by executives in the Government Accountability Office, our committee has heard repeatedly that the terrorist watch list works. Recent GAO reports have stated, "The watch list has helped screening agencies assess the potential threat a person poses and take a wide range of counterterrorism responses. The watch list has helped support law enforcement investigations and the intelligence community by tracking the movements of known or appropriately suspected terrorists and collecting information about them."

The bottom line is that the terrorist watch list keeps known or suspected terrorists out of our neighborhoods. However, this comes at a cost. Every month, Federal, State and local law enforcement officials screen some 270 million individuals against a new and constantly evolving consolidated terrorist watch list.

□ 1630

Since 2004, a known or suspected terrorist has been encountered some 600,000 times. Some suspects were arrested, many were refused entry into the United States but all were identified to local law enforcement officials.

Nevertheless, the system is not perfect and sometimes mistakes are made. The problem with this name-based system is compounded by the fact that

some individuals have over 50 identities on the watch list. Occasionally this leads to misidentifications between law-abiding Americans and watch-listed identities.

These misidentifications are not simply persons with Arab names, as the press would have you believe. Actors, writers, and yes, even Congressmen have been tripped up by the terrorist watch list. The legislation before us enables a reasonable process to ensure that once a misidentified individual seeks redress through the Department's Traveler Redress Inquiry Program, the results of that process are transmitted to DHS entities to prevent further inconveniences.

Perhaps the single most important provision in this bill is the requirement that the Department better advertise its redress process. When I hear from constituents that they are being misidentified as a watch-listed individual, I am disturbed that they have not heard of the Department's process to seek redress.

This bill requires the Department to advertise its redress process at each airport and have staff on hand at the largest airports to explain the process and answer questions from the traveling public.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. This is a bipartisan bill. I ask that all Members join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Ms. CLARKE) who has championed this issue ever since her arrival on the Homeland Security Committee. And obviously this is her bill and we support it.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, nearly everyone in the homeland security community agrees that having a single comprehensive list of terrorist suspects is an important tool in keeping America safe. However, there are flaws in how the terrorist watch list is maintained and used.

Over the years, this list has grown to have over 1.1 million entries. With so many different names on the list, it is not surprising that every single day countless Americans are misidentified as terrorists.

The errors most commonly occur when an innocent person's name happens to be similar to the one listed in the database. For example, if your name is Al Smith and there is an A. Smith on the list, guess what? You're going to be caught. This is even worse for the millions of American residents who have names which can have different pronunciations or ways of spellings.

This wastes time both for law enforcement, because they're using resources investigating innocent people, and for the general public who face the prospect of being wrongfully detained and possibly altogether prevented from going about their business. Most commonly, this affects air travelers who

are screened against a watch list more often than anyone else.

Currently, each time a reservation is made, airlines must determine whether a customer is a potential match based on information from us, from the government. Every day, thousands of people are pulled aside, required to go through special procedures, detained, or even denied boarding altogether at great personal and financial costs to the frustrated travelers who've missed flights. For private citizens, this can lead to ruined plants. These practices have, in essence, begun the process of eroding the foundation on which our civil liberties were built.

However, at a time when we're doing everything we can to stimulate the economy, this problem can be catastrophic for business travelers and companies. The inability for thousands of people to travel for work puts jobs in jeopardy. And for every employee unable to make a meeting because of being mistakenly denied boarding, companies needlessly lose productivity. This is a waste when Congress is spending money to help commerce grow.

Furthermore, because the terrorist watch list is used by many different screening agencies, other people have also been impacted by this problem, including anyone whose license plates are run by local law enforcement; port workers who have been incorrectly denied a Transportation Worker Identification Card, which is now required to work at port facilities in the U.S.; international travelers delayed or denied entry into the country by CBP, and potential foreign visitors denied visas by the State Department.

In the future, this will likely become a greater issue as more potentially sensitive activities are tied to screening against the watch list.

This is why I originally introduced the FAST Redress Act, which I'm proud to say passed the House last year with very strong bipartisan support. Unfortunately, despite more bipartisan support in the Senate, the other chamber ultimately failed to move this forward.

Therefore, I have reintroduced this bill in the 111th Congress in the hope that this time we can push it through and help millions of people. The FAST Redress Act solves the misidentification problems by granting DHS the tools to create a department-wide office of redress and appeals—a one-stop shop for any individual who feels they're being incorrectly identified as a terrorist whenever they have contact with the government.

This bill will greatly streamline the process for the countless people who, just because of their names, are regularly misidentified as a terrorist, creating a single, highly visible office within the government for everyone who wants to clear their names.

I'm glad to see the U.S. House of Representatives taking up this bill once again—and doing so with such speed—

demonstrating the strong show of support to help the people affected by this issue.

I'm very thankful to Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING for their great bipartisan leadership in pushing the FAST Redress Act forward; Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE and ranking member, I also thank them. I thank the staff on both sides of the Homeland Security Committee for their hard work and the time they put into this bill, and my own senior legislative aid for Homeland Security, Mr. Daniel Hattis, for his hard work, his vigilance, and his commitment for making the FAST Redress Act the law of the land.

Further, this bill has received strong support from the National Business Travelers Association, which has recognized that the problem of misidentification hurts the economy and how this bill benefits the business travel committee.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this bipartisan support

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for real economic stimulus legislation. With terrible economic news coming in all the time, I'm eager to support legislation that will spur economic investment and put an infrastructure in place that will promote future economic development.

Folks in east Tennessee will tell you that the bill the House passed last week is a bad bill. It's bloated by wasteful spending. Back home, we're adapting to this troubling economic climate by tightening our belts and clamping down on unnecessary spending.

Many people are understandably upset that the Federal Government's reaction is exactly the opposite. They're amazed when we're prepared to spend an additional \$819 billion of their money after a \$700 billion bailout that was spent without anyone being able to give a straight answer about where the money went. They're skeptical of the results that we're getting, and so am I.

I think there are a few stimulative activities we should be taking a good look at. First, we should return more of the money we're taking in in Washington through tax cuts for people who pay taxes. In my opinion, and in the opinion of many economic experts, this is one of the most effective measures we can take. I would also cut taxes for small business who are going to create the jobs we need to get out of this economic crisis. These businesses can use this money to reinvest in plant equipment.

This weekend, I met a young man named Mike who is in deep trouble with his two restaurants. He doesn't have the capital to keep going on. He hires 21 people. This is someone we

need to desperately help, and this story can be repeated across this Nation.

To those who've been put out of a job, I would eliminate the taxes on unemployment insurance. It is so counterproductive to provide people these benefits only to turn around and take part of the benefit right back, and it doesn't make any sense.

As a former mayor, I would also encourage meaningful infrastructure investment focused on improving our Nation's roads, sewers, and education. I know from my experience that these improvements lay the groundwork for future economic development that will benefit our children's generation. In Johnson City, Tennessee, the investments we made several years ago make our city attractive to businesses and homebuyers, which in turn promote economic development.

I hope the majority party will take these suggestions and incorporate them into their package so that the next bill we consider on the House floor will be an American stimulus package, not a Democrat or Republican stimulus package.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from the State of Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use my time today to compliment the bipartisan work of the Committee on Homeland Security. The bill before you, the FAST Redress Act of 2009, is the result of extensive bipartisan negotiations. This is what my constituents asked for when they elected me to Congress.

The people of Wyoming want to see the parties working together for the good of the American people. And this bill is an example of the type of bipartisanship that I hoped to see when I came here.

Unfortunately, my first month in this body did not display to me that type of bipartisanship. So to have this example here today is very refreshing. Last week, we had an example that was quite the opposite.

The stimulus package went to the Senate without a single Republican vote. But the fact of the matter is, the American people are now weighing in, and they're weighing in with their Senators, and they're giving their Senators the opportunity to make a better decision than we in the House made: a decision based on the spirit of bipartisanship and a decision that's based on job stimulus, not on pork barrel spending.

So I want to compliment the Committee on Homeland Security for bringing us a bill that is truly bipartisan. And I would encourage us, as a Congress, the House of Representatives, to take the same spirit of bipartisanship to heart when the Senate returns the stimulus package to us for our subsequent consideration.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I urge the passage of the bill and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, while the practice of watch listing individuals plays an important role in identifying possible terrorist suspects, we must keep in mind that the watch list is only as good as the information on it. Without accurate, complete, and reliable information, misidentifications persist. The database becomes unreliable, and the purpose of the watch list is frustrated leaving America vulnerable.

For the watch list to truly be cleaned up, there needs to be direction from the Obama administration to all of the consumers of the list throughout the Federal Government that the way the list is populated and maintained needs reformed. The intelligence community, Federal law enforcement, and DHS must all come together in order to revamp the watch list. In the absence of reform, America needs an immediate remedy. The FAST Redress Act provides just that.

I urge swift passage of this bill, H.R. 559. Ensuring that business travel and other Americans can fly without being misidentified against a terrorist watch list will also stimulate the economy. Air travel is already distressed. Inter-rhetoric against a solid stimulus bill does little to make things right.

Mr. Speaker, this bill moves our security policies forward in a manner that protects our homeland and our civil liberties.

I encourage the passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 559.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL BOMBING PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 549) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an appeal and redress process for individuals wrongly delayed or prohibited from boarding a flight, or denied a right, benefit, or privilege, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 549

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Bombing Prevention Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. BOMBING PREVENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 210F. OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish within the Protective Security Coordination Division of the Office of Infrastructure Protection of the Department an Office for Bombing Prevention (in this section referred to as ‘the Office’).

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office shall have the primary responsibility for enhancing the ability, and coordinating the efforts, of the United States to deter, detect, prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States, including by—

“(1) serving as the lead agency of the Department for ensuring that programs designed to counter terrorist explosive attacks in the United States function together efficiently to meet the evolving threat from explosives and improvised explosive devices;

“(2) coordinating national and intergovernmental bombing prevention activities to ensure those activities work toward achieving common national goals;

“(3) conducting analysis of the capabilities and requirements necessary for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to deter, prevent, detect, protect against, and assist in any response to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States by—

“(A) maintaining a national analysis database on the capabilities of bomb squads, explosive detection canine teams, tactics teams, and public safety dive teams; and

“(B) applying the analysis derived from the database described in subparagraph (A) in—

“(i) evaluating progress toward closing identified gaps relating to national strategic goals and standards; and

“(ii) informing decisions relating to homeland security policy, assistance, training, research, development efforts, testing and evaluation, and related requirements;

“(4) promoting secure information sharing of sensitive material and promoting security awareness, including by—

“(A) operating and maintaining a secure information sharing system that allows the sharing of critical information relating to terrorist explosive attack tactics, techniques, and procedures;

“(B) educating the public and private sectors about explosive precursor chemicals;

“(C) working with international partners, in coordination with the Office for International Affairs of the Department, to develop and share effective practices to deter, prevent, detect, protect, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States; and

“(D) executing national public awareness and vigilance campaigns relating to terrorist explosive threats, preventing explosive attacks, and activities and measures underway to safeguard the United States;

“(5) assisting State, local, and tribal governments in developing multi-jurisdictional improvised explosive devices security plans for high-risk jurisdictions;

“(6) helping to ensure, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the identi-

fication and availability of effective technology applications through field pilot testing and acquisition of such technology applications by Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to deter, prevent, detect, protect, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States;

“(7) coordinating the efforts of the Department relating to, and assisting departments and agencies of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, and private sector business in, developing and implementing national explosives detection training, certification, and performance standards;

“(8) ensuring the implementation of any recommendations in the national strategy required under section 210G, including developing, maintaining, and tracking progress toward achieving objectives to reduce the vulnerability of the United States to terrorist explosive attacks;

“(9) developing, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, programmatic guidance and permitted uses for bombing prevention activities funded by homeland security assistance administered by the Department; and

“(10) establishing and executing a public awareness campaign to inform the general public and private sector businesses on ways they can deter, detect, prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States, that—

“(A) utilizes a broad spectrum of both mainstream and specialty print, radio, television outlets, and the Internet;

“(B) utilizes small and disadvantaged businesses, as defined under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.); and

“(C) ensures that the public awareness messages under the campaign reach and are understandable to underserved populations, including—

“(i) persons with physical and mental disabilities, health problems, visual impairments, hearing impairments, limited English proficiency, and literacy barriers;

“(ii) socially and economically disadvantaged households and communities;

“(iii) the elderly; and

“(iv) children.

“(c) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Director of the United States Secret Service, or the Attorney General of the United States.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(B) \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2013; and

“(C) such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available pursuant to paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available until expended.

“(e) ENHANCEMENT OF EXPLOSIVES DETECTION CANINE RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES.—To enhance the Nation’s explosives detection canine resources and capabilities the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, by partnering with other Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities including historically black colleges and universities and minority serving institutions, and the private sector—

“(1) within 270 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection—

“(A) develop a pilot program that includes a domestic breeding program for purpose-bred explosives detection canines; and

“(B) increase the current number of capability assessments of explosives detection canine units to identify common challenges

and gaps in canine explosives detection, to provide for effective domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism, and to inform grant guidance and priorities, consistent with national capabilities database efforts;

“(2) continue development of a scientifically based training curriculum to enhance consensus-based national training and certification standards to provide for effective domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism through the effective use of explosives detection canines for explosives detection canines; and

“(3) continue engagement in explosives detection canine research and development activities through partnerships with the Science and Technology Directorate and the Technical Support Working Group.

“SEC. 210G. NATIONAL STRATEGY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and periodically update a national strategy to prevent and prepare for terrorist explosive attacks in the United States.

“(b) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall develop the national strategy required under subsection (a).

“(c) REPORTING.—Not later than six months after the date of the submission of the report regarding each quadrennial homeland security review conducted under section 707, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report regarding the national strategy required under subsection (a), which shall include recommendations, if any, for deterring, preventing, detecting, protecting against, and responding to terrorist attacks in the United States using explosives or improvised explosive devices, including any such recommendations relating to coordinating the efforts of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, emergency response providers, and the private sector.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210E the following new items:

“Sec. 210F. Office for Bombing Prevention.

“Sec. 210G. National strategy.”.

SEC. 3. EXPLOSIVES TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“SEC. 318. EXPLOSIVES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and in coordination with the Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of any other relevant Federal department or agency, shall ensure coordination and information sharing regarding nonmilitary research, development, testing, and evaluation activities of the Federal Government relating to the detection and prevention of, protection against, and response to terrorist attacks in the United States using explosives or improvised explosive devices, and the development of tools and technologies necessary to neutralize and disable explosive devices.

“(b) LEVERAGING MILITARY RESEARCH.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and in coordination with the Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, shall coordinate with the Secretary of Defense and

the head of any other relevant Federal department or agency to ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, military policies and procedures, and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities relating to the detection and prevention of, protection against, and response to terrorist attacks using explosives or improvised explosive devices, and the development of tools and technologies necessary to neutralize and disable explosive devices, are adapted to non-military uses.

“SEC. 319. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and in coordination with the Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, shall establish a technology transfer program to facilitate the identification, modification, and commercialization of technology and equipment for use by Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, emergency response providers, and the private sector to deter, prevent, detect, protect, and respond to terrorist attacks in the United States using explosives or improvised explosive devices.

“(b) PROGRAM.—The activities under the program established under subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) applying the analysis conducted under section 210F(b)(3) of the capabilities and requirements of bomb squad, explosive detection canine teams, tactical teams, and public safety dive teams of Federal, State, and local governments, to determine the training and technology requirements for Federal, State, and local governments, emergency response providers, and the private sector;

“(2) identifying available technologies designed to deter, prevent, detect, protect, or respond to terrorist attacks using explosives or improvised explosive devices that have been, or are in the process of being, developed, tested, evaluated, or demonstrated by the Department, other Federal agencies, the private sector, foreign governments, or international organizations;

“(3) reviewing whether a technology described in paragraph (2) may be useful in assisting Federal, State, or local governments, emergency response providers, or the private sector in detecting, deterring, preventing, or responding to terrorist attacks using explosives or improvised explosive devices; and

“(4) communicating to Federal, State, and local governments, emergency response providers, and the private sector the availability of any technology described in paragraph (2), including providing the specifications of any such technology, indicating whether any such technology satisfies appropriate standards, and identifying grants, if any, available from the Department to purchase any such technology.

“(c) WORKING GROUP.—To facilitate the transfer of military technologies, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, and in a manner consistent with protection of sensitive sources and methods, shall establish a working group to advise and assist in the identification of military technologies designed to deter, prevent, detect, protect, or respond to terrorist explosive attacks that are in the process of being developed, or are developed, by the Department of Defense or the private sector.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following new items:

“Sec. 318. Explosives research and development.

“Sec. 319. Technology transfer.”.

SEC. 4. GAO STUDY OF EXPLOSIVES DETECTION CANINE TEAMS.

Section 1307(f) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53; 121 Stat. 395) is amended by striking “utilization” and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting “utilization of explosives detection canine teams, by the Transportation Security Administration and all other agencies of the Department of Homeland Security that utilize explosives detection canines, to strengthen security and the capacity of explosive detection canine detection teams of the Department.”.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON CANINE PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act examining the administration of canine procurement activities by the Department of Homeland Security to deter, prevent, detect, and protect against terrorist explosive attacks in the United States, that includes consideration of the feasibility of reducing the price paid for the procurement of untrained canines, including by utilizing an expanded pool of breeds, procuring canines from domestic breeders, and acquiring canines from animal shelters, rescue societies, and other not-for-profit entities.

□ 1645

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to include in the RECORD an exchange of letters between the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology and myself.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, January 15, 2009.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Ford House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN, I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science and Technology in H.R. 549, the National Bombing Prevention Act of 2009. H.R. 549 was introduced by Congressman Peter T. King on January 15, 2009. H.R. 549 is identical to the reported version of H.R. 4749 from the 110th Congress.

H.R. 549 implicates the Committee on Science and Technology’s jurisdiction over Homeland Security research and development under Rule X(1)(o)(14) of the House Rules. The Committee on Science and Technology acknowledges the importance of H.R.

549 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this bill, I agree not to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forgo a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology, and that a copy of this letter and of your response will be included in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the House Floor.

The Committee on Science and Technology also expects that you will support our request to be conferees during any House-Senate conference on H.R. 549 or similar legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, January 15, 2009.

HON. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology,
Rayburn Bldg., House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 549, the “National Bombing Prevention Act of 2009,” introduced by Congressman Peter T. King on January 15, 2009.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I acknowledge that H.R. 549 contains provisions that fall under the jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Science and Technology. I appreciate your agreement to not seek a sequential referral of this legislation and I acknowledge that your decision to forgo a sequential referral does not waive, alter, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Further, I recognize that your Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of conferees on the bill for the portions of the bill that are within your jurisdiction and I agree to support such a request.

I will ensure that this exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 549, the “National Bombing Prevention Act of 2009.” I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, explosives remain the preferred weapon of choice by terrorists around the world. Yet, in the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks, the Bush administration placed a disproportionate level of attention on unconventional emerging threats such as chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

Despite the issuance 2 years ago of HSPD 19, which is entitled “Combating Terrorist Use of Explosives in the United States,” the focus needed to address the conventional explosives has been sorely lacking.

Time and again, we have seen terrorists use explosives against the United States and our overseas interests. We have also seen them used to deadly effect against some of our closest allies,

including Britain, Spain and, most recently, India.

Because explosives, be they homemade or military grade, are relatively easy to obtain and use in an improvised explosive device, a focused and coordinated approach is needed.

Passage of H.R. 549, the National Bombing Prevention Act of 2009, is a critical step to putting us on a path to developing such an approach.

Specifically, this bill, a reintroduced version of H.R. 4749 from last Congress, which passed the House overwhelmingly on June 18 of last year, establishes the Office of Bomb Prevention at the Department of Homeland Security.

I wish to thank the gentleman from Long Island, the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. KING, for authoring this legislation, and I am proud to once again be an original cosponsor.

This is a straightforward, bipartisan bill that authorizes the Office of Bombing Prevention in law and sets forth its responsibilities for coordinating Federal efforts to deter, detect, prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States.

To do so, the office is required to conduct analysis of the Federal, State, local, and tribal government capabilities; and maintain a national database of the capabilities of bomb squads, explosive detection canine teams, tactics teams, and public safety dive teams around the Nation.

Additionally, the bill requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a national strategy to prevent and prepare for terrorist explosive attacks in the United States.

The bill authorizes \$10 million for fiscal year 2010 and \$25 million annually for the following 3 years.

I strongly urge passage of this important homeland security legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This bill authorizes the Office of Bombing Prevention within the Department of Homeland Security. In previous Congresses, it passed on suspension with bipartisan support.

This office will provide the necessary analysis and coordination of our Nation's bomb prevention capability to best protect our citizens from the threat posed by explosive materials.

We only need to look at terrorist activities overseas to understand that conventional and improvised explosive devices are a terrorist's weapon of choice to target military and civilians.

Within the United States, we have been subject to our own share of explosive attacks, including the 1993 World Trade Center bombings, the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the Centennial Olympic Park bombing, and others.

State and local authorities have developed the capabilities to respond to potential explosive threats and to neutralize them. Yet without the office es-

tablished in this bill, there would be no analysis of our nationwide capability to respond to explosive threats, or where gaps exist in training, equipment, and personnel against a national baseline. This analysis will assist State and local officials in applying for homeland security grants to fill these gaps.

Further, this legislation will authorize the office to continue to promote information sharing and IED security awareness through advanced bomb prevention techniques and usable information.

The office uses a secure Web site, known as "TRIPwire," to provide to bomb prevention officials across the country access to current terrorist IED tactics, techniques and procedures, along with expert analysis and reports, making it a one-stop shop for actionable information.

I previously mentioned our troops' experience with IEDs in Iraq and Afghanistan. This legislation instructs the Secretary of Homeland Security to work closely with the Department of Defense to take advantage of what our troops have learned on the battlefield, both in tactics and technology, to improve the capability of our first responders here at home.

Preventing a bomb from going off should involve more than just those first responders attempting to neutralize the threat once the bomb has been placed. Education and awareness programs regarding the threat of IEDs are also a piece of this legislation, providing information on explosive precursors to merchants who can recognize suspicious purchases.

The continued need for the Office of Bombing Prevention is clear. It is important to note that this office is not designed to replace existing elements of counter-explosive expertise already found in the Federal Government, but to assist and coordinate State, local, and tribal capability. In fact, the National Tactical Officers Association supports this legislation.

By supporting H.R. 549, we take another step in upholding our responsibility to protect the lives and livelihood of American citizens.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any additional speakers for the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 549, the National Bombing Prevention Act of 2009. However, I have some concerns about language included in this bill regarding the enhancement of explosives detection canine resources and capabilities. I'm concerned and worried that this provision could unintentionally harm established Federal canine training facilities and even weaken existing training standards.

Currently, the Customs and Border Protection agency runs two world-class canine training facilities under its Canine Enforcement Program, in addition to a USDA facility in Florida. One of these facilities is located in my congressional district in Front Royal, Virginia, in what is viewed as the Shenandoah Valley. I strongly encourage Members to visit this exceptional program, staffed by dedicated Federal employees, before making any comprehensive reforms to this model program.

The Canine Enhancement Program already serves the needs of the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal agencies. It is so highly regarded that many of our closest international allies—and I was out there. Egypt had their people out there training and many others—send their canine program officials to the Front Royal facility for training.

Mr. Speaker, rather than reinventing a program that already demonstrates exceptional results, I hope that we can work with the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection to address these issues as this legislation moves forward.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and am privileged to address you, Mr. Speaker, and to rise in support of H.R. 549, the National Bombing Prevention Act.

This is something that certainly arises out of 9/11, when we watched in horror as the twin towers burned, the Pentagon was attacked, and the plane was crashed in Pennsylvania. It's changed the focus of this Nation. It's changed the priorities that we have.

One would think that government would simply look at this and make sure that all the gaps are filled, that we were able to analyze capabilities and maintain a database, identify those gaps. The list of the things in this bill goes on.

I'm looking at the risk to America and the energy that brings this bill to the floor, Mr. Speaker, and I think about this country in the broad terms. What do we need to do to take America to the next level of our destiny? How do we nurture the things that protect us? And how do we enhance the components that improve us?

And I can't help but reflect, Mr. Speaker, as I stand here that we are unanimous in our support in protecting the American people. We disagree sometimes on the tactics—and I don't think we much disagree on these tactics—but I think that there are greater risks out there to America that cry out for an urgent approach rather than H.R. 549, the National Bombing Prevention Act.

Some of those greater risks come from overseas. They come on our American military that are today in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, the whole backdrop of that. We have

poured a significant amount of resources in, and we've seen great success in Iraq in particular. We have a tough battle to fight in Afghanistan. That's the habitat that breeds the people that would like to penetrate through our shield.

That's something we cannot always see but it's a tangible enemy because we have seen the results of that tangible enemy.

Mr. Speaker, I can't watch this bill move through debate without raising the issue of the intangible enemy that we have, the enemy that we have from within, the enemy that creeps up on us and sneaks up on us, and the one that causes us to revert to security and trying to find a safer future. Whenever we see a bump along in our economy, when we see the stock market take a dip, when we see some unemployment numbers that go up, the first thing that happens is those who have been lying in wait for an economic disaster pounce upon that as an argument that the free markets are not the solution, that a managed economy is the solution.

And we're in the middle of a pivotal debate in America today, Mr. Speaker, and that pivotal debate rests not so much on the physical security of the American people, as it does the economic opportunity of the American people.

And in the name of economic security, we are watching trillions of dollars being invested in programs that have not shown any pattern of being successful. There was a \$150 billion stimulus plan not quite a year ago and then a \$700 billion stimulus plan that came out before the election, the bailout plan as it's commonly known, and now we're looking at perhaps a \$900 billion stimulus that has with it at least \$347 billion in interest attached to it over the next 10 years which takes us to \$1.3 trillion.

Just add the \$700 billion on from the bailout from last fall, and we're at \$2 trillion, \$2 trillion in debt and burden which is just one leg of a multi-legged stool as we know from President Obama that has to be constructed by that approach.

And I will submit that as much as we'd like to provide for the safety and the security of the American people—and I will continue to support and work together hand-in-hand across the aisle on those issues—I do oppose the idea that government can spend money better than people can, and I oppose the idea that creating new government programs and spending trillions of dollars. And this one-leg of a multi-legged stool is a \$2 trillion leg, Mr. Speaker.

How many more trillion dollars before we get all the legs built on this stool that may look like a centipede and our debt may look like it's insurmountable into the future?

We've got to revert to the things that made this Nation great, the foundations of the American exceptionalism. And those foundations have been—and

if we're to have a future will be—the free markets, the markets, the free enterprise system, and our faith in those markets. And at some point, we have to look back at history and understand that no matter how deep we can dig into the old "New Deal" of the 1930s, that the best that can be said for it was it may have slowed and diminished the depths to which we sunk during the Great Depression, but the tradeoff was that it delayed the recovery.

□ 1700

And now we are looking at a new, uber, new, new deal that's coming, that is multitrillions of dollars, that may or may not diminish the depths, but it will certainly delay the recovery.

So that is my greatest fear for America, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your attention.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge members to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 549, and believe that authorizing the Office of Bombing Prevention will greatly enhance our Nation's preparedness and response to arguably the most likely method of terrorist attack.

In addition to authorizing the Office to develop a strategic vision and establish the capabilities level around the Nation, the bill provides support for efforts to research explosives detection and mitigation.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that an informed public is a prepared public. In this spirit, the bill also directs the Office to develop and implement a public awareness campaign that can reach the private sector, as well as ordinary citizens.

Again, I'd like to commend Ranking Member KING for bringing forth this important bipartisan legislation, and I urge immediate passage of H.R. 549.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 549, the National Bombing Prevention Act of 2009, and am pleased that the House has moved quickly early in the 111th Congress to act on this important legislation. On January 15, 2009, I introduced H.R. 549, which authorizes the Office of Bombing Prevention within the Department of Homeland Security. In the previous Congress, the full House passed similar legislation by bipartisan voice vote on June 18, 2008.

The Office of Bombing Prevention will provide much needed analysis and coordination of our Nation's bomb-prevention capacity. This will inform State and local governments on how to best protect our citizens from the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The terrorist attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan; the attacks in London in 2007 and 2005; the Madrid bombings in 2004; and the countless other bombing attacks around the world serve as reminders that terrorist organizations utilize IEDs to target civilians and military personnel.

Within the United States, we have been subject to our own share of explosive attacks, including the 1993 World Trade Center bombings; the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing; the Centennial Olympic Park bombing; and others. State and local bomb squads across the country have formed and trained to respond to these types of threats. But at the national level, there is no analysis of our nationwide capability to respond to explosive threats, or to identify where gaps exist in training, equipment, and personnel against a national baseline. The Office authorized by this bill gives us that ability.

This analysis will also assist State and local officials in applying for homeland security grants to fill these gaps. Further, the bill requires the Office to continue to share information with State and local officials and promote IED security awareness. This information is distributed through a secure website, known as "TRIPwire," which provides to appropriate law enforcement officials access to current IED tactics, techniques and procedures—updated in light of new events and as terrorists change their methods. "TRIPwire" includes analysis and reports by experts making it a "one-stop shop" for actionable information.

Information sharing with law enforcement is only one part of preventing an IED attack within the United States. Another key component of the Office of Bombing Prevention authorized in this bill is the establishment of an awareness program for the public regarding the threat of IEDs. This program will educate merchants, for example, on types of materials that are explosive pre-cursors, so that sellers can watch for, and recognize, suspicious purchases.

Recognizing that our military has developed invaluable expertise in recognizing and countering IEDs, this legislation instructs the Secretary of Homeland Security to work closely with the Department of Defense to leverage lessons learned by our troops in combat. Adapting appropriate tactics and technology from overseas will improve the capability of our first responders here at home.

The Office of Bombing Prevention has been in existence at the Department of Homeland Security since 2005, but has not yet been authorized by statute. The continued need for the Office of Bombing Prevention is clear. While there are many Federal agencies that bring expertise and roles to countering an explosive threat, this Office provides a unique role to assist and assess State, local, and tribal capability.

By supporting H.R. 549, we take another step in upholding our responsibility to protect the lives and livelihood of American citizens. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 549, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL
WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, 111th Congress, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming:

Mr. SHADEGG, Arizona
Mr. SULLIVAN, Oklahoma
Mrs. BLACKBURN, Tennessee
Mrs. MILLER, Michigan
Mrs. CAPITO, West Virginia

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOCCIERI) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 82, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 103, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 559, by the yeas and nays.

The vote on H.R. 738 will be taken tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS
MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 82, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 82.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 0, not voting 15, as follows:

Roll No. 47

YEAS—417

Abercrombie	Davis (TN)	Kagen
Ackerman	Deal (GA)	Kanjorski
Aderholt	DeFazio	Kaptur
Adler (NJ)	DeGette	Kennedy
Akin	Delahunt	Kildee
Alexander	DeLauro	Kilroy
Altmire	Dent	Kind
Andrews	Diaz-Balart, L.	King (IA)
Arcuri	Diaz-Balart, M.	King (NY)
Austria	Dicks	Kingston
Baca	Dingell	Kirk
Bachmann	Doggett	Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Bachus	Donnelly (IN)	Kissell
Baird	Doyle	Klein (FL)
Baldwin	Dreier	Kline (MN)
Barrow	Driehaus	Kosmas
Bartlett	Duncan	Kratovil
Barton (TX)	Edwards (MD)	Kucinich
Bean	Edwards (TX)	Lamborn
Becerra	Ehlers	Lance
Berkley	Ellison	Langevin
Berman	Ellsworth	Larsen (WA)
Berry	Emerson	Larson (CT)
Biggert	Engel	Latham
Bilbray	Eshoo	LaTourrette
Bilirakis	Etheridge	Latta
Bishop (GA)	Fallin	Lee (CA)
Bishop (NY)	Farr	Lee (NY)
Bishop (UT)	Fattah	Levin
Blackburn	Filner	Lewis (CA)
Blumenauer	Fleming	Lewis (GA)
Blunt	Forbes	Linder
Bocchieri	Fortenberry	Lipinski
Boehner	Foster	LoBiondo
Bonner	Foxx	Loeback
Bono Mack	Frank (MA)	Lofgren, Zoe
Boozman	Franks (AZ)	Lowe
Boren	Frelinghuysen	Lucas
Boswell	Fudge	Luetkemeyer
Boucher	Gallely	Luján
Boustany	Garrett (NJ)	Lummis
Boyd	Gerlach	Lungren, Daniel
Brady (PA)	Giffords	E.
Brady (TX)	Gingrey (GA)	Lynch
Bralley (IA)	Gohmert	Mack
Bright	Gonzalez	Maffei
Broun (GA)	Goodlatte	Maloney
Brown (SC)	Gordon (TN)	Manzullo
Brown, Corrine	Granger	Marchant
Brown-Waite,	Graves	Markey (CO)
Ginny	Grayson	Markey (MA)
Buchanan	Green, Al	Marshall
Burgess	Green, Gene	Massa
Burton (IN)	Griffith	Matheson
Butterfield	Grijalva	Matsui
Calvert	Guthrie	McCarthy (CA)
Camp	Gutierrez	McCarthy (NY)
Cantor	Hall (NY)	McCaul
Cao	Hall (TX)	McClintock
Capito	Halvorson	McCollum
Capps	Hare	McCotter
Capuano	Harman	McDermott
Cardoza	Harper	McGovern
Carnahan	Hastings (FL)	McHenry
Carney	Hastings (WA)	McHugh
Carson (IN)	Heinrich	McIntyre
Carter	Heller	McKeon
Cassidy	Hensarling	McMahon
Castle	Herseth Sandlin	McNerney
Castor (FL)	Higgins	Meek (FL)
Chaffetz	Hill	Meeks (NY)
Chandler	Himes	Melancon
Childers	Hinchev	Mica
Clarke	Hinojosa	Michaud
Clay	Hirono	Miller (FL)
Cleaver	Hodes	Miller (MI)
Clyburn	Hoekstra	Miller (NC)
Coble	Holden	Miller, Gary
Coffman (CO)	Holt	Miller, George
Cohen	Honda	Minnick
Cole	Hoyer	Mitchell
Conaway	Hunter	Mollohan
Connolly (VA)	Inglis	Moore (KS)
Cooper	Inslee	Moore (WI)
Costa	Israel	Moran (VA)
Costello	Issa	Murphy (CT)
Courtney	Jackson (IL)	Murphy, Patrick
Crenshaw	Jackson-Lee	Murphy, Tim
Cuellar	(TX)	Murtha
Culberson	Jenkins	Myrick
Cummings	Johnson (GA)	Nadler (NY)
Dahlkemper	Johnson (IL)	Napolitano
Davis (AL)	Johnson, E. B.	Neal (MA)
Davis (CA)	Johnson, Sam	Neugebauer
Davis (IL)	Jones	Nunes
Davis (KY)	Jordan (OH)	Nye

Oberstar	Royce	Sutton
Obey	Ruppersberger	Tanner
Olson	Rush	Tauscher
Olver	Ryan (OH)	Taylor
Ortiz	Ryan (WI)	Teague
Pallone	Salazar	Terry
Pascarella	Sanchez, Linda	Thompson (CA)
Pastor (AZ)	T.	Thompson (MS)
Paul	Sanchez, Loretta	Thompson (PA)
Paulsen	Sarbanes	Thornberry
Pence	Scalise	Tiberi
Perlmutter	Schakowsky	Tierney
Perriello	Schauer	Titus
Peters	Schiff	Tonko
Peterson	Schmidt	Towns
Petri	Schock	Tsongas
Pingree (ME)	Schrader	Turner
Pitts	Schwartz	Upton
Platts	Scott (GA)	Van Hollen
Poe (TX)	Scott (VA)	Velázquez
Polis (CO)	Sensenbrenner	Vislosky
Pomeroy	Serrano	Walden
Posey	Sessions	Walz
Price (GA)	Sestak	Wamp
Price (NC)	Shadegg	Wasserman
Putnam	Shea-Porter	Schultz
Radanovich	Sherman	Waters
Rahall	Shimkus	Watson
Rangel	Shuler	Watt
Rehberg	Shuster	Waxman
Reichert	Simpson	Weiner
Reyes	Sires	Welch
Richardson	Skelton	Westmoreland
Rodriguez	Slaughter	Wexler
Roe (TN)	Smith (NE)	Whitfield
Rogers (AL)	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (OH)
Rogers (KY)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Rogers (MI)	Smith (WA)	Wittman
Rohrabacher	Snyder	Wolf
Rooney	Souder	Woolsey
Ros-Lehtinen	Space	Wu
Roskam	Speier	Yarmuth
Ross	Spratt	Young (AK)
Rothman (NJ)	Stearns	Young (FL)
Roybal-Allard	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—15

Barrett (SC)	Herger	Solis (CA)
Buyer	Kilpatrick (MI)	Stark
Campbell	McMorris	Stupak
Conyers	Rodgers	Tiahrt
Crowley	Moran (KS)	
Flake	Payne	

□ 1855

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 47, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCING ZACHARY LARS
SANDLIN

(Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that my husband, Congressman Max Sandlin, a former Member of this distinguished body, and I introduce to you and to all of our colleagues the newest addition to our family, Zachary Lars Sandlin.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 103, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 103.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 419, nays 0, not voting 13, as follows:

Roll No. 48

YEAS—419

Abercrombie	Chandler	Gonzalez
Ackerman	Childers	Goodlatte
Aderholt	Clarke	Gordon (TN)
Adler (NJ)	Clay	Granger
Akin	Cleaver	Graves
Alexander	Clyburn	Grayson
Altmire	Coble	Green, Al
Andrews	Coffman (CO)	Green, Gene
Arcuri	Cohen	Griffith
Austria	Cole	Grijalva
Baca	Conaway	Guthrie
Bachmann	Connolly (VA)	Gutierrez
Bachus	Conyers	Hall (NY)
Baird	Cooper	Hall (TX)
Baldwin	Costa	Halvorson
Barrow	Costello	Hare
Bartlett	Courtney	Harman
Barton (TX)	Crenshaw	Harper
Bean	Cuellar	Hastings (FL)
Becerra	Culberson	Hastings (WA)
Berkley	Cummings	Heinrich
Berman	Dahlkemper	Heller
Berry	Davis (AL)	Hensarling
Biggart	Davis (CA)	Hergert
Bilbray	Davis (IL)	Herseth Sandlin
Bilirakis	Davis (KY)	Higgins
Bishop (GA)	Davis (TN)	Hill
Bishop (NY)	Deal (GA)	Himes
Bishop (UT)	DeFazio	Hinchee
Blackburn	DeGette	Hinojosa
Blumenauer	Delahunt	Hirono
Blunt	DeLauro	Hodes
Bocciari	Dent	Hoekstra
Boehner	Diaz-Balart, L.	Holden
Bonner	Diaz-Balart, M.	Holt
Bono Mack	Dicks	Honda
Boozman	Dingell	Hoyer
Boren	Doggett	Hunter
Boswell	Donnelly (IN)	Inglis
Boucher	Doyle	Inslee
Boustany	Dreier	Israel
Boyd	Driehaus	Issa
Brady (PA)	Duncan	Jackson (IL)
Brady (TX)	Edwards (MD)	Jackson-Lee
Bralley (IA)	Edwards (TX)	(TX)
Bright	Ehlers	Jenkins
Broun (GA)	Ellison	Johnson (GA)
Brown (SC)	Ellsworth	Johnson (IL)
Brown, Corrine	Emerson	Johnson, E. B.
Brown-Waite,	Engel	Johnson, Sam
Ginny	Eshoo	Jones
Buchanan	Etheridge	Jordan (OH)
Burgess	Fallin	Kagen
Burton (IN)	Farr	Kanjorski
Butterfield	Fattah	Kaptur
Calvert	Filmer	Kennedy
Camp	Fleming	Kildee
Cantor	Forbes	Kilroy
Cao	Fortenberry	Kind
Capito	Foster	King (IA)
Capps	Fox	King (NY)
Capuano	Frank (MA)	Kingston
Cardoza	Franks (AZ)	Kirk
Carnahan	Frelinghuysen	Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Carney	Fudge	Kissell
Carson (IN)	Gallely	Klein (FL)
Carter	Garrett (NJ)	Kline (MN)
Cassidy	Gerlach	Kosmas
Castle	Giffords	Kratovil
Castor (FL)	Gingrey (GA)	Kucinich
Chaffetz	Gohmert	Lamborn

Lance	Nadler (NY)	Sensenbrenner
Langevin	Napolitano	Serrano
Larsen (WA)	Neal (MA)	Sessions
Larson (CT)	Neugebauer	Sestak
Latham	Nunes	Shadegg
LaTourette	Nye	Shea-Porter
Latta	Oberstar	Sherman
Lee (CA)	Obey	Shimkus
Lee (NY)	Olson	Shuler
Levin	Olver	Shuster
Lewis (CA)	Ortiz	Simpson
Lewis (GA)	Pallone	Sires
Linder	Pascrell	Skelton
Lipinski	Pastor (AZ)	Slaughter
LoBiondo	Paul	Smith (NE)
Loeb	Paulsen	Smith (NJ)
Loeb	Pence	Smith (TX)
Lofgren, Zoe	Perlmutter	Smith (WA)
Lowe	Perriello	Snyder
Lucas	Peters	Souder
Luetkemeyer	Peterson	Space
Lujan	Petri	Speier
Lummis	Pingree (ME)	Spratt
Lungren, Daniel	Pitts	Stearns
E.	Platts	Sullivan
Lynch	Poe (TX)	Sutton
Mack	Polis (CO)	Tanner
Maffei	Pomeroy	Tauscher
Maloney	Posey	Taylor
Manzullo	Price (GA)	Teague
Marchant	Price (NC)	Terry
Markey (CO)	Putnam	Thompson (CA)
Markey (MA)	Radanovich	Thompson (MS)
Marshall	Rahall	Thompson (PA)
Massa	Rangel	Thornberry
Matheson	Rehberg	Tiberi
Matsui	Reichert	Tierney
McCarthy (CA)	Reyes	Titus
McCarthy (NY)	Richardson	Tonko
McCauley	Rodriguez	Towns
McClintock	Roe (TN)	Tsongas
McCollum	Rogers (AL)	Turner
McCotter	Rogers (KY)	Upton
McDermott	Rogers (MI)	Van Hollen
McGovern	Rohrabacher	Velázquez
McHenry	Rooney	Visclosky
McHugh	Ros-Lehtinen	Walden
McIntyre	Roskam	Walz
McKeon	Ross	Wamp
McMahon	Rothman (NJ)	Wasserman
McNerney	Roybal-Allard	Schultz
Meek (FL)	Royce	Waters
Meeks (NY)	Ruppersberger	Watson
Melancon	Rush	Watt
Mica	Ryan (OH)	Waxman
Michaud	Ryan (WI)	Weiner
Miller (FL)	Salazar	Welch
Miller (MI)	Sanchez, Linda	Westmoreland
Miller (NC)	T.	Wexler
Miller, Gary	Sanchez, Loretta	Whitfield
Miller, George	Sarbanes	Wilson (OH)
Minnick	Scalise	Wilson (SC)
Mitchell	Schakowsky	Wittman
Mollohan	Schauer	Wolf
Moore (KS)	Schiff	Woolsey
Moore (WI)	Schmidt	Wu
Moran (VA)	Schock	Yarmuth
Murphy (CT)	Schrader	Young (AK)
Murphy, Patrick	Schwartz	Young (FL)
Murphy, Tim	Scott (GA)	
Murtha	Scott (VA)	
Myrick		

NOT VOTING—13

Barrett (SC)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Solis (CA)
Buyer	McMorris	Stark
Campbell	Rodgers	Stupak
Crowley	Moran (KS)	Tiahrt
Flake	Payne	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in the vote.

□ 1906

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCING THE PASSING OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE WENDELL WYATT

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, Wendell Wyatt passed away last week at the age of 91. He represented the First Congressional District of Oregon from 1964 to 1975. He was my predecessor's predecessor's predecessor. He represented Oregon with integrity and compassion, and he will be remembered for his constituent service, his willingness to work toward consensus, and for his service in the Marine Corps during World War II as a fighter pilot.

Oregon has lost a statesman, but we remain indebted to Wendell Wyatt's service and legacy.

Mr. WALDEN. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. WU. I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WALDEN. I thank the gentleman.

Wendell Wyatt guided bills through Congress that left lasting imprints all over our great State of Oregon, including bills that established the Tualatin Reclamation Project in Washington County, the Columbia River 40-foot shipping channel, Lincoln City's Cascade Head Scenic Area, and a bill authorizing the purchase of ranch lands along the Snake River for public recreation.

He will be missed; he will never be forgotten.

Mr. WU. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Wendell Wyatt's life and expressing condolences to his family by requesting a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

FAST REDRESS ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 559, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 559.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 3, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 49]

YEAS—413

Abercrombie	Aderholt	Akin
Ackerman	Adler (NJ)	Alexander

Altmire	Dicks	Kissell	Pitts	Schauer	Terry
Andrews	Dingell	Klein (FL)	Platts	Schiff	Thompson (CA)
Arcuri	Doggett	Kline (MN)	Polis (CO)	Schmidt	Thompson (MS)
Austria	Donnelly (IN)	Kosmas	Pomeroy	Schock	Thompson (PA)
Baca	Doyle	Kratovil	Posey	Schrader	Thornberry
Bachmann	Dreier	Kucinich	Price (GA)	Schwartz	Tiberi
Bachus	Driehaus	Lamborn	Price (NC)	Scott (GA)	Tierney
Baird	Duncan	Lance	Putnam	Scott (VA)	Titus
Baldwin	Edwards (MD)	Langevin	Radanovich	Sensenbrenner	Tonko
Barrow	Edwards (TX)	Larsen (WA)	Rahall	Serrano	Towns
Bartlett	Ehlers	Larson (CT)	Rangel	Sessions	Tsongas
Barton (TX)	Ellison	Latham	Rehberg	Sestak	Turner
Bean	Ellsworth	LaTourette	Reichert	Shadegg	Upton
Becerra	Emerson	Latta	Reyes	Shea-Porter	Van Hollen
Berkley	Engel	Lee (CA)	Richardson	Sherman	Visclosky
Berman	Eshoo	Lee (NY)	Rodriguez	Shimkus	Walden
Berry	Etheridge	Levin	Roe (TN)	Shuler	Walz
Biggert	Fallin	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (AL)	Shuster	Wamp
Bilbray	Farr	Lewis (GA)	Rogers (KY)	Simpson	Wasserman
Bilirakis	Fattah	Linder	Rogers (MI)	Sires	Schultz
Bishop (GA)	Filner	Lipinski	Rohrabacher	Skelton	Waters
Bishop (NY)	Fleming	LoBiondo	Rooney	Slaughter	Watson
Bishop (UT)	Forbes	Loebsack	Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (NE)	Watt
Blackburn	Fortenberry	Lofgren, Zoe	Roskam	Smith (NJ)	Waxman
Blumenauer	Foster	Lowey	Ross	Smith (TX)	Weiner
Blunt	Foxo	Lucas	Rothman (NJ)	Smith (WA)	Welch
Bocchieri	Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer	Roybal-Allard	Snyder	Wexler
Boehner	Frelinghuysen	Lujan	Royce	Souder	Whitfield
Bonner	Fudge	Lummis	Ruppersberger	Space	Wilson (OH)
Bono Mack	Gallegly	Lungren, Daniel	Rush	Speier	Wilson (SC)
Boozman	Garrett (NJ)	E.	Ryan (OH)	Spratt	Wittman
Boren	Gerlach	Lynch	Ryan (WI)	Stearns	Wolf
Boswell	Giffords	Mack	Salazar	Stupak	Woolsey
Boucher	Gingrey (GA)	Maffei	Sánchez, Linda	Sullivan	Wu
Boustany	Gohmert	Maloney	T.	Sutton	Yarmuth
Boyd	Gonzalez	Manzullo	Sanchez, Loretta	Tanner	Young (AK)
Brady (PA)	Goodlatte	Marchant	Sarbanes	Tauscher	Young (FL)
Brady (TX)	Gordon (TN)	Markey (CO)	Scalise	Taylor	
Braley (IA)	Granger	Markey (MA)	Schakowsky	Teague	
Bright	Graves	Marshall			
Brown (SC)	Grayson	Massa			
Brown, Corrine	Green, Al	Matheson	Broun (GA)	Poe (TX)	Westmoreland
Brown-Waite,	Green, Gene	Matsui			
Ginny	Griffith	McCarthy (CA)			
Buchanan	Grijalva	McCarthy (NY)			
Burgess	Guthrie	McCaul	Barrett (SC)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Perriello
Burton (IN)	Gutierrez	McClintock	Buyer	McMorris	Solis (CA)
Butterfield	Hall (NY)	McCollum	Campbell	Rodgers	Stark
Calvert	Hall (TX)	McCotter	Crowley	Moran (KS)	Tiahrt
Camp	Halvorson	McDermott	Flake	Napolitano	Velázquez
Cantor	Hare	McGovern	Frank (MA)	Payne	
Cao	Harman	McHenry			
Capito	Harper	McHugh			
Capps	Hastings (FL)	McIntyre			
Capuano	Hastings (WA)	McKeon			
Cardoza	Heinrich	McMahon			
Carnahan	Heller	McNerney			
Carney	Hensarling	Meek (FL)			
Carson (IN)	Herger	Meeks (NY)			
Carter	Herseht Sandlin	Melancon			
Cassidy	Higgins	Mica			
Castle	Hill	Michaud			
Castor (FL)	Himes	Miller (FL)			
Chaffetz	Hinchev	Miller (MI)			
Chandler	Hinojosa	Miller (NC)			
Childers	Hirono	Miller, Gary			
Clarke	Hodes	Miller, George			
Clay	Hoekstra	Minnick			
Cleaver	Holden	Mitchell			
Clyburn	Holt	Mollohan			
Coble	Honda	Moore (KS)			
Coffman (CO)	Hoyer	Moore (WI)			
Cohen	Hunter	Moran (VA)			
Cole	Inglis	Murphy (CT)			
Conaway	Inslee	Murphy, Patrick			
Connolly (VA)	Israel	Murphy, Tim			
Conyers	Issa	Murtha			
Cooper	Jackson (IL)	Myrick			
Costa	Jackson-Lee	Nadler (NY)			
(TX)		Neal (MA)			
Costello	Jenkins	Neugebauer			
Courtney	Johnson (GA)	Nunes			
Crenshaw	Johnson (IL)	Nye			
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Oberstar			
Culberson	Johnson, Sam	Obey			
Cummings	Jones	Olson			
Dahlkemper	Jordan (OH)	Olver			
Davis (AL)	Jordan	Ortiz			
Davis (CA)	Kagen	Pallone			
Davis (IL)	Kanjorski	Pascarell			
Davis (KY)	Kaptur	Pastor (AZ)			
Davis (TN)	Kennedy	Paul			
Deal (GA)	Kildee	Paulsen			
DeFazio	Kilroy	Pence			
DeGette	Kind	Perlmutter			
Delahunt	King (IA)	Peters			
DeLauro	King (NY)	Peterson			
Dent	Kingston	Petri			
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kirk	Pingree (ME)			
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kirkpatrick (AZ)				

resolution (H. Res. 107) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 352, DTV DELAY ACT

Mr. PERLMUTTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-11) on the resolution (H. Res. 108) providing for consideration of the Senate bill (S. 352) to postpone the DTV transition date, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE WENDELL WYATT, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Oregon lost a remarkable leader last week with the passing of Wendell Wyatt. He was a man who served his country in the FBI and the Marine Corps. He was a citizen volunteer and a leader of his political party. He also served for 10 distinguished years here in this Chamber. A Republican who could manage partisan clashes as well as chair a Presidential campaign, he was skillful in bringing people together. He shared his progressive insights from the hard-headed perspective of a principled conservative. I will miss his wit, intellect and insight, but will always cherish his friendship.

SMART GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor of attending Groundhog Day at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. And while we were all there to celebrate an age-old tradition, I was not surprised by what was on the minds of my constituents.

Like the rest of the country, Mr. Speaker, small-town, rural Pennsylvania is facing difficult times. But with that said, a great majority of the folks in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania are adamantly against this latest boondoggle that some are calling a "stimulus package." Are there some worthwhile programs in this bill? Absolutely. But hardworking, Main Street Americans are looking for what I call smart government solutions, not the Big Government Washington-as-usual-style plan that was adopted by the House Democrats.

Smart government solutions put money back in taxpayers' pockets for

NAYS—3

Broun (GA) Poe (TX) Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—16

Barrett (SC)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Perriello
Buyer	McMorris	Solis (CA)
Campbell	Rodgers	Stark
Crowley	Moran (KS)	Tiahrt
Flake	Napolitano	Velázquez
Frank (MA)	Payne	

□ 1919

Messrs. POE of Texas and WESTMORELAND changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker due to personal reasons, I was unable to attend to several votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 82, Raising Awareness and Encouraging Prevention of Stalking by Establishing January 2009 as National Stalking Awareness Month; "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 103, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week; and "yea" on final passage of H.R. 559—Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely Redress Act.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2, CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-10) on the

small business and middle class tax relief. Done correctly, investment in infrastructure and increased domestic energy production are smart government solutions. Mr. Speaker, there are 435 able-minded Members of the body. And while we all come from different corners of the country with different opinions and unique backgrounds, this is the people's House, where debate should be encouraged and thoughtful deliberation the standard. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, from what I have witnessed thus far, the people's representatives are not being heard.

HONORING NANCY BRINKER

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we begin National Cancer Prevention Month to honor an extraordinary member of our south Florida community, Mrs. Nancy Brinker. Nancy is the founder of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the largest charity in the world. Named after Nancy's only sister who succumbed to breast cancer in 1980, the foundation has raised tens of millions of dollars for research and currently includes 100,000 volunteers worldwide.

As many of you know, the signature event of the Susan G. Komen Foundation is its annual Race for the Cure. This past weekend, I was honored to participate with many others for the Race for the Cure held in West Palm Beach, where I walked in honor of my sister who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. At this event, I was delighted to meet Nancy in person and thank her for her tireless efforts in fighting this terrible disease.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Nancy Brinker and all of the participants in the 2009 West Palm Beach Race for the Cure for their commitment to defeating breast cancer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, to paraphrase an old NFL films episode, there are 31 teams in the National Football League, and then there are the Pittsburgh Steelers. By winning their NFL record sixth Super Bowl this past Sunday, the Steelers have now truly gone where no team has gone before.

I want to congratulate the Rooney family, especially team owner Dan and president Art Rooney, the architects of yet another championship team. Head coach Mike Tomlin now goes down in history as the youngest coach to ever win a Super Bowl. And while every player played a role, special congratulations go out to quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who engineered one of the greatest clutch drives ever, linebacker James Harrison, who scored on

the longest play in Super Bowl history, and game MVP Santonio Holmes, whose spectacular touchdown catch sealed the win.

Congratulations again to "Six-Burgh" and fans across the Steelers Nation.

WE WILL STAND BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago, there was a despicable attack on the largest synagogue in Caracas, Venezuela, which was orchestrated and very, very disgraceful. Twenty members of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee wrote a strong letter to President Hugo Chavez asking him not only to condemn this but to take strong steps to prevent it. The fact of the matter is it is Hugo Chavez's actions which led to this. He created the atmosphere which led to this, a climate of fear and intimidation against the Jewish community in Venezuela. This has to stop.

When you single out the Jewish community and ask them to condemn Israel and tell them that they must do it, this creates this kind of an atmosphere. This is government sponsored, as far as I'm concerned. We will continue to monitor it.

We will not leave the Jewish community to stand by itself there. We will be with them every step of the way. And we will not allow Hugo Chavez to continue to intimidate those people. There are 25,000 people, ten of them have left. We're going to monitor the situation very carefully.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, 111TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule XI, I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the rules of the Committee on Appropriations for the 111th Congress, adopted on January 21, 2009.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, COMMITTEE RULES, EFFECTIVE FOR ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS, APPROVED JANUARY 21, 2009

RESOLVED, That the rules and practices of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, in the One Hundred Tenth Congress, except as otherwise provided hereinafter, shall be and are hereby adopted as the rules and practices of the Committee on

Appropriations in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

The foregoing resolution adopts the following rules:

SEC. 1: POWER TO SIT AND ACT

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee and each of its subcommittees is authorized:

(1) To sit and act at such times and places within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings as it deems necessary; and (2) To require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, reports, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it deems necessary.

(b) The Chairman, or any Member designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(c) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or its subcommittees under subsection (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the Members of the Committee voting, a majority being present. The power to authorize and issue subpoenas under subsection (a)(2) may be delegated to the Chairman pursuant to such rules and under such limitations as the Committee may prescribe. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman or by any Member designated by the Committee.

(d) Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or its subcommittees may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

SEC. 2: SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) The Majority Caucus of the Committee shall establish the number of subcommittees and shall determine the jurisdiction of each subcommittee.

(b) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee all matters referred to it.

(c) All legislation and other matters referred to the Committee shall be referred to the subcommittee of appropriate jurisdiction within two weeks unless, by majority vote of the Majority Members of the full Committee, consideration is to be by the full Committee.

(d) The Majority Caucus of the Committee shall determine an appropriate ratio of Majority to Minority Members for each subcommittee. The Chairman is authorized to negotiate that ratio with the Minority; Provided, however, That party representation in each subcommittee, including ex-officio members, shall be no less favorable to the Majority than the ratio for the full Committee.

(e) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee are each authorized to sit as a member of all subcommittees and to participate, including voting, in all of the work of the subcommittees.

SEC. 3: STAFFING

(a) Committee Staff—The Chairman is authorized to appoint the staff of the Committee, and make adjustments in the job titles and compensation thereof subject to the maximum rates and conditions established in Clause 9(c) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. In addition, he is authorized, in his discretion, to arrange for their specialized training. The Chairman is also authorized to employ additional personnel as necessary.

(b) Assistants to Members:

(1) Each of the top twenty-one senior majority and minority Members of the full

Committee may select and designate one staff member who shall serve at the pleasure of that Member. Effective as of such date as the Chairman may determine, all other Members of the Committee may also each select and designate one such staff member.

(2) Effective as of such date as the Chairman may determine, the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full committee and of each subcommittee may each select and designate one staff member, in addition to the staff member designated under the preceding paragraph, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Member making the designation.

(3) Staff members designated under this subsection shall be compensated at a rate, determined by the Member, not to exceed 75 per centum of the maximum established in Clause 9 (c) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Effective as of such date as the Chairman may determine, the limit on compensation under this subsection shall be increased to 80 per centum of such maximum.

(4) Members designating staff members under this subsection must specifically certify by letter to the Chairman that the employees are needed and will be utilized for Committee work.

SEC. 4: COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Regular Meeting Day—The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the first Wednesday of each month while the House is in session, unless the Committee has met within the past 30 days or the Chairman considers a specific meeting unnecessary in the light of the requirements of the Committee business schedule.

(b) Additional and Special Meetings:

(1) The Chairman may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to that call of the Chairman.

(2) If at least three Committee Members desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those Members may file in the Committee Offices a written request to the Chairman for that special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matter to be considered. Upon the filing of the request, the Committee Clerk shall notify the Chairman.

(3) If within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the Committee Members may file in the Committee Offices their written notice that a special meeting will be held, specifying the date and hour of such meeting, and the measure or matter to be considered. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour.

(4) Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the Committee Clerk shall notify all Committee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered. Only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at the special meeting.

(c) Vice Chairman To Preside in Absence of Chairman—A member of the majority party on the Committee or subcommittee thereof designated by the Chairman of the full Committee shall be vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, and shall preside at any meeting during the temporary absence of the chairman. If the chairman and vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee are not present at any meeting of the Committee or sub-

committee, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at that meeting.

(d) Business Meetings:

(1) Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be open to the public except when the Committee or the subcommittee concerned, in open session and with a majority present, determines by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed.

(2) No person other than Committee Members and such congressional staff and departmental representatives as they may authorize shall be present at any business or markup session which has been closed.

(e) Committee Records:

(1) The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee action, including a record of the votes on any question on which a roll call is demanded. The result of each roll call vote shall be available for inspection by the public during regular business hours in the Committee Offices. The information made available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, or other proposition, and the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against, and the names of those Members present but not voting.

(2) All hearings, records, data, charts, and files of the Committee shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Chairman of the Committee. Such records shall be the property of the House, and all Members of the House shall have access thereto.

(3) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House, except that the Committee authorizes use of any record to which Clause 3 (b)(4) of Rule VII of the Rules of the House would otherwise apply after such record has been in existence for 20 years. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to Clause 3 (b)(3) or Clause 4 (b) of Rule VII of the Rules of the House, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination upon the written request of any Member of the Committee.

(f) Availability of Record Votes on the Committee's Website.—In addition to any other requirement of these rules or the Rules of the House, the Chairman shall make the record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded available on the Committee's website not later than 3 legislative days after such vote is taken. Such record shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the committee present but not voting.

SEC. 5: COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

(a) Overall Budget Hearings—Overall budget hearings by the Committee, including the hearing required by Section 242 (c) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 and Clause 4 (a)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be conducted in open session except when the Committee in open session and with a majority present, determines by roll call vote that the testimony to be taken at that hearing on that day may be related to a matter of national security; except that the Committee may by the same procedure close one subsequent day of hearing. A transcript of all such hearings

shall be printed and a copy furnished to each Member, Delegate, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.

(b) Other Hearings:

(1) All other hearings conducted by the Committee or its subcommittees shall be open to the public except when the Committee or subcommittee in open session and with a majority present determines by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security or would violate any law or Rule of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present at a hearing conducted by the Committee or any of its subcommittees, there being in attendance the number required under Section 5 (c) of these Rules to be present for the purpose of taking testimony, (1) may vote to close the hearing for the sole purpose of discussing whether testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security or violate Clause 2 (k)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives or (2) may vote to close the hearing, as provided in Clause 2 (k)(5) of such Rule. No Member of the House of Representatives may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or its subcommittees unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the Committee or any of its subcommittees, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular article of legislation or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members by the same procedures designated in this subsection for closing hearings to the public; Provided, however, That the Committee or its subcommittees may by the same procedure vote to close five subsequent days of hearings.

(2) Subcommittee chairmen shall coordinate the development of schedules for meetings or hearings after consultation with the Chairman and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings.

(3) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or any of its subcommittees as the case may be, insofar as is practicable, shall file in advance of such appearance, a written statement of the proposed testimony and shall limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary, except that this provision shall not apply to any witness appearing before the Committee in the overall budget hearings.

(4) Each witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity before the Committee, or any of its subcommittees as the case may be, shall to the greatest extent practicable, submit a written statement including a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(c) Quorum for Taking Testimony—The number of Members of the Committee which shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence in any hearing of the Committee shall be two.

(d) Calling and Interrogation of Witnesses:

(1) The Minority Members of the Committee or its subcommittees shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, by a majority of them before completion of any hearing, to call witnesses selected by the Minority to testify with respect to the matter under consideration during at least one day of hearings thereon.

(2) The Committee and its subcommittees shall observe the five-minute rule during the interrogation of witnesses until such time as each Member of the Committee or subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness.

(e) Broadcasting and Photographing of Committee Meetings and Hearings—Whenever a hearing or meeting conducted by the full Committee or any of its subcommittees is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography, as provided in Clause (4)(f) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Neither the full Committee Chairman or subcommittee chairman shall limit the number of television or still cameras to fewer than two representatives from each medium.

(f) Subcommittee Meetings—No subcommittee shall sit while the House is reading an appropriation measure for amendment under the five-minute rule or while the Committee is in session.

(g) Public Notice of Committee Hearings—The Chairman of the Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any Committee or subcommittee hearing at least one week before the commencement of the hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member of the Committee or respective subcommittee, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee or subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman or subcommittee chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. Any announcement made under this subsection shall be promptly published in the Daily Digest and promptly entered into the Committee scheduling service of the House Information Systems.

SEC. 6: PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) Prompt Reporting Requirement:

(1) It shall be the duty of the Chairman to report, or cause to be reported promptly to the House any bill or resolution approved by the Committee and to take or cause to be taken necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote.

(2) In any event, a report on a bill or resolution which the Committee has approved shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days in which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the Committee Clerk a written request, signed by a majority of Committee Members, for the reporting of such bill or resolution. Upon the filing of any such request, the Committee Clerk shall notify the Chairman immediately of the filing of the request. This subsection does not apply to the reporting of a regular appropriation bill or to the reporting of a resolution of inquiry addressed to the head of an executive department.

(b) Presence, of Committee Majority—No measure or recommendation shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee was actually present.

(c) Roll Call Votes—With respect to each roll call vote on a motion to report any measure or matter of a public character, and on any amendment offered to the measure of matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those Members voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(d) Compliance With Congressional Budget Act—A Committee report on a bill or resolution which has been approved by the Committee shall include the statement required

by Section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, separately set out and clearly identified, if the bill or resolution provides new budget authority.

(e) Constitutional Authority Statement—Each report of the Committee on a bill or joint resolution of a public character shall include a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.

(f) Changes in Existing Law—Each Committee report on a general appropriation bill shall contain a concise statement describing fully the effect of any provision of the bill which directly or indirectly changes the application of existing law.

(g) Rescissions and Transfers—Each bill or resolution reported by the Committee shall include separate headings for rescissions and transfers of unexpended balances with all proposed rescissions and transfers listed therein. The report of the Committee accompanying such a bill or resolution shall include a separate section with respect to such rescissions or transfers.

(h) Listing of Unauthorized Appropriations—Each Committee report on a general appropriation bill shall contain a list of all appropriations contained in the bill for any expenditure not currently authorized by law for the period concerned (except for classified intelligence or national security programs, projects, or activities) along with a statement of the last year for which such expenditures were authorized, the level of expenditures authorized for that year, the actual level of expenditures for that year, and the level of appropriations in the bill for such expenditures.

(i) Supplemental or Minority Views:

(1) If, at the time the Committee approves any measure or matter, any Committee Member gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views, the Member shall be entitled to not less than two additional calendar days after the day of such notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) in which to file such views in writing and signed by the Member, with the Clerk of the Committee. All such views so filed shall be included in and shall be a part of the report filed by the Committee with respect to that measure or matter.

(2) The Committee report on that measure or matter shall be printed in a single volume which—

(i) shall include all supplemental, minority, or additional views which have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report, and

(ii) shall have on its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, or additional views are included as part of the report.

(3) This subsection does not preclude—

(i) the immediate filing or printing of a Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, or additional views has been made as provided by such subsection; or

(ii) the filing by the Committee of a supplemental report on a measure or matter which may be required for correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee on that measure or matter.

(4) If, at the time a subcommittee approves any measure or matter for recommendation to the full Committee, any Member of that subcommittee who gives notice of intention to offer supplemental, minority, or additional views shall be entitled, insofar as is practicable and in accordance with the printing requirements as determined by the subcommittee, to include such views in the Committee Print with respect to that measure or matter.

(j) Availability of Reports—A copy of each bill, resolution, or report shall be made available to each Member of the Committee at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) in advance of the date on which the Committee is to consider each bill, resolution, or report; Provided, That this subsection may be waived by agreement between the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee.

(k) Performance Goals and Objectives—Each Committee report shall contain a statement of general performance goals and objectives, including outcome-related goals and objectives, for which the measure authorizes funding.

(l) Motion to go to Conference—The Chairman is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

SEC. 7: VOTING

(a) No vote by any Member of the Committee or any of its subcommittees with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(b) The vote on any question before the Committee shall be taken by the yeas and nays on the demand of one-fifth of the Members present.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee or the chairman of any of its subcommittees may—

(1) postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment;

(2) resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice.

When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

SEC. 8: STUDIES AND EXAMINATIONS

The following procedure shall be applicable with respect to the conduct of studies and examinations of the organization and operation of Executive Agencies under authority contained in Section 202(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and in Clause (3)(a) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives:

(a) The Chairman is authorized to appoint such staff and, in his discretion, arrange for the procurement of temporary services of consultants, as from time to time may be required.

(b) Studies and examinations will be initiated upon the written request of a subcommittee which shall be reasonably specific and definite in character, and shall be initiated only by a majority vote of the subcommittee, with the chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking minority member thereof participating as part of such majority vote. When so initiated such request shall be filed with the Clerk of the Committee for submission to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member and their approval shall be required to make the same effective. Notwithstanding any action taken on such request by the chairman and ranking minority member of the subcommittee, a request may be approved by a majority of the Committee.

(c) Any request approved as provided under subsection (b) shall be immediately turned over to the staff appointed for action.

(d) Any information obtained by such staff shall be reported to the chairman of the subcommittee requesting such study and examination and to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, shall be made available to the members of the subcommittee concerned, and shall not be released for publication until the subcommittee so determines.

(e) Any hearings or investigations which may be desired, aside from the regular hearings on appropriation items, when approved by the Committee, shall be conducted by the subcommittee having jurisdiction over the matter.

SEC. 9: OFFICIAL TRAVEL

(a) The chairman of a subcommittee shall approve requests for travel by subcommittee members and staff for official business within the jurisdiction of that subcommittee. The ranking minority member of a subcommittee shall concur in such travel requests by minority members of that subcommittee and the Ranking Minority Member shall concur in such travel requests for Minority Members of the Committee. Requests in writing covering the purpose, itinerary, and dates of proposed travel shall be submitted for final approval to the Chairman. Specific approval shall be required for each and every trip.

(b) The Chairman is authorized during the recess of the Congress to approve travel authorizations for Committee Members and staff, including travel outside the United States.

(c) As soon as practicable, the Chairman shall direct the head of each Government agency concerned not to honor requests of subcommittees, individual Members, or staff for travel, the direct or indirect expenses of which are to be defrayed from an executive appropriation, except upon request from the Chairman.

(d) In accordance with Clause 8 of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and Section 502 (b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended, local currencies owned by the United States shall be available to Committee Members and staff engaged in carrying out their official duties outside the United States, its territories, or possessions. No Committee Member or staff member shall receive or expend local currencies for subsistence in any country at a rate in excess of the maximum per diem rate set forth in applicable Federal law.

(e) Travel Reports:

(1) Members or staff shall make a report to the Chairman on their travel, covering the purpose, results, itinerary, expenses, and other pertinent comments.

(2) With respect to travel outside the United States or its territories or possessions, the report shall include: (1) an itemized list showing the dates each country was visited, the amount of per diem furnished, the cost of transportation furnished, and any funds expended for any other official purpose; and (2) a summary in these categories of the total foreign currencies and/or appropriated funds expended. All such individual reports on foreign travel shall be filed with the Chairman no later than sixty days following completion of the travel for use in complying with reporting requirements in applicable Federal law, and shall be open for public inspection.

(3) Each Member or employee performing such travel shall be solely responsible for supporting the amounts reported by the Member or employee.

(4) No report or statement as to any trip shall be publicized making any recommendations in behalf of the Committee without the authorization of a majority of the Committee.

(f) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business pertaining to the jurisdiction of the Committee shall be governed by applicable laws or regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration pertaining to such travel, and as promulgated from time to time by the Chairman.

□ 1930

SAFE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, last week I re-introduced the Security and Financial Empowerment Act, better known as the SAFE Act, to help stop a cycle of violence that exists in many American families today.

Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are serious, widespread social problems which impact all Americans regardless of race, ethnicity or social status. The reality of this violence is highlighted by the fact that 1 in 4 American women report being physically or sexually abused at some point in their life.

These serious crimes, primarily against women, have both physical and psychological consequences. Yet credible research has found that many women stay in abusive relationships because they cannot support themselves. As a result, many victims are faced with the terrifying decision of living with the abuse or leaving without financial security.

For victims of domestic violence, this choice is even more daunting during tough economic times like now, for research tells us that as the economy worsens the incidence of violence increases.

The SAFE Act will provide the safety net many need to create a safe and stable environment for themselves and their children by eliminating obstacles that may prevent them from gaining meaningful employment or seeking help.

My bill makes it possible to take limited leave from work for safety planning and necessary court appearances without the threat of losing a job. The SAFE Act also provides job protection when reasonable workplace safety modifications are requested.

To protect victims of violence who seek help against their abuser, the SAFE Act prohibits employers or insurance providers from basing insurance coverage or hiring decisions on an individual's history of abuse.

The SAFE Act also makes a survivor of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, eligible for unemployment insurance if it is necessary to leave a job to escape the abuse.

Madam Speaker, the SAFE Act is needed to provide these victims with equal protection throughout our country. While several States have laws similar to the SAFE Act, the reality is that today a person's financial ability to leave an abusive environment depends primarily on where they live.

I thank the many dedicated advocates who daily work to empower women against the horrific crimes of dating and domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking for their invaluable input, expertise and support of the SAFE Act.

I encourage my colleagues to join me and Representative TED POE in cosponsoring and helping to pass the SAFE Act which, for many of these victims, can make the difference between life and death.

CONSEQUENCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CHAFFETZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment about a growing concern among my constituents. They are concerned about our unwillingness to hold ourselves and others accountable.

As the Senate debates the \$1 trillion stimulus package, my constituents are begging us to consider the consequences. Every American knows about consequences. They pay them all the time. But they're beginning to wonder if Congress knows about consequences. The continued commitment to deficit spending exacts a huge price upon this country. Yet, it is not nearly enough discussion about the consequences.

It's easy to ignore the consequences. It's easy to pretend they don't exist. It's easy to get caught up in short-term fixes that ignore long-term results. But we weren't elected to do the easy thing. We were elected to make tough choices. We cannot be all things to all people.

It's time to turn things around. If we're serious about change, we have to get serious about accountability.

I'm concerned that Congress has been sending the wrong message to the American people. Consider what they see on a daily basis. They see Wall Street exploiting people, breaking rules and ruining lives. For the offenders, the consequences are minimal. But there is a price. The American people get stuck paying it.

They see financial gurus allegedly ripping people off, and consequences are minimal. But there's a price and the victims pay it.

They see tax evaders nominated to serve the highest offices in our government and, oops, there doesn't seem to be much after of a consequence. But there's still a price. The American government pays it, as we undermine our own credibility.

Now the American people see a government spending trillions of dollars of borrowed money. Congressional leadership is telling them there won't be a consequence. But they know better, and so do we.

We need to join the President's calls to raise our standards. In his inauguration speech, the President said, "Those of us who manage the public's dollars will be held accountable, to spend wisely, reform bad habits and do our business in the light of day, because only then can we restore the vital trust between people a government."

If we are truly going to restore that "vital trust" we must demand and expect accountability. We have to tell the American people the truth.

The American people know what happens when you borrow too much. They know what happens when you spend too much. And they're worried. They should be. And so am I.

Over the past 12 years our Federal budget has doubled and we are now more than \$10 trillion in debt, with long term obligations close to \$100 trillion. We are a Nation in debt. We have record numbers of individuals filing for bankruptcy.

Where is the self-restraint, the personal pride, the honor that is our heritage?

We haven't even passed the majority of the appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2009. We are operating our government on an extension. Yet, the first priority of this Congress is to pass an emergency stimulus bill.

Last week, all the House Republicans and some brave Democrats voted against this so-called stimulus. I was and am fundamentally opposed because it does not solve the underlying challenges eroding our economy. We all want our economy to thrive, but the bill currently in debate in the United States Senate does not make the fundamental changes we deserve and we need.

The so-called stimulus was sold as a jobs bill. Tell me, how do the following expenditures drive our economy forward? \$50 million for the National Endowment of the Arts, \$150 million for the Smithsonian, \$400 million for global warming research, another \$2.4 billion for carbon capture demonstration projects, \$600 million for the Federal Government to buy automobiles, \$650 million on the top of the billions already doled out to pay for digital TV conversion coupons, \$1 billion for the follow up for the 2010 census. And the list goes on.

We need a game changer. Massive spending bills do not represent change because it is merely more of the same. Setting aside money we don't have to pay for projects we can't afford is not change.

The economic crisis we face provides a historic opportunity for us to show America that we get it.

When I speak with business interests in my State, I hear the same request over and over, and it doesn't matter if it's a small business or a big business. From the sole proprietor who owns a graphics shop, to the trucker I spoke with that has 12 employees, to the medical device company that employs nearly 1,000 people in my district, the call is unanimous. They want us to demonstrate accountability. They want us to live within our means. They want us to quit borrowing from our enemies and taxing generations that are yet unborn.

This country needs a game changer. Let us understand the consequences, and let us live within our means.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A TIME OUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on his first day in office, I sent a letter to President Barack Obama calling for an international cease fire or "time out."

Like many of my colleagues, I have serious concerns about our Nation and its ongoing participation in armed conflicts. Right now, our men and women in uniform are engaged in bloody struggles in Iraq, and Afghanistan, and other troops are based throughout six continents. I fear that our influence around the globe is felt more by our military presence than diplomatically, economically or socially. That, in turn, leads to a negative and hostile view of the United States, its policies and its people.

Mr. Speaker, last November, people overwhelmingly supported then Candidate Obama because of his message of change and hope for a new America and a new era in foreign policy. I was especially encouraged by his statement. He said, "To renew American leadership in the world, I will strengthen our common security by investing in our common humanity. Our global engagement cannot be defined by what we are against. It must be guided by a clear sense of what we stand for. We have a significant stake in ensuring that those who live in fear and want today can live with dignity and opportunity tomorrow."

Mr. Speaker, while we have the most highly skilled military in the world, it is easily recognized that the world's conflicts will not be solved at the barrel of a gun. Instead, they will be resolved through serious discussion, hard work, reconciliation and diplomacy, all methods this administration has endorsed. Our partnership with the United Nations and our international partners will be invaluable in this process.

We must review our diplomatic and military stance and give strong consideration to redeploying our troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, reducing the size of our military and, in its place, change our outdated international policy to reflect a message of change, a message of hope.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, our Nation and the world at large would be greatly served by a worldwide cease fire, a "time out" to work out a rededication to diplomacy in the form of negotiation, reconciliation, humanitarian assistance and dialogue. The sooner this could be accomplished, the sooner we can move towards a conflict-

free world, a world that all of our children can go to sleep feeling safe and wake up knowing they will be safe for another 24 hours.

I was pleased to see that former Senator George McGovern has joined me in calling a time out. Actually he called it on his own, but we did it at exactly the same time. In the Washington Post this weekend, or last weekend, Senator McGovern wrote, and I quote him, "Like you, Mr. President, I don't oppose all wars. I risked my life in World War II to protect our country against genuine danger."

He continued, "But it is the vivid memory of my fellow airmen being shot out of the sky on all sides of me in a war that I believe we had to fight that makes me cautious about sending our youth into needless conflicts that weaken us at home and abroad, and may even us weaken us in the eyes of God."

Mr. Speaker, today I urge our President and our Nation to seriously consider our actions and our policies that come at the end of a gun or the launching of a missile.

I am encouraged greatly, however, by the leadership of this new administration. Under its guidance we will live up to our international commitments and we will be judged by what we build, not by what we destroy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING THE TEXAS FARM BUREAU ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to the Texas Farm Bureau on its 75th anniversary. The bureau's legacy of service, advocacy and partnership has brought out the best in Texas agriculture and helped to preserve the rural way of life that we so deeply cherish in my district.

The people who make up the Farm Bureau have an unparalleled history of making a difference in their local communities. They have helped to make family businesses across Texas more efficient and resilient by sharing the best practices available, providing important services to members that make the most out of their often limited resources. And perhaps most importantly, by giving farmers and ranchers a unified voice, they have guaranteed that they will always have a role in the democratic process.

Though the hours are long and the work is sometimes difficult, the work

done by the Farm Bureau is irreplaceable. For the past 75 years it has helped millions of Texans better provide for themselves, their communities and their country.

Finally, I would also like to offer a special word of gratitude to the past and present leadership of the Texas Farm Bureau. Their ongoing vision for rural Texas is a testament to what can be accomplished when neighbors help one another.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to represent some of the many men and women of the Texas Farm Bureau. On behalf of my constituents, I would like to thank them all for truly being the voice of Texas agriculture, and wish them many more years of continued service.

□ 1945

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HANK AARON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very, very joyous and celebratory occasion, an occasion to wish happy birthday to an extraordinary person, a great American, and a leading world citizen, and that is home run king Hank Aaron.

For on February 5th of this month, Hank Aaron will celebrate his 75th birthday, and I am sure all of us in this Congress and across America and around the world would love to take this opportunity to say, "Happy birthday, Hank."

Hank Aaron was born in 1934 in the midst of the Depression in Mobile, Alabama. In that same year, a gentleman by the name of Babe Ruth swatted his last home run for the New York Yankees. Who would have thought that this young, black kid in Mobile, Alabama in 1934 would one day beat the record that many said never would be broken?

Then World War II comes along; Pearl Harbor is bombed. While Hank Aaron's father is in the shipyards of Mobile, Alabama, fixing up the boats and the ships to help win World War II, Hank Aaron is playing his very first ball game as a 7 year old in Mobile, Alabama.

Then 1947 comes around, and Jackie Robinson comes on the scene, and Jackie Robinson breaks the color barrier, and creates a great gleam and hope and inspiration in the heart of this young 13-year-old kid, Hank Aaron, to think that, one day, I can play Major League Baseball because Jackie Robinson is with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

He grows up in 1951, and at the tender age of 17, this young man signs a contract, Hank Aaron. His mother packs his suitcase and sends him off to play in the Negro league for the Indianapolis Clowns. What an historic and extraordinary life.

Two years later, three years later in 1954, when the Supreme Court brings down that great decision in the Kansas Board of Education to integrate the schools and to start America on the movement to where we have seen this crowning achievement this year to elect the first black President, Hank Aaron signs with the Milwaukee Braves.

In 1957, he has shown such skill, such tenacity to be one of the leading players, star players, in all of Major League Baseball in just 4 short years, and he leads the Milwaukee Braves to their first and only world championship, and he gets the crown as the Most Valuable Player in the 1957 World Series.

Then in 1966, the South beckons. We want a major league team. The South is in the major leagues. Atlanta beckons. Mayor Ivan Allen makes a trip to Milwaukee, not to talk to the mayor, not to talk to the general manager or to the owner but to go knock on the door and to sit in the living room of Hank Aaron in 1965 and say, "We are building a stadium, but we need a team."

Hank Aaron says, "Let's go south, boys," and history was made, and the South becomes a part of Major League Baseball because of this great American, Hank Aaron, in 1966.

In 1974, the night is April 8, and then we flash back to that year 1934 and remember the great bambino strikes his final home run the year Hank Aaron is born. 714, they said, would never be broken, but on that night on April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron shatters Babe Ruth's record and hits 715. It is the shot heard around the world and the accolades. A great achievement. One of the greatest sports achievements in history.

In 1976, he hits 755.

All America join me in saying, "Happy birthday, Hank Aaron, on your 75th birthday."

IN THESE DIRE ECONOMIC TIMES, MICHIGAN IS LISTENING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. In these dire economic times, Mr. Speaker, I try to remind my colleagues that, when Washington is talking, Michigan is listening because, again, we are living your nightmare now.

Last week, the House passed what I believe to be a \$1 trillion fiscal obscenity at taxpayers' expense and at the expense of the unemployed's hope, but you need not take my word for it because, again, Michigan was listening, and when I had the chance to talk to a gentleman named Greg from Milford, this is what he said about the supposed stimulus bill.

Greg said, "I worked for a company that just lost 700 jobs nationwide, and the stimulus package just amazes me, that Congress is trying to push this thing through—the \$600 million and ev-

erything going on, things that are not going to stimulate the economy. I have enough money to last a month."

At this point, Greg's voice started to break.

"Try telling your kids at the dinner table that you just lost your job. It is devastating when you tell your daughter you cannot even buy her a school yearbook because you just do not have the money. You have got money that you were going to spend on something just to let your kids celebrate something that you did, and now that is going to go to the grocery store because you cannot do otherwise or you are going to try to pay your house bill," and again, Greg paused.

"When we are sending money overseas to pay for abortions for people who are not even in this country, we are not supporting our own people. They need to change it. I am just one person. They do not listen. If we can have everybody call them and just say, 'We have got to do something different. We cannot throw this money in the garbage. What can we do?'"

That was Greg's view of a bill that was intended to help him and his struggling family. When Greg was listening to what Washington was saying as it passed the, quote/unquote, stimulus bill, he heard about billions for national parks, about the hundreds of millions for artists, about the smoking secession programs, and about the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. When this bill was explained back down in Michigan, here is what Greg heard.

He heard that, if you are a hiker who is artistic, who is trying to quit smoking and who is trying to avoid STDs, the House Democrats' bill was for you. If you were in a manufacturing State and you had just lost your job and you were worried about your family, like Greg, you fared far more poorly.

I just want Greg to know that we are listening out here, that when the \$1 trillion stimulus bill that will not help him came to the House floor, the entire House Republican minority and 11 Intrepid Democrats said no. They recognized that this would not help him, that it would not help his family and that it would not help any American family that is struggling in straits such as his.

That is why House Republicans responded to President Obama's proposal for bipartisanship early on and produced a package that would have created twice the jobs at half the cost, and this is why we will continue to work in as bipartisan a fashion as is allowed in this Chamber to do what is right for Greg and for his family and for all American families in these very dire times.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CULBERSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF VALERIE C. BECKLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate African American History Month, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Valerie Beckley, a resident of my community who recently passed away. Ms. Beckley was a daughter, a wife, a mother, an avid churchgoer, and a dear friend to many. She was a longstanding and active member of the Curey Tercentenary African American Episcopal Church.

Valerie and her family lived on the west side of Chicago during her formative years. One can say that they were pioneers of sorts. They were some of the first African Americans to live in their area. Valerie was one of the first 100 black students to integrate Austin High School in the 1960s. Even as a child, Valerie displayed exceptional leadership, and was the first black female chosen to become the captain of both the girls volleyball and basketball teams at Austin High School. Valerie grew up in a close, nurturing and bonded family formed by her parents—Mr. Larry and Mrs. Ollie Mae Mitchell.

Valerie attended and obtained a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Roosevelt University and, later on, a master's degree in Social Work from Loyola University.

On September 11, 1976, Valerie married Jerome Beckley, Junior, and they were blessed with two beautiful children—Shakir and Kamaria.

In 1979, Valerie became President and CEO of her family's company, the Lawndale Paper Supply, which was the only paper and janitorial wholesale supply company on the west side of Chicago. Here she honed her management and marketing skills and implemented both long- and short-range goals.

In 1986, Valerie became associated with the other love of her life, the Sickie Cell Disease Association of Illinois. Valerie assumed the role of camp director of the Bright Horizons Summer Camp. Later, she became a pro-

gram specialist, and in short order, she became totally immersed in the plight of people affected by sickle cell disease.

In 2002, when Howard Anderson—the founder and president of the Sickie Cell Disease Association of Illinois—decided to retire, he stated that he could find no better person to take over as president, and she did, devoting the rest of her life providing aid and comfort to sickle cell patients, raising money for services and working continuously to try and help find a cure for this dreadful disease.

For most of her 58 years on this Earth, Valerie C. Beckley's life was driven by her compassion to serve the marginalized, the underserved and the misrepresented. She became a dedicated leader and advocate whose passion for the welfare of others has helped numerous families in Chicago, the State of Illinois and within the broader context of the African Diaspora.

Mr. Speaker, Valerie represented to all of us who knew her the fact that one can give of oneself and not tire. She gave totally of herself to the end of her life, to the end of time for the benefit of others.

We all say thank you, Valerie.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BLUE DOGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor tonight with my fellow Blue Dogs, and we were just going to make some remarks and talk about the Blue Dogs' concern with fiscal responsibility in previous Congresses and in Congresses going forward.

Over the long haul, the Federal budget has been in a downward spiral with the national debt growing faster than the economy. With this grim fiscal outlook, it is more important than ever that Congress and the administration work together in a bipartisan manner to address the needs for long-term fiscal sustainability.

□ 2000

Back in this 1990s, under the administration of Bill Clinton and with the cooperation of the Congress led by the Blue Dog Coalition, PAYGO rules were put into statute, put into law that required that the Congress of the United States pay for that which they wished to spend. So no new spending could be appropriated and spent without the au-

thor or the party or the group that wanted to propose new spending finding a means or a place to cover the cost.

About 8 years ago, the PAYGO rules were abolished out of statute, and since that time and in the period of 8 years, the Government Accounting Office in the projections for 10 years out showed that the budget was estimated to have a surplus of \$5.5 trillion in the next 10 years. As I stand here today with my colleagues, we are now projecting an excess of \$10 trillion deficit. That's a \$15.5 trillion swing.

And if you actually looked at government accounting, or if you looked at accrual accounting rather than government accounting, you will find that—those of you that are in business out in this country will know that a \$56 trillion deficit projected is the real number.

Because of the deficits that exist in so many programs, entitlements and others, we have spun ourselves or spent ourselves into a hole that will take us quite a while to climb out of.

I have one grandson. His name is Jack, and he's 2½ years old. For Christmas, I got one of those video frames that changes the pictures out. And it is one of the greatest things that my family could have given me because Jack's there every day to remind me of the reason why I need to be here, why the Blue Dogs have continued their attack on the budget, why they have continued the march and the drumbeat of PAYGO and fiscal responsibility when neither side of our Congress would face up to the facts.

If in fact we are to leave them a good world, we need to face up, just like every American does, to the bills that confront us; and we can't spend more than we take in. We need to, as was done back in the 1990s, go back to statutory PAYGO, live within our means, make sure we have the money to pay for those things which are good for our country—not squander the future for our children and our grandchildren—but to make sure that their future has a potential to be a bright one, as mine was, because of my parents' and my grandparents' efforts during their time.

I would like to ask my friend, Congressman BARON HILL, to make a few comments.

Mr. HILL. I thank my friend from Louisiana for yielding me this dedicated time.

Fourteen days ago, Mr. Speaker, Barack Obama became President of the United States. And listening to some of my colleagues earlier in the evening, you would have thought by listening to them that the \$10 trillion deficit that we're now facing was created by President Obama within the last 14 days. And we all know that that is not true.

As a matter of fact, the largest budget deficits that we've ever had have, quite frankly, come under the presidencies of three Republican presidents: one in the 1980s, one in the 1990s, and this last President that we've had for the last 8 years.

And the Blue Dogs have the special hour here today, and for years we have been coming to this microphone to talk about the dangers to the long-term economy by driving up these deficits. And we have had a day of a reckoning that happened several months ago that, in part, was caused by wasteful spending and deficit spending. What we have been warning this Congress about for many years is that if we do not get a fix on our national deficit, it is going to have a devastating effect upon our economy.

Now here we are standing before the American people telling the American people that that day has arrived.

Now, in totality, it was not the fault of the Federal budget deficit. There were a lot of things that were going on with the financial markets that were not good, but here we are trying to figure out what to do next.

Now, the Blue Dogs did something that was extraordinary, or at least most of the Blue Dogs—not all of the Blue Dogs—but many of the Blue Dogs felt like that this economy was in such dire straits that we had to forego the disciplines that we have practiced for many, many years. In light of the fact that our economy was tanking, many of us felt like we should borrow more money in order to stimulate the economy.

But in the process of doing that, we have had ongoing negotiations with the folks in the Obama administration that while many of us were willing to suspend our feelings about fiscal discipline in order to jump start the economy, that somewhere down the line very soon, as a matter of fact, that we had to implement new PAYGO rules in order to get a handle on this spiraling budget deficit that is out of control.

Now, it's going to take some time to climb out of the hole that we find ourselves in after 8 years of the Bush administration. But we must start now to impose fiscal discipline on the Federal Government so that our children and grandchildren do not bear the burden of our debts.

Blue Dogs know that we need to work quickly to put budget enforcement tools, like statutory PAYGO, in place so that we can begin paying down the national debt that's crippling our economy and putting future generations of Americans in jeopardy. This is why we have been working with our leadership in the House, as well as newly appointed Office of Management and Budget Director Peter Orszag, to make sure that we put our country back on a path to fiscal responsibility and economic sustainability.

Now just recently, at the Blue Dogs' asking, Dr. Orszag recently sent a letter to the House leaders stating the President's support for a return to PAYGO budgeting: "Moving forward we need to return to the fiscal responsibility and pay-as-you-go budgeting that we had in the 1990s for all non-emergency measures. The President and his economic team look forward"—

this is not me reading my words; this is Dr. Orszag saying this, "The President and his economic team look forward to working with Congress to develop budget enforcement rules that are based on the tools that helped create the surpluses of a decade ago. Putting the country back on the path of fiscal responsibility will mean tough choices and difficult trade-offs, but for the long-term health of our economy, the President believes that they must be made."

That letter was sent to the leaders of this Congress at the request of the Blue Dogs who have been consistently and perpetually making sure, Madam Speaker, that this Congress get its fiscal house in order.

President Obama has been very clear about his intentions to clean up the Federal budget, cut out wasteful spending, reinstitute pay-as-you-go budgeting, and address the long-term fiscal challenges facing the country. As a strong, moderating force within the House of Representatives, we look forward to continuing work with the President and others in Congress to put forward a plan for real fiscal reform over the long term.

The bottom line is that our country is maintaining an unsustainable level of debt that is threatening not only our economy, but our national security and the quality of life of every single American. We have to do something about it now, and the Blue Dogs stand ready to make the difficult decisions necessary to reverse the out-of-control spending and reckless fiscal policies of the last 8 years, not the last 2 weeks.

And so, Madam Speaker, the Blue Dogs look forward to working with this President and working with the leadership of this Congress to make sure that after we've done the stimulus that we start the process of getting our fiscal house in order by paying pay-as-you-go statutory PAYGO rules.

With that, I yield back to my good friend from Florida, ALAN BOYD, who's been a stalwart champion in this regard as the leader of the Blue Dogs for the last 2 years. We welcome his remarks here this evening.

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, thank you. I thank my friends, my friend from Indiana, BARON HILL, and from Louisiana, CHARLIE MELANCON, both who are current leaders of the 51-strong fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, a group which has spent the last 12 or 14 years in this Congress touting fiscal responsibility and trying to continuously take the message to the American people that the United States Government, the United States Congress, should act just like our families and our small businesses and our local governments do, and that is we should act responsibly when it comes to spending our money and how we collect and spend our money.

I think most Americans, most people watching these proceedings here tonight, understand that 8 years ago in

early 2001 at the end of President Clinton's administration that this country's government stood in great shape with a balanced budget and surpluses—as Congressman HILL and Congressman MELANCON have talked about—as far as the eye could see with an opportunity to do many things in terms of reducing taxes and paying down debt and fixing some long-term entitlement program challenges that we have.

The Congress and the administration in the coming years after 2001 passed on that opportunity and instead led us down a path of fiscal irresponsibility where we have continually spent, borrowed, and spent and told the American people they could have anything they wanted and they didn't have to pay for it.

Now, the chickens, so to speak, have come home to roost; and you are beginning to see the results of this horrible fiscal policy, economic policy, of the last 8 years.

Some would say that because we're in a recession now is not the time to worry about the consequences of government spending. Madam Speaker, I and my Blue Dog colleagues would argue the exact opposite—that now is exactly the time to address the fiscal situation that we as a country are facing.

We have an opportunity under new leadership, under the leadership of President Obama, to tackle the problem in a multi-faceted manner and recommit not only to stimulating and jump starting and getting our economy going again, but also to put in place the tools that we need as a Nation to have fiscal discipline in the future and lead us back toward fiscal responsibility, a balanced budget, and establish ourselves again as the economic, military, and political leader of the world.

My friends, Mr. MELANCON and Mr. HILL, have talked about PAYGO and the history of PAYGO; and, yes, it was, it was a tool that was used in the 1990s to get us into that position where we had surpluses and we were balancing the budgets and we were acting responsibly. Those tools were allowed to expire in 2002. And that's when everything kind of ran amok and we began to spend, spend, spend, we reduced revenue base; and as a result, we went overseas to borrow the money. And now, instead of a \$5 trillion national debt, we've got over a \$10 trillion national debt.

In this fiscal year, Madam Speaker, this Nation, this government, will sustain a \$1 trillion-plus deficit in its budget, \$1 trillion-plus deficit. And that's unheard of. That's like 6 or 7 percent of the gross domestic product of this country that we're going overseas to borrow, mortgaging the future of our children to run the operations of this government.

And some of us believe that's irresponsible, it's unethical, immoral.

Now, what do we do? We have spent years and years of passing the buck on these issues, but now is the time to

stop passing the buck and address these issues and confront them head on.

There are a couple of specific pieces of legislation that I would like our viewers to know about.

One is a bill that's sponsored—the two primary sponsors are Congressman JIM COOPER, who is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition from Tennessee, Democrat, and Congressman FRANK WOLF from Virginia, a Republican. It's called the SAFE Commission Act.

□ 2015

This particular piece of legislation offers solutions to place the U.S. Government on a course to ensure the solvency of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid for the coming century.

The SAFE Commission creates a non-partisan, 16-member commission to examine all areas of Federal spending and revenue, including entitlement spending. The two primary entitlement programs, as you know, are Social Security and Medicare. This bill has real teeth. Once it passes, it will require that Congress vote on the legislation that comes out of the recommendations of the commission within 90 days.

This country needs something like this because Congress has shown an inability—certainly shows it doesn't have the will—to address these challenges head-on otherwise.

Our sustainability challenges are not new. Now, I think most Americans understand kind of the lay of the land here, what happened, where we were in 2000 and 2001 in terms of our government and its financial situation versus now, and there's been a lot of angst and polarization around party lines, and it just hasn't worked very well for the last 6 or 8 years.

But Madam Speaker, the new President, President Obama, and I think many of us in the majority here in the House are offering our hand of bipartisanship across that aisle, to work together with members of the minority party in tackling these issues because they're not Democratic and Republican issues. These are not problems that one party or the other can take sole ownership of, but in solving them, we have to reach across the aisle and develop bipartisan solutions.

President Obama has taken a very solid step, in my feeling, toward putting our country on the right path by the recent announcement of a fiscal summit in the near future. The fiscal summit will be headed up obviously by his economic team, Dr. Orszag, the new OMB director, and others and so we look forward to participating in that summit and are hopeful that out of that summit will come some very solid ideas that the President can then advance and work with the Congress in putting into law.

Madam Speaker, we've got some very serious challenges as a Nation in front of us. I have been in legislative politics for 20 years, not nearly as long as some of the other folks who serve in this

body, but I've never seen the challenges and the problems faced so dear.

And we can all agree that if our kids are to have any kind of future that we have to figure out a way to give them the good standard of living, and we need to fix our budget problems, and we need to fix them quickly, and we need to focus on stimulating the economy, but also, we need to focus on the long-term fiscal discipline and restoring commonsense budgeting and commonsense fiscal management to the operation of this government.

I want to thank my friend Mr. MELANCON from Louisiana for his leadership in the Blue Dogs, for his leadership on the issues of fiscal responsibility, and also for allowing me a few moments here to come speak to the Nation.

Mr. MELANCON. Thank you, Congressman BOYD, my friend from Florida.

You know, one of the ironies is that some four-and-a-half years ago, or five-and-a-half years ago now when I made the decision to run for the vacated seat in the Third District of Louisiana, which is of course the coastal district that was hit by both Katrina and Rita and then subsequently this past year by Gustav and Ike, we have a lot of foreigners showing up on the shores of Louisiana these days. I ran, of course. People referred to Democrats as tax-and-spend Democrats.

One place that I always thought that I had some relationship to Republicans was in fiscal matters, and ironically after getting here and finding out the situation of our deficit and its continuing to grow. I've learned too that we as Democrats or my predecessors as Democrats may have been tax and spend, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will go down in history I believe as borrow and spend. You can't continue to print money and continue to elevate the debt on this country.

And particularly when you look at the debt of this country as we stand here today, in 8 years this deficit has grown to a size that is larger than all the cumulative deficits for all administrations from George Washington to the start 8 years ago. That's amazing.

The fourth largest item in our budget is the interest that we pay on the money that we borrow. Forty percent of the debt that we owe, the people that hold the treasuries and the bonds for this country's future are held by China. I wonder why we're so nice to our friends in China.

So, as we move forward, we need to look at a fiscal policy, but we also in a time that is unparalleled, we have to be looking at what do we do to preserve the economy.

This bill, as we've talked about that's presently moving through the Congress, is not a perfect bill. I, in fact, voted for the substitute presented by the Republicans. I don't know that I can agree with either of the bills as being a perfect bill, and no one, be-

cause of the nature of the animal we're dealing with, can say that the problems will be solved.

If you go back to 1929 when the market collapsed, 2 years later Roosevelt was elected. Between that time, the Congress and the administration in Washington said the markets will correct themselves; we need not do anything. Roosevelt came into office, started the CCC, the WPA. People talk about socialized government. That was probably as close as you will get to it. Checks were paid to people for work that they did, but they managed to put food on the table, however scarce. They managed to have a roof over their head, to clothe their children, to be able to continue going forward. It was not a glorious time. It was one of the blackest times in our history.

But by—I hate to say this—by coincidence a law came toward the end of the 1930s, and as a manufacturing country we got our economy going back. And then after World War II we got out of that, laws were passed by this Congress, enacted by this Congress, signed into law by the President that had preceded us that would have protected America and America's economy, had all the regulatory agencies been doing the job that they were supposed to have been doing through these periods of time.

There's been a movement towards deregulation, and I'm for deregulation, but when you put together people and money you breed greed. And what we have caused here was the greed of people and not just in this country. We are faced with a worldwide situation, one that resembles what happened in the period of 1929 into the 1930s.

And after listening to my parents through the years, talking with my grandparents as I grew up, I don't think that I want to be labeled a person who did nothing, a person who said the market will correct itself, a person who said they will fend for themselves, a person who leaves a debt that my children and grandchildren and my friend's children and grandchildren will never ever be able to repay if we don't start the march in the right direction this day, in this Congress, in this administration, in this city, in this great country.

Mr. BOYD. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. MELANCON. Yes, I will.

Mr. BOYD. I know that the gentleman and our viewers understand that America is the richest country on the face of the earth. America a few years ago, with 5 percent of the world's population, controlled 25 percent of the world's wealth. But 8 years ago we decided we didn't want to pay our own bills. That was the effect of those decisions that were made and that we would go into the capital markets to borrow that money. That's not the way our economic model is set up, and that's the mindset that we really have to change.

Now it's my belief that President Obama, whom I think many of us ad-

mire because he's going to lead us through this, he understands what you have to do. Some tough decisions have to be made. He's been given a very tough hand to play with the economic and fiscal situation of this country at the moment, but I believe that all the Nation wishes him well, and we want to work with him to get us back on the right path and fiscal responsibility.

Let's do some hard, tough work on Medicare and Social Security. We've known for years that those programs have to be reformed, that insolvency for these programs is right around the corner, and we have punted that ball down the field for many years now. He knows you can't do that anymore, and he's making the right calls and getting the right people together and getting the right team in place to move forward with this and get it done right.

So I want to thank my friend for getting this hour for us to speak for a few minutes about fiscal issues in the country and our economic situation.

Mr. MELANCON. I thank my friend from Florida, and in closing, let me just say there's an expression that you will hear in Washington, and it's called kicking the can down the street and refers to one party or another party or one administration or another administration or one politician or another politician taking the issue and just moving it down the road and trying to avoid having to face the hard issue of picking it up and resolving what the issues need to be.

We can no longer, as a government of this great country, kick the can down the road. We need to pick it up. We need to face the issues. We need to do it in a bipartisan way. We need to go back to regular order, take bills the way they used to be, where people debated them, they negotiated them. And a good deal or good bill has always been, in my mind, one where both parties either leave unhappy or both parties leave happy. When one party leaves happy and the other one isn't, then it's not a good deal, and it particularly is not a good deal for the great American citizens that put up with what has gone on through the decades.

We need to reform the way we do our business by going back to regular order, by making sure that there's transparency in our government, that people that are in this body have an opportunity to participate in the legislative process and pass bills that can muster votes from both sides of the aisle. Then we can say we're starting to act like American citizens and American politicians should.

So with that, Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity for the Blue Dog Coalition to be here tonight.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of a funeral in the district.

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. ROYBAL-ALLARD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, February 10.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, February 10.

Mr. CULBERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CHAFFETZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 4, 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:

347. A letter from the Assistant Inspector General Communications and Congressional Liaison, Department of Defense, transmitting the Inspector General's report on the physical security of Department of Defense installations, pursuant to Section 357 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

348. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Removal of North Korea from the List of Terrorist Countries [DFARS Case 2008-D036] (RIN: 0750-AG18) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

349. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; List of Firms Owned or Controlled by the Government of a Terrorist Country

(DFARS Case 2008-D025) (RIN: 0750-AG22) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

350. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; U.S. -International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol [DFARS Case 2004-D003] (RIN: 0750-AF98) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

351. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; DoD Law of War Program [DFARS Case 2006-D035] (RIN: 0750-AF82) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

352. A letter from the Directors of HOPE for Homeowners Program, Board of Directors of HOPE for Homeowners Program, transmitting the Board's final rule — HOPE for Homeowners Program: Program Regulations: Upfront Payment Incentive for Subordinate Mortgage Lien Holders and Other Program Changes [Docket No.: B-2009-F-03] (RIN: 2580-AA01) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

353. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — TARP Conflicts of Interest (RIN: 1505-AC05) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

354. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — The Low-Income Definition (RIN: 3133-AC98) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

355. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Temporary Exemptions for Eligible Credit Default Swaps to Facilitate Operation of Central Counterparties to Clear and Settle Credit Default Swaps [Release Nos.: 33-8999; 34-59246; 39-2549; File No. S7-02-09] (RIN: 3235-AK26) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

356. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Interpretive Bulletin Relating to Investing in Economically Targeted Investments (RIN: 1210-AB29) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

357. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties Under ERISA Section 502(c)(4) (RIN: 1210-AB24) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

358. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Interpretive Bulletin Relating to Exercise of Shareholder Rights (RIN: 1210-AB28) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

359. A letter from the Deputy Director for Operations, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Methods for Computing Withdrawal Liability; Reallocation Liability

Upon Mass Withdrawal; Pension Protection Act of 2006 (RIN: 1212-AB07) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

360. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Petroleum Refineries [EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0146; FRL-8768-2] (RIN: 2060-AO55) received January 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

361. A letter from the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, transmitting the Administration's study on the coordination of WMD terrorism programs by the National and Homeland Security Councils; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

362. A letter from the Chairman, United States Institute of Peace, transmitting the Institute's interim report from the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, pursuant to Public Law 110-417, section 1060; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

363. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2008, pursuant to Public Law 106-531; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

364. A letter from the Chairman, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2009-2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

365. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's annual report on the status of Telework in the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

366. A letter from the President & CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's fiscal year 2008 report related to its employment category rating system activities, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 33199(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

367. A letter from the Chair of the Board, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report as required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

368. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's report on competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2008, pursuant to Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

369. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Limited Access Privilege Programs; Individual Fishing Quota Referenda Guidelines and Procedures for the New England Fishery Management Council, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and the National Marine Fisheries Service [Docket No.: 070920529-81555-02] (RIN:0648-AW05) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

370. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Extension of Emergency Fishery Closure Due to the Presence of the Toxin that Causes Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning [Docket No.: 050613158-5262-03] (RIN: 0648-AT48) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

371. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting notification that the Solicitor General has decided not to cross-appeal the final judgment entered by the United States District Court for the District of Colorado in the case of Mark Jordan v. Mary H. Sosa, et al., No. 05-CV-1283-EWN (D. Colo. July 22, 2008); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

372. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Documentation of Immigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended: Electronic Petition for Diversity Immigrant Status [Public Notice: 6457] (RIN: 1400-AB84) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

373. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's report entitled, "National Water Quality Inventory: Report to Congress, 2004 Reporting Cycle," pursuant to Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

374. A letter from the Staff Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel for Import Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Withdrawal of the Regulatory Provisions Governing Targeted Dumping in Antidumping Duty Investigations (RIN: 0625-AA79) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

375. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Allocation of Section 36 First-Time Homebuyer Credit Between Taxpayers Who Are Not Married [Notice 2009-12] received January 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

376. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — February 2009 (Rev. Rul. 2009-5) received January 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

377. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Treatment of Certain Obligations under Section 956(c) [Notice 2009-10] received January 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

378. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Field Directive on Tier I Issue: Tier I Issue Research Credit Claims Directive #2 [LMSB Control No.: LMSB-4-0608-035 Impacted IRM 4.51.5] received January 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

379. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Dubai Mercantile Exchange Section 1256(g)(7)(C) Qualified Board or Exchange Revenue Ruling (Rev. Rul. 2009-4) received January 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

380. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of funding transfers made during fiscal year 2008, pursuant to Section 8005

of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. POLIS of Colorado: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 107. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes (Rept. 111-10). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. CARDOZA: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 108. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 352) to postpone the DTV transition date (Rept. 111-11). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. POSEY (for himself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MASSA, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BONNER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ROONEY, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. TIAHRT):

H.R. 793. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the child tax credit and to allow for adjustments for inflation with respect to the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 794. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to transfer enemy combatants detained by the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the Florence Federal Correctional Complex in Colorado, or to construct facilities for such enemy combatants at such location; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. HARE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr.

CONYERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 795. A bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to advise Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with the profession of social work, to authorize the Secretary to make grants to support recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STARK, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California):

H.R. 796. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to enter into private debt collection contracts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 797. A bill to greatly enhance the Nation's environmental, energy, economic, and national security by terminating long-standing Federal prohibitions on the domestic production of abundant offshore supplies of oil and natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. WALZ, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. KIND, Mr. PETRI, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. ELLSWORTH, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana):

H.R. 800. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize producers on a farm to produce fruits and vegetables for processing on the base acres of the farm; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 801. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to works connected to certain funding agreements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELLER:

H.R. 802. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the first-time homebuyer credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. STARK, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 803. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to require metropolitan planning organizations to consider greenhouse gas emissions in long-range transportation plans and transportation improvement programs; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 804. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require the expansion, intensification, and coordination of research and other activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to primary lateral sclerosis; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. TOWNS):

H.R. 805. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the Nation's surveillance and reporting for diseases and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 806. A bill to establish a mail-order pharmacy pilot program for TRICARE beneficiaries; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 807. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to require a public database of the executive compensation of the institutions receiving assistance under the Troubled Assets Relief Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KUCINICH (for himself, Mr.

CONYERS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WU, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 808. A bill to establish a Department of Peace; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, the Judiciary, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 809. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce from age 57 to age 55 the age after which the remarriage of the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran shall not result in termination of dependency and indemnity compensation otherwise payable to that surviving spouse; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 810. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to employers for the value of the service not performed during the period employees are performing service as members of the Ready Reserve or the National Guard; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 811. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOREN (for himself and Mr. TIBERI):

H.R. 812. A bill to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself,

Mr. SHULER, Ms. FOX, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. JONES, Mr. WATT, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H.R. 813. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 306 East Main Street in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "J. Herbert W. Small Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. NADLER of New York, and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 814. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act to improve the safety of food, meat, and poultry products through enhanced traceability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. NADLER of New York, and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 815. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for improved public health and food safety through enhanced enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EDWARDS of Texas (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 816. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit certain increases in fees for military health care; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (for himself, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LINDER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia):

H.R. 817. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to transfer individuals detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to facilities in Georgia or to house such individuals at such facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HALL of New York:

H.R. 818. A bill to require advertising for any automobile model to display information regarding the fuel consumption and fuel cost for that model, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOLDEN (for himself, Mr. NYE, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. COLE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 819. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the survivors of former prisoners of war who died on or before September 30, 1999, under the same eligibility conditions as apply to

payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the survivors of former prisoners of war who die after that date; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 820. A bill to ensure the development and responsible stewardship of nanotechnology; to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of

Texas (for herself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 821. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to require that mercury emissions from electric utility steam generating units be subject to the MACT standard for hazardous air pollutants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 822. A bill to provide for an awareness program, and a study, on a rare form of breast cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. STARK, and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 823. A bill to amend the Hate Crime Statistics Act to require the Attorney General to acquire data about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on gender; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 824. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and title 5, United States Code, to allow employees to take, as additional leave, parental involvement leave to participate in or attend their children's and grandchildren's educational and extracurricular activities, and to clarify that leave may be taken for routine family medical needs and to assist elderly relatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

H.R. 825. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to extend the same level of increased flexibility to all rural local educational agencies under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 826. A bill to establish a grant program to support cluster-based economic development efforts; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 827. A bill to authorize funds to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to

carry out its Community Safety Initiative; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN of Virginia (for himself, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia):

H.R. 828. A bill to amend chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, to allow individuals who return to Government service after receiving a refund of retirement contributions to recapture credit for the service covered by that refund by repaying the amount that was so received, with interest; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 829. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to transfer individuals detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to facilities in North Carolina or to house such individuals at such facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 830. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate Congressional review of newly-passed District laws; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OBERSTAR:

H.R. 831. A bill to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a study of the legal requirements and policies followed by the Department of Transportation in deciding whether to approve international alliances between air carriers and foreign air carriers and grant exemptions from the antitrust laws in connection with such international alliances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 832. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the financing of the Superfund; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 833. A bill to abolish the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks, to repeal the Federal Reserve Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 834. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain peace officers from certain minimum sentencing requirements for using a firearm to commit a crime of violence during or in relation to their employment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 835. A bill to stimulate the economy and provide for a sound United States dollar by defining a value for the dollar, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POMEROY (for himself, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KIND, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 836. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to

its pre-1991 level, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 837. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 799 United Nations Plaza in New York, New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida):

H.R. 838. A bill to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of land held by the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice in Miami Dade County, Florida, to facilitate the construction of a new educational facility that includes a secure parking area for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHULER (for himself, Mr. MCHENRY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOREN, and Mr. MINNICK):

H.R. 839. A bill to provide for the consideration of a petition for Federal Recognition of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson and adjoining counties and other Indian groups in North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr.

BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HOLT, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. STARK):

H.R. 840. A bill to reduce sexual assault and domestic violence involving members of the Armed Forces and their family members and partners through enhanced programs of prevention and deterrence, enhanced programs of victims services, and strengthened provisions for prosecution of assailants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SUTTON:

H.R. 841. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to order a mandatory recall of any product that is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 842. A bill to designate the United States Courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 843. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to repeal the long-term goal for reducing to zero the incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals in commercial fishing operations, and to modify the goal of take reduction plans for reducing such takings; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 844. A bill to amend the provisions of law relating to the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. BERKLEY):

H. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution calling on the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on the Government of Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas):

H. Res. 103. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week; to the Committee on the Judiciary, considered and agreed to, considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RAHALL (for himself and Mr. HASTINGS of Washington):

H. Res. 104. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Natural Resources in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia):

H. Res. 109. A resolution supporting the mission and goals of 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights week to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States, and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOYLE (for himself, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 110. A resolution congratulating the National Football League champion Pittsburgh Steelers for winning Super Bowl XLIII and becoming the most successful franchise in NFL history with their record 6th Super Bowl title; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H. Res. 111. A resolution establishing a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. LEE of New York:

H. Res. 112. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. REYES:

H. Res. 113. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SIREN (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. BACA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SHULER, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HARE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. FARR, Mr. CAPPS, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. REYES, Mr.

RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H. Res. 114. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Girls and Women in Sports Day"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 798. A bill for the relief of Adrian Rodriguez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 799. A bill for the relief of Francisco Rivera and Alfonso Calderon; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FILNER:

H. Res. 105. A resolution referring the bill (H.R. 798), entitled "For the relief of Adrian Rodriguez", to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FILNER:

H. Res. 106. A resolution referring the bill (H.R. 799), entitled "For the relief of Francisco Rivera and Alfonso Calderon", to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 17: Mr. BOOZMAN and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 21: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
 H.R. 22: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee.
 H.R. 23: Mr. COSTA, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
 H.R. 25: Mr. WHITFIELD.
 H.R. 31: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. WATSON.
 H.R. 44: Mr. WEXLER and Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 49: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. BLUNT.
 H.R. 106: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 111: Mr. KINGSTON.
 H.R. 118: Mr. LOBIONDO.
 H.R. 122: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. PETRI.
 H.R. 131: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. WOLF, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PETRI, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DREIER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. HERGER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. HOLDEN.
 H.R. 137: Mr. DREIER.
 H.R. 148: Mr. AKIN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
 H.R. 154: Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 156: Ms. NORTON and Mr. GUTHRIE.
 H.R. 159: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 176: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 179: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H.R. 197: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. JONES, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. MURTHA, and Mr. BOOZMAN.
 H.R. 205: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. HARPER.
 H.R. 233: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 265: Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 270: Mr. LATHAM.
 H.R. 302: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
 H.R. 303: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mr. WAMP.
 H.R. 305: Ms. HIRONO and Ms. BORDALLO.
 H.R. 333: Mrs. MALONEY.
 H.R. 336: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. SNYDER.
 H.R. 346: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
 H.R. 347: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Ms. KOSMAS, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. TONKO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FARR, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BOYD, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. STUPAK, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. BERRY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CLAY, Ms. WATSON, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MACK, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. PENCE, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SNYDER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 365: Mr. SABLAN.
 H.R. 388: Mr. HINCHEY and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 391: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. BACHUS.
 H.R. 393: Mr. LUCAS.
 H.R. 398: Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. PASCRELL.
 H.R. 426: Mr. CALVERT, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. SIREN.
 H.R. 450: Mr. BOOZMAN.
 H.R. 460: Ms. DEGETTE.
 H.R. 463: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. BOSWELL.
 H.R. 484: Mr. HARPER.
 H.R. 489: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 493: Mr. SARBANES.
 H.R. 497: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 527: Ms. SUTTON.
 H.R. 528: Mr. MASSA and Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 529: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 538: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 560: Mr. BERRY.
 H.R. 578: Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 605: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. SOUDER.
 H.R. 615: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 618: Mr. HONDA, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PETRI, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Ms. BALDWIN.
 H.R. 620: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. POE of Texas.

- H.R. 622: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. ROSS.
- H.R. 627: Mr. LYNCH, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. SHERMAN.
- H.R. 634: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. WHITFIELD.
- H.R. 661: Mr. FLEMING, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DENT, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
- H.R. 662: Mr. PETERS.
- H.R. 668: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
- H.R. 669: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA and Ms. LEE of California.
- H.R. 670: Mr. REYES.
- H.R. 671: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. BACA.
- H.R. 672: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. BALDWIN.
- H.R. 676: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. COSTELLO.
- H.R. 678: Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
- H.R. 688: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. COLE, and Mr. GALLEGLY.
- H.R. 690: Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
- H.R. 702: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 704: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HOLT, Mr. DENT, Mr. BOREN, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
- H.R. 707: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MACK, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. MICA, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. SCALISE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
- H.R. 727: Mr. BRADY of Texas.
- H.R. 731: Mr. WITTMAN.
- H.R. 734: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H.R. 748: Mr. HOLT, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. POE of Texas.
- H.R. 751: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 764: Mr. COBLE, Mr. JONES, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BILBRAY, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
- H.R. 767: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, and Ms. SUTTON.
- H.R. 768: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. SALAZAR.
- H.R. 774: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. MCMAHON.
- H.R. 776: Mr. PASCRELL.
- H.J. Res. 11: Mr. EHLERS.
- H.J. Res. 18: Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. WU, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
- H. Con. Res. 14: Mr. WOLF, Mr. WU, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. KILROY, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. KING of New York.
- H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, and Mr. NADLER of New York.
- H. Res. 18: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Ms. DEGETTE.
- H. Res. 19: Mr. SCHOCK.
- H. Res. 20: Mr. POE of Texas.
- H. Res. 22: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
- H. Res. 36: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. TEAGUE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WATT, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Mr. SIRES, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. SKELTON.
- H. Res. 49: Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H. Res. 54: Mr. WOLF, Mr. LATTI, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. ROONEY.
- H. Res. 70: Mr. DRIEHAUS.
- H. Res. 76: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. ELLISON.
- H. Res. 81: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
- H. Res. 82: Mr. ROYCE.
- H. Res. 86: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. BORDALLO.
- H. Res. 89: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. NYE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. CARNAHAN.
- H. Res. 93: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
- H. Res. 99: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.