

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