

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the Foreign Service, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chair, H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, authorizes funding for the Department of State, the United States Peace Corps, and various international organizations. I cannot support H.R. 2410. This legislation recklessly overspends American tax dollars, fails to enact any much-needed reforms of international organizations, and actively supports a radical social agenda that conflicts with the majority views of the American people.

By authorizing more than \$40 billion over five years, the House Democrats are again recklessly spending money that the American people do not have. At a time when so many Americans are struggling to make ends meet, exorbitant increases in foreign policy spending are absolutely inappropriate.

H.R. 2410 authorizes additional funding of 13 percent for the State Department, 32.4 percent for the Peace Corps, and 35 percent for State Department salaries. These types of increases clearly demonstrate that Congressional Democrats are failing to be good stewards of the nation's treasury.

H.R. 2410 also provides billions of dollars for the United Nations and other international organizations without demanding any reforms. Without serious reforms the United Nations will continue to fail to meet the challenges facing our world. This legislation does nothing to reformulate the U.S. payments to the United Nations to more accurately reflect current economic conditions. It fails to implement a code of conduct for UN employees, does nothing to reform UN procurement or budgetary procedures, fails to freeze the UN budget, and does not address the UN's continued push for an international tax. Providing billions of American tax dollars without conditions weakens any effort to bring about meaningful reform.

Most concerning, though, is that H.R. 2410 aggressively advocates for a radical social agenda. American foreign policy should advocate for the national interests of the American people, not a divisive, extremist policy to placate liberal activists.

First, this legislation establishes an Office for Global Women's Issues to promote the task of "women's empowerment internationally." Given the rescission of the Mexico City Policy and this administration's strong commitment to abortion, there were serious concerns that this office will be used to promote the legalization of abortion abroad. The Obama administration and Democrat leadership clearly intend to use this office to promote international abortions.

All doubt was removed when Republicans offered a substitute amendment to ensure this office would not advocate for international abortions. It was defeated on a party-line vote.

H.R. 2410 also takes an extraordinary step to require the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor to track violence or restrictions based on "perceived sexual orientation and gender identity." The bill would also require that the annual human rights report include information about violence or discrimination based on "perceived sexual orientation or gender identity." Finally, the bill would require Foreign Service officers to take instruction on identifying violence or discrimination based on "perceived sexual orientation or gender identity." Our tax dollars are not well spent monitoring the treatment of homosexuals worldwide.

This legislation furthermore mandates that American diplomats make overturning other country's laws regarding homosexuality a foreign policy priority. During committee consideration of the bill, Rep. MIKE PENCE offered an amendment that charged the State Department with continuing in their work to "to protect all people against gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, as described in section 116(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961." This language would have committed the U.S. to the protection of homosexual people—as they would any person—against torture, cruel, inhuman treatment, or "other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, and the security of person." Unfortunately, this amendment was voted down by committee Democrats.

U.S. foreign policy should be focused on progressing clear national security interests of the American people. Carving out special considerations regarding homosexuality, irrespective of larger foreign policy goals, could hinder vital diplomatic efforts. U.S. foreign policy should not be used as to promote special interests concerns, but the vital common strategic interests of this nation.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 2410.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2892—the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010:

As requested by me, Rep. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, H.R. 2892—the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010, provides for the City of New Orleans Emergency Medical Services ("EMS"), New Orleans, LA in support of an Emergency Operations Center. This is in the FEMA—State and Local Programs—Emergency Operations Center Account in the amount of \$750,000. This will benefit the City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, Suite 4W07, New Orleans, LA 70112 in the form of upgrades and retrofitting of a new permanent Emergency Operations Center for the city's sole 9-1-1 emergency medical service provider. This funding will help secure and store equipment and medication, and provide a training center and base of operations for the emergency medical services. Currently, Emergency Medical Services are operating

from a pairing of FEMA trailers staged underneath the Crescent City Connection overpass. Moving to the new facility on City Park Avenue and making the proposed changes to the facility will provide for the critical operational needs. Having a secure medication and equipment storage area, training areas, and a protected emergency operations center will help the department serve the citizens of New Orleans and better secure the city.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN GLADDEN
MACK**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing communicator and deaf friend, Joan Gladden Mack, upon her retirement after a 28-year career in television and radio. Ms. Gladden is a remarkable woman who I have known since our days as students together at South Carolina State College.

Joan Gladden was born in a close-knit Gullah community on James Island, South Carolina. She graduated as salutatorian of Gresham-Meggett High School in 1960, and received scholarships to attend South Carolina State. Joan was gifted in the sciences, and majored in biology with the intention of pursuing a career in medicine or physical therapy. But her brothers persuaded her to join them in New York, where she took a job as a program director for the New York City Youth Board.

After four years in the "Big Apple," Joan decided to return home where she continued her work with youth as the program director for the YMCA. She later served as a caseworker for the Charleston County Department of Social Services and a teacher in the County's Manpower Program. It was during her time at the Manpower Program, that Joan's career path changed.

In 1972, many media outlets, including WCSC-TV in Charleston, started recruiting African Americans for on-air positions. While Joan had no formal training in broadcast journalism, many leaders in the black community encouraged Joan to apply. She went to apply during her lunch hour and was asked to stay for an interview. She returned the next day for an on-air audition and, as they say, the rest is history.

Ms. Mack was hired the same day as her audition and became the public service director and co-host of "Kaleidoscope," a morning talk show on WCSC-TV. Despite landing the job, Joan was unsure of the longevity of her new career and decided to continue teaching with Manpower in the evenings just in case things didn't work out.

Her talent and tenacity ensured Joan's success. She became a local celebrity and a role model for both blacks and whites. After spending five years at WCSC-TV, Joan moved to WCBF-TV where she became a news reporter and later anchored the news. Yet she yearned to do more reporting that would allow her to have an impact on the community. She became an investigative reporter and covered three stories of which she is especially proud: one involving teen pregnancy, another prison overcrowding and the third involved abuse in the state mental hospital.