

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS—APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION
(In millions of dollars)

	BA	OT
Current allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	1,482,201	1,247,872
Fiscal Year 2010	1,091,405	1,309,520
Changes for overseas deployment and other activities designations:		
H.R. 3326 (Department of Defense Appropriations):		
Fiscal Year 2009	0	0
Fiscal Year 2010	128,247	68,091
Revised allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	1,482,201	1,247,872
Fiscal Year 2010	1,219,652	1,377,611

OZARK-JETA PROJECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join those Members of Congress who are concerned about the rapid growth of deficit spending by the Federal Government, lots of spending with little job growth. For that reason I rise today to express my concern that the administration budget attempts to cancel a project that will literally cost the taxpayers more to cancel than it will to complete.

On July 7 the New York Times reported on the Ozark Powerhouse Rehabilitation project. According to the Times: "Shutting down the Ozark-Jeta project won't save taxpayers a dime since the government would pay a \$12 million cancellation fee and reimburse utility ratepayers for their \$20 million share. Bottom line: Federal Taxpayers would spend \$32 million to kill the project, \$4 million more than it would cost to complete it."

I think it is important for the record to contain some background information on the Ozark Powerhouse Rehabilitation project. So let's take a moment to do that.

The Corps of Engineers is in the middle of a major rehabilitation of the Ozark-Jeta Taylor Powerhouse on the Arkansas River. Construction is under way. This project involves turbine redesign and replacement that will improve and allow the continued operation of this 100-megawatt hydropower facility. The electricity produced at the Ozark Powerhouse is sold to customers in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. As the Times article noted, electricity customers have already invested \$20 million through their utilities in this project. Neither the President's fiscal year 2010 budget request nor the initial announcements of stimulus money for the Corps contain any funding for this project.

My hope is that the administration will now work with the Congress to do the right thing and ensure that funding is provided to complete this project. If the project is not funded in 2010, work would be closed out on the project as fiscal year 2009 funds are exhausted.

If that happens, what will we have? We will have one turbine unit dis-

assembled and inoperative. We will have another inoperative unit due to a cracked shaft. We will have three units that are available only on a day-to-day basis due to frequent outages caused by problems with old turbine runners. We will have five new units that have already been purchased and may be left sitting uninstalled and onsite with no place to store them. Most regrettably, the taxpayers will have an additional \$32 million bill on top of the money they have already spent on an incomplete project.

If this project is cut, how can we say we want to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and cut emissions? If this project is cut, how can we say we want to encourage renewable energy? If this project is cut, how can we say we will avoid wasting the taxpayers' money?

In fact, because the electricity produced by this Federal project will be sold, once the rehabilitation is complete, every taxpayer's invested dollar will be returned to the Treasury plus interest. At this point how could we even consider not completing the work?

I encourage the President to make an honest effort to reduce Federal spending, and we can start by completing this project rather than canceling it. During the Presidential campaign, then-Senator Obama talked about the importance of using a scalpel, not a hatchet, when cutting spending. A quick look at the facts shows that this project was thoughtlessly cut, the kind of cut that is made with a hatchet.

We have all seen crazy decisions made by both Republicans and Democrats in the White House; so I'm not trying to be partisan expressing my concern about the way this project is being handled. Instead, I believe this cut illustrates that the government too often makes poor decisions and mishandles taxpayers' dollars. It just doesn't make any sense to cancel a project in the middle of construction when it will cost more to cancel the project than it would to finish it.

Again, my hope is that the administration now will work with Congress to do the right thing and ensure that funding is provided to complete this project.

INTRODUCING H. RES. 680, REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO RETRACT AND APOLOGIZE FOR REMARKS CRITICIZING OFFICER CROWLEY; AND H.R. 3347, THE FREEDOM TRADE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I have introduced H. Res. 680, calling upon President Obama to retract and apologize for his remarks regarding the conduct of Cambridge, Massachusetts, police officer James M. Crowley, Jr. Mr. Speaker, I view this as a Presidential issue.

After admitting his bias and inadequate grasp of the facts, the President nevertheless stated Sergeant Crowley had "acted stupidly" when carrying out his duties as a law enforcement officer. Subsequently, in a public remark, the President said that Sergeant Crowley had "overreacted."

On his part, Sergeant Crowley has steadfastly denied any inappropriate conduct.

Mr. Speaker, this is the crux of the problem, and it is a situation patently unfair to Sergeant Crowley and his standing regarding potential legal and professional consequences. Therefore, I ask the President to retract his premature judgment, apologize for it, and allow the appropriate authorities to resolve this issue through due process.

With my view, Kenneth E. Grabowski, legislative director of the Police Officers Association of Michigan agrees. I quote Mr. Grabowski: "After admitting a bias against the police officer and an ignorance of the facts, the President used his bully pulpit to help a well-connected friend by unfairly accusing an officer of misconduct in the performance of his duties. It must not stand. If it does, what officer will be next?"

And I would add, what citizen will be next?

Mr. Speaker, tonight I have also introduced H.R. 3347, the Freedom Trade Act, which applies human rights as a criterion of trade with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I believe H.R. 3347 is most timely, for today, in the Ronald Reagan Building, President Obama stated how "the relationship between the United States and China will shape the 21st century, which makes it as important as any bilateral relationship in the world."

On my part, I believe it is therefore imperative that this relationship be built upon a common and unbreakable commitment to every human being's God-given rights to liberty, including the rights of the free exercise of religion and speech and to the ability to form free and independent labor unions.

That is why this bill is necessary. It will show all our potential partners throughout the world that the United States remains a beacon of freedom that will never forget Natan Sharansky's warning that "how a government treats its own people cannot be separated from how that government could be expected to treat other countries."

Mr. Speaker, with this I wholeheartedly concur.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to sort of do a continuation of a theme that I have been discussing, but this one has gotten to the point where I'm very concerned about the seriousness of the offense.

We talked about failure of certain Members of Congress to pay their taxes, failure of Members of Congress to not disclose the influence peddling that is going on. We've talked about a lot of things. Last week we talked about the rule of law and how many are trying to circumvent the rule of contract.

In fact, I read today in the Wall Street Journal that the compensation czar is going to renegotiate the contracts. I assume that means strong-arm the parties to renegotiate the contracts on certain compensation packages; and however offended we may be by compensation packages, there are certain rules of contract that should be honored. That is one of the backbones of our Nation's freedom is that we have the right to make a deal and then be bound by it. But that's a different subject.

Tonight I want to talk about a subject that I think that if this doesn't concern people back home, if this doesn't concern the Members of this body, then I don't really know what will.

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It is because the issue we are talking about here is something that is the beginning of tyranny, and it is something we should all be very concerned about, and that is when a political group starts to step on the free speech rights of others in this Nation.

Now, you may feel like this is a position that I am taking that is untenable, but I am going to tell you that 652,000 people in the various districts, and most of the districts in my State have grown to a million now, send a person to Washington, D.C., to speak and to communicate with them back home about what is going on here in Washington, and they expect to hear the words and the ideas and the thoughts of their elected representative when that elected representative is communicating with them back in Washington, D.C.

But recently, in fact, you started seeing some of this pop up back during what they called the cap-and-trade and we call the cap-and-tax bill, but it has gone now to where it has become rampant on this issue of health care. An organization that is designed to set rules concerning how we spend government money in communicating with our people back home—it is called the Franking Commission. It is made up of, as I understand it, and I could have the

number wrong, three Republicans and three Democrats, and both are submitted a communication, say a weekly newsletter, that is sent back home or the lead-in to a telephone townhall or an e-mail back home, an instant e-mail telling people what is going on this day in Congress. And these things have to be submitted if they are being paid for by government money to the Franking Commission.

The Franking Commission, in a simple way to say it, they just basically don't think you should be using the government's money for politics. But they have never in the history of the Republic taken the position you don't have the right to express your opinion on the policies that are being proposed, or that you must reword the policies to suit the language of someone else. It is almost like, I hate to say it, political correctness run amok.

I want to start off by telling you what happened to me, and then I want to tell you what has happened to some of my colleagues, and I am going to be joined by some of those colleagues.

It is important that you understand that I write to my folks or I communicate with my folks back home every day. One of the tools I use is called a telephone townhall. On a telephone townhall you make a recorded message that leads into the townhall, and part of the recorded message is to tell the people what you are going to be talking with them about for the next hour, so they know what the subject matter is, because it narrows the scope and we get to narrow down the things we talk about.

So we made a telephone townhall recording submission to the Franking Commission in which I proposed to say the Democratic Party is offering their government-run health care program in the next 2 weeks, and this is what we are going to talk about tonight. The Franking Commission came back and told me I could not say "government-run health care" and I could not say "the Democratic Party." I had to say the majority party is submitting its public option health care program.

In other words, what they are telling me is I have to use the same language that the President of the United States uses in his speech, or that NANCY PELOSI uses when NANCY PELOSI talks about this, "public option," which they have done polls to discover that "public option" sounds better than "government-run health care."

But that is their opinion. I as an American citizen and a Member of this body am entitled to express my title for that to my constituents back home, and in fact to the entire American public, to say in my opinion they are submitting their government-run health care program. And I would submit there is no other real way you can describe that if you believe the government is running it, because it says the government is running it.

It is not like they are going to contract out, subcontract to insurance

companies to put together a policy. No. The United States Government is going to offer a health care plan for the American public and it is going to be run by the Federal Government, the United States Government. That is the plan. That is what they are submitting in their 1,018-page health care plan, which to this point has not been completed and finally marked up, and we haven't seen the final product. And if it goes the way it has gone since we have been in Congress since January, when Mr. Obama was sworn in, this Congress will present it to us sometime between midnight and 2 in the morning of the morning before we vote on it.

But getting back to the seriousness of this situation, I was taken back by what they did to me. But it is not just about me. If it was just about me, I would not be standing up here. But I felt like they were telling me what I had to say. I had to use someone else's words to describe something that I wanted to describe.

But that wasn't all. My colleague KEVIN BRADY from Texas, and he may be here later on, we were delayed because of weather for a long time tonight, and Mr. BRADY told me he would get here if he could, as fast as he could, within this hour.

My friend KEVIN BRADY prepared this chart. And what this chart is is Mr. BRADY's interpretation of all of the entities that exist or that are being created by this plan that is put together by the Democrats, and it is what stands between the consumers, that is this little body of folks right here, and the health care professionals over there, and all of this stands between them.

Mr. BRADY was told that he could not mail this to his constituents. He asked why, and they said it is not true. And he said, well, that is fine. Point to me one entity that is not in the bill, one, just one, and I will pull it down.

No one could point to any entity that is not contained in the bill. Everything that is seen on this chart is contained in the bill. But the point of this was they were trying to curtail Mr. BRADY's freedom to express himself, his freedom of speech in this body.

Now, if you want to really lean and say, Oh, sure that is fair, they ought to be able to do that, well, let's look at something here that is kind of interesting.

Back during the Hillary Clinton "HillaryCare" debate, another chart was introduced into this Congress. It is not as pretty as Mr. BRADY's, because it is not in color. This chart, during the HillaryCare debate, was submitted to the Franking Commission. I don't remember the date. Maybe it is on here. Anyway, it was during the HillaryCare debate, what was that, 1993, back in 1993, by Dick Armey of Texas. It went to the Franking Commission, and the Democrats and the Republicans approved it as appropriate to communicate to constituents with.

So what has changed between the nineties and the first debate about