

which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL RELATIVE TO AN EXPEDITED PROCEDURE TO RESCIND UNNECESSARY SPENDING AND TO BROADLY SCALE BACK FUNDING LEVELS IF WARRANTED, TOGETHER WITH A SECTIONAL ANALYSIS—PM 57

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Today, I am pleased to submit to the Congress the enclosed legislative proposal, the “Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act of 2010,” along with a section-by-section analysis of the legislation.

This proposal will be another important step in restoring fiscal discipline and making sure that Washington spends taxpayer dollars responsibly. It will provide a new tool to streamline Government programs and operations, cut wasteful Government spending, and enhance transparency and accountability to the American people. The legislation will create an expedited procedure to rescind unnecessary spending and to broadly scale back funding levels if warranted. The legislation would require the Congress to vote up or down on legislation proposed by the President to rescind funding. This new, enhanced rescission authority will not only empower the President and the Congress to eliminate unnecessary spending, but also discourage waste in the first place.

Now more than ever, it’s critical that taxpayer dollars are not wasted on programs that are ineffective, duplicative, or out-dated. In a time when American families and small business owners are conscious of every dollar and make sure that they manage their budgets wisely, the Federal Government can do no less. The American people expect and demand that we spend their money with the same discipline. Allowing taxpayer dollars to be wasted is both an irresponsible use of taxpayer funds and an irresponsible abuse of the public trust.

Recently, the Congress has taken welcome steps to curb wasteful spending. In 2007, when I served in the Senate, a bipartisan group worked together to eliminate anonymous earmarks and brought new measures of transparency to the process so Americans can better follow how their tax dollars are being spent. Consequently, we have seen progress—with earmarks declining since these reforms were passed, including during this past fiscal year.

In addition, my administration undertook a line-by-line review of the

Budget, and put forward approximately \$20 billion of terminations, reductions, and savings both for Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011. While recent administrations have seen between 15 to 20 percent of their proposed discretionary cuts approved by the Congress, for FY 2010, we worked with the Congress to enact 60 percent of proposed cuts.

Despite the progress we have made to reduce earmarks and other unnecessary spending, there is still more work to be done. The legislation I am sending to you today provides an important tool. The legislation allows the President to target spending policies that do not have a legitimate and worthy public purpose by providing the President with an additional authority to propose the elimination of wasteful or excessive funding. These proposals then receive expedited consideration in the Congress and a guaranteed up-or-down vote. This legislation would also allow the President to delay funding for these projects until the Congress has had the chance to consider the changes. In addition, this proposal has been crafted to preserve the constitutional balance of power between the President and the Congress.

Overall, the “Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act of 2010” provides a new way for the Congress and the President to manage taxpayer dollars wisely. That is why I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal, and look forward to working with the Congress on this matter in the coming weeks.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 24, 2010.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1177. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of five United States Army 5-Star Generals, George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Henry “Hap” Arnold, and Omar Bradley, alumni of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to coincide with the celebration of the 132nd Anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Command and General Staff College.

H.R. 5128. An act to designate the United States Department of the Interior Building in Washington, District of Columbia, as the “Stewart Lee Udall—Department of the Interior Building”.

H.R. 5327. An act to authorize assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile—defense system.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on May 21, 2010, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1782. An act to provide improvements for the operations of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-120. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging local, state, and federal governmental agencies to work in close coordination, in order to minimize damage to Louisiana’s natural resources caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and to utilize all available resources to protect and support Louisiana residents and businesses affected by the spill; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

Whereas, on April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded and later sank in the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, the accident was reported to have been caused by a blowout, an uncontrolled release of gas or oil that forces its way up a well pipe and catches fire; and

Whereas, with fire still burning days later, Coast Guard officials continued the search for eleven missing crew members; and

Whereas, of the one hundred and fifteen crew members who were accounted for, seventeen suffered injuries that included burns, smoke inhalation, and broken bones; and

Whereas, since the explosion, approximately forty-two thousand gallons of oil per day have been leaking from the site into the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, the oil spill is moving closer and closer to environmentally sensitive coastal areas; and

Whereas, President Obama’s administration has launched a full investigation into the oil rig explosion, with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar indicating devotion and every available resource to a comprehensive investigation of the explosion with assistance to be given by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Minerals Management Service which share in jurisdiction for the investigation; and

Whereas, British Petroleum, which owns the oil rig operated by the Swiss drilling company Transocean, dispatched more than thirty ships, capable of skimming in excess of one hundred and seventy thousand barrels of oil per day; and

Whereas, several oceanographers have claimed that the magnitude of the oil spill is huge and could have an impact on marine life and oyster beds; and

Whereas, the Coast Guard is keeping a watchful eye on underwater activity from the sunken rig; and

Whereas, the Coast Guard has prepared to set fire to portions of the growing oil slick to keep the crude away from sensitive ecological areas; and

Whereas, without prompt and carefully coordinated action, the oil spill has the potential to become one of the worst in U.S. history, as it is up to forty-two miles by eighty miles wide, and ranges in thickness from a couple of molecules to the equivalent of layers of paint; and

Whereas, with the Louisiana shrimp season due to open in less than a month, geologists say the oil spill has the potential to delay or affect the 2010 season; and

Whereas, Governor Jindal has authorized state agencies to continue monitoring the oil spill, while the federal government begins work to protect the Pass-A-Loutre Wildlife Management and Breton National Wildlife Refuge areas; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is working closely with state and federal agencies and British Petroleum to mitigate fish and wildlife resource impacts; and