

□ 1717

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) at 5 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 857 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 857

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) is recognized for 1 hour.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and insert tabular and extraneous material on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration of the conference report of H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. Additionally, it provides that the report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006, is intended to fully fund our forces overseas and at home.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our sons and daughters are deployed overseas in

a wartime environment, this legislation provides critical funds that will be used to conduct ongoing operations in the global war on terror.

Unlike other wars, this war is one where terrorists are having a critical impact and one that requires the perpetual vigilance of not only our forces but the American people. To our forces' credit, just last week they were successful in killing Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, one of the critical players among the nonstate terrorist actors. This success required professionalism, perseverance, and tenacity, qualities our military has in abundance.

It is worth noting that if we were not in Iraq we would never have killed al-Zarqawi. However, it is also fair to observe that al-Zarqawi was dedicated to pursuing and killing Americans around the globe. If we had not found him, he surely would have found and attacked us.

Mr. Speaker, the Iraqis also deserve to be commended for their efforts in this struggle. During this war, they have held three elections, written a constitution, and just last week formed a permanent government. They played a key role in locating al-Zarqawi and are assuming an increasing role in defending their own country. They are watching what we do here today. They require and request our continued support as they move forward in their efforts to build a new and better Iraq. The passage of this rule and the underlying legislation is an important sign that this country and this Congress will keep its commitment to Iraq as it strives to create a future of hope and promise.

But, Mr. Speaker, real challenges remain, and it is these challenges that require our action today. Our military, our sons and daughters, need these funds immediately. They require our support and we must give it to them.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that some may question the cost of the global war on terror. Some may question its worth. But, Mr. Speaker, today is not September 10 of 2001. We know what terrorists are capable of doing. Our enemies have chosen to make Iraq the central theater in the global war on terror. They seek to do to us what their predecessors did to the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan, and that is a triumph which we must deny our enemies for our own sake as well as that of the Iraqi people.

This war is a generational test, one that will affect not only our children and grandchildren but our great grandchildren as well. We cannot fail in our objectives. We chose this path as a Congress in 2002, and now we must stay on the hard road to its completion. We must support our forces now by passing this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, many may wish to raise extraneous policy issues in this debate.

Some may want to discuss issues that, however important, are superfluous to the question at hand. Frankly, I welcome the debate today and later this week; however, now is the time to support our sons and daughters deployed overseas in the field of battle. Now is the time to accept the true challenges we face. We can do so by passing this rule and the underlying legislation.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I wish to note that this supplemental has another purpose. It contains funds that are badly needed by our fellow Americans on the gulf coast as they are still recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Our fellow citizens need and deserve our support. I am proud that we are responding as we have twice before. This, like the war on terror, is a national priority. These twin issues, the war on terror and recovery of the gulf coast, demand and will receive resources from the Congress on a bipartisan basis.

However, I am pleased to note that in our negotiation with the other body our conferees have kept their focus on the challenges at hand. They have not allowed the generous impulses that underlay this legislation to be perverted into a reckless spending spree on other items. For that they are to be commended. They have given us a bill that meets the needs at hand, yet remains fiscally responsible. That is no small accomplishment. This legislation deserves support from all Members.

Mr. Speaker, to that end I urge support for the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 3 months have gone by since the House last met to pass new funding for one of the greatest challenges our Nation faces today: the ongoing war in Iraq.

It is clear that so long as our soldiers are in harm's way our financial support for them must continue. But writing checks is not enough. All the money in the world cannot produce a positive change if it is squandered and misappropriated.

What our troops in the field and our citizens at home need is for this body to recommit itself to real oversight of our government and its actions. What we need is the return of accountability to the House, and it is that above all else which has yet to transpire here.

I would ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to focus their gaze half a world away. The past 90 days has seen victories and defeats in Iraq, reasons for hope and reasons for grave concern, and the outcome is still far from certain. And yet the overwhelming majority of our troops routinely carry out