

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 470

Raising a question of the privileges of the House.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Raising a question of the privileges of the House.

Whereas the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, a Representative from California, served from 1997 to 2002 as Ranking Democratic Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence;

Whereas Representative Pelosi currently serves as Speaker of the House, a position of considerable power and influence within the Congress;

Whereas title 3 of the United States Code designates the Speaker of the House as third in line of succession to the Presidency;

Whereas Speaker Pelosi has publicly challenged the truthfulness of what she and other congressional leaders were told by Central Intelligence Agency officials about the

agency's use of enhanced interrogation techniques on suspected terrorists;

Whereas in an MSNBC interview on February 25, 2009, Speaker Pelosi stated, "I can say flat-out, they never told us that these enhanced interrogation techniques were being used";

Whereas Speaker Pelosi's public statements allege a sustained pattern of deception by government intelligence officers charged by law with informing Congress about the agency's activities;

Whereas when asked at a press conference on May 15, 2009, widely reported by the news media, "Madame Speaker, just to be clear, you're accusing the CIA of lying to you in September?" Speaker Pelosi stated, "Yes";

Whereas during the same press conference the Speaker subsequently stated, "So yes, I'm saying they are misleading, the CIA was misleading the Congress" and further, "they mislead us all the time" and "they misrepresented every step of the way";

Whereas in a memorandum to CIA employees released publicly on May 15, 2009, Leon Panetta, the CIA Director, stated, "It is not our policy or practice to mislead Congress. That is against our laws and our values. As the Agency indicated previously in response to Congressional inquiries, our contemporaneous records from September 2002 indicate that CIA officers briefed truthfully on the interrogation of Abu Zubaydah, describing the enhanced interrogation techniques that had been employed";

Whereas national and international media reports on this controversy have damaged the reputation of the House by raising questions about whether the effectiveness of con-

gressional oversight may have been undermined through false or misleading statements by intelligence officials; and

Whereas in order to safeguard the reputation of the House it is imperative to reconcile as soon as possible the aforementioned contradictory statements by Speaker Pelosi and CIA Director Panetta: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) a Select Subcommittee of the Permanent
3 Select Committee on Intelligence shall be established
4 to review and verify the accuracy of the Speaker’s
5 aforementioned public statements;

6 (2) the Select Subcommittee shall be comprised
7 of four members of the full committee, two ap-
8 pointed by the chairman of the committee and two
9 by its ranking minority member;

10 (3) The subcommittee shall have the same pow-
11 ers to obtain testimony and documents pursuant to
12 subpoena authorized under clause 2(m) of rule XI of
13 the Rules of the House; and

14 (4) the Select Subcommittee report its findings
15 and recommendations to the House not later than
16 sixty calendar days after adoption of this resolution.

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