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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 13, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the President-elect on being in touch with the American people in understanding the pain on Wall Street, of job losses, of foreclosures, and of the sense of urgency. I share the sense of urgency he brings to this issue and the idea that we need a significant new investment—stimulus, whatever you want to call it—in America to turn things around. That's the good news.

The bad news is I don't believe he is well served by his economic advisers.

These are your typical pointy-headed, academic economists who think that what we need is to return to a speculative, consumer-driven society, not a wealth-oriented, production-driven society with a strong foundation. They want instant gratification with five times as much in tax cuts as investment in infrastructure in this country, a country with a \$1.6 trillion infrastructure deficit—a crumbling water system, sewer systems, roads, bridges.

One hundred sixty thousand bridges in this country on the National Highway System, let alone the local, are structurally deficient or are functionally obsolete. Our transit systems are operating with obsolescent or obsolete equipment. Now, the investments in these areas aren't all shovel-ready. They're going to drop this shovel-ready 60 days, going to be done in 18 months. We are in deep trouble in this country, and rebuilding the foundation and the underpinnings of this economy is going to be critical toward a long-term recovery effort. When you invest in these things, you put people to work. These are much better than tax cuts.

Now, you don't have to take it from me. Yes, he has his economic advisers—Mr. Summers and others—but I would rather take advice from Paul Krugman, who just got the Nobel Prize for Economics.

He says, "And bear in mind that even a project that delivers its main punch in, say, 2011 can provide significant economic support in earlier years. If Mr. Obama drops the 'jump-start' metaphor, if he accepts the reality that we need a multi-year program rather than a short burst of activity, he can create a lot more jobs through government investment even in the near term."

He goes on to say, "So my advice to the Obama team is to scrap the business tax cuts and, more important, to deal with the threat of doing too little by doing more, and the way to do more is to stop talking about jump-starts

and look more broadly at the possibilities for government investment."

How about a national high-speed rail network? That would take decades. It would cost hundreds of billions of dollars, but it would build a future for America. The emergencies would be built here. The cars would be built here. The tracks would be built here. It's so much more fuel-efficient than our current modes of transportation. How about our existing transit system—the 12,000 obsolete buses or the need for new streetcar systems? These projects, yes, can't be going in 60 or in 90 days. Well, a few of them actually can. In fact, we have a list on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee from both local and State and national groups that totals a couple hundred billion dollars. Yet Mr. Summers poo-pooes the idea that there is an adequate amount of investment that can be begun and made in the short term, and he'd rather send it out in checks of about \$8 per pay period to Americans.

I don't think the people I represent believe that, if they get an extra \$8 take home that that's building a strong, new foundation, giving them confidence in the future of this economy, and I certainly don't believe that banks should be able to recapture taxes they paid in the past because they've speculated themselves to the verge of insolvency, taking money from the taxpayers that they won't tell us how they've billed. Now they want to get a look-back on their taxes. That's not going to put one single person to work. It might give some CEO yet another bonus, but it's not going to put anybody to work.

Let's have a much more realistic, concrete, if you will, investment in America's future rather than more of the same. The huge amount of tax cuts in this proposal sound a little bit too much like the George Bush trickle-down economy. It's time for a new direction to rebuild the foundations of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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this country, and I urge the President-elect to bring in his economic advisers for a little chat and, perhaps, to reorient their thinking.

THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS COOPER-WOLF SAFE COMMISSION IN STIMULUS LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to raise the issue of the dire financial situation facing our country.

We must come together to face the reality that America is living on borrowed dollars to the tune of \$11 trillion in debt and \$54 trillion, soon to go higher, in unfunded liabilities with entitlements. We must offer a bipartisan solution to these long-term financial challenges.

In recent days, there have been calls to consider the long-term budget controls in tandem with any economic stimulus package offered. The respected Heritage Foundation released a report last Friday, entitled "Stimulus Legislation Must Include Budget Reforms to Address Long-term Challenges."

The report offered support for budget control mechanisms that would be set up through the Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission legislation in the House and the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action effort proposed by Budget Chairman KENT CONRAD and Ranking Member, Senator JUDD GREGG, in the Senate.

The Heritage publication, which I submit for the record, notes that SAFE "would have the advantage of a two-step process. Its first phase would be a series of nationwide public hearings to talk frankly about the long-term fiscal problems and the tough options for fixing it and build public support for congressional action on a broad plan of action."

As our colleagues may recall, the SAFE process would culminate in legislative recommendations to Congress, and like the BRAC process for closing bases, Congress would be required to vote up or down on the plan.

I know there have been questions raised about incorporating long-term budget controls in a short-term stimulus aimed primarily at job creation, but I would argue—and many would argue—that the time is now here to begin to confront the underlying problem of autopilot spending. I don't know about other Members, but my constituents continue to share their frustration with Congress' seeming to know only how to spend money with no regard for the future.

We need to listen to the American people and show them that we can lead and that we can make the difficult choices. The longer we wait and the more consuming entitlement program spending becomes, the more draconian

our choices will be. We are mortgaging the future for our children and grandchildren. The bottom line is we cannot deal with the short-term financial problems without thinking about and dealing with the long-term solutions.

The SAFE Commission is not a new idea. Over 110 Members of Congress co-sponsored the legislation in the last year. The Heritage Foundation, the Brookings Institution and the Concord Coalition all helped draft the bill.

Jim Cooper and I joined bipartisan forces in the last Congress, and SAFE has continued to garner support from other leading voices, including the business community—the Virginia and Tennessee Chambers of Commerce, the Business Roundtable and the National Federation of Independent Business.

We all know that it will take all of the political courage that we can muster to reject the partisan and special interest demands and to do what is best for the country. If other Members have a better bipartisan idea that can pass the House, they should be introducing it, and it should be included in the stimulus package.

Not acting on this issue is effectively supporting either the "do nothing plan" or the "maybe this problem will fix itself plan" or the "let's just bury our heads in the sand plan," but the numbers don't lie. The Nation's future outlook is sobering. Just in the short term, CBO projects that the Federal budget deficit for this fiscal year alone, which started in October, will balloon to \$1.2 trillion and perhaps higher.

We offered this SAFE idea as an amendment to the FY09 Financial Services spending bill last June. Unfortunately, we came up one vote short of passage. Congressman ALLEN BOYD, the founding member of the Blue Dog Coalition, spoke eloquently from his heart in support of the amendment, asking us to envision ourselves 20 years from now, sitting on the front porch and telling our grandchildren about the days we served in Congress.

What will we tell our grandchildren—that we looked the other way, knowing that out-of-control entitlement spending would threaten the living standards of future generations?

The stakes for the country's future may have never been so high. This is clearly an economic issue, but it is also a moral and a generational issue. Abraham Lincoln once said, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." I believe the moral component of this issue goes to the heart of who we are as Americans.

This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. It is an American issue. If we can't find a way to come together on this fundamental issue, I will have serious questions about our ability to find bipartisan solutions that will work for the good of the country.

I am asking our colleagues today to come together, to know that while we served in Congress we did everything we could in our power to provide the kind of security and way of life for our

children and for our grandchildren that our parents and grandparents worked so hard to provide for us.

This challenge, too, goes out to the leadership in Congress and to the soon-to-be Obama administration to make this a truly bipartisan effort. Put the SAFE Commission process in the stimulus package and on the fast track to enactment.

I have never been more committed to an issue and to helping to find bipartisan solutions to address our long-term financial sustainability of this country. The American people expect nothing less.

[From the Heritage Foundation, Jan. 9, 2009]
STIMULUS LEGISLATION MUST INCLUDE BUDGET REFORMS TO ADDRESS LONG-TERM CHALLENGES

(By Alison Acosta Fraser)

Congress and President-elect Barack Obama have set their sights on a massive economic stimulus bill crammed full of spending projects intended to "jolt" the economy into recovery. By some counts this package may reach \$1 trillion, or nearly 85 percent of the total of all budget bills passed last year.¹

This is not the way to spur economic recovery. But even if it were, Obama already recognizes he faces a difficult challenge: how to keep the stimulus focused on short-term deficit spending and avoid a huge, long-term expansion of the federal government—and with it a dramatic increase in the staggeringly large unfunded obligations due mainly to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. To deal with that challenge, Obama should work with fiscally responsible Members of Congress to include four key budget reforms in any stimulus legislation:

1. Put long-term obligations from Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid front and center in the budget process;
2. Establish a bipartisan congressional commission to develop a package of long-term reforms for entitlements;
3. Establish equitable policies for assessing and enforcing spending and revenues changes in the budget; and
4. Create a long-term budget for entitlement spending.

Spending and Deficits Hit New Records. Federal spending is projected to top 25 percent of GDP in 2009, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the highest it has been since World War II, and that is before any stimulus legislation. The deficit is projected to reach \$1.2 trillion by the end of this year, and any stimulus would likely push the deficit to more than \$1.6 trillion.

Similar large deficits are projected to continue into the future.² Such deficits are a loud alarm to which policymakers must listen: Federal spending is out of control. But even they ignore the deeper fiscal problems of Social Security and Medicare. These programs together, not even counting Medicaid, have an unfunded obligation that is equivalent to a mortgage of \$43 trillion.³ Future generations will be forced to pay for those obligations through higher taxes unless the programs are modernized.

Budget Restraint. While making the case for his massive short-term stimulus proposal, President-elect Obama acknowledged the threat entitlements pose to the economy, noting, "If we do nothing, then we will continue to see red ink as far as the eye can see." He called budget reform "an absolute necessity," and he has pledged to confront the problems from Social Security and Medicare in his budget.

Budget writers in Congress are also alarmed. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad (D-ND), called the deficit

“jaw dropping,” and House Budget Committee Chairman Jack Spratt (D-SC) was suffering “sticker shock.”⁴ They and their ranking member counterparts have encouraged lawmakers to tackle the long-term budget problems posed by these entitlement programs. Conrad and Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) have urged Congress to link the stimulus with action to address the long-term budget crisis.⁵

If President-elect Obama is serious about fiscal responsibility, he and responsible Members of Congress must insist on budget reforms to prevent further deterioration of an already alarming long-term budget problem and require action to tackle these challenges directly. To that end, he and responsible lawmakers should insist on these four key budget reform measures being included in any stimulus package:

1. Put long-term obligations from Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid front and center in the budget process, with an up-or-down vote on any budget that will increase debts on future generations. Such a measure could easily be incorporated into the annual budget resolution. This would provide a more accurate and transparent assessment of the federal government's commitments and provide all Americans with a vivid picture of the problem. All major policy changes should be scored over the long term to indicate what impact they would have on the total unfunded obligations of the government. That would provide lawmakers and the public with a better understanding of the true long-term costs of new legislation. And to put Members on record on their attitude to burdening our children and grandchildren, they should have to vote during the annual budget process if the proposed budget will increase long-term obligations.⁶

2. Enact a bipartisan congressional commission to develop a package of long-term reforms that will make these programs affordable. Bipartisan legislation to implement this type of commission was introduced in the previous Congress: the SAFE Act (H.R. 3654), co-sponsored by Representatives Jim Cooper (D-TN) and Frank Wolf (R-VA), and the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action Act (S. 2063), co-sponsored by Conrad and Gregg. Under both bills, a commission would craft detailed recommendations for a fast-track vote in Congress. The SAFE Act would have the added advantage of a two-step process. Its first phase would be a series of nationwide public hearings to talk frankly about the long-term fiscal problem and the tough options for fixing it and to build public support for congressional action on a broad plan of action.⁷

3. Establish equitable policies for assessing and enforcing spending and revenues changes in the budget. Any budget enforcement mechanism is based on changes in projected spending and revenues. The CBO projects a spending baseline by assuming that all the laws authorizing spending—such as the highway or farm programs, or even appropriations—will be extended year after year and spending levels will continue even if they expire regularly under existing law. But when it comes to taxes, the CBO's baseline is current statute, and any rates reductions, deductions, credits, etc., that are scheduled to expire are assumed to do so. The lopsided result is that spending is given a free ride under the baseline while any reduction in the growth of taxes is assumed to be temporary.

This skewed baseline means current “PAYGO” rules are biased toward tax increases. Thus, for any enforcement mechanism to be considered fair and to be effective, it must be based on the same baseline treatment for both spending and revenues. Indeed, Obama's own advisors have already

criticized this lopsided policy treatment, which stacks the deck in favor of higher spending and higher taxes.⁸

4. Create a long-term budget for entitlement spending. Unlike “discretionary” programs such as defense and education, “mandatory” entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security are not budgeted annually. Entitlement spending grows on autopilot, in conjunction with the programs' regulatory framework, so there is not an open or transparent consideration of priorities or budgetary trade-offs. And since spending levels are simply the product of individuals using their entitlement, there is in a sense no budget just a projection of likely total costs. And as they grow unchecked, these entitlements crowd out other programs and priorities.

This must change, by constraining entitlement programs with a real budget. To be sure, retirement programs require longer time horizons and planning than typical discretionary programs so that beneficiaries will not face unexpected annual changes in benefits. Therefore, Congress should create a long-term framework for a constrained entitlement budget that would be periodically evaluated to ensure that these programs are sustainable and affordable over the long term. This could be done by creating a long-term budget window—for example, 30 years. All spending would be reviewed every five years, and the commission could recommend measures for Congress to ensure that the programs live within this budget framework.⁹

There are many reasons to be concerned over the unprecedented stimulus spending now being proposed, including the ineffectiveness of Keynesian pump priming, the perils of such an immense hike in government spending, and the creation of new permanent government programs. With the first baby boomers recently retiring, America is experiencing the first waves of the entitlement tsunami. The stimulus legislation could set the stage for a permanent sea of red ink and an even larger tsunami of debt. Substantive budget reforms are needed to prevent such a scenario from occurring.

Truly Serious? If President-elect Obama insists on a massive spending bill, he must ensure it does not result in huge permanent new government programs and thus potentially trillions of dollars in new burdens on our children and grandchildren. He must demonstrate his commitment to tackle the long-term entitlement challenges by working with Members of Congress to build sound budget process reform measures into the stimulus legislation. If he does not do so, the young Americans who voted for him should question how serious he is about protecting their financial future.

ENDNOTES

1. Estimated FY 2008 appropriations \$1.154 trillion, prior to all enacted supplementals. Office of Management and Budget, “Budget of the United States Government Fiscal Year 2009: Historical Tables,” Table 5.4, at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2009/hist.html (January 9, 2009).

2. See Brian M. Riedl, “CBO Budget Baseline Shows Historic Surge in Spending and Debt,” Heritage Foundation WebMemo No. 2193, January 7, 2009, at <http://www.heritage.org/research/budget/wm2193> (January 9, 2009).

3. Department of the Treasury, “2008 Financial Report of the United States Government,” December 15, 2008, p. 41, at <http://fms.treas.gov/fr/index.html> (January 9, 2009).

4. Lori Montgomery, “Congress Urges Spending Restraint,” The Washington Post, January 8, 2009, at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/>

2009/01/07/AR2009010701156.html?hpid=topnew (January 9, 2009).

5. Senators Kent Conrad and Judd Gregg, “A Fiscal Battle on Two Fronts,” The Washington Post, January 5, 2009, at http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/04/AR2009010401436_pf.html (January 9, 2009).

6. Alison Acosta Fraser, “Federal Budget Should Include Long-Term Obligations from Entitlement Programs,” Heritage Foundation Executive Memorandum No. 1004, June 22, 2006, at <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/em1004.cfm>.

7. Alison Acosta Fraser, “The SAFE Commission Act (H.R. 3654) and the Long-Term Fiscal Challenge,” testimony before the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives, June 25, 2008, at <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/tst062508b.cfm>.

8. J.D. Foster, Ph.D., “Obama to CBO Revenue Baseline: Nuts—and He's Right!,” Heritage Foundation WebMemo No. 2019, August 11, 2008, at <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/wm2019.cfm>.

9. Stuart M. Butler, Ph.D., Alison Acosta Fraser and Other Authors, “Taking Back Our Fiscal Future,” Heritage Foundation White Paper, March 31, 2008, at <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/wp0408.cfm>.

THE NEW FRONTIER OF THE 21ST CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, last week, the 111th Congress was convened, and we started by electing our Speaker, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, for a second term of Speaker of the House.

The 111th Congress has much potential, much of it because the 107th, 108th and 109th Congresses failed as a Republican majority, and a Republican President let the free market dictate how our economy responded to economic pressures, and as a result, we have had the greatest economic catastrophe since the Great Depression.

Those Congresses—the 107th, 108th and 109th—allowed the Republican President, on faith, to take us into a war that has cost us 4,000 American lives, over 30,000 casualties and over a half trillion dollars that has robbed our citizens and our cities, Madam Speaker, of monies needed for health care, education and infrastructure.

The 110th Congress saw a Democratic majority come here, and it had an opportunity to pass legislation, some of which was approved by the President, was signed by the President or his veto was overridden. However, the President did veto several of our bills, including a children's health care plan, which we'll work on this week. We were unable to stop the hemorrhaging of our economy and of our young people's lives in the Middle East.

In both the election of a new President and in the 111th Congress's opportunity to work with President-elect Obama, I believe this Congress will be viewed as one of the most historic Congresses in the history of our country.

We have the opportunity to restore America's proper place in the world community as a nation that others see as a good and giving and intelligent country that shares the power of its ideas rather than the idea of its power, as President Clinton said, one that works in a multinational fashion to work with other countries to solve the problems around the globe.

I have great confidence that Secretary of State CLINTON will see to it that women's issues, children's issues and health care issues will be dealt with by the United States as a leader around the globe and that people will see us as a friend and not a foe, as someone to be respected and not feared.

Nevertheless, the military is always necessary for those who are incapable of seeing peace as the ultimate purpose in our time on Earth, and we will see to it that our military is effectively maintained.

Climate change threatens the very Earth we inhabit, and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, under the leadership of Representative Chairman JAMES OBERSTAR, will see to it that we address issues of importance that maintain the Earth as we know it, the flora and fauna as God has given them to us, and see that future generations aren't impacted as greatly as they would be.

The past Congresses did not deal with global warming. They did not sign the Kyoto Accord—the President did not—and they leave us with a problem there. So we've got a problem with the world community, a problem with the economy, a problem with the environmental standards that we need to adopt. Much to be done. It has all begun, but most of it won't really get into full swing until after the inauguration of January 20.

Madam Speaker, I urge every school system and every citizen to watch the inauguration of our next President on January 20. Allow students to watch that inauguration. Hopefully, it will instill in them the same spirit about government and the same hope that I had on January 20, 1961 when I watched John Kennedy take the oath of office.

John Kennedy gave my generation the belief that politics could be an honorable profession and that government could be a useful tool in seeing our country and our world as a better place. To a goodly extent, I think we've lost that hope that the new frontier brought some 40-some-odd years ago.

With the election of Barack Obama, hope again exists to the American people's hearts and minds. I expect his oratory to embody the spirit of America—a spirit of working together and a spirit of change that is for the betterment of this country and for the world. I hope everybody watches.

Please encourage your children to watch and to allow them to be inspired, for if they are, we'll have a generation that will participate, that will vote and that will see to it that we have a better tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to serve in this Congress. I am very proud to serve with Speaker PELOSI. I am blessed to have the opportunity to serve with the new frontier of the 21st century, Barack Obama.

Thank you very much.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ZACHARY COOK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Chair consider recognizing the gentleman from Texas first and then recognize me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will do that as a matter of recognition.

Mr. SHERMAN. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas may proceed for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Zachary Cook, a 22-year-old Army officer and a 2008 graduate of Texas A&M University and its Corps of Cadets. Zachary died tragically yesterday in an Army helicopter crash on the A&M campus in College Station, Texas, in my district during Rudder's Rangers annual winter field training. His loss brings a great sadness to his family and friends, the extended Texas A&M family, the Army, and to all of us deprived of this patriotic citizen who was dedicated to serving our great Nation in uniform. Zachary dreamed of flying Army helicopters and was thrilled to have received his recent Army commission. He was revered as a true friend to others, someone who truly inspired and mentored his friends.

Madam Speaker, I believe the families and loved ones of our servicemen and women are truly the unsung heroes and heroines in our Nation's defense, and that is why I want to express my regret and respect to the family of Mr. Cook. A grateful Nation owes them a deep debt of gratitude, and our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. I hope they take comfort in knowing that the spirit of service demonstrated by their loved one will touch and inspire the lives of others long after we are all gone from this Earth.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with the four Texas National Guard members who were seriously injured in the crash. We pray for their speedy recovery.

We humbly recognize that we can never repay fully Zachary or his family for their loss, but I hope that his family will know our Nation will never forget their sacrifice.

May God bless the spirit of Zachary Cook and keep him lovingly in His arms.

BAILOUT BILL IS BACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Well, the \$700 billion bankers' bailout bill is back. Many of my colleagues didn't enjoy voting on it twice last year, but it is back. It is back with two votes—one vote this week, one vote next week. This week, we will vote on Chairman FRANK's bill (H.R. 384) to improve the TARP legislation, the \$700 billion bill. I believe that Chairman FRANK's bill is a step in the right direction but insufficient. Then on Friday, the Senate is expected to take up a resolution of disapproval. As you remember, the bill we passed last year, TARP, says that the executive branch gets the last \$350 billion as soon as they ask for it, or 15 days after they ask for it, unless both the House and Senate pass a resolution of disapproval, and it provides for expedited consideration of such a resolution.

So next Friday, January 16th, the Senate is expected to vote on a resolution of disapproval. Then on the following Wednesday, January 21, we will vote on a resolution of disapproval. Such a resolution would be effective only in the unusual circumstance that it passes both Houses of Congress, and even then it is subject to a possible Presidential veto. Still, this House must carry out its responsibilities.

This week, hopefully the Rules Committee will allow us to consider amendments to strengthen Chairman FRANK's bill. And next week we have to vote on releasing the second \$350 billion. When we vote next week, we will at that point have before us just the existing statute passed last year, because even if Chairman FRANK's bill passes, even if it is made much stronger than it is now, it will be languishing in the Senate next week, and we in the House will have no idea whether it will ever become law. So when we vote to release the second \$350 billion, we're basically voting again for the TARP bill, except for three differences.

First, we know a lot more now than we knew then. Second, the unprecedented transfer of money and power to the administration will be to the new administration in which many of us have far greater faith. And, finally, we will hopefully have before us a letter from the incoming administration indicating how they will use the enormous power and discretion conveyed by the existing TARP statute.

It is my hope that such a letter be explicit, be unequivocal, and be comprehensive. Explicit, so that we know exactly what they're going to do and what rules they're going to live by. Unequivocal, hopefully signed by the President, and a clear statement of the rules the administration will live by, not just a statement of principles or present intentions. And, finally, comprehensive. It should deal with the concerns that we all have, or that so many of us have, about the existing TARP legislation.

Chairman FRANK's bill will deal with transparency and deal with home foreclosures. And my hope is that since

Chairman FRANK's bill won't be law next week, that the President-elect's letter will address those issues explicitly and unequivocally. Chairman FRANK's bill calls for us to get 15 percent warrants when we make investments in banks. I am pleased to report that after discussions with the Chairman and his staff, he is going to make it clear in his bill, and I hope it is clear in any letter we get from the Obama administration, that 15 percent is a floor, not a ceiling, and that the Treasury should be obligated to work to get us all the warrants that we deserve as taxpayers for the risks that we are taking. The taxpayers should be fully compensated for the enormous risks we take when we invest in troubled Wall Street firms.

Now I am going to offer an amendment to Chairman FRANK's bill to state that while a company is holding our TARP money, they should not pay a penny in dividends and they should not purchase any of their own stock back from their existing shareholders. If the company has extra money, give the taxpayers our money back. Don't give it to your shareholders.

We do have a letter from Larry Summers, who will be playing a key role in the White House, saying, and I don't know if this is intended to be binding on the incoming administration, that they would favor strict limits on dividends and modest limits on stock repurchases, but we need stronger protections for the taxpayers.

I hope very much that we are able to work on this issue and other taxpayer protections.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

The Earth may seem hardened, but this is the time for Congress to be planting. Lord, is it too early? Too cold with indifference? Still too dark due to the lack of sunlight?

Though "a term" speaks of ending, now we are just beginning. Lord, help Congress determine what is in most need of attention, the crusted Earth held by winter or the seedlings of promise?

Guide us and protect us, Lord, that the timing may be right and we know how to foster the new growth.

As the world looks on, more hungry than envious, the Nation needs a rich harvest. So, Lord, let Congress be about planting with crafty hands and heartfelt trust. You will give the increase.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT GAZA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Most Americans are unaware that 50 percent of the population of Gaza is under 14 years of age. According to the U.N., 292 Gazan children have been killed in the war, and 1,497 children have been injured.

In the past few days, many Gazan children's hospitals and clinics have been attacked, damaged by artillery fire from the Israeli defense forces. Fifty thousand children are expected to be displaced from their homes. According to the U.N., food for infants and malnourished children is not available, one-third of Gaza has no water, and most of Gaza has no electricity.

This is a humanitarian crisis of the highest magnitude. We cannot avert our eyes without staining our souls. It is time for Congress to recognize the humanitarian crisis at Gaza. Hamas' rocket fire is wrong. Israel's response has created a humanitarian disaster.

Israel is using U.S.-provided F-16 jets, Apache helicopters and white phosphorous against the people of Gaza. This imposes upon this Congress a moral obligation to speak out. We cannot be effective in promoting peace unless we recognize the scale of the suffering of the children of Gaza and take nonviolent steps to remedy the situation.

LONE STAR VOICE—DANIEL WOLF

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I bring you news from the people. Boy Scout Daniel Wolf of Spring, Texas,

wrote me the following about our economic crisis.

"I am concerned about my generation paying for the mistakes that the government is making. It's just not fair. It's kind of like you and a friend are doing a project together and he doesn't want to do his part, so you end up doing all the work. The government is bailing out Wall Street, banks, mortgages, the car industry, and also increasing spending and putting our country into more debt and the next generation is going to have to pay for it.

"The government needs to lower taxes and quit spending so much. I think that people should spend the money they earn the way they want to and not have the government do it for them."

Mr. Speaker, those who say the government needs to take money from some citizens and give it to certain special interest groups to stimulate the economy are wrong.

As Boy Scout Daniel says, "that's not fair," and I agree. This massive government money grab and redistribution of somebody else's income is going to cause more problems during this economic crisis. But as it has been said, "if you think the problems government creates are bad, just wait until you see the government's solutions."

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

(Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the contributions of mentors as we celebrate National Mentoring Month.

I want to recognize mentoring programs across America that are dedicated to encouraging all aspects of student development. I believe mentoring is an essential tool in cultivating a child's emotional and behavior development, and I strongly support these programs.

I would also like to congratulate an exemplary program in my district that is celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Joy Elementary School in Michigan City, Indiana. This program is a school-based mentoring program, partnering Michigan City area schools with the Michigan City business community. It is with great pleasure that I stand before the House and the American people today and commend the work of mentors and programs like Safe Harbor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote for the resolution honoring mentors.

HARVEST HOPE FOOD BANK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege of attending the opening of a new branch of the Harvest Hope Food Bank in Cayce, South Carolina, welcomed by Mayor Elise Partin. This expansion of Harvest Hope comes at a time when job losses in our community have increased the need for food banks, and many individuals find it difficult to travel to other locations.

Last year alone, Harvest Hope distributed 2.4 million pounds of food in Lexington County, and they expect that number to grow to well over 3 million in the coming year. With growing demand, I am grateful that Harvest Hope has chosen to expand their operations.

I wish to commend Denise Holland, Executive Director of Harvest Hope, for her leadership. Additionally, Mitch Watson, the incoming chairman of the board, the volunteers and local churches, ministries, and nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to the food banks deserve our utmost gratitude for their service to our community.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

RESTORING THE NATION'S ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand on the floor of this House to represent the people of Nevada's Third District. I am humbled by the trust and faith they have placed in me, and I pledge to live up to that trust.

This is a critical time in our Nation's history. We face an economic crisis that has shaken our very roots. In my district, we have seen rampant foreclosures, record unemployment, and rising prices; but despite these challenges we remain optimistic. Next week, the band from Green Valley High School in my district will be in Washington marching in the parade to welcome our next President with hope and dreams for a brighter future. It is for them and all Americans that this President and Congress must usher in a new era.

Working together in the spirit of bipartisanship, we can bring change to our community that restores our economic security and once again fulfills the potential that made our Nation great.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give voice to the need to cut the size and scope of government. While the

rhetoric and calls for increased spending continue to escalate, let us also remember it is our duty and obligation to do more with less.

Over the past 12 years, annual Federal spending has more than doubled, exceeding \$3.1 trillion. Since January 2007, our government has added an average of \$2.8 billion per day to our national debt. If deficit spending were the way to prosperity, our economy would be booming.

We are more than \$10 trillion in debt and there is no end in sight. Let us remember it is not the government's money we talk about and spend, it is the American people's money. And we cannot afford to continue to run this government on a credit card. We're going to have to do more with less, and that means finding ways to cut government spending.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, January 13, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit an envelope received from the White House on January 12, 2009, at 5:50 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the Troubled Assets Relief Program Section 115 Plan to Exercise Authority.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

REPORT DETAILING PLAN TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY UNDER EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-5)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Financial Services and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 115(a)(3) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343) (the "Act"), I hereby transmit a report detailing the plan of the Secretary of the Treasury to exercise the authority under the Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 12, 2009.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on January 9, 2009, at 5:15 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits an agreement between the United States and new NATO Parties on the provision of atomic information.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

AGREEMENT ON PROVISION OF ATOMIC INFORMATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-6)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, consistent with sections 123 and 144 b. of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153 and 2164(b)), the text of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for Co-operation Regarding Atomic Information, including a technical annex and security annex (hereinafter collectively referred to as the ATOMAL Agreement), as a proposed agreement for cooperation within the context of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) between the United States of America and each of the following seven new members of NATO: the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, Romania, the Slovak Republic, and the Republic of Slovenia, hereinafter the "New Parties." I am also pleased to transmit my approval, authorization, and determination concerning the ATOMAL Agreement with respect to the New Parties, together with a copy of the memorandum of the Secretary of Defense with respect to the agreement. The ATOMAL Agreement entered into force on March 12, 1965, with respect to the United States and the other NATO members at that time. The Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, and Spain subsequently became parties to the ATOMAL Agreement. The New Parties have signed this agreement and have

indicated their willingness to be bound by it. The ATOMAL Agreement with respect to the New Parties meets the requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. While the ATOMAL Agreement continues in force with respect to the United States and the other current parties to it, it will not become effective as an agreement for cooperation authorizing the exchange of atomic information with respect to the New Parties until completion of procedures prescribed by sections 123 and 144 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

For more than 40 years, the ATOMAL Agreement has served as the framework within which NATO and the other NATO members that have become parties to this agreement have received the information that is necessary to an understanding and knowledge of and participation in the political and strategic consensus upon which the collective military capacity of the Alliance depends. This agreement permits only the transfer of atomic information, not weapons, nuclear material, or equipment. Participation in the ATOMAL Agreement will give Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia the same standing within the Alliance with regard to nuclear matters as that of the other current parties to the ATOMAL Agreement. This is important for the cohesiveness of the Alliance and will enhance its effectiveness.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the Department of Defense and other interested agencies in reviewing the ATOMAL Agreement and have determined that its performance, including the proposed cooperation and the proposed communication of Restricted Data thereunder, with respect to the New Parties will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the ATOMAL Agreement with respect to the New Parties and authorized the Department of Defense to cooperate with the New Parties in the context of NATO upon satisfaction of the requirements of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

The 60-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 begins upon receipt of this submission.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 9, 2009.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 41) supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 41

Whereas mentoring is a longstanding concept in which a dependable, caring adult provides guidance, support, and encouragement to facilitate a young person's social, emotional, and cognitive development;

Whereas research on mentoring shows that formal, high quality mentoring focused on developing the competence and character of the mentee, promotes positive outcomes such as improved academic achievement, self-esteem, social skills, and career development;

Whereas research on mentoring also indicates strong evidence of the success in reducing substance use and abuse, academic failure, and delinquency;

Whereas mentoring, in addition to preparing young people for school, work, and life, is also extremely rewarding for those serving as mentors;

Whereas more than 4,200 mentoring programs in communities of all sizes across the United States focus on building strong, effective relationships between mentors and mentees;

Whereas 3,000,000 young Americans are currently in solid mentoring relationships due to the remarkable vigor, creativity, and resourcefulness of the thousands of mentoring programs in communities throughout the Nation;

Whereas in spite of the progress made to increase mentoring, our Nation has a serious "mentoring gap" with nearly 15,000,000 young people currently in need of mentors;

Whereas public-private mentoring partnerships bring State and local leaders together to support mentoring programs by preventing duplication of efforts, offering training in industry best practices, and helping them make the most of limited resources to benefit the Nation's youth;

Whereas the designation of January 2009 as National Mentoring Month will help call attention to the critical role mentors play in helping young people realize their potential;

Whereas the month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more individuals and organizations, including schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith institutions, and foundations, to become engaged in mentoring across our Nation;

Whereas National Mentoring Month will, most significantly, build awareness of mentoring and encourage more people to become mentors and help close the Nation's mentoring gap; and

Whereas the President issued a proclamation declaring January 2009 to be National Mentoring Month and calling on the people of the United States to recognize the importance of mentoring: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Mentoring Month;

(2) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of millions of caring adults and students who are already volunteering as mentors and encourages more individuals to volunteer as mentors; and

(3) encourages the people of our Nation to promote the awareness of, and to volunteer involvement with, youth mentoring.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 41 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 41, which recognizes January as National Mentoring Month.

Today, we acknowledge and thank the millions of caring adults and students who are volunteering as mentors. I commend their generous efforts. National Mentoring Month also serves as a great opportunity to recruit additional mentor volunteers.

I would also like to recognize the tremendous leadership of the resolution's author, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS from California, on the issue of mentoring. She is a true champion and advocate for mentoring on the Education and Labor Committee. She reminds us that everyone can benefit from a mentoring relationship: young, old, students, teachers, and, yes, even Members of Congress and other public servants. Mentors can help us realize our full potential.

Mentors directly improve the lives of those who need a little extra guidance. Research consistently proves that mentors bolster academic achievement, self-esteem, social skills, and career development. In addition to these positive outcomes, mentoring reduces delinquency, substance abuse, and academic failure. Mentoring transcends the lives of our children. The importance of mentoring teaches young people that a better life is attainable through education.

Today, there are about 4,200 mentoring programs in communities all across this country. Some of these programs run out of national boys and girls clubs, YMCAs, Big Brother and Big Sister organizations, and hundreds of other nonprofit organizations. In my own congressional district, the VAMOS program and our local boys and girls clubs are exemplary programs which have provided thousands of youths with mentors. I am proud to celebrate their work during National Mentoring Month.

The mentoring programs throughout this Nation make a great difference in improving the lives of our youth. Through their efforts, 3 million young people report having quality mentor

relationships. This country, however, still needs nearly 15 million more positive mentors.

As a Nation, we must continue to encourage volunteers to invest their human capital in our youth. Through nonprofit, government, and private sector partnerships, we can expand mentorship. National Mentoring Month is a reminder to reinvest our energy towards mentoring relationships. By building awareness on this issue, I encourage more people to serve as mentors in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for House Resolution 41, and I urge my colleagues to support me with this resolution.

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

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 41, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution celebrates National Mentoring Month, commends mentors who are positively impacting the lives of young people, and highlights the need for additional mentors to make themselves available to America's youth.

Mentoring is a structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support, and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee. A mentor is an adult who, along with parents, provides a young person with support, counsel, friendship, and positive reinforcement.

By all estimates an astounding 17.6 million young people, nearly half the population of young people between the ages of 10 and 18, live in situations that put them at risk of not living up to their full potential. Without immediate intervention by caring adults, they could make choices that not only undermine their futures but ultimately the economic and social well-being of our great Nation.

With the help and guidance of an adult mentor, every child can discover how to unlock and achieve his or her full potential. Youth development experts agree that mentoring is a critical element in any child's social, emotional, and cognitive development. It builds a sense of industry and competency, boosts academic performance, and broadens the horizons of prospective students.

By honoring mentors and mentoring programs, we recognize the importance of mentoring programs implemented in our local schools and communities. We also draw attention to the components of a quality program, including appropriate screening of potential mentors and careful matching of youth with adults who have a genuine interest in providing guidance and being exemplary role models.

Today, thanks to the commitment and dedication of mentoring advocates, 3 million young Americans are now enjoying mentoring's many benefits

through school-based, faith-based, and community organizations. That's a six-fold increase in formal mentoring relationships since the national mentoring movement galvanized the Nation in the early 1990s. It's an impressive accomplishment. However, 15 million more young people who need mentors are waiting their turn. They make up our Nation's mentoring gap.

To be a mentor, you don't need any special skills, just an ability to listen and to offer friendship, guidance, and encouragement to a young person growing up today. Today, I'm asking all Americans to give a child hope by sharing their time and knowledge along with their experiences.

I urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 41, supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month, observed each January. It is a time to celebrate and highlight the positive impact adult and student mentors have on the youth of the Nation. Young people from all walks of life have the potential and ability to succeed and contribute to society. Unfortunately, not all students receive the support necessary to realize their full potential. As many as 15 million young students in our country lack the vital guidance they need to support the emotional, social, cognitive, and academic development that will enable them to reach their maximum potential and become prospering adults.

With limited resources and the considerably high teacher to student ratios in our schools, teachers in the classroom face the daunting task of providing students with emotional and personal support in addition to academic instruction. The work accomplished by our teachers is admirable, but teachers alone cannot prepare young students to become fruitful, mature adults. Mentors are critical to helping foster the personal growth of each individual child.

Together with parents, mentors provide youth with a wide array of guidance and support to enhance their social and character development. A good mentor is willing to sacrifice for his or her mentee and gives attention in all areas of life. Mentors provide encouragement in student endeavors, private counsel in delicate matters, leadership through difficult times, and advice. Such mentoring produces students who perform better in school academically, become more actively involved in their schools, have more self-confidence, and take responsibility for their own actions. As a mentor, I have seen and experienced the mutual benefits of mentorship both for the student and the mentor. Mentors are doing incredible work and I praise their commitment to our children and their future. However, more mentors than ever are needed, and our Nation faces a shortage of mentors.

As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will continue to support funding for student-mentor programs and to greatly expand awareness of the benefits of mentoring. Together with my colleagues, I will encourage more adults to mentor young students as well as help train adults and students to support, guide, and lead young students. Students need more caring mentors and our children desperately need access to them. We cannot depend solely on our teachers to guide our

children. It is my hope that each child in America will some day have access to his or her own mentor. Although we face a faltering economy and tight budgets, the choice to cut corners on our children's future is not an option. Our children deserve the opportunity to realize their full potential and the opportunity to succeed in every endeavor they pursue.

I would like to thank Representative SUSAN DAVIS for introducing this legislation and providing this opportunity to renew the commitment of Congress to expanding and enhancing mentoring relationships for our Nation's youth. In addition, I want to thank all the mentors across America for their dedication and generosity.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 41, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2009." I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, for introducing this important resolution, as well as the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, for his leadership in bringing the bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, great numbers of Americans donate their time and their unique skills and gifts to our cities and communities, without any expectation of compensation or material reward.

As chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I understand how important mentors are for our youth. Mr. Speaker, today many youth face temptations that often lead them down destructive paths, and it is vitally important that we provide guidance that helps them make good decisions.

Mentors have been an integral part of society for many years, dating back to Ancient Greece. The Greek poet Homer wrote in the *Odyssey* that when Odysseus left to fight in the Trojan War, he charged Mentor, his wise old friend, with the task of caring for his son, Telemachus, and teaching him wisdom. Since then, the word mentor has come to mean a wise and responsible tutor or an experienced person who advises, guides, teaches, challenges, corrects, and serves as a model.

In our society today, mentors exist in many different environments. There are mentors in professional settings who guide apprentices by teaching them how to effectively perform in the workplace. There are mentors in academic settings who guide students, teaching them how to reach and maintain high scholastic achievement. There are mentors in community groups who guide their protégés through life issues, teaching them how to be productive citizens. There are even mentors in spiritual and church groups who advise others through their spiritual growth. In all cases, they are very important and essential to the success of the youth that they mentor.

Who needs mentors?

There are 35.2 million young people ages 10–18 in the U.S. today; of those young people: 1 out of 4 lives with only one parent; 1 out of 10 was born to teen parents; 1 out of 5 lives in poverty; 1 out of 10 will not finish high school.

About half of young Americans—17.6 million young people—want or need caring adult mentors to help them succeed in life. Of those 17.6 million young people, only 2.5 million are currently in formal mentoring relationships.

That leaves 15.1 million youth still in need of formal mentoring relationships. We call this our Nation's "mentoring gap." Mr. Speaker, imagine if every child had a mentor—just one person whom they could look up to and go to for advice and guidance. Imagine how many young lives could be positively impacted. We could create the avenues and encouragement to ensure that all of our children receive the proper education. Too many of our youth are not being properly advised and guided on the importance of getting an education.

Mentors can help give those youth living in poverty to strive towards a brighter future for themselves. Every child could benefit from having someone in his or her life to turn to for advice and help in the time of need.

The positive relationships and reinforcement that mentors provide are clearly effective. Young people today are confronted with many challenges in life. They can find the confidence to overcome many of these challenges through a mentor. The benefits of a mentor are immeasurable.

I am proud to cosponsor legislation that will add service before self to our leaders of tomorrow. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 41, and to recognize all those who mentor youth on Guam. Often we talk about children in this chamber and we sometimes lose sight of a fundamental truth: It is beyond the Government alone to truly improve the quality of life for a child. Our ability to appropriate funds or authorize Government programs does not equal the impact a single dedicated mentor can have for a child. We cannot buy patience nor can we legislate understanding. The hard work of mentoring, of explaining right from wrong, of serving as a role model, and helping establish personal goals to work toward, falls to the mentor. A mentor's work may be confined to a single child and known but to a few, but we cannot deny their collective accomplishments throughout our Nation.

There is no question that we need more mentors. Today, more than 15,000,000 children are in need of a mentor. These children are growing up in challenging times. We must encourage mentoring and express our gratitude to those who perform this invaluable service. It is unfortunately, beyond our capability to find every mentor and thank them individually. We can, however, pass H. Res. 41 to recognize all of our Nation's mentors this month and to support the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month. I urge support for H. Res. 41.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, mentoring impacts the lives of so many in our country. Three million people currently participate in a healthy, caring mentoring relationship. A quality mentoring program offers a young person the strength, confidence, and stability they need to mature and grow. Witnessing this growth is the unique reward for a mentor's invested time and energy.

I believe the best part about mentoring, what makes it so successful, is its simplicity. There is a basic human need to have another's care, support, and trust. A mentor can provide that to a young person, and that gift often inspires a cycle of helping others.

Unfortunately, there still exists a gaping deficit of mentors. Approximately 15 million new mentors are needed, which stems from the

demand for our Nation's youth to have positive role models in their lives.

I recently learned of a particularly touching mentoring relationship in my district in San Diego.

As an infant, Anthony was in a car accident, sadly leaving him without a mother. Since his father was in jail, Anthony was left to his grandmother's care. During his childhood, Anthony was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. His grandmother found him a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County and now, 11 years later, Anthony is one-half of a successful mentoring relationship. Before meeting his mentor, Anthony would never go outside and was frightened of loud noises. Spending time with his mentor every week has given Anthony the strength and self-confidence to experience things he might never have tried.

At the basis of a mentoring relationship like Anthony's is a firm and unwavering commitment. Successful mentoring relies on a commitment to show up, to open up, to be vulnerable, to learn, to laugh, to grow . . . So, this month and always, let us recognize these millions of important commitments made by young and old across our country and offer our own commitment to continue to promote the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to join us in celebrating National Mentoring Month, 2009.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I also do not have any further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 41.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLAIBORNE PELL

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 50) honoring the life of Claiborne Pell, distinguished former Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 50

Whereas Claiborne deBorda Pell was born on November 22, 1918, in the State of New York;

Whereas after receiving a degree in history from Princeton University in 1940 and a Mas-

ter of the Arts degree from Columbia University in 1946, and after serving in the United States Coast Guard during World War II, Claiborne Pell continued his career in public service as part of the Foreign Service, serving in Czechoslovakia, Italy, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas Claiborne Pell was elected to the Senate in 1960 by the people of the State of Rhode Island;

Whereas in 1972, as a member of the Senate, Claiborne Pell was instrumental in creating the Basic Education Opportunity Grants;

Whereas the Federal Pell Grants, renamed in honor of Claiborne Pell in 1980, have helped over 54,000,000 low- and middle-income students attend college and achieve their educational goals;

Whereas during his time in the Senate, Claiborne Pell was a supporter of education, human rights, workers, international law and diplomacy, and the arts, sponsoring the legislation that created the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities;

Whereas the High Speed Ground Transportation Act of 1965, sponsored by Claiborne Pell, became the origin for the Amtrak system in the Northeast corridor;

Whereas Claiborne Pell became Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1987, and an important voice in United States foreign policy and against international military conflict;

Whereas after serving 6 terms in the Senate, Claiborne Pell retired in 1996;

Whereas Claiborne Pell was appointed United States Delegate to the United Nations in 1997;

Whereas on January 1, 2009, at the age of 90, Claiborne Pell passed away in Newport, Rhode Island: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and distinguished career of Senator Claiborne Pell;

(2) emphasizes that, among his legislative accomplishments, Senator Claiborne Pell changed the face of higher education by enabling millions of low- and middle-income students to achieve the dream of a college education; and

(3) recognizes the Federal Pell grants, the educational grants that bear his name, as a significant part of the legacy of Senator Claiborne Pell.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 50 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to honor the life and numerous accomplishments of former Senator Claiborne Pell. As a six-term United States Senator from Rhode Island and the former chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, he was a strong voice in educational policy, international policy,

and the arts. Sadly, Senator Pell passed away on the first of this year at the age of 90.

Born in 1918, Senator Pell committed himself to public service throughout his life. He served in the United States Coast Guard during World War II and later in the Coast Guard Reserves.

Returning to civilian life, Senator Pell worked in the Foreign Service in Czechoslovakia, in Italy, and right here in Washington, DC. Elected to the United States Senate from the State of Rhode Island in 1960, Claiborne Pell quickly became a leading spokesman in both international and domestic policy.

Senator Pell campaigned ardently for human rights, speaking out against genocide occurring around the world. As a supporter of the issue of diplomacy and law over military force, he advocated against the use of nuclear weapons.

While in the Senate, Claiborne Pell sponsored the High Speed Ground Transportation Act of 1965, which helped create the Amtrak system that more than 25 million people ride each year. Senator Pell also sponsored legislation creating the National Endowment For the Arts and the National Endowment For the Humanities, entities which play a vital role in developing and supporting the arts and historical preservation.

Perhaps the accomplishment for which Claiborne Pell is best known is the creation of the Pell Grant. He was the architect of the 1972 Basic Education Opportunity grants, which were later renamed in his honor by the U.S. Congress.

Senator Pell often remarked that he had been inspired to help students pay for college by the provisions in the GI bill, which had meant a great deal to him as a veteran whose comrades were propelled to succeed by its educational provisions.

Pell Grants, which have helped more than 54 million low and middle income students attend college, have changed the face of American education, opening doors for millions of Americans, including a great number of our colleagues and friends and families and community members. Among all that he had accomplished during his time on Capitol Hill, Senator Pell often called these grants his greatest achievement.

A consummate gentleman renowned for his integrity, Claiborne Pell was respected and loved by his colleagues in Congress as well as his constituents at home in Rhode Island. On this day I would like to commemorate Senator Pell's empowering work and recognize his numerous accomplishments. He is an inspiration to us all and an example of how one person can make a difference.

Senator Pell had a profound understanding of what truly makes this Nation great. In Senator Pell's words, and I quote, "The strength of the United States is not the gold at Fort Knox nor the weapons of mass destruction that

we have, but the sum total of the education and the character of our people."

□ 1430

His legacy left the United States stronger. His life's work opened the doors of educational opportunity wider than they had ever been opened before. He is an example of the great character of our people.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution honoring this great Senator who did so much to help Americans who might otherwise not be able to attend college, pursue higher education, and reach for new heights.

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

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 50, a resolution honoring the life of Claiborne Pell, the distinguished former Senator from Rhode Island. While I never had the privilege and pleasure of working with Senator Pell, I know the Senator was a force to be reckoned with and have seen the impact of his 37 years in the Senate in a number of areas I have worked on with the Education and Labor Committee. Senator Pell was a dedicated public servant who served our country during a time of war in the United States Coast Guard and had a career in the Foreign Service prior to being elected to serve the people of Rhode Island in the United States Senate in 1960.

Senator Pell was instrumental in creating the Basic Education Opportunity Grant program, later renamed the Pell Grant Program, in his honor.

This program was inspired by the GI Bill, which had helped World War II veterans pay for educational expenses after the war. The Federal Pell Grant has become the cornerstone of every financial aid package for America's neediest students.

Since the creation of the Pell Grant, the Federal Government has distributed approximately 108 million grants to help lower income students achieve their goals of a college education. During the past 8 years, Pell Grant funding has increased by 86 percent, supporting a 28 percent increase in the number of students who have benefited from this program. Additionally, Congress strengthened this vital program during the last Congress through the Higher Education Opportunity Act. These important reforms allow students who want to accelerate their studies to receive a Pell Grant year round, expanded eligibility for the Pell Grant to students whose mother or father made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation, and included a sensible limit on the number of Pell Grants one student could receive over their educational career.

While many of us know Senator Pell for his work on creating the Pell Grant, he also sponsored legislation to create the National Endowment for the

Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Amtrak rail system. Senator Pell's interests were not purely domestic. He made important contributions in foreign affairs as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and later as a United States delegate to the United Nations.

I know that I speak for all of our colleagues in offering great praise to Senator Pell in honoring him and expressing condolences to his family as we remember his many contributions to our great Nation.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a new Member of Congress who served on the staff of the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where Claiborne Pell was Chair, and I wish to yield the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. GERRY CONNOLLY, up to 4 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I thank my colleague from Texas, and I rise in support of the resolution today.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise to pay tribute to one of the most gifted and gracious legislators who has ever served in the United States Congress, a man whose life's work influenced education, culture and diplomacy for generations of Americans. He was also a man with whom I had the great pleasure of working during my 10 years serving on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Senator Claiborne de Borda Pell may best be known for his effort to create a national college tuition grant program, which now bears his name, but Senator Pell was also instrumental in establishing the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities and pushing for critical new investments in our Nation's railroad system.

As my colleagues know, Senator Pell died early Friday, January 2, at his home in Newport, Rhode Island. He was first elected to the United States Senate in 1960 and served six terms, becoming the State's longest-serving Senator. Senator Pell came from a political family that had five members serve in the House or Senate, including his great-great-granduncle George M. Dallas, who was a Senator from Pennsylvania in the 1830s and Vice President under James K. Polk in the 1840s. Senator Pell's version of his family genealogy always insisted, when you visited his home, that Dallas, Texas, was named for this distinguished forebear.

Senator Pell's father, Herbert Claiborne Pell, served one term here in the House, representing a portion of New York. Ironically, he always opposed the Federal role in education, an idea with which Senator Claiborne Pell broke courageously when he came here to the United States Congress.

After being elected in 1960, Senator Pell sponsored the preparation of a statistical report that became the basis

for the bill creating the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant that eventually produced financial aid for 54 million low- and middle-income Americans to have the opportunity to attend college. That grants program, of course, was renamed in honor of Senator Pell in 1980.

In the early 1960s, Senator Pell also had a role in the North American passenger railroad renaissance. He foresaw the potential for a resurgence in the railroad system, which inspired him to draft the High Speed Ground Transportation Act of 1965, recommending that the Federal Government pump a half a billion dollars into rail transportation in the busy Northeast corridor between Boston and Washington, DC. He further accelerated that construction, realizing how important the magnitude of this project was, and increased the overall investment to \$1 billion. It was from this initiative that the modern Amtrak system emerged.

Senator Pell also possessed a keen interest in the arts and was the author of the National Foundation of Arts and Humanities Act of 1965. That legislation paved the way for the National Endowment for the Arts, which makes Federal grants to artists and art organizations, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which is federally funded and dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, public programs in the humanities and projects exhibiting artistic excellence. Senator Pell's vision almost single-handedly revived the arts and humanities in myriad communities in the United States.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, I had the privilege of working with Senator Pell during his tenure as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where I served on committee staff. Senator Pell was a gracious and thoughtful man. He met with any and all constituents who requested a meeting, and he did so always on time.

As a former Foreign Service Officer and Coast Guard serviceman, he was a strong and passionate voice for the men and women who serve our country abroad and in the Coast Guard all of his distinguished career. He had his eccentricities, but they did not characterize the man. What characterized Claiborne Pell, Mr. Speaker, was a sense of duty and his devotion to his country, his citizens, his high moral principles and, despite his wealth, his desire to spread opportunity to the average man and woman of this country.

His loss will be a source of grief for me personally and all who knew him.

Mr. HINOJOSA. I have no further speakers.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I had a speaker arrive after I had already yielded my time back.

I would ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished Member from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. I thank my good friend from Pennsylvania and my friend from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I wasn't planning to speak about Senator Pell until I heard the very thoughtful remarks of our new colleague on the other side of the aisle, and I was thinking when he mentioned the term "eccentricities" not defining Claiborne Pell, it immediately brought to mind one of my first opportunities to have an exposure to an elected leader. I was in the 1970s an undergraduate in college in California, and we had, as a speaker on our campus, Senator Claiborne Pell, who was flying in. I was charged with the task, Mr. Speaker, of actually picking him up at Los Angeles International Airport.

I will never forget when he arrived, and looking like the New England gentleman that he was, he came to Los Angeles wearing a hat, carrying a great big overcoat, and someone confronted him at the airport. I was reminded, when my friend was just speaking about the fact that he would meet and talk to everyone, I had a car waiting, and he stopped and spoke at length with this gentleman there.

Then, just a very few years later, Mr. Speaker, I was very privileged to be able to have the opportunity to be elected to serve here in the Congress, and I reminded Senator Pell of my first introduction to him just a few years before when I was an undergraduate, and he recounted very fondly his visit then. And I had a chance, during that period of time, to develop a friendship with him and work with him on a number of issues.

So I rise in strong support of this resolution. He was a great public servant and a fascinating human being, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am so happy to hear Congressman DREIER make those kind remarks. As I listened to him, it reminded me of 2 years ago when I was chosen by members of the Democratic Caucus to be the chairman of the Higher Education Committee, and one of the first things that I did was to invite presidents and chancellors of different universities throughout our land to come into our office and tell us about what they consider to be the priorities that they had on higher education.

I am pleased to say that the chancellor from California, Cal State system, came by to visit me. He pointed out that through the association of presidents and chancellors that there was no question that the highest priority that they had for the 110th Congress was that we do something about increasing the amount of Federal investment in Pell Grants.

I am pleased to say that we heard the message and we did something about

it, and that we have, in this Congress, the 110th, and we pledge in the 111th Congress, to continue paying attention to the need for funding for Pell Grants. Because if we are to address the affordability and the accessibility of higher education for many of the children of working families, it requires that additional Federal investment as we now talk about the Pell Grants.

With that, I urge everyone to vote "yes" on this suspension bill.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Claiborne Pell, the great former Senator from Rhode Island. Senator Pell's life was defined by service, from the Coast Guard, to the Foreign Service, to 36 years in the United States Senate. He was a model statesman, willing to listen and compromise but never straying from his commitment to fairness and equality.

Senator Pell has left a long list of achievements, but his greatest legacy is the Pell grant, which has opened the doors to college for over 50 million students. He also introduced legislation to create the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He was an ardent environmentalist, working to protect oceans from nuclear testing.

Those are just a few of Senator Pell's many accomplishments. I would like to turn for a moment to some personal observations. I had the great privilege of working for Senator Pell when I was a member of the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1987 to 1989. He was a man of both grace and principle. He rarely spoke a word in anger, but he didn't retreat from tough issues. He was a gentle soul with a kind word for most. But it would be a grave mistake for anyone to interpret his gentle disposition as a sign of weakness. He was passionate about the issues he cared about and relentless in pursuing them.

He was insistent that the United States play a leading role in the world. He believed strongly in attempting to resolve international conflicts through negotiation and diplomacy before resorting to the use of force. His approach may have fallen out of political fashion for a time, but the passage of time has shown the wisdom of his counsel.

We have entered an age that is often dominated by 20-second sound bites and partisan political combat. Senator Pell would not have felt as comfortable in this new political environment, nor should he. Rather, we would do better to return to the more, deliberate and gentle ways he brought to the Senate. We have a lot to learn from his example. I will miss him, but our Nation is certainly stronger and better as a result of the life he lived and the legacy he left behind.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 50.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 43) recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promoting the holiday as a day of national service.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 43

Whereas the King Holiday and Service Act, a law designating Martin Luther King Day as a national day of volunteer service, was signed into law in 1994;

Whereas millions of Americans have been inspired by the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to serve their neighbors and communities every third Monday of January;

Whereas serving one's community for the betterment of every individual speaks to the high character, transformative world view, and everyday practice of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas the efforts of national service volunteers have been a steadfast foundation of our Nation's infrastructure, supporting not only individuals and families in need, but acting in response to national catastrophes and natural disasters;

Whereas citizens have the opportunity to participate in thousands of already scheduled events all across the country, as well as create and implement a community service project where they identify the need;

Whereas the Corporation for National and Community Service, is working with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change, and thousands of other nonprofit, community, national service, and education organizations across the country to encourage Americans to serve on this holiday and throughout the year; and

Whereas leaders at the Federal, State and local level are planning to use the Martin Luther King Day and Inauguration Day to rally our Nation to commit to serve and to make an ongoing commitment to service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages all Americans to pay tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through participation in community service projects on Martin Luther King Day;

(2) recognizes the inherent value of community service and volunteerism in the creation of civil society and as a means of non-violent community progress consistent with the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

(3) recognizes the benefits of the collaborative work by the many organizations that promote, facilitate, and carry out needed service projects nationwide;

(4) encourages its members and colleagues to urge their constituents, both in congressional districts and those visiting the District of Columbia on Inauguration Day, to participate in community service projects; and

(5) acknowledges that by serving one's country, one's community and one's neighbor our Nation makes progress in civility, equality, and unity consistent with the values and life's work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 43 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the resolution before us, which recognizes the critical role of service and those who give of their time to give back to their communities.

□ 1445

This resolution also reminds us that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a national day of service and encourages everyone to take part.

It is fitting that the day named in honor of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., is also a day for neighbors, for friends, young and old, to give back to their communities. Dr. King's leadership in the ministry and public service produced epic and societal change to this great nation. He set an example for all of us to follow.

His words offer us very simple directions. In his "drum major instinct" speech he said, "You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

Over the last few years, the United States has endured and survived the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and hurricanes and floods that devastated families and communities. Without hesitation, volunteers across the Nation rallied together to help stabilize and to rebuild our devastated communities. And just as critical, during times of peace and calm in communities across this country, people hear the call of service and provide assistance in the classroom, in hospitals, in parks, and to children, the elderly, and to each other.

I want to thank the Service Caucus and my friend and colleague Representative TODD PLATTS of Pennsylvania for bringing this resolution forward and reminding us that our country was built on the idea of service. And while we set aside Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a day of service, there are opportunities to give back each and every day.

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

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 43 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 43 promotes the Martin Luther King holiday as a day of national service and recognizes the efforts of the countless Americans who will volunteer their services on behalf of many worthy causes. I am proud to have introduced this resolution with my fellow co-Chairs of the National Service Caucus, Representatives DORIS MATSUI and DAVID PRICE.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed into law the King Holiday and Service Act to officially establish Martin Luther King Day as a day of national service in recognition of Dr. King's selfless and courageous service to his fellow citizens. Since this time, millions of Americans have recognized this holiday as "a day on," not "a day off," by volunteering in soup kitchens, organizing charity drives, mentoring children or aiding in urban revitalization efforts.

This year, the Corporation for National & Community Service, America's Promise Alliance and AmeriCorps NCCC are hosting a food drive across Capitol Hill to restock the shelves at the Capital Area Food Bank. Washington, D.C. schools will be closed for a 5-day weekend with the Martin Luther King holiday and the Presidential inauguration this coming week, leaving over 50,000 students without nutritious meals they would have otherwise received through the school lunch and breakfast programs.

Non-perishable canned food items can be delivered through this Thursday, January 15, to either my office or the offices of Representatives DORIS MATSUI, DAVID PRICE and MIKE HONDA. On Thursday, AmeriCorps NCCC students will pick up the canned food items and ensure their delivery to the Capital Area Food Bank.

Finally, there are numerous opportunities for individuals to serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day. I urge my fellow Members of Congress and constituents to take time out of their daily lives and give back to their communities. A list of volunteer opportunities is an available online at mlkday.gov.

I cannot think of a more appropriate way to honor the heroic life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King than by serving one's community, and encourage all Americans to do so. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), who serves on the Rules Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me this time.

I rise today to offer, along with my National Service Caucus co-Chairs, of which the gentleman from Pennsylvania is one, a resolution highlighting the men and women who inspire and actively pursue a better country, those who serve the communities on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Since 1994, we have celebrated the King holiday by making it “a day on,” not “a day off,” observing every third Monday in January as a national day of service. Dr. King’s legacy guides us to work for equality and social justice, towards common understanding and shared experiences. Serving one’s neighbor, one’s community and our country allow every individual in our Nation to walk down the road with Dr. King, looking forward, continually focused on reaching the promised land.

This coming Monday, millions of Americans will participate in thousands of already-planned events across this country. Thousands more will come to our Nation’s capital to see history in the making and answer our President-elect’s call to service. As we embark on a new era of optimism and hope for a better tomorrow, we should start our journey by not only observing change, but by honoring the legacy of Dr. King and actively creating it.

I commend and join with President-elect Obama and Vice President-elect BIDEN in calling for a new attitude toward service in our country. When we ask what we can do for our country, the call shouldn’t be answered only one day a year.

It is my hope that this year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of National Service marks a starting point that will continue throughout the year and engage millions of Americans in a new commitment to service.

This year’s national day of service promises to be larger than ever before. Efforts by the many service organizations, as well as the Presidential Inaugural Committee and the corporation for National and Community Service, have organized like never before. Right here on Capitol Hill, as has been previously mentioned, the organization America’s Promise, along with the Corporation for National and Community Service, are sponsoring a food drive to support local food banks. These groups have utilized technology and the Internet to make opportunities easy to find and easy to do.

The fact that this year’s King Day of Service is one day before the inauguration of President-elect Obama provides a unique opportunity to reach millions of Americans with a message to serve. I ask my colleagues to join with me in promoting service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and encouraging all of those constituents, both at home and those traveling to Washington, D.C. for the inauguration, to serve.

Thank you once again.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from the State of Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), a gentleman who

serves on the Ways and Means Committee and has served and distinguished himself on our Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Let me first of all thank my good friend and chairman of our subcommittee. As a matter of fact, I am already beginning to feel disappointed and underprivileged because I will not have the opportunity to serve with him this year as a result of leaving the Education Committee. But I want to thank him for yielding time, and I want to thank him for his tremendous leadership.

Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday will usher in a new era of hope, a new chapter in the history of America, when President-elect Obama takes office. This historic moment brings renewed energy to Dr. King’s mission and memory. We must not forget that we have reached this place in history partly because of Dr. King’s remarkable life. Today I would like to honor his memory and those who work tirelessly for his cause.

Frederick Douglass once said, “A battle lost or won is easily described, understood, and appreciated, but the moral growth of a great nation requires reflection, as well as observation, to appreciate it.” Today, we do just that. Today we reflect on one life that changed the course of so many others. We reflect on the commitment and integrity of a man who stood up to those who said he was nothing. We reflect on a man who had his priorities in line, who knew what was important and never forgot it. And we reflect so that we can learn what we must do as a nation to realize Dr. King’s dream.

Born January 15, 1929, Dr. King grew up to be a man who would change American history by fighting for fairness, dignity and equality for all under the law and through the eyes of his fellow citizens. But his journey was never easy. Martin Luther King attended Georgia’s segregated public schools. Like so many others, Dr. King was told by society that he was a lesser being and that he could never be as good, as human, as his peers.

But his journey was never easy. Despite the hardships, the bombings, the fire hoses, the dogs, the relentless beatings and the death of those devoted to his cause, Dr. King was able to rally his followers to rise to the occasion by his purpose-driven actions and unforgettable rhetoric.

In the great example of Dr. King’s influence, 250,000 men and women, white and black, gathered for the famous march on Washington. It was there that Dr. King delivered his “I have a Dream” speech to the Nation.

Dr. King’s legacy reminds us that there are some things we must continue to fight for. And although the rocky road that Dr. King traveled is somewhat smoother today, this Nation must continue to promote equal opportunity and fairness for all Americans. As we face today’s many challenges, we remember that Dr. King’s hope for a better tomorrow is very much alive.

So I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to participate in this discussion, and again I want to thank my friend and colleague from the great State of Texas for giving me the opportunity.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the honorable gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) so that he can speak to this House resolution.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my appreciation to my good friend and colleague Mr. HINOJOSA for his leadership and his management of this, and to my friend Mr. PLATTS as well, and Ms. MATSUI and Mr. DAVIS for their very thoughtful remarks.

I, of course, rise in very strong support of the resolution. I was looking forward to voting for it, but I didn’t intend to address it until I listened to the remarks of Mr. DAVIS in which I was reminded of a very thoughtful interview I heard this morning with the Reverend Joseph Lowery, who, as we know, next Tuesday at the age of 87 is going to be participating in the historic inauguration of Barack Obama.

He was talking about the Reverend Martin Luther King and the level of activism that he had in the civil rights movement, and he ended his interview by saying, Mr. Speaker, that he very much appreciated the fact that at age 87 he had lived long enough to be able to see the history that we will all witness next Tuesday.

This resolution is focused on ensuring that we encourage the level of volunteerism that is necessary to deal with what is a very, very serious societal challenge that we face at this moment, and that is the hunger problem; the fact that there are so many people who, because of the economic downturn through which we are going, are suffering.

So I want to join with my friends, encouraging my constituents in California, those here in the metropolitan area, and others around the country to support the effort that Mr. PLATTS talked about, by contacting offices and doing what they can at food banks to provide assistance. It is being done in the names of Barack Obama, the Reverend Joseph Lowery, and, of course, Dr. Martin Luther King.

So I again thank my colleagues for their effort and the focus on this very, very important issue, and again urge all of us to support this resolution.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H. Res. 43, a resolution that promotes the Martin Luther King Holiday as a day of national service.

For me, one of the most powerful images of Washington is the image of Dr. King conveying his dream during his 1963 “March on Washington”, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Dr. King understood government has a fundamental responsibility to meet the needs of all Americans regardless of race or economic class.

As our Nation prepares to celebrate Martin Luther King Day, and the inauguration of the

next President, we remember Dr. King as a beacon of change.

He gave people the faith and courage to work peacefully for change to stop racial discrimination, and promote equality and opportunity across America.

So on the day of remembrance named in his honor, let us all truly recommit ourselves to changing and working to bring about opportunity for all Americans.

We call on our Nation to serve, and recognize the determination of those men and women who continue to work to make the world a better place for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to honor the legacy of Dr. King and those who continue to follow his example, and support H. Res. 43.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the great pleasure of supporting of H. Res. 43, which recognizes the hard work of those who serve in their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promotes the holiday as a day of national service.

During Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s lifetime, he worked tirelessly towards creating a more just America, seeking to not only heal this nation's racial divides, but to empower all Americans to take responsibility for bettering their communities through service. Recognizing this legacy, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act in 1994, designating the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service and asking Americans of all backgrounds and ages to honor Dr. King's legacy by engaging in service projects in their communities. Since Congress passed the act 14 years ago, millions of Americans have come together on the third Monday of January to engage in service projects ranging from mentoring children to building homes. By bringing together neighbors who might not normally meet, the King Day of Service strengthens our communities and country by breaking down barriers that have historically divided us and promoting civic engagement.

Although participation in the King Day of Service has increased each year, many Americans remain unaware of the service component of the holiday, making it essential for more organizations to promote this fitting tribute to Dr. King's memory. As the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am proud to join the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the National Service Caucus in co-sponsoring a food drive to support the Capitol Area Food Bank, whose resources are running thin. In Washington, DC alone, 56,000 children are at risk of being hungry on any day of the year. But with the convergence of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal holiday and the Presidential Inauguration, these children face a long 5-day weekend when the school breakfasts and lunches upon which they depend will not be available.

I am proud to recognize the millions of Americans inspired by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to serve their communities and encourage all my colleagues in Congress and our fellow Americans to join their neighbors in community service projects on this important day and throughout the year.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 43, a resolution recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promoting the holiday as a day of national service.

I am proud to have this opportunity to highlight the importance of national service as well as honor a national leader and hero, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Next Monday, we will celebrate this extraordinary man and the legacy of service he engrained on our Nation through our dedication to service.

This year, our celebration of Dr. King's life and his commitment to improving the lives of all Americans is more significant than ever as the country swears in our first African American president, Barack Obama, the very next day.

The extraordinary work of Dr. King and his enduring message of providing equal opportunities for all Americans—in conjunction with the inauguration of our new president—provide proof that our Nation is capable of great change and proof that through service, our Nation can accomplish whatever it dreams.

As our country swears in President Obama on January 20, I know that Martin Luther King, Jr. will be in my thoughts, as well as in the thoughts of many proud Americans. It is people like Dr. King that make our country great, that make me proud to be a citizen of this great Nation, and that inspire me to serve.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing the amazing service of this man that continues to inspire in our Nation year after year.

I urge my colleagues to not only join me in supporting today's resolution, but join me in continuing the call for service in our communities on this special day, and throughout the year.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 43, and thank my colleague Congressman TODD PLATTS, authoring this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Nation observed for the 21st time the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Each year this day is set aside for Americans to celebrate the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. The Martin Luther King holiday reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

Dr. King's inspiring words filled a great void in our Nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk; he knew he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so we commemorate on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice everyday.

We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent and nagging question, he said, is 'what are you doing for others?'"

When Martin talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968, in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life. "I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Lu-

ther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

Mr. Speaker, during these difficult days when the United States is bogged down in a misguided and mismanaged war in Iraq; calamities on Wall Street—Main Street—and in the American automobile industry; we should also remember that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was above all, a person who was always willing to serve to help his fellow man.

This year thousands of Americans across the country will celebrate the national holiday honoring the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. by making the holiday "a day on, not a day off."

The King Day of Service is a way to transform Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into community service that helps solve social problems. That service may meet a tangible need, such as fixing up a school or senior center, or it may meet a need of the spirit, such as building a sense of community or mutual responsibility. On this day, Americans of every age and background celebrate Dr. King through service projects that:

Strengthen Communities—Dr. King recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. Through his words and example, Dr. King challenged individuals to take action and lift up their neighbors and communities through service.

Empower Individuals—Dr. King believed each individual possessed the power to lift himself or herself up no matter what his or her circumstances—rich or poor, black or white, man or woman. Whether teaching literacy skills, helping an older adult surf the Web, or helping an individual build the skills they need to acquire a job, acts of service can help others improve their own lives while doing so much for those who serve, as well.

Bridge Barriers—In his fight for civil rights, Dr. King inspired Americans to think beyond themselves, look past differences, and work toward equality. Serving side by side, community service bridges barriers between people and teaches us that in the end, we are more alike than we are different.

These ideas of unity, purpose, and the great things that can happen when we work together toward a common goal—are just some of the many reasons we honor Dr. King through service on this special holiday. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and the man who epitomized community service—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. King's legacy and to commemorate this day of national service.

Dr. King once said, "Everybody can be great . . . because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

It is that idea, that together we can make a difference, in this Nation and in the lives of others, that has prompted this day of service. I believe that the message of change resonates greatly this particular Martin Luther King Day.

This past year, I have seen young people who have never before been involved in service working to change their communities. The

ideals for which Dr. King gave his life have energized a new generation of peaceful activists. These young people may not have experienced the words and spirit of Dr. King during their lifetime, but his legacy drives their efforts and enthusiasm.

It is a testament to his greatness that Dr. King's message has transcended time and generations. Dr. King called on all of us to no longer stand alone in silence, but to stand up together as a voice against injustice. He inspired us to fight for change through non-violent means, and paved the road for us to continue that fight even after his death.

Dr. King left us with the challenge to courageously fight and secure the civil rights for all, from the impoverished and disenfranchised underclass to the politically and economically endowed. And while we have made great progress, there is still work to be done. We must remain diligent and engaged in defining how our Nation will achieve this equality.

Today's Martin Luther King Day is as much about the past as it is about the present and the future. Dr. King's dream is truly timeless, and I hope all will participate in this day of service to honor his faith and vision.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 43 honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and thanking those who continue to honor his memory by giving back to the communities in which they live.

Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Enacted in 1994 by Congress, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service was started to honor Dr. King's legacy by giving folks the opportunity to answer that question. Its theme, "Make it a Day On, not a Day Off," urges Americans everywhere to spend their day off working to create a better society—as Dr. King did.

Despite all the hardships and discrimination he experienced in his lifetime, Dr. King never lost his profound love for all mankind. I'd like to thank those Americans who spend their holiday volunteering in their communities, helping out their brothers and their sisters. Your selflessness and sense of civic duty move America one step closer to Dr. King's vision of the "Beloved Community." That is worth a day's work from any of us.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 43, which recognizes the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promotes the holiday as a day of national service.

Fifteen years ago, the enactment of the King Holiday and Service Act officially designated Martin Luther King Day as a national day of volunteer service. Each year since, millions of Americans across the country, and thousands in my congressional district, have been inspired to serve their neighbors and communities every third Monday of January.

This is an impressive achievement but it is a fitting tribute to one of the greatest figures in world history. Dr. King dedicated and, ultimately, sacrificed his life to serve others, especially "the least of these." As he famously observed, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

Mr. Speaker, at this defining moment in history our country faces enormous challenges and given the enormity of unmet needs, every contribution—big and small—matters.

All across our land, there are children and adults to educate; seniors to care for; hungry

persons to feed; jobless to train and employ; the environment to protect; and justice to pursue. In short, there is much unfinished work to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and thousands of other nonprofit, community, national service, and education organizations across the country for encouraging Americans to serve their communities this holiday and throughout the year.

I urge all Americans to honor Dr. King by making the holiday in his honor a "day on," not a day off. Dr. King could always be found serving others. So should we.

□ 1445

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 43.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY OF JUDGE G. THOMAS PORTEOUS

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 15) authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach G. Thomas Porteous, a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 15

Resolved, That in continuance of the authority conferred in House Resolution 1448 of the One Hundred Tenth Congress adopted by the House of Representatives on September 17, 2008, the Committee on the Judiciary shall inquire whether the House should impeach G. Thomas Porteous, a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

SEC. 2. The Committee on the Judiciary or any subcommittee or task force designated by the Committee may, in connection with the inquiry under this resolution, take affidavits and depositions by a member, counsel, or consultant of the Committee, pursuant to notice or subpoena.

SEC. 3. There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary to assist the Committee in conducting the inquiry under this resolution until a primary expense resolution providing for the expenses of the Committee on the Judiciary for the

first session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress is adopted. Any of the amounts paid under the authority of this section may be used for the procurement of staff or consultant services.

SEC. 4. (a) For the purpose of the inquiry under this resolution, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to require by subpoena or otherwise—

(1) the attendance and testimony of any person (including at a taking of a deposition by counsel or consultant of the Committee); and

(2) the production of such things;

as it deems necessary to such inquiry.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, after consultation with the ranking minority member, may exercise the authority of the Committee under subsection (a).

(c) The Committee on the Judiciary may adopt a rule regulating the taking of depositions by a member, counsel, or consultant of the Committee, including pursuant to subpoena.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 15.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 15 provides for a continuation of the authority provided in H. Res. 1448, as adopted by the House in the 110th Congress. H. Res. 15 states that in continuance of H. Res. 1448, the House directs the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach G. Thomas Porteous, a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as my good friend from Sacramento, my Rules Committee colleague, has just said, this resolution will allow the Judiciary Committee to continue its very important oversight work by reauthorizing an investigation of G. Thomas Porteous.

The committee's ongoing inquiry into his conduct and the question of whether to pursue impeachment by the House should continue in this 111th Congress. This is a bipartisan ongoing effort. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it is so utterly bipartisan and noncontroversial that our colleagues could very reasonably expect that this measure would have been considered by unanimous

consent. Such widely supported procedural matters usually do not demand a formal debate.

I certainly do hope that today's consideration of this resolution under suspension of the rules is not an indication that the Democratic leadership needs filler time for the schedule. I mean, it would be a little disconcerting to think that they have nothing more important to do in the House, just 1 week before this very, very important inauguration. So whatever the motivation of today's procedure, I do strongly support this measure.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, that as we look at this debate on this resolution that we're considering under suspension of the rules that, as I said, could be considered by unanimous consent, we know that the pressing issue for the American people right now is our effort to get our economy back on track. That's what so much of the talk is going on right here in Washington, and we know that virtually everyone across this country and, frankly, around the world, as we deal with this global economic downturn, virtually everyone is talking about what steps can be taken for us to get our economy back on track.

And it would seem to me that, rather than taking time on a resolution such as this, which could have been considered by unanimous consent, that we should be moving ahead as expeditiously as possible with legislation that will, in fact, get our economy back on track.

That's why I, on opening day, just a week ago today, in fact, I was proud to introduce a trio of bills that I believe very strongly, Mr. Speaker, will play a key role in getting our economy back on track.

The first bill is known as the Fair and Simple Tax Plan. We all know about the complexity of the Internal Revenue code, and we regularly hear from our constituents about the level of frustration. And we all know that it is very time consuming and costly to deal with this complex code.

The Fair and Simple Tax Plan is a package that I was privileged to work with the former Mayor of New York, Rudy Giuliani; former nominee for Governor in California, Bill Simon; former economic adviser to President George H.W. Bush, Michael Boskin at Stanford University, and several others. It is a plan, Mr. Speaker, that would take the six tax rates that we have today and compress them down to three rates. The top rate, Mr. Speaker, would be 10 percent on the first \$40,000 in income, 15 percent on income between \$40 and \$150,000, and a top rate of 30 percent on all income above \$150,000.

Now, I believe that that kind of rate reduction would increase compliance and stimulate very important economic growth that the American people know is desperately needed as we deal with these tough economic times.

This measure also has some other very important components that would

take the complex Internal Revenue code and bring it down to a single page, one page. It does maintain, Mr. Speaker, some important provisions, like the ability for the American taxpayer to deduct the interest on their home mortgage; the ability, and we talked about the resolution earlier, encouraging volunteerism; the ability to continue to deduct the charitable contributions that people make as we encourage this level of volunteerism. Very important.

It also maintains the important child credit and the provisions that have existed. And it expands incentives for retirement, and it includes a \$15,000 exclusion to deal with the challenge that we have with health care. And that \$15,000 could be utilized for the purchase of health insurance or direct health care costs, because we know what a pressing need that is that exists today.

It also is important, if we're going to get our economy back on track, Mr. Speaker, and I wish that we were having a full debate on this issue right now, for us to, I believe, completely eliminate the inheritance tax, the so-called death tax.

When you see people having to sell businesses, to sell homes, simply to comply with the Internal Revenue code, and I know that with that death tax, I believe that completely repealing that, nailing the coffin on the death tax is something that is very important.

We also know, and today we got the news about the fact that we've seen an actual narrowing of the trade imbalance, we also know that one of the important things for us to do is to deal with the challenge of jobs leaving the United States and going overseas. And so that's why the Fair and Simple Tax Plan also reduces the top tax rate on job creators from 35 percent to 25 percent, and economists across the board have recognized that that would go a long way towards creating good jobs right here in the United States of America.

We also know that the tax on capital has been very, very high and people are living with the threat of it possibly going up. And so the Fair and Simple Tax Plan brings about a reduction to 15 percent of that tax on capital gains. And not many people are witnessing capital gains at this point, but as we seek to get our economy back on track, I believe it's very important and that would be a key to helping us in our effort to do that.

So this is, again, a very simple plan that I believe could dramatically stimulate economic growth and get to the kind of permanence that we need.

I will say that I heard some remarks being made by our distinguished colleague, the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, Mr. CONRAD, in which he was referring to some of the concerns that he's had with this massive economic stimulus bill that is about to come before us. And one of the

concerns that he raised as he talked about it being timely and targeted, that we—and temporary, those three Ts—that we do everything we can to ensure that. And he pointed to the fact that the notion of dramatically extending and making permanent the unemployment insurance would not be temporary. Making permanent COBRA provisions would not be temporary. Those are two issues that our colleague, Mr. CONRAD, has raised as concerns.

So I think that there's a lot of controversy swirling around this so-called economic stimulus package, and I think that if we want it to be timely and temporary, these government spending programs, we need to spend time and effort focused on how we can permanently, permanently get our economy back on track.

I mentioned the first of the trio of bills that I introduced a week ago today, Mr. Speaker. The second one is dealing with an important sector of our economy which we all know has played a key role in the downturn through which we're now going, and that is the housing industry. And we've seen huge sums of money pushed toward the housing industry right now, and I believe that one of the things that we need to do is to reward responsible behavior.

Now, unfortunately, government policy has encouraged people to purchase homes with zero down, and have interest rates that are extraordinarily low; basically turning the home ownership, something that we very much want to encourage, into little more than homes into little more than rental units, creating incentive for people to walk away from them.

So the second bill that I introduced, Mr. Speaker, is designed to incentivize people to responsibly have equity in their homes. One of the problems that we found is that as we see this credit crunch, it's been difficult for people to have what is now necessary for a down payment for those homes. And so the measure that I introduced, which, again, will encourage people not to walk away from their home and have equity in it, provides a \$2,000 credit if one provides a, establishes a 5 percent down payment, a \$5,000 credit if they have a 10 percent down payment, and a \$10,000 tax credit if they will put 15 percent down.

Now, let's think about that. I mean, if someone puts 10 percent down on a \$200,000 home, they automatically have \$20,000 in equity and would be much less inclined to abandon that home as we've dealt with the challenges that we face out there.

There is an inventory that needs to be addressed, of housing, that has yet to be purchased. We have neighborhoods that have been emptied, and I believe that this kind of incentive could again take this industry, which has played a role in the economic downturn, and actually, as has historically been the case, play a role in leading us back to economic strength.

And the third measure deals with the other industry, Mr. Speaker, that, as you know very well, we've spent a great deal of time talking about here; the administration has recently taken action on it, and it has to do with the automobile industry.

Now, I will say that I'm not personally one who believes that we should be using the Tax Code to encourage the selection of winners over losers, but we know that both the housing industry and the auto industry have historically been very critical when it comes to moving back to economic strength. And so, having worked with a number of automobile dealers who, frankly, were here in December when we were having the debate in the 110th Congress on this issue, one of the things that was said to me was that we need to make sure that people are encouraged to get off the couch and into the showrooms to look at the purchase of automobiles.

Now, we know, one dealer, a fellow called John Symes, about whom I've spoken here, a 60-year dealership in Southern California in the Pasadena area, a number of dealerships, has said that historically the ability to deduct the interest on automobile loans has been very, very helpful. Well, I don't know that we should go back to that. So, instead, the third bill that I introduced on this, Mr. Speaker, would do the following:

We basically are saying that today we know that the sales tax, both State and local sales tax in States has been very high, and so we called for a credit that would allow an offset for the State and local sales tax to encourage people, again, to get into the showrooms to purchase automobiles, regardless of where those automobiles are from.

I regularly like to say when people say, well, what about American-made cars? And I ask the question somewhat rhetorically, what is an American-made car, Mr. Speaker? Is it a Ford manufactured in Canada with Mexican-made parts, or is it a BMW manufactured in South Carolina with American-made parts?

And so I believe it is important for us to ensure that any automobile, any automobile would, in fact, qualify for this provision. So if someone's buying a \$20,000 automobile and the sales tax is 8 percent, that would be \$1,600 right off the top. And we set that at the sales tax rate for January 1 of 2009.

Both the housing and the automobile provisions, Mr. Speaker, apply for a 2-year period of time during which I'm convinced we can, in fact, see our economy grow.

□ 1515

The reason that I have raised these issues, Mr. Speaker, is that I believe, as we deal with a resolution like this one that could be brought up under unanimous consent, we should, instead, be debating and voting on measures like these three bills that were introduced last week. I know there are a

wide range of other creative ideas that have come from Democrats and Republicans as well as to how we can deal with this.

So I hope very much that we can take on this challenge and that we can ensure that whatever we provide in this economic stimulus package that it is, in fact, going to be a package that will get our economy back on track.

I am very concerned at the reports that we have gotten of massive, massive spending, and I, again, congratulate our colleague Senator CONRAD for pointing to the deficit as being an issue with which we are going to have to contend. If we want to have sustained and not temporary economic growth, I believe the best way that we can do that is to take steps to encourage greater and greater and greater private-sector growth in our economy.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I am in support of this resolution. I hope very much that we can move ahead with it so that we will be able to deal with the pressing challenges that the American people have sent us here to address.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of this resolution.

Mrs. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Res. 15, which I co-sponsored with Chairman CONYERS. This resolution provides continued authorization for an inquiry into whether U.S. District Judge G. Thomas Porteous should be impeached.

The Constitution reserves the exclusive power of impeachment to the House of Representatives and the exclusive power to try all impeachments in the Senate. Any "civil officer" of the United States, including Federal judges, shall be removed from office if impeached and convicted of "treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors."

Only 13 Federal judges have been impeached during the past 219 years of our constitutional history. The House has exercised this prerogative sparingly in deference to judicial independence, one of the cornerstones of our republic.

Chairman CONYERS and I concluded last year that there is sufficient reason to initiate an impeachment inquiry regarding Judge G. Thomas Porteous, Jr., who was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana in 1994.

The basis for this resolution was largely developed by a Special Committee of the Judicial Council of the Fifth Circuit. The findings of the Fifth Circuit were endorsed by the U.S. Judicial Conference, which notified the House of Representatives on June 18, 2008, of its determination that impeachment proceedings may be warranted.

The materials submitted to the Judiciary Committee by the Judicial Conference are expansive and thorough. This led us to begin an impeachment inquiry last Congress pursuant to H. Res. 1448. However, our work is not yet complete. The resolution before us today is nearly identical to H. Res. 1448 and allows us to continue our investigation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 15, authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House

should impeach G. Thomas Porteous, a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution authorizing and directing the Judiciary to inquire into the matters concerning Judge Porteous and let it be a signal that this Congress is interested in understanding what truly transpired regarding the Judge in a bipartisan and impartial manner.

Judge Porteous was a United States District Judge for Louisiana, and had been a judge of the Louisiana Judicial District Court from 1984 before being appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana in 1994 by President Bill Clinton.

Judge Porteous is well-known for his stance upholding the Constitution's separation of church and state and his judgments in defense of the first amendment right to free speech. He has controversially ruled in several landmark cases against the State, including one 2002 case in which he ruled that the State of Louisiana was illegally using Federal money to promote religion in its abstinence-only sex education programs. He ordered the State to stop giving money to individuals or organizations that "convey religious messages or otherwise advance religion" with tax dollars. He said there was ample evidence that many of the groups participating in the Governor's Program on Abstinence were "furthering religious objectives."

Also, in 2002, Judge Porteous overturned a Federal ban on rave paraphernalia such as glowsticks, pacifiers, and dust masks, which are used at rave, electronic music concerts, where the use of Ecstasy is common.

In 2001, Judge Porteous filed for bankruptcy, which led to revelations in the press about his private life, specifically the fact that he was alleged to have had close ties with local bail bond magnate Louis Marcotte III, at the center of a corruption probe, which has more recently led to his being the subject of investigation himself by Federal investigators. In May 2006, Judge Porteous, beset by the recent loss of his wife and still under investigation by a Federal grand jury, was granted temporary medical leave and began a 6-month furlough from the Federal bench.

On June 18, 2008, the Judicial Conference of the United States transmitted a certificate to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives expressing the Conference's determination that consideration of impeachment of Judge Porteous might be warranted. The certificate stated that there was substantial evidence that Judge Porteous "repeatedly committed perjury by signing false financial disclosure forms under oath which concealed cash and things of value that he solicited and received from lawyers appearing in litigation before him. The certificate listed a series of "abuses" that constituted an abuse of judicial office in violation of the Canons of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges.

Late last year, I was selected to be one of the members of the House Judiciary Taskforce that will investigate Judge Porteous. Representatives ADAM SCHIFF and BOB GOODLATTE were designated as chair and ranking member to lead the taskforce conducting the inquiry.

H. Res. 15 authorizes and directs the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach Judge Porteous. The resolution provides that the taskforce may, in

connection with the inquiry under this resolution, take affidavits and depositions by a member, counsel, or consultant of the committee, pursuant to notice or subpoena.

Moreover, the resolution provides that there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House such sums as may be necessary to assist the committee on the Judiciary in conducting the inquiry under this resolution. The committee is authorized to require by subpoenas or otherwise, the (1) the attendance and testimony of any person and (2) the production of such things as it deems necessary for the inquiry. Lastly, the resolution provides that the Committee may adopt a rule regulating the taking of depositions by a member, counsel, or consultant of the Committee.

By bringing this resolution to the floor, we as Members of Congress demonstrate that we are concerned about taking the moral high ground and are concerned enough to investigate wrongdoing and allegations thereof when it affects anyone in a bipartisan manner—be the accused a Democrat or Republican. This resolution is an important first step to the beginning days of an administration that staked its campaign on change. Let us usher in change. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. MATSUI. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 15, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 41, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 50, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 43, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 41, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 41.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 11]

YEAS—411

Abercrombie	Carter	Forbes
Ackerman	Cassidy	Fortenberry
Aderholt	Castle	Foster
Adler (NJ)	Castor (FL)	Fox
Akin	Chaffetz	Frank (MA)
Altmire	Chandler	Franks (AZ)
Andrews	Childers	Frelinghuysen
Arcuri	Clarke	Fudge
Austria	Clay	Garrett (NJ)
Baca	Cleaver	Gerlach
Bachmann	Clyburn	Giffords
Bachus	Coble	Gillibrand
Baird	Coffman (CO)	Gingrey (GA)
Baldwin	Cohen	Gonzalez
Barrow	Cole	Goodlatte
Bartlett	Conaway	Gordon (TN)
Barton (TX)	Connolly (VA)	Granger
Bean	Conyers	Graves
Becerra	Cooper	Grayson
Berkley	Costa	Green, Al
Berry	Costello	Griffith
Biggert	Courtney	Guthrie
Bilbray	Crenshaw	Gutierrez
Bilirakis	Crowley	Hall (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Hall (TX)
Bishop (NY)	Culberson	Halvorson
Blackburn	Cummings	Hare
Blunt	Dahlkemper	Harman
Boccheri	Davis (AL)	Harper
Boehner	Davis (CA)	Hastings (FL)
Bonner	Davis (IL)	Hastings (WA)
Bono Mack	Davis (KY)	Heinrich
Boozman	Davis (TN)	Heller
Boren	Deal (GA)	Hensarling
Boswell	DeFazio	Herge
Boucher	DeGette	Higgins
Boustany	Delahunt	Hill
Boyd	DeLauro	Himes
Brady (PA)	Dent	Hinche
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hinojosa
Bralley (IA)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hirono
Bright	Dicks	Hodes
Broun (GA)	Dingell	Hoekstra
Brown (SC)	Doggett	Holden
Brown, Corrine	Donnelly (IN)	Holt
Brown-Waite,	Doyle	Hoyer
Ginny	Dreier	Hunter
Buchanan	Driehaus	Inglis
Burgess	Duncan	Insole
Burton (IN)	Edwards (MD)	Israel
Butterfield	Edwards (TX)	Issa
Buyer	Ehlers	Jackson (IL)
Calvert	Ellison	Jackson-Lee
Camp	Ellsworth	(TX)
Campbell	Emerson	Jenkins
Cantor	Engel	Johnson (GA)
Cao	Eshoo	Johnson (IL)
Capito	Etheridge	Johnson, E. B.
Capps	Fallin	Johnson, Sam
Capuano	Farr	Jones
Cardoza	Fattah	Jordan (OH)
Carnahan	Filner	Kagen
Carney	Flake	Kanjorski
Carson (IN)	Fleming	Kaptur

Kennedy	Miller (NC)	Schakowsky
Kildee	Miller, George	Schauer
Kilpatrick (MI)	Minnick	Schiff
Kilroy	Mitchell	Schmidt
Kind	Mollohan	Schock
King (IA)	Moore (KS)	Schrader
King (NY)	Moore (WI)	Schwartz
Kingston	Moran (VA)	Scott (GA)
Kirk	Murphy (CT)	Scott (VA)
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Murphy, Patrick	Sensenbrenner
Kissell	Murphy, Tim	Serrano
Klein (FL)	Murtha	Sessions
Kline (MN)	Myrick	Sestak
Kosmas	Nadler (NY)	Shadegg
Kratovil	Napolitano	Shea-Porter
Kucinich	Neal (MA)	Sherman
Lamborn	Neugebauer	Shimkus
Lance	Nunes	Shuler
Langevin	Nye	Shuster
Larsen (WA)	Oberstar	Simpson
Larson (CT)	Obey	Sires
Latham	Olson	Skelton
LaTourette	Oliver	Slaughter
Latta	Ortiz	Smith (NE)
Lee (CA)	Pallone	Smith (NJ)
Lee (NY)	Pascarell	Smith (TX)
Levin	Pastor (AZ)	Smith (WA)
Lewis (CA)	Paul	Space
Lewis (GA)	Paulsen	Speier
Linder	Payne	Spratt
Lipinski	Pence	Stark
LoBiondo	Perlmutter	Stearns
Loeb sack	Perriello	Stupak
Lofgren, Zoe	Peters	Sutton
Lowey	Peterson	Tanner
Lucas	Petri	Tauscher
Luetkemeyer	Pingree (ME)	Taylor
Lujan	Pitts	Teague
Lummis	Platts	Terry
Lungren, Daniel	Poe (TX)	Thompson (CA)
E.	Pollis (CO)	Thompson (MS)
Lynch	Pomeroy	Thompson (PA)
Mack	Posey	Thornberry
Maffei	Price (GA)	Tiahrt
Maloney	Price (NC)	Tiberi
Manzullo	Putnam	Tierney
Marchant	Radanovich	Titus
Markey (CO)	Rahall	Tonko
Markey (MA)	Rangel	Towns
Marshall	Rehberg	Tsongas
Matheson	Reichert	Turner
Matsui	Reyes	Upton
McCarthy (CA)	Richardson	Van Hollen
McCarthy (NY)	Rodriguez	Velázquez
McCaul	Roe (TN)	Walden
McClintock	Rogers (AL)	Walz
McCollum	Rogers (KY)	Wasserman
McCotter	Rogers (MI)	Schultz
McDermott	Rooney	Waters
McGovern	Ros-Lehtinen	Watt
McHenry	Roskam	Waxman
McHugh	Ross	Weiner
McIntyre	Rothman (NJ)	Welch
McKeon	Roybal-Allard	Westmoreland
McMahon	Royce	Wexler
McMorris	Ruppersberger	Whitfield
Rodgers	Rush	Wilson (OH)
McNerney	Ryan (OH)	Wilson (SC)
Meek (FL)	Ryan (WI)	Wittman
Meeke (NY)	Salazar	Wolf
Melancon	Sánchez, Linda	Woolsey
T.	T.	Wu
Mica	Sanchez, Loretta	Yarmuth
Michaud	Sarbanes	Young (AK)
Miller (FL)	Scalise	Young (FL)
Miller (MI)		

NOT VOTING—21

Alexander	Green, Gene	Snyder
Barrett (SC)	Grijalva	Solis (CA)
Berman	Herseth Sandlin	Souder
Bishop (UT)	Honda	Sullivan
Blumenauer	Massa	Visclosky
Gallegly	Moran (KS)	Wamp
Gohmert	Rohrabacher	Watson

□ 1859

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect who wishes to be sworn in please come to the well.

Representative-elect GARY G. MILLER of California appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now a Member of the 111th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER), the whole number of the House is 434.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington). Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLAIRBORNE PELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 50, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 50.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 12]
YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Barrow	Bocchieri
Ackerman	Bartlett	Boehner
Aderholt	Barton (TX)	Bonner
Adler (NJ)	Bean	Bono Mack
Akin	Becerra	Boozman
Alexander	Berkley	Boren
Altmire	Berman	Boswell
Andrews	Berry	Boucher
Arcuri	Biggart	Boustany
Austria	Bilbray	Boyd
Baca	Bilirakis	Brady (PA)
Bachmann	Bishop (GA)	Brady (TX)
Bachus	Bishop (NY)	Braley (IA)
Baird	Blackburn	Bright
Baldwin	Blunt	Broun (GA)

Brown (SC)	Gonzalez	Markey (CO)
Brown, Corrine	Goodlatte	Markey (MA)
Brown-Waite,	Gordon (TN)	Marshall
Ginny	Granger	Matheson
Buchanan	Graves	Matheson
Burgess	Grayson	Matsui
Burton (IN)	Green, Al	McCarthy (CA)
Butterfield	Griffith	McCarthy (NY)
Buyer	Guthrie	McCaul
Calvert	Gutierrez	McClintock
Camp	Hall (NY)	McCollum
Campbell	Hall (TX)	McCotter
Cantor	Halvorson	McDermott
Cao	Hare	McGovern
Capito	Harman	McHenry
Capps	Harper	McHugh
Capuano	Hastings (FL)	McIntyre
Cardoza	Hastings (WA)	McKeon
Carnahan	Heinrich	McMahon
Carney	Heller	McMorris
Carson (IN)	Hensarling	Rodgers
Carter	Herger	McNerney
Cassidy	Higgins	Meek (FL)
Castle	Hill	Melancon
Castor (FL)	Himes	Mica
Chaffetz	Hinchey	Michaud
Chandler	Hinojosa	Miller (FL)
Childers	Hirono	Miller (MI)
Clarke	Hodes	Miller (NC)
Clay	Hoekstra	Miller, Gary
Cleaver	Holden	Miller, George
Clyburn	Holt	Minnick
Coble	Honda	Mitchell
Coffman (CO)	Hoyer	Mollohan
Cohen	Hunter	Moore (KS)
Cole	Inglis	Moore (WI)
Conaway	Inslee	Moran (VA)
Connolly (VA)	Israel	Murphy (CT)
Conyers	Issa	Murphy, Patrick
Cooper	Jackson (IL)	Murphy, Tim
Costa	Jackson-Lee	Murtha
Costello	(TX)	Myrick
Courtney	Jenkins	Nadler (NY)
Crenshaw	Johnson (GA)	Napolitano
Crowley	Johnson (IL)	Neal (MA)
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Neugebauer
Culberson	Johnson, Sam	Nunes
Cummings	Jones	Nye
Dahlkemper	Jordan (OH)	Oberstar
Davis (AL)	Kagen	Obey
Davis (CA)	Kanjorski	Olson
Davis (IL)	Kaptur	Olver
Davis (KY)	Kennedy	Ortiz
Davis (TN)	Kildee	Pallone
Deal (GA)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Pascarell
DeFazio	Kilroy	Pastor (AZ)
DeGette	Kind	Paul
DeLahunt	King (IA)	Paulsen
DeLauro	King (NY)	Payne
Dent	Kingston	Pence
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kirk	Perlmutter
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Perriello
Dicks	Kissell	Peters
Dingell	Klein (FL)	Peterson
Doggett	Kline (MN)	Petri
Donnelly (IN)	Kosmas	Pingree (ME)
Doyle	Kratovil	Pitts
Dreier	Kucinich	Platts
Driehaus	Lamborn	Poe (TX)
Duncan	Lance	Polis (CO)
Edwards (MD)	Langevin	Pomeroy
Edwards (TX)	Larsen (WA)	Posey
Ehlers	Larson (CT)	Price (GA)
Ellison	Latham	Price (NC)
Ellsworth	LaTourette	Putnam
Emerson	Latta	Radanovich
Engel	Lee (CA)	Rahall
Eshoo	Lee (NY)	Rangel
Etheridge	Levin	Rehberg
Fallin	Lewis (CA)	Reichert
Farr	Lewis (GA)	Reyes
Fattah	Linder	Richardson
Filner	Lipinski	Rodriguez
Flake	LoBiondo	Roe (TN)
Fleming	Loebsock	Rogers (AL)
Forbes	Lofgren, Zoe	Rogers (KY)
Fortenberry	Lowey	Rogers (MI)
Foster	Lucas	Rooney
Fox	Luetkemeyer	Ros-Lehtinen
Frank (MA)	Lujan	Roskam
Franks (AZ)	Lummis	Ross
Frelinghuysen	Lungren, Daniel	Rothman (NJ)
Fudge	E.	Roybal-Allard
Garrett (NJ)	Lynch	Royce
Gerlach	Mack	Ruppersberger
Giffords	Maffei	Rush
Gillibrand	Maloney	Ryan (OH)
Gingrey (GA)	Manzullo	Ryan (WI)
Gohmert	Marchant	Salazar

Sanchez, Linda	Slaughter	Tsongas
T.	Smith (NE)	Turner
Sanchez, Loretta	Smith (NJ)	Upton
Sarbanes	Smith (TX)	Van Hollen
Scalise	Smith (WA)	Velázquez
Schakowsky	Space	Walden
Schauer	Speier	Walz
Schiff	Spratt	Wasserman
Schmidt	Stark	Schultz
Schock	Stearns	Waters
Schrader	Stupak	Watt
Schwartz	Sutton	Waxman
Scott (GA)	Tanner	Weiner
Scott (VA)	Tauscher	Welch
Sensenbrenner	Taylor	Westmoreland
Serrano	Teague	Wexler
Sessions	Terry	Whitfield
Sestak	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (OH)
Shadegg	Thompson (MS)	Wilson (SC)
Shea-Porter	Thompson (PA)	Wittman
Sherman	Thornberry	Wolf
Shimkus	Tiahrt	Woolsey
Shuler	Tiberi	Wu
Shuster	Tierney	Yarmuth
Simpson	Titus	Young (AK)
Sires	Tonko	Young (FL)
Skelton	Towns	

NOT VOTING—18

Barrett (SC)	Herseth Sandlin	Solis (CA)
Bishop (UT)	Massa	Souder
Blumenauer	Meeks (NY)	Sullivan
Gallegly	Moran (KS)	Visclosky
Green, Gene	Rohrabacher	Wamp
Grijalva	Snyder	Watson

□ 1910

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 43, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 43.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 13]

YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Berkley	Brady (TX)
Ackerman	Berman	Braley (IA)
Aderholt	Berry	Bright
Adler (NJ)	Biggart	Broun (GA)
Akin	Bilbray	Brown (SC)
Alexander	Bilirakis	Brown, Corrine
Altmire	Bishop (GA)	Brown-Waite,
Andrews	Bishop (NY)	Ginny
Arcuri	Blackburn	Buchanan
Austria	Blunt	Burgess
Baca	Bocchieri	Burton (IN)
Bachmann	Boehner	Butterfield
Bachus	Bonner	Buyer
Baird	Bono Mack	Calvert
Baldwin	Boozman	Camp
Barrow	Boren	Campbell
Bartlett	Boswell	Cantor
Barton (TX)	Boustany	Cao
Bean	Boyd	Capito
Becerra	Brady (PA)	Capps

Capuano Hastings (FL)
 Cardoza Hastings (WA)
 Carnahan Heinrich
 Carney Heller
 Carson (IN) Hensarling
 Carter Herger
 Cassidy Higgins
 Castle Hill
 Castor (FL) Himes
 Chaffetz Hinchey
 Chandler Hinojosa
 Childers Hirono
 Clarke Hodes
 Clay Hoekstra
 Cleaver Holden
 Clyburn Holt
 Coble Honda
 Coffman (CO) Hoyer
 Cohen Hunter
 Cole Inglis
 Conaway Inslee
 Connolly (VA) Israel
 Conyers Issa
 Cooper Jackson (IL)
 Costa Jackson-Lee
 Costello (TX)
 Courtney Jenkins
 Crenshaw Johnson (GA)
 Crowley Johnson (IL)
 Cuellar Johnson, E. B.
 Culberson Jones
 Cummings Jordan (OH)
 Dahlkemper Kagen
 Davis (AL) Kanjorski
 Davis (CA) Kaptur
 Davis (IL) Kennedy
 Davis (KY) Kildee
 Davis (TN) Kilpatrick (MI)
 Deal (GA) Kilroy
 DeFazio Kind
 DeGette King (IA)
 Delahunt King (NY)
 DeLauro Kingston
 Dent Kirk
 Diaz-Balart, L. Kirkpatrick (AZ)
 Diaz-Balart, M. Kissell
 Dicks Klein (FL)
 Dingell Kline (MN)
 Doggett Kosmas
 Donnelly (IN) Kratovil
 Doyle Kucinich
 Dreier Lamborn
 Driehaus Lance
 Duncan Langevin
 Edwards (MD) Larsen (WA)
 Edwards (TX) Larson (CT)
 Ehlers Latham
 Ellison LaTourette
 Ellsworth Latta
 Emerson Lee (CA)
 Engel Lee (NY)
 Eshoo Levin
 Etheridge Lewis (CA)
 Fallin Lewis (GA)
 Farr Linder
 Fattah Lipinski
 Filner LoBiondo
 Flake Loeb sack
 Fleming Lofgren, Zoe
 Forbes Lowey
 Fortenberry Lucas
 Foster Luetkemeyer
 Foxx Luján
 Frank (MA) Lummis
 Franks (AZ) Lungren, Daniel
 Frelinghuysen E.
 Fudge Lynch
 Garrett (NJ) Mack
 Gerlach Maffei
 Giffords Maloney
 Gillibrand Manzullo
 Gingrey (GA) Marchant
 Gohmert Markey (CO)
 Gonzalez Markey (MA)
 Goodlatte Marshall
 Gordon (TN) Matheson
 Granger Matsui
 Graves McCarthy (CA)
 Grayson McCarthy (NY)
 Green, Al McCaul
 Griffith McClintock
 Guthrie McCollum
 Gutierrez McCotter
 Hall (NY) McDermott
 Hall (TX) McGovern
 Halvorson McHenry
 Hare McHugh
 Harman McIntyre
 Harper McKeon

McMahon
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNeerney
 Meek (FL)
 Meeks (NY)
 Melancon
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Minnick
 Mitchell
 Mollohan
 Moore (KS)
 Moore (WI)
 Moran (VA)
 Murphy (CT)
 Murphy, Patrick
 Murphy, Tim
 Murtha
 Myrick
 Nadler (NY)
 Napolitano
 Neal (MA)
 Neugebauer
 Nunes
 Nye
 Oberstar
 Obey
 Olson
 Olver
 Ortiz
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Paul
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Perriello
 Peters
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pingree (ME)
 Pitts
 Platts
 Poe (TX)
 Polis (CO)
 Pomeroy
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Putnam
 Radanovich
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Reyes
 Richardson
 Rodriguez
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothman (NJ)
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Salazar
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Schakowsky
 Schauer
 McCaul
 Schiff
 Schmidt
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sessions

Sestak
 Shadegg
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuler
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sires
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Smith (WA)
 Space
 Speier
 Spratt
 Stark
 Stearns
 Stupak
 Sutton

Tanner
 Tauscher
 Taylor
 Teague
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Titus
 Tonko
 Towns
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Walden
 Walz

Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Waxman
 Weiner
 Welch
 Westmoreland
 Wexler
 Whitfield
 Wilson (OH)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Yarmuth
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUN BOWL

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special occasion in the American university athletics, the 75th anniversary of the Sun Bowl, a proud tradition in college football that has been hosted in my district of El Paso, Texas.

The Sun Bowl is the second oldest bowl game in the United States and a major national attraction that brings together thousands of loyal college football fans each year to watch teams from the Pac-10, Big 12 and Big East Conferences.

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Sun Bowl, I want to recognize the Sun Bowl Association, the sponsors, and all of the fans from El Paso and throughout the Nation who have made this annual event a tremendous success. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Bernie Olivas, Executive Director of the Sun Bowl Association, and Gerald Rubin, CEO of Helen of Troy, for sponsoring this great event, as well as Joe Valenzuela, Frank Bates and Linda East, current, incoming and past presidents of the Sun Bowl Association Board of Directors.

At its humble beginnings, the Sun Bowl was put together as a fund-raiser by the Kiwanis Club in 1935. The event originated as a small high school matchup and grew into a major nationally televised bowl game in Division I football. As you can see by this first picture, this captured some of the flavor of the history in El Paso that was known then as "the Sun Bowl City."

The first game featured the El Paso High School All-Stars versus the Ranger High School Bulldogs and was played at the El Paso High School stadium, where the All-Star team came from behind to garner a 25-21 victory over the Bulldogs.

The Sun Bowl Association was formed immediately after that successful first game, and a coalition of local El Paso area service clubs, including the Rotary, Lions, Optimist, and the 20-30 Club, joined together to coordinate events around the bowl game every year.

After gathering input from the community, the event was named the Sun Bowl, and the first collegiate game was played in 1936. This game was a match between New Mexico A&M—which is now New Mexico State—and Hardin-Simmons College, and the Sun Bowl has grown from there. In its inception, it was played at the 15,000-seat Kidd Field in 1938 on the campus of what is now the University of Texas at El Paso. The game was moved again in 1963 to our new 30,000-seat Sun Bowl Stadium. And in 1982, the Sun Bowl game took place in the newly expanded Sun Bowl Stadium, with a seating capacity of over 50,000 people. This is a picture of our Sun Bowl Stadium.

NOT VOTING—18

Barrett (SC) Grijalva Snyder
 Bishop (UT) Herseth Sandlin Solis (CA)
 Blumenauer Johnson, Sam Souder
 Boucher Massa Sullivan
 Gallegly Moran (KS) Visclosky
 Green, Gene Rohrabacher Wamp

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HALL of New York) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1919

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 226

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, with apologies to the gentleman from California, I would ask unanimous consent that Mr. MIKE THOMPSON be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 226. His name was errantly added to that bill, and I would like it removed and offer my apologies.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members are reminded that appropriate attire for gentlemen includes a necktie.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain Special Order speeches without prejudice to the resumption of further legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

Last month, over 49,000 fans attended the 75th Annual Brut Sun Bowl to watch the Oregon State Beavers defeat the Pittsburgh Panthers to become this year's Sun Bowl champion.

The television network, CBS, has been broadcasting the Sun Bowl since 1968, making it the longest continuous broadcast of a post-season football game. The crowd itself of this year's Sun Bowl game also has made history, not so much by the attendance, but for being the largest crowd, according to the Guinness Book of Record, to dance to the Village People's 1978 disco anthem, "YMCA." Here you have a picture of part of the crowd that captures some of the energy and excitement of the 75th Sun Bowl on that day.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary, the Sun Bowl Association added two more names to its "Legends of the Sun Bowl" list. The "Legends of the Sun Bowl" include coaches, players, broadcasters, and longtime volunteers of the Sun Bowl. This year's recipients were Priest Holmes, a 1994 player for the University of Texas, and Craig Silver, a CBS sports commentator from 1983 to 2005. Among other notable "Legends of the Sun Bowl" are the late Pat Tillman, Thurman Thomas, Pat Summerall, and Tony Dorsett, seen here in this final picture showing Tony Dorsett in action in the Sun Bowl Stadium.

□ 1930

Along with my remarks, I would like to submit a copy of the names of the previous legends of the Sun Bowl for inclusion in the RECORD.

LEGENDS OF THE SUN BOWL

2008—Priest Holmes—Player, Texas (1994), Craig Silver—CBS Sports (1983–2005)

2007—Cornelius Bennett—Player, Alabama (1983 & 1986), Don James—Coach, Washington (1979 & 1986)

2006—Tony Franklin—Player, Texas A&M (1977), Grant Teaff—Coach, Baylor (1992)

2005—Terry Donahue—Coach, UCLA (1991); CBS Sports (1995), Verne Lundquist—CBS Sports (1988, 1992, 2000–05)

2004—Pat Tillman (Posthumously)—Player, Arizona State (1997), Alex Van Pelt—Player, Pittsburgh (1989)

2003—Ken Heineman—Player, El Paso All-Stars (1935),

2002—Thurman Thomas—Player, Oklahoma State (1987)

2001—John H. Folmer—Administrator, Barry Switzer—Coach, Oklahoma (1981)

2000—Vince Dooley—Coach, Georgia (1964, 1969 & 1985), Derrick Thomas (Posthumously)—Player, Alabama (1986 & 1988)

1999—Hayden Fry—Coach, SMU (1963) and Iowa (1995 & 1997), Jimmy Rogers, Jr.—Administrator

1998—Jesse Whittenton—UTEP (1954 & 1955) 1997—Tom Brookshier—CBS Sports (1973, 1977–1981), Pat Summerall—CBS Sports (1971, 1977–80)

1996—Tony Dorsett—Player, Pittsburgh (1975),

1995—Johnny Majors—Coach, Iowa State (1971), Pittsburgh (1975) and Tennessee (1984)

1994—Harrison Kohl—Administrator, Bill Stevens—Player, UTEP (1965 & 1967), Charley Johnson—Player, New Mexico State (1959 & 1960)

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to highlight this very special event in El Paso, one

that is very important and very much a part of the city's history and folklore. The Sun Bowl is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the natural geographic beauty and the friendly atmosphere that make our community very special. The success of the Sun Bowl is a testament to the hard work of the Sun Bowl Association as well as the numerous community partners and sponsors, and I look forward to many more successful years of this wonderful tradition.

I want to congratulate all the Sun Bowl Association members and our great community for putting on a great show every year.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR UNCLE SAM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this time of year, we all hear about New Year's resolutions. Some of us make them, some of us make them and break them, and some of us don't even make them. But maybe Uncle Sam needs to make a few New Year's resolutions as we go into 2009. I have six suggestions for Uncle Sam.

The first thing Uncle Sam needs to do is get on a diet and trim down the excess spending and government waste. The government, us, we spend money on everything. There's a philosophy here in Washington, D.C. that the government is the solution to every problem from the time a person's born to the time they die and the government should control all the money and decide how that money should be spent. There's another philosophy that I believe in that government may be the problem and that problems are best solved by individuals. But in any event, we cannot continue to spend and waste the taxpayer money on so many different programs. Uncle Sam needs to go on a diet.

The second thing we need to do is practice what we preach and not be so hypocritical. Recently we had the Big Three auto boys down here in Washington D.C., and we raked them over the coals because they make so much money. We criticized the UAW because they make about \$74 an hour. But yet we get our automatic pay increase and we can't even get a vote on the House floor to rescind that pay increase. Somewhat hypocritical, Mr. Speaker. Uncle Sam needs to practice what it preaches.

The third thing that we need that do is quit spending somebody else's money. You see, the money that we spend, Congress, it's not our money. It belongs to the good folks who sent us up here. We've all seen the big motor homes going down the freeways that have a bumper sticker on the back that says "We are spending our children's inheritance." We kind of think that's funny, but that's what we're doing.

And for the inauguration, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that we get a big sign and put it out here on the Capitol grounds that says "Uncle Sam is spending your children and grandchildren's inheritance" because that's what we're doing. We're spending money that we do not have. And it's the philosophy that government knows better how to spend the taxpayers' money than the taxpayer. And I think that's wrong. We ought to quit spending somebody else's money because we certainly don't have the money and our kids, our grandkids, and our great grandkids now are going to have to pay for the things that we do. Uncle Sam needs to quit spending somebody else's money.

We need to quit rewarding the fat cats and those who live on government handouts. And that covers a lot of folks that they are up here trying to get money from the Federal Government. All the different special interest groups, all the Wall Street fat cats, all those people who live off the government and want something from the government but don't give much to society. The people punished, those are most Americans, the middle class. The middle class always has to pay, and they continue to pay. And it's unfortunate because they pay all the bills while those special interest groups are up here, and they'll be up here next week and the week after with their hand out wanting somebody else's money, wanting Uncle Sam to redistribute the wealth that belongs to the middle class to someone else. And that's just basically wrong.

We talk about stimulating the economy. We need stimulate the economy, but we cannot stimulate the economy by spending more money. That doesn't make sense. We need to spend less money. And one thing we can do, Congress has the power to do, is let those middle class people who pay taxes, who foot the bill for all of this that we do, give everybody that pays taxes a tax break and let them decide how to stimulate the economy instead of us and Uncle Sam trying to make that decision.

We need to reduce our debt. We hear about debt. It's a trillion dollars, give or take a few billion. How much is a trillion dollars? It's a one with twelve zeros behind it. That's how much a trillion is. I can't even write that down. It's a massive amount of money. But, you know, Uncle Sam, we live in a credit card government. We just borrow the money. That's the society that we live in, and the government does the same thing. We just borrow the money, probably from the Chinese, pay interest to the Chinese, let them own our country rather than the American taxpayer. We need to certainly reduce our debt. We cannot continue to spend, borrow, tax our way into prosperity. It just won't work.

And lastly, number six, we need to do what most Americans do when they budget. We have to have a budget. Most Americans figure out, well, I'm going

to get this amount of money, cutting out the taxes, and then I can spend it on this. We do just the opposite. We decide how to spend money, oh, and then we'll just get the money. We'll tax it or go into debt. Uncle Sam needs to budget like other Americans.

These are some considerations and some New Year's resolutions for Uncle Sam. I hope we impose a few of those. I think it's time we stop the credit card government.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL'S YEARS OF SERVICE IN SENATE

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

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the now longest-serving Kentucky Senator in the history of the United States Senate. This is truly a historic milestone for both the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Senator MITCH MCCONNELL.

Recently, Senator MCCONNELL celebrated 25 years in the United States Senate, surpassing the great Senator Wendell Ford's previous record. By no means is this a small accomplishment, as our State has been the home to such noted Members of the Senate as Henry Clay, John J. Crittenden, Alben Barkley, and John Sherman Cooper, just to name a few.

The Senator did not become the influential man that he is today without hard work, dedication, and determination. He started his career as an intern on Capitol Hill, moved to legislative assistant, eventually deputy assistant attorney general under President Ford, to County Judge-Executive in Jefferson County, the largest county in our State, all before being elected by the people of Kentucky to serve in the United States Senate in 1984.

He led his classmates as student body president in college and then went on to be the president of the Student Bar Association in law school. He has garnered the respect of his peers for years; so it comes as no surprise that he has risen to be the leader of his party in the Senate, an accomplishment only one other Kentuckyan in history has ever achieved.

Parties aside, Senator MCCONNELL has fought for what he believes in with the same dedication and fervor as he did when fighting polio in his early childhood. He can point to a number of achievements, such as aiding struggling Kentucky tobacco farmers by orchestrating the tobacco buyout and providing significant aid to Kentucky's colleges and universities. His influence also extends outside the Congress and the Commonwealth with his work on the Appropriations, Agriculture, and Rules Committees, opposing dictators in Myanmar and fighting for human rights in Egypt and Cambodia among others. Like Senator Wendell Ford,

Senator MCCONNELL won his first statewide election by a small margin, but since that time he has become a mainstay in Kentucky.

Senator MCCONNELL and I are both students of history, and regardless of political differences, and we have a few of those, I believe it's important to recognize his truly outstanding achievements.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask the House to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL.

STATEMENT ON A PRESIDENTIAL COMMUTATION FOR FORMER U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, before President Bush leaves office next week, he has the power to correct a terrible injustice.

Over the past 2 years, Members of Congress have written to the President, as a group and individually, asking him to commute the sentences of imprisoned U.S. Border Patrol Agents Ramos and Compean.

It is well known that these border agents were convicted and sentenced to 11 and 12 years in prison for shooting and wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought \$1 million worth of marijuana across the U.S. border in 2005. This Saturday, January 17 of 2009, will mark the beginning of the agents' 3rd year in Federal prison.

On November 24, 2008, President Bush granted 14 pardons and two commutations. Clemency was granted to individuals convicted of crimes such as drug conspiracy, tax evasion, poisoning bald eagles, dumping hazardous waste, bank embezzlement, and theft of government property.

On December 22, 2008, the President issued 19 additional pardons and one commutation. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Ramos and Compean have not made the list.

With the help of Lou Dobbs and countless other news outlets, Americans across this Nation have learned of the unjust prosecution of these two men who were doing their job to protect our border. Since the agents' convictions, the White House has received thousands of phone calls from outraged citizens and letters sent by Members of Congress on both sides of the political aisle.

On November 20 of 2008, I joined Congressman BILL DELAHUNT, DANA ROHRABACHER, and others in a letter to pardon Attorney Ronald Rodgers, which outlined the reasons for our request. And most recently on December 11, 2008, I wrote the President that he commute the agents' sentences before they have to spend another Christmas in Federal prison, and, Mr. Speaker, I submit the letter for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2008.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing to express my deep disappointment that the 14 pardons and two commutations you granted on November 24, 2008, did not include commutations for imprisoned U.S. Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean. Instead, clemency was granted to those convicted of crimes such as drug conspiracy, tax evasion, poisoning bald eagles, dumping hazardous waste, bank embezzlement and theft of government property.

Mr. President, this week I opened a Christmas card which pictured two beautiful families with three children each. I was deeply saddened when I realized these were photos of the Ramos and Compean families—who will face another Christmas with husbands and fathers locked away in federal prison if you fail to intervene on their behalf. Knowing that it has become customary during the final days of a president's term to grant pardons and commutations in criminal cases, I urge you to take the time to personally review the prosecution of agents Ramos and Compean. I am confident the facts of their case will lead you to the same conclusion countless American citizens have already reached: there are no individuals more worthy of presidential commutations than agents Ramos and Compean. The facts of the case will show—as Judge E. Grady Jolly stated on December 3, 2007, during the agents' appeal—"the government overreacted here * * * for some reason, this one got out of hand." By attempting to apprehend an illegal alien drug smuggler, agents Ramos and Compean were enforcing our laws—not breaking them. Simply put, the indictments against these men were unjustified.

As countless Americans and many in Congress have brought to your attention over the past two years, agents Ramos and Compean were convicted and sentenced to 11 and 12 years respectively for shooting and wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across the U.S. border in 2005. Both men entered prison on January 17, 2007, and have served nearly two years of their sentences. Since the agents' convictions, your office has received thousands of phone calls from concerned citizens and numerous letters from members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. Most recently, on November 13, 2008, I wrote a letter urging you to commute the agents' sentences to time served. On November 20, 2008, I also joined Congressmen Bill Delahunt, Dana Rohrabacher and others in a letter to Pardon Attorney Ronald Rodgers which outlined the rationale for this request.

Many disturbing details of the Ramos and Compean case have garnered national attention and raised serious concerns over the lack of fairness in the proceedings against these two men—including the prosecution's efforts to seek out and offer immunity to a habitual Mexican drug smuggler, a sealed indictment of the smuggler's subsequent drug offenses and insufficient proof of whether or not the smuggler was unarmed, as he claimed at trial. All of these factors strongly call into question whether justice was served.

Among the most serious matters warranting your consideration is the U.S. Attorney's decision to charge Ramos and Compean with violations of 18 U.S.C. §924(c)—which pertains to the use of a firearm during and in relation to the commission of a crime of violence and carries a mandatory 10-year sentence. Any failure by the agents to report

the shooting of the drug smuggler constitutes an administrative error that should have been addressed. However, the application of 18 U.S.C. §924(c) to two U.S. Border Patrol agents in lawful possession of their firearms appears grossly inappropriate. Because agents Ramos and Compean were required to carry firearms during the course of their duties, I urge you to consider commuting this 10-year mandatory minimum sentence enhancement.

Mr. President, the end of your term is quickly approaching and time is running out for you to heed the calls of the American people and reverse the grave injustice committed against agents Ramos and Compean. No useful purpose is served by the continued incarceration of these distinguished law enforcement officers. During this Christmas season, a time of peace and thanksgiving for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, I urge you to open your heart to the pleas of the American people and commute the sentences of these two Hispanic-American heroes.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

A response from the White House said that the agents' requests for commutation "are receiving a careful and fair review." If the President takes the time to personally review the agents' case, I am confident the facts will lead him to the same conclusion that the majority of Americans have already reached: The indictments against these men were unjustified.

The President should carefully consider one of the most troubling aspects of this case: The agents were charged under a statute intended for violent criminals carrying guns, not for law enforcement officers acting in the line of duty. Because the border agents were required to carry firearms during the course of their duties, I urge the President to commute the 10-year mandatory sentence for these charges.

Mr. Speaker, time is running out for the President to reverse this grave injustice committed against Ramos and Compean. I pray that he will open his heart to the pleas of the American people and commute the sentences of these two deserving men.

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

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

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

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

IT'S TIME TO GIVE DIPLOMACY A CHANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. A breath of fresh air filled the Capitol this morning. It happened during the confirmation hearings for HILLARY CLINTON. The Secretary of State-designate in her testimony said that "diplomacy will be the vanguard of foreign policy" in the Obama administration.

□ 1945

This is exactly what the American people have been waiting 8 long years to hear. The current administration never used diplomacy, and the results have been devastating for us and for the world. The occupation of Iraq hasn't made us any safer. It has cost over \$1 trillion so far, helping to put our economy into a deep recession. It has devastated our reputation in the world. All of this is clear to just about everyone except our current leaders in the White House.

At his press conference yesterday, President Bush insisted that the occupation of Iraq hasn't damaged America's moral standing in the world. But his administration's policy of shooting first, asking questions later, has badly damaged our Nation's moral authority.

The use of torture has damaged it even more. Yesterday President Bush called the human rights abuses at Abu Ghraib a disappointment. But in recent weeks we have seen convincing evidence that Abu Ghraib was the result of deliberate administration policy. Talk about disappointment.

In February of 2002, the President signed an order stating that the Geneva Conventions did not apply to members of al Qaeda or the Taliban. Then high-ranking American officials took a series of actions that made torture a part of our interrogation practices in Iraq and elsewhere. Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was one of the officials who gave his stamp of approval.

A bipartisan report issued by the Senate Armed Services Committee on December 11 documented this illegal action and how these actions came about. According to the committee, the authorization of aggressive interrogation techniques by senior officials conveyed the message that it was okay to retreat and degrade.

Then a week after the committee issued its report, Vice President CHENEY gave a shocking interview to the Washington Times. In the interview, he admitted that 33 prisoners were subjected to what he called "enhanced interrogation techniques." That's fancy bureaucratic language for torture. He even admitted that prisoners were subjected to waterboarding, which has been considered a form of torture ever since the Spanish Inquisition.

I know that conservatives like Vice President CHENEY have looked backwards for their policies, but the 15th century, Mr. Speaker, is much too far back. Look at the consequences of these policies of war, occupation and torture. The Middle East continues to be in turmoil and flames. Iran's influ-

ence continues to spread. People all around the globe have a negative opinion of the United States, which makes it much harder for us to get their help.

When America loses its moral authority, Osama bin Laden and other terrorists find it a lot easier to recruit new members. But with the change in our Nation's leadership on January 20, America has new hope. We have new hope for the future.

In addition to her comments about diplomacy this morning, HILLARY CLINTON said that "We must build a world with more partners and fewer adversaries," and she promised to work with Congress and not to treat us with contempt, as the current administration has. She said, and I quote her, "For me, consultation is not a catchword—it's a commitment."

And she quoted Terence, the Roman playwright, who said, "In every endeavor, the seemly course for wise (people) is to try persuasion first."

The current administration tried war and occupation for 8 years, and it didn't work, so it's time to give diplomacy a chance.

YOUR HARD-EARNED MONEY BELONGS TO YOU

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this summer, spring, we sent Americans a stimulus check to help stimulate the economy. We actually gave them some money. We had already spent the money that they had given us for taxes, and so we went and borrowed some money and sent that money to the American people to let them try to stimulate our economy.

Evidently that didn't work as well as a lot of people thought it would, and so now there is a movement to spend much more, larger amount, triple, quadruple the amount of money that was spent this spring. Guess what? We don't have the money, and so we are going to go and borrow it.

So what we are on is this system of tax, spend, borrow. Tax, spend, borrow. It isn't working. The American people know that that's not the right prescription for getting us out of this economic slump. Yet that is the plan that will be brought before this body possibly this week.

This is going to be a big week for your children and grandchildren. We are going to have a \$350 billion second half of the stimulus or the bailout program, and now we are talking about nearly \$1 trillion in new spending for a stimulus package, \$1.3 trillion.

My friend from Texas spoke about the fact that Members from Congress are using their voting cards as credit cards. It's time, actually, for Members of Congress to start using their cards not as credit cards and mortgaging the future of our young people, but investing and beginning to spend money that

we actually have, instead of spending money we do not have.

This unrestrained borrowing and spending has got to stop because it's not working. Now, one of the things that we need to do to actually begin to stimulate the economy is just leave the money in the economy. How do we leave the money in the economy?

Well, Mr. Speaker, what we do is we lower the taxes. We lower the taxes on individuals. We lower the taxes on corporations. We lower the taxes on small businesses.

Our small businesses, for example, are the number one job creators in America. By lowering the taxes for small businesses, we are able to create jobs and opportunity. Whether it's Joe the Plumber or Ray the Electrician, when they have the opportunity to keep more of the money that they are making, they go out and buy a new service truck.

Well, you know what happens when they buy a new service truck? They have got to go hire someone to run that truck, so they go out and hire an electrician or a plumber and maybe a helper. So that creates more and more jobs.

But every time we take more and more of the money of Joe the Plumber or Ray the Electrician or the American hardworking people, when we take that money into Congress or into the government, one, that dollar gets a lot smaller when it goes back out and, yet, so we are taking, the net effect is, we are taking money out of the economy.

I introduced a bill last week that would try to leave the money in the economy. What this bill would do would be lower each one of the tax brackets by—the tax rate on each one of the brackets by 5 percent.

Also, it would make the top brackets in this country, both corporate and individual, 25 percent. That means that we have a further reduction in the amount of money that we take out of the economy on a daily, weekly and annual basis.

Now, what could this do? Well, according to the Heritage Foundation, this could help create more jobs in our country. Possibly in 2009 it could create a half a million new jobs; by the year 2012, 3.6 million new jobs.

If Americans and the American people are going to enjoy the freedoms and liberties that this Nation offers, the best way to do that is to allow them to have the opportunity to work and to earn their money, but, more importantly, to keep more of their money.

One of the things that we have done in this country that concerns me, I think it concerns the American people, is this country was founded on principles of empowerment. People came to America with dreams that they would work hard, apply themselves. And if they did that, they could reap the benefits of their hard work and enjoy their successes.

But, unfortunately, in our country today, they were running away from

big government. Now the country that was founded on the principles of small business is moving more to big government. And how is the government getting bigger? It's taking a bigger and bigger chunk out of the American people's, American taxpayers' hard-earned money.

Mr. Speaker, these are difficult times, yet they are challenging times, but they are times where we must make good decisions. Going out and mortgaging another \$1.3 billion for future generations to pay back is not a good investment.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill so that we can leave more money with the American taxpayers. The American taxpayers deserve a better plan from the Federal government than more spending on top of a deficit already projected to be more than \$1 trillion this year.

Congress should focus on solutions that empower individuals and businesses to succeed in the economy, rather than solutions that make them more dependent on the Federal government.

WALL STREET'S BANKSTERS ARE COMING BACK TO MAMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, wake up, America. Get your telephone calls going to Congress. Set up your robodials in gear. Wall Street's banksters are coming back to mama. Here they come again, and shame on us if we let them do it to us again.

America, pay attention. Batten down the hatches. Let your Member of Congress know the banksters are coming back to mama.

We are about to be taken for a ride by the banksters again. These banksters bank on us making the taxpayers pay again.

Don't let them do it. Why? Because what they are doing is trampling our democracy. We are getting set to have another piece of legislation crammed through the Congress regarding the bailout. They call it TARP, the Troubled Assets Relief Program. It's the old bank bailout bill from last year.

Despite the fact that due deliberation is required of us as Members of Congress through regular order of this House, and, frankly, our Constitution, this new cram down comes with a twist. Instead of not holding any hearings on the reform of the TARP, like happened last time, and only letting us see the bill 18 hours before \$700 billion of the taxpayers' money was to be put on the table, one hearing is being held, exactly one, tomorrow, and it happens to be being held at the same time that amendments to that bill are supposed to be filed upstairs in the Rules Committee.

So Members who spent over 20 years on that committee are unable to take

what they hear at the hearing, and the information learned, to make recommendations for amendments to the Rules Committee. Any Member who might not be on the committee, and who wants to go to the hearing and listen, and then maybe propose amendments, well, you can't do that because it's being held at the same time.

The committee will be holding the hearing here in the Capitol where most Americans can no longer afford to travel. They are not bothering to go out to the country, to the communities that have been so badly devastated by the rising foreclosure crisis, that the TARP, the bank bailout bill is not solving.

No, the public won't be included, and the subpoena power of the committee will not be used. So here we go, the banksters are back. They want another \$350 billion of our taxpayers' money, and the deliberations inside this Chamber are throttled. Isn't that sad, particularly given what happened to the first 350 billion. Once again, we are being pushed and told we have to hurry this up. We are going to have a new President. So we are told to hurry up and be hasty and not be thoughtful, because, of course, something might happen. But you know what? It's already happening.

What we are doing isn't working. But we are going to have to be voting this week on a big unthinkable wad of our taxpayers' money, \$350 billion more. And if we learned anything from the release of the first half of the TARP funds, it's that hurried legislative action brings undesired and sloppy results.

Back in the fall we were told we didn't have the time to be deliberative, that if we didn't pass it, the economy was going to continue a downward spiral, that the economy would crash, and we would be to blame.

Well, some Members voted for it, and it passed, and guess what happened? What they said wouldn't. Never mind that Secretary Paulson's management of the economy and the bailout still has resulted in 1.2 million jobs lost in November and December. Believe me, people in my State know what those numbers really mean.

One in 10 homeowners are in arrears or in foreclosure, imagine that, 10 percent of the people who own homes in this country.

□ 2000

And \$4 trillion of wealth has been lost by our families. The American people were played, and \$350 billion later Secretary Paulson has given us no progress for the American people. We are in a deeper economic hole than when we began.

TARP isn't working. It hasn't stemmed the foreclosure crisis, which is at the heart of what is wrong with our economy. It didn't help unfreeze credit inside our financial system. The auto industry didn't go into a nose-dive because people didn't want to buy cars.

They couldn't get the loans from the banks to buy the cars because the housing foreclosure crisis froze up the credit system. Instead, TARP has brought the auto industry and hundreds of thousands of businesses across our country to their knees.

A staggering 693,000 jobs were lost across this country in the last month, three-quarters of a million, following 533,000 jobs the month before, half a million more. There are now nearly four job seekers for every one job opening. And, again, one in ten homeowners nationwide are now in arrears or facing foreclosure. My advice to people in that position: Don't leave your property. You claim your own property, because chances are if you had a good lawyer and they went to court on your behalf, they couldn't find who really holds your mortgage. If they go to the Truth in Lending laws, you might be surprised. The law might be on your side. Don't leave your property.

So what have the banks done with all this money? Shouldn't we know that before we vote to give them more? I ask every Member of Congress, shouldn't we know where the money went and what they did with it? Have they reworked mortgages and started lending again? No. No, they have not. Instead, they have had a party buying one another up. The big banks, particularly the Wall Street banks, they are getting bigger. Community banks are under stress. Many State-Headquartered banks are being bought by the bigger banks.

PNC, already one of the Nation's largest banks, bought National City Bank in Ohio. They are throwing 4,000 people out of work in Cleveland, Ohio. But PNC became, hold on to your seats now, the fifth largest bank in the United States from the infusion of TARP funds it received. The fifth largest bank in our country, and their corporate expansion bought and paid for by you, our taxpayers.

Now, look at who else is getting bigger. Last night, CBS news reported on CBS.com that Bank of America received \$15 billion, and then they bought Merrill Lynch, that had gotten \$10 billion even as it was put up for sale. Total that up. That is \$25 billion. Now Morgan Stanley, the recipient of \$10 billion, is buying China Trust Bank. Another half dozen banks, including M&T, Capital One Bank, US Bancorp, Hampton Roads Bankshares and PNC, got bailout money, and then they bought up other banks. They just keep getting bigger. And what is interesting about that, under the law, when they buy another bank, they can probably book losses on their 2008 tax returns.

It is very interesting how the financial system works on behalf of the big, and yet for those losing their homes, they have almost no one to represent them. They are having a royal time with our money, the banksters up there on Wall Street.

Money Morning reports the 116 banks that are receiving billions in taxpayer-

provided bailout money this year actually paid out \$1.6 billion in compensation to their executives, plus benefits, even though the results at some of these institutions were so poor that they would soon have to turn to Washington for government-engineered rescues. The \$1.6 billion in compensation and benefits to the banksters was paid out to nearly 600 executives at the 116 banks that have so far accepted Federal money to bolster their financial situation.

The Associated Press concluded after a review of U.S. security filings that in addition to salary, the compensation included bonuses paid in both cash and stock. The benefits reaped by top executives included the use of company jets for personal purposes, personal chauffeurs, home security services, country club memberships and professional wealth management services, the news service said.

Now, let's give them credit. These banksters know how to walk our money around. They even know how to create money when there isn't any there. They create fancy names; derivatives, credit default swaps and collateralized debt obligations. But those instruments are not worth anything, because the underlying assets cannot pay back the money if someone tries to collect it. That is usually called fraud or money laundering.

But could it be a cruel twist of fate that the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Paulson, former chief executive officer of Goldman Sachs, oddly took care of Goldman, his firm, first during all of this, making it a bank holding company, so it could get its nose under the tent cover—I mean qualify for Federal insurance, like the well-run banks do, which had paid into the insurance system. He did that for his own institution, but then he shed crocodile tears and he pushed Lehman Brothers overboard with no mercy. I would really like to know the full truth behind that story.

But then Mr. Paulson, by coincidence surely, picked his top money man at Goldman Sachs and moved him too, lock stock and barrel, into the U.S. Treasury to hand out our cash. Now, this surely must have been done accidentally. How can you have two men from the same Wall Street firm delegated all this power? Oh, you might have heard his name. It is Mr. Kashkari. Yes, Neel Kashkari. He came from Goldman.

It must surely be another coincidence that Goldman was also Wall Street's largest contributor to Federal campaigns last year. Check it out yourself at opensecrets.org. That is a Web site, opensecrets.org. In fact, Wall Street overall became the largest donor to Federal elections. And they are not showing any signs of slowing down. According to the Wall Street Journal, 90 percent of donations received so far for the Inaugural Committee have been raised by well-heeled fund-raisers, including Wall Street ex-

ecutives whose companies have received billions of dollars in Federal bailout money.

Well, think about that one. Of the 207 fund-raisers that have collected \$24.8 million of the \$27.3 million in contributions through Thursday for the coming inauguration, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan campaign finance group Public Citizen, Wall Street employees as a group have been the biggest single source of these donations. Much of their donations, in fact \$5.7 million total, has been channeled through financial services executives who each have bundled together donations worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Goldman Sachs has provided \$175,000 in donations primarily through the bundling efforts of Jennifer Scully, who has raised over \$100,000; Bruce Heyman who raised \$50,000, including \$10,000 of his own money; and another gentleman, David Heller, who donated another \$25,000. Think about what is going on here.

But, you know, a lot of people say they don't influence peddle. Banksters don't influence peddle. They just want good government. Sure they do. Of course, all this is accidental. Nobody planned it this way. Just like Bernie Madoff. Oh, he didn't plan anything either. Some might believe what these banksters do in their private affairs has absolutely no relationship to what happens here in Washington, and if you believe that, you were born yesterday. Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

There are problems with the bill drafted to address the administration's mishandling of the bailout. This is the bill that is going to come before us, we think, H.R. 384, the TARP Reform Accountability Act of 2009. TARP doesn't need reforming. We need to kill it. We need to put the attention at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission in order to resolve the inter-bank lending problem and the foreclosure credit crisis. We don't need to give this job to the Treasury. The wrong agency has the lead.

Let's look at title II, called "foreclosure relief." Number one, the legislation provides no new plan to stop foreclosures. That is what it was passed to do in the first place. This bill doesn't have it either. It continues to do more of the same, which simply hasn't worked. Servicers are not motivated through this bill to modify loans, because they are making money hand-over-fist servicing defaulted loans, foreclosing on loans and profiting from real estate that they have come to own. And they are awaiting booking huge tax losses on their 2008 income tax filings. The Tax Code favors them, not us, not the people who sent me here.

This legislation that is proposed does not help homeowners defend themselves against criminal acts of fraud being perpetrated against them in

processing foreclosures. A majority of the loans originated between 2000 and 2008 have legal defenses against foreclosures, but because the scheme has drained consumers of financial resources and because there are so few consumer law attorneys who know how to raise these defenses in a court of law, consumers have no access to their rights, for example, under the Truth in Lending Act.

The legislation continues to shift both the risk and the cost of the program off corporations who perpetrated the scheme and on to homeowners, our American taxpayers. The legislation does not address the root of the problem and it will be just as ineffective as the first round of TARP funding in addressing the core problem, the home foreclosure crisis. The current loan modification restrictions are unsustainable and they will redefault.

Let's go to title V, and I can't go through every title tonight, called Hope For Homeowners Program Improvements. Hope for Homeowners consist of industry players who created the mortgage mess to begin with. They are milking the system and not providing any relief to homeowners now. New nonprofit companies and loan modification companies are cropping up all over, and most of these have been established by the very mortgage brokers who defrauded consumers and sold them into subprime slavery. They should not now be rewarded with a new business opportunity to revictimize the victims.

So let's look at some recommendations that make sense. The bill that will be sent to us will not correct the root of the problem and it will not achieve the goal of preventing foreclosures and keeping people in their homes. There are many effective foreclosure prevention strategies being deployed by attorneys and advocates, and we need to translate these into systemic solutions.

We need to investigate, and it is a sham that this Congress is not doing appropriate oversight; how the shadow banking sector created by the Wall Street investment banks after the repeal of Glass-Steagall, which was called Gramm-Leach-Bliley, constructed a private money creation system that in a short 10 years equals or exceeds the assets of all regulated banks nationwide.

In short there are solutions. We need a consumer-centric model. What we have now is a creditor-centric model. It will eventually lead to a complete collapse, because consumers and taxpayers cannot handle this burden.

Let's go back to Ohio and take the case of National City, which has been an institution headquartered in Ohio, in Cleveland, since 1845.

□ 2015

Now, Treasury's money, the taxpayers' money, our money, went to another out-of-state bank, PNC, of Pittsburgh, whose vice president, Mr.

Demchuk, invented the derivative instrument. They came to Ohio, PNC, and they bought National City Bank, putting all the National City Bank employees on notice with pink slips, 4,000 of them, that they would be out of work on the tape. PNC became bigger.

So what Mr. Kashkari did was take our money and give it to PNC, that hasn't worked out any of its mortgage loans. They, then, came to Ohio and bought out National City Bank. So PNC got bigger, our banking system gets more concentrated, and PNC became more powerful. Some say they actually have price control power now over all of Western Pennsylvania.

So, PNC got \$7.5 billion from us. Cleveland and Ohio lose a Fortune 500 company. They lose 4,000 National City Bank workers, and in Ohio, foreclosures are raging. And Ohio, it gets nothing. We get nothing. We need \$20 billion just to fix what's wrong in Ohio. But all we get is more foreclosures.

Now, take another institution. In 2008, Citigroup, one of the main culprits that caused the financial meltdown, was bestowed \$25 billion. They got more than PNC. They got it from us, the taxpayer. And then they just kept foreclosing. In my district alone, another 235 families just were told, you're out of your house.

Last November I found an advertisement in my local paper that said there was going to be an auction in my home community, and I was surprised. I didn't know the company coming in. It was called Hudson and Marshall of Dallas, Texas. So I went to the auction.

And guess what? Citigroup was one of the banks selling the properties through Hudson Marshall. I attended. And I watched homes in my community sold for as little as \$7,900, a price so low that we could have put the original owners back in those homes.

Not only was Citigroup auctioning homes that night, but so were lots of other bailout recipients. Those are the banks that got the money from Treasury through us. Here they are: Wells Fargo, US Bank, Deutsche Bank, ABN/Amro, Chase Home Finance, Fifth Third Bank, Standard Federal, and LaSalle. They all got the money, and then they turned their backs on the very people that they were meant to help. That's what the people who passed the bailout bill last year said, that we would help those being foreclosed. But that hasn't happened.

It is clear that the recipients of the Treasury money are unwilling to craft real workouts. And so what happens in our region is people just keep getting kicked out of their homes.

Wall Street hired the auction company from Dallas, Texas. They didn't even hire an Ohio auctioneer. They came to our region. They sold all those properties for very little money. And they're going to get big, huge tax losses written off their IRS filings for the tax year of 2008.

But where are our families who lost their homes? Out on the street. Our

people lost their homes and they lost their way of life.

I would like to invite Mr. Kashkari and Secretary Paulson and all the PNC executives to come to Ohio. I want you to live in one of the neighborhoods that your actions have affected. We're going to give you a little heater, a Bunsen burner heater overnight so you don't get too cold in those houses. And we'd like you to experience the results of what you are doing to the American people. You're holed up here in Washington with lots of security.

We need to get people back on Main Street. That's where we represent. Last year 4,100 homes, just in my home county, were foreclosed. And in the last 2½ years, 10 percent of the properties in my home community foreclosed. 10 percent of the entire housing stock. And as foreclosure rates continue to rise in places like Ohio, it's pretty obvious that's what's happening here in Washington isn't connecting to Main Street.

Why don't people here see that? Why are people afraid to look at the details of what's being proposed to us and say, no, no, to the banksters?

Sadly, Hudson and Marshall, the auction house that Wall Street hired to sell all those homes in my community, they're coming to your town too. This month alone they're slated to be in several cities, in Michigan, Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey. Think about this. Think how much money they are making. And they're going to auction at least 1,455 properties. They've now sold over 70,000 homes just in the last few years, and they are expecting, just this one company, to sell another, to auction another 30,000 properties in 2009.

Mr. Paulson and Mr. Kashkari, your program isn't working.

What is happening is an outrage to the American people, and they are being asked to pay for this. There shouldn't be any more TARP bills clearing this Congress. Full hearings must be held in the communities being affected, not some little hearing up here in one room in the Capitol on one afternoon or in a couple of hours. We need to use our power to get to the truth and represent the voters that sent us here.

Equity is bleeding profusely from our communities, and the sheer volume of the properties sold at auction is disturbing. Financial institutions which have been capitalized through the TARP program have failed to do mortgage workouts. FDIC and SEC are the institutions to take care of this mess, and they must be required to do mortgage workouts, rather than foreclosing on homes and participating in these auctions.

Hudson and Marshall stated in a press release today that they have made over \$1.2 billion recently doing auctions. \$1.2 billion. These are dollars that could have been turned to do mortgage workouts at the local level and put people back in their homes.

The intent of the TARP was to help stabilize our financial system, which includes, in large measure, our housing industry. Yet, what are the financial institutions doing? Enriching themselves, merging, creating mega-giant institutions and foreclosing on families, rather than working to stabilize families and neighborhoods across this country.

A stable home permits people to focus on obtaining and maintaining employment, purchasing food and contributing to society in positive ways, rather than relying on Social Services funded by State and Federal dollars.

We see communities falling apart. Community members and local banks are effectively locked out of the opportunity to reinvest in themselves because monies from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which we were told would get to the communities so they could buy these homes, guess what? They're not there. They weren't there in October. They weren't there in November, they weren't there in December. They're not there in January. Now we're told maybe they'll be there by March. Nobody seems to know. So all of these programs that were supposed to work to help the American people who are paying the bill aren't working.

No second round of bailout money, under TARP, should emerge from this Congress unless real hearings are held under all the committees of jurisdiction, unless the subpoena powers of this Congress are used, and that the victims of this crisis can have their voices heard in the deliberative process, not just here in Washington but where they live, where we live, in the real America. The committees should treat the American people with respect, and they should travel to the communities most impacted.

Why should we trust the banksters, those Wall Street banks that are going to be up here again this week, as we watch families in our regions pushed over the edge every day of every month, as the year proceeds?

Mr. Speaker, this is probably the worst financial crime I've ever seen committed against the American people. And yet, Congress seems almost somnambulant. It seems to be walking around in a daze, the institution largely shut down, all of this happening before the new President even assumes office.

Think about the politics of the timing of this. I think the new President should suspend foreclosures. He should make a statement on that, and he should ask that this action be suspended. What's going to happen in 7 days that hasn't happened already? And then assume office and appoint people at the FDIC and SEC who will use the normal means to resolve real estate problems across the banking system of this country.

To give \$350 billion more, 1/3 of a trillion dollars, to the banksters who have led America to this precipice, is absolutely backwards.

I ask my colleagues, wake up.

I ask the American people, get your calls coming in. Let's let the new President and the new Congress use the full powers they have been given to address this deeply, deeply rooted economic crisis. Until we fix the housing crisis, and we get those real estate loans worked out on the books of institutions locally, and we stand up to Wall Street, we are not going to fix this problem, and the American people are going to continue to bleed, and that is morally wrong. That is simply morally wrong.

I agree with the new President-elect who said he believes in a moratorium on foreclosures. That ought to happen until he puts people in place who can remedy this problem without \$350 billion more dollars walking out the door before he even assumes office. As a former community organizer, he must know the pain that exists across this country.

And just because Wall Street has more money and a lot of political power doesn't mean that it's right. We, as a Congress, must do what's right for the American people. We must say "no" to the second \$350 billion, and we must represent the people who depend on us to do what's right for them and right for the country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2050

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN) at 8 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Rules:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2009.

The Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I am writing to notify you of my resignation from the Committee on Rules, effective January 14, 2008.

I appreciate the incredible opportunity you gave me to serve on this important committee two years ago. As a new Member of Congress, the Committee on Rules provided me with an invaluable introduction to the legislative process and a key opportunity to serve Vermonters. I look forward now to working on the pressing national issues as a new member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

PETER WELCH,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Rules:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I am writing to notify you of my resignation from the Committee on Rules, effective January 14, 2009. I enjoyed serving on such a prestigious Committee and look forward to serving on the Committee on Energy and Commerce Committee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BETTY SUTTON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Rules:

JANUARY 12, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I am writing to notify you of my resignation from the Rules Committee, effective January 14, 2009. It was an honor to serve you and Chairwoman Slaughter as a freshman member of this prestigious committee.

I look forward to continuing to serve you from the Energy and Commerce Committee in the 111th Congress.

Sincerely,

KATHY CASTOR,
United States Representative,
Florida District 11.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 13, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Capitol
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Republican Leader, House of Representatives,
Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER
BOEHNER: I am writing to tender my resignation
from the House Veterans' Affairs Commit-
tee for the 111th Congress effective today,
January 13, 2009. It has been an honor to
serve with Chairman Filner and Ranking
Member Buyer, as well as the other members
of the Committee, to ensure the needs of our
veterans remain a national priority.

I remain committed to making certain
that our veterans receive the best quality of
care, benefits, and services that the United
States is able to provide. Locally, the Day-
ton VA Medical Center, and all Miami Valley
and Ohio veterans will remain a top priority.

Since my election to Congress I have been
proud to support all of our nation's veterans
through increases in VA funding and support-
ing the Wounded Warrior Assistance
Act, which is aimed at improving the transi-
tion between DoD and VA medical care. Ad-
ditionally, I was able to support final pas-
sage of the GI Bill modernization, which ex-
panded veterans education benefits and al-
lows them to transfer their unused benefits
to their immediate family members.

Locally, I have been able to advocate for
the 500-bed Dayton VA Medical Center,
which is one of the three original VA "sol-
diers' homes" created by President Lincoln
after the Civil War. This facility is the sec-
ond largest federal installation in my Con-
gressional District, and is an important
community asset. I worked to ensure the Com-
munity Living Center, which was slated for
closure, remained open and also received ad-
ditional money for a state-of-the-art renova-
tion. I was also proud to help rural veterans
in my community continue to have access to
important screening services close to home.

I have recently been named the Ranking
Republican on the Strategic Forces Sub-
committee of the House Armed Services
Committee. This leadership position requires
a great deal of commitment and is a unique
opportunity to continue my service to en-
sure our national security.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served
on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee
for the past four years. Because of the com-
mitment of all members on this distin-
guished committee, we have made great
strides in caring for our veterans, and I know
that the trend will continue. Please have
your staff contact Joseph Heaton (jo-
seph.heaton@mail.house.gov) at 225-6465 if
my office can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL R. TURNER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without
objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr.
Speaker, by direction of the Demo-
cratic Caucus, I offer a privileged reso-
lution and ask for its immediate con-
sideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as fol-
lows:

H. RES. 51

Resolved, That the following named Mem-
bers be and are hereby elected to the fol-

lowing standing committees of the House of
Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—
Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California, Mr. Capuano,
Mr. Gonzalez, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr.
Davis of Alabama.

(2) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Mr. Perlmutter,
Ms. Pingree of Maine, Mr. Polis of Colorado.

SEC. 2. Paragraph (5) of House Resolution
24, One Hundred Eleventh Congress, agreed
to January 7, 2009, is amended by striking
"Mr. Bishop of Utah," and inserting "Mr.
Bishop of New York,".

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (during
the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unani-
mous consent that the resolution be
considered as read and printed in the
RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gen-
tleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon
the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO- VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2, CHILDREN'S HEALTH IN- SURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHOR- IZATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the
Committee on Rules, submitted a privi-
leged report (Rept. No. 111-1) on the
resolution (H. Res. 52) providing for
consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to
amend title XXI of the Social Security
Act to extend and improve the Chil-
dren's Health Insurance Program, and
for other purposes, which was referred
to the House Calendar and ordered to
be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO- VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 384, TARP REFORM AND AC- COUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the
Committee on Rules, submitted a privi-
leged report (Rept. No. 111-2) on the
resolution (H. Res. 53) providing for
consideration of the bill (H.R. 384) to
reform the Troubled Assets Relief Pro-
gram of the Secretary of the Treasury
and ensure accountability under such
Program, which was referred to the
House Calendar and ordered to be
printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of ab-
sence was granted to:

Mr. BOUCHER (at the request of Mr.
HOYER) for today and the balance of
the week.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to
address the House, following the legis-
lative program and any special orders
heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the re-
quest of Mr. CHANDLER) to revise and
extend their remarks and include ex-
traneous material:)

Mr. REYES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CHANDLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFALZO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the re-
quest of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and
extend their remarks and include ex-
traneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes,
today, January 14 and 15.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes,
January 14 and 15.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, January
14.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for 5 minutes,
today.

SENATE ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signa-
ture to an enrolled Joint Resolution of
the Senate of the following title:

S.J. Res. 3. Ensuring that the compensa-
tion and other emolument attached to the
office of Secretary of the Interior are those
which were in effect on January 1, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr.
Speaker, I move that the House do now
adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accord-
ingly (at 8 o'clock and 54 minutes
p.m.), the House adjourned until to-
morrow, Wednesday, January 14, 2009,
at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive
communications were taken from the
Speaker's table and referred as follows:

46. A letter from the Administrator, De-
partment of Agriculture, transmitting the
Department's "Major" final rule — Walnuts
Grown in California; Section 610 Review
[Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0010; FV08-984-610
Review] received January 7, 2009, pursuant to
5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on
Agriculture.

47. A letter from the Administrator, De-
partment of Agriculture, transmitting the
Department's "Major" final rule — Toma-
toes Grown in Florida; Section 610 Review
[Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0009; FV08-966-610
Review] received January 7, 2009, pursuant to
5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on
Agriculture.

48. A letter from the Administrator, De-
partment of Agriculture, transmitting the
Department's "Major" final rule — Pears
Grown in Oregon and Washington; Section
610 Review [Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0008,
FV08-927-610 Review] received January 7,
2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the
Committee on Agriculture.

49. A letter from the Counsel for Legisla-
tion and Regulations, Department of Hous-
ing and Urban Development, transmitting
the Department's final rule — Revision of
Hearing Procedures [Docket No. FR-5084-F-
02] (RIN: 2501-AD24) received January 7, 2009,
pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Com-
mittee on Financial Services.

50. A letter from the Associate General
Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, De-
partment of Housing and Urban Develop-
ment, transmitting the Department's final

rule — Matching Requirements in McKinney-Vento Act Programs [Docket No. FR-5247-F-01] (RIN: 2506-AC24) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

51. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Deposit Insurance Requirements After Certain Conversions; Definition of "Corporate Reorganization;" Optional Conversions ("Oakar Transactions"); Additional Grounds for Disapproval of Changes in Control; and Disclosure of Certain Supervisory Information (RIN: 3064-AD25) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

52. A letter from the Director, FDIC Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Assessment Dividends (RIN: 3064-AD27) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

53. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (RIN: 3064-AD37) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

54. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Financial Education Programs That Include the Provision of Bank Products and Services (RIN: 3064-AD28) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

55. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Incidental Powers (RIN: 3133-AD12) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

56. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Share Insurance for Revocable Trust Accounts (RIN: 3133-AD54) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

57. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Display of Official Sign; Temporary Increase in Standard Maximum Share Insurance Amount; Coverage for Custodian Loan Accounts (RIN: 3133-AD55) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

58. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — MODERNIZATION OF OIL AND GAS REPORTING [Release Nos. 33-8995; 34-59192; FR-78; File No. S7-15-08] (RIN: 3235-AK00) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

59. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule — INDEXED ANNUITIES AND CERTAIN OTHER INSURANCE CONTRACTS [Release Nos. 33-8996; 34-59221; File No. S7-14-08] (RIN: 3235-AK16) received January 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

60. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the twenty-eighth annual report on the implementation of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 by departments and agencies

which administer programs of Federal financial assistance, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6106a(b); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

61. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Annual Report for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve covering calendar year 2007, in accordance with section 165 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

62. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Energy Conservation Program for Commercial and Industrial Equipment: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Ice-Cream Freezers; Self-Contained Commercial Refrigerators, Commercial Freezers, and Commercial Refrigerator-Freezers Without Doors; and Remote Condensing Commercial Refrigerators, Commercial Freezers, and Commercial Refrigerator-Freezers [Docket Number EERE-2006-BT-STD-0126] (RIN: 1904-AB59) received January 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

63. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement with India (Transmittal No. DDTC 134-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

64. A letter from the Acting Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

65. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to Pub. L. 110-252, Sec. 9204; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

66. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Interagency Working Group on U.S. Government-Sponsored International Exchanges and Training's annual inventory of U.S. Government-sponsored international exchange and training programs, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2460(f) and (g) Public Law 87-256, section Section 112(f) and (g); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

67. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on the status of consular training with respect to travel and identity documents, pursuant to Section 7201(d) of The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

68. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to section 10(d)(1) of the United Nations Participation Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

69. A letter from the Chair, CPB Board of Directors, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, transmitting the Corporation's semiannual report on the activities of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

70. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

71. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a re-

port entitled, "The Federal Government: A Model Employer or a Work In Progress?," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

72. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting a report regarding the agencies' competitive sourcing efforts, pursuant to Public Law 208-199, section 647(b) of Division F; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

73. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

74. A letter from the Captain, U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area Chief of Staff, Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard, transmitting the Department's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for USCG Pacific Operations: Districts 11 and 13, in accordance with the provisions of Section 102[2][c] of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

75. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's semi-annual report on the continued compliance of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, pursuant to Sections 402 and 409 of the 1974 Trade Act, as amended; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

76. A letter from the Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting a joint report that describes activities related to the Proliferation Security Initiative, including associated funding, that are planned to be carried out by the United States over the next three fiscal years, pursuant to Public Law 110-53, section 1821(b); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of January 3, 2009]

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the House Committee on Homeland Security for the 110th Congress (Rept. 110-940). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. Report on the Activities of the Committee on the Judiciary During the 110th Congress (Rept. 110-941). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SKELTON: Committee on Armed Services. Report of the Activities of the Committee on Armed Services for the 110th Congress (Rept. 110-942). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[Filed on January 13, 2009]

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 52. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes (Rept. 111-1). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. McGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 53. Resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program (Rept. 111-2). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 2. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself and Ms. SHEA-PORTER):

H.R. 460. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the credit for employers establishing workplace child care facilities, to increase the child care credit to encourage greater use of quality child care services, to provide incentives for students to earn child care-related degrees and to work in child care facilities, and to increase the exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WU (for himself, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BILBRAY, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. HALL of Texas):

H.R. 461. A bill to authorize the National Science Foundation to award grants to institutions of higher education to develop and offer education and training programs; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 462. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to improve dental benefits under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. ARCURI, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. DICKS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HARE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HODES, Mr. HOLT, Mr.

HONDA, Mr. INSLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KILROY, Mr. KIND, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBBACH, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIRETSKY, Mr. STARK, Ms. SUTTON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WU, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 463. A bill to expand access to preventive health care services that help reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women's health care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PRICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. FLEMING):

H.R. 464. A bill to provide for a 5-year SCHIP reauthorization for coverage of low-income children, an expansion of child health care insurance coverage through tax fairness, and a health care Federalism initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 465. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to permit States to ensure coverage without a 5-year delay of certain children and pregnant women under the Medicaid program and CHIP; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. FILNER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. McGOVERN, and Mr. ORTIZ):

H.R. 466. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination and acts of reprisal against persons who receive treatment for illnesses, injuries, and disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in the uniformed services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 467. A bill to put State and local governments and other public entity or instrumentality established under State law in the same position they would have been in had the Secretary of the Treasury and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System provided emergency financial assistance to Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase bonds issued by such financial institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 468. A bill to expand, train, and support all sectors of the health care workforce to care for the growing population of older individuals in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HALL of Texas:

H.R. 469. A bill to encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. JORDAN of Ohio):

H.R. 470. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for permanent tax incentives for economic growth; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALTMIRE (for himself and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 471. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide for a limitation on presidential discretion with respect to actions to address market disruption; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 472. A bill to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury by establishing the Family Foreclosure Rescue Corporation modeled on the successful Home Owner's Loan Corporation, and to purchase and insure home mortgage loans for the purposes of providing relief to homeowners, restoring stability to the financial system, preventing further harm to the economy, and protecting taxpayers; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself, Mr. FALOMAVAEGA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 473. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend eligibility under the new markets tax credit for community development entities created or organized in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOREN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

H.R. 474. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the

Indian employment credit and the depreciation rules for poverty used predominantly within an Indian reservation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 475. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to qualify formerly homeless youth who are students for purposes of low income housing tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 476. A bill to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JORDAN of Ohio:

H.R. 477. A bill to require the submission by the President of recommendations and proposed legislation to modernize, consolidate, reprioritize, and where necessary, terminate Federal programs, agencies, and activities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JORDAN of Ohio:

H.R. 478. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to require annual reviews by Inspectors General of the operations, efficiency, and effectiveness of Federal programs; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MATHESON (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. CAPPAS, Mr. REICHERT, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 479. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide a means for continued improvement in emergency medical services for children; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MICA (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOYD, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. MACK, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. ROONEY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. STEARNS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida):

H.R. 480. A bill to establish the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. OBERSTAR:

H.R. 481. A bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota to include existing hiking trails along Lake Superior's north shore and in Superior National Forest and Chippewa National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCHENRY, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. LINDER, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. GALLEGLY):

H.R. 482. A bill to authorize the rededication of the District of Columbia War Memo-

rial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial to honor the sacrifices made by American veterans of the World War I; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WU, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 483. A bill to safeguard the Crime Victims Fund; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROGERS of Michigan (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 484. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services and benefits for certain new beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 485. A bill to strengthen existing legislation sanctioning persons aiding and facilitating nonproliferation activities by the Governments of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 486. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an Inspector General for the judicial branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SKELTON:

H.R. 487. A bill to waive the 35-mile requirement for designation of a critical access hospital under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 488. A bill to decrease the matching funds requirement and authorize additional appropriations for Keweenaw National Historical Park in the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 489. A bill to improve the conduct of strategic communication by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 490. A bill to require a quadrennial review of the diplomatic strategy and structure of the Department of State and its related agencies to determine how the Department can best fulfill its mission in the 21st century and meet the challenges of a changing world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 491. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to waive non-Federal share requirements for certain transportation pro-

grams and activities through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut):

H. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the global use of child soldiers is unacceptable and that the international community should find remedies to end this practice; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CASTLE, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. PETRI, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WU, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. SIRES):

H. Res. 50. A resolution honoring the life of Claiborne Pell, distinguished former Senator from the State of Rhode Island; to the Committee on Education and Labor; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H. Res. 51. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H. Res. 54. A resolution celebrating the life of President Ronald Wilson Reagan on what would have been the anniversary of his 98th birthday; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Ms. HARMAN):

H. Res. 55. A resolution expressing support for the designation of a National Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month to raise awareness of and promote research into this challenging disorder; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. EHLERS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WU, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H. Res. 56. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, as "National School Counseling Week"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SIRES (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. REYES, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H. Res. 57. A resolution expressing the importance of swimming lessons and recognizing the danger of drowning in the United States, especially among minority children; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEARNS (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. MACK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr.

WEXLER, Mr. MICA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BOYD, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H. Res. 58. A resolution commending the University of Florida Gators for winning the Bowl Championship Series National Championship Game; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

1. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of Michigan, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31, memorializing Congress to reduce the price of traditional passports, by directly lowering the cost to consumers or by offering fully refundable federal income tax deductions to citizens who live in border states; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts introduced a bill (H.R. 492) for the relief of Esther Karange; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 13: Mr. CARNAHAN.
 H.R. 14: Ms. BORDALLO.
 H.R. 16: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mr. CRENSHAW.
 H.R. 20: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 21: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 23: Mr. KING of New York.
 H.R. 25: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
 H.R. 31: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. INSLEE.
 H.R. 32: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
 H.R. 81: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 106: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 111: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GALLEGLY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 124: Mr. KINGSTON.
 H.R. 137: Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. LINDER.
 H.R. 138: Mr. KINGSTON.
 H.R. 143: Mr. COLE.
 H.R. 147: Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 153: Mr. PAUL.
 H.R. 155: Mr. PAUL.
 H.R. 175: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. HINCHEY, and Ms. BORDALLO.
 H.R. 190: Mr. HODES.

H.R. 205: Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. FOXX, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 226: Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. TURNER, Mr. LATHAM, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.

H.R. 235: Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SHMKUS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. HILL.

H.R. 292: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN and Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 293: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 294: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 295: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 296: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 297: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 312: Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 331: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 333: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 365: Mr. FALCOMA VAEAGA.

H.R. 385: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 386: Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 412: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 416: Ms. CLARKE and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 417: Ms. CLARKE and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 420: Mr. BOOZMAN.

H.R. 430: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 433: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 444: Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. KUCINICH.

H.J. Res. 3: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. FORBES.

H. Con. Res. 17: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. WATT, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WATERS, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 18: Mr. SIRENS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PAUL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HARE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. TANNER, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. HODES, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPAS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.

H. Res. 19: Mr. REICHERT.

H. Res. 31: Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Res. 36: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mrs. MALONEY.

H. Res. 39: Mr. AKIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. BORDALLO,

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. DENT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, and Mr. TERRY.

H. Res. 40: Mr. HILL, Ms. BEAN, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. SHULER, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. BACA, Mr. BOYD, Mr. BARROW, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. KIND, Mr. KRATOVL, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SPACE, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BRIGHT.

H. Res. 41: Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Res. 43: Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SIRENS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BACA, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H. Res. 44: Mr. PLATTS.

H. Res. 45: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Res. 46: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 47: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and Labor in H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. RANGEL

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means in H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. FRANK OF MASSACHUSETTS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Financial Services, in H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. RANGEL

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means, in H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary, in H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 226: Mr. THOMPSON of California.