

As the time for reauthorization neared, producers and packers engaged again in a dialogue to develop a consensus proposal for reauthorization. H.R. 3408 is the product of this hard work. The coalition that supports this consensus legislation included the National Pork Producers Council, the American Meat Institute, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the American Sheep Industry Association, and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

This package, as it appears before us today, is a carefully crafted document. All of these organizations have agreed that they will oppose it "if any amendment is adopted that does not have the prior agreement" of the coalition.

Mandatory price reporting expires at the end of September, and this bill reauthorizes it for 5 years with minor changes representing the consensus of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) for working with us on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this issue. Policy is always best when we can work together in a bipartisan manner to craft legislation which we have done on this piece of legislation and we have legislation that addresses the needs of his stakeholders. I think we have accomplished that today with the reauthorization of the mandatory price reporting law.

I think it should be noted that when this was first put together and considered back in 1999, it was somewhat controversial and there were some groups that were opposed to it. And to show you kind of what has happened this time, the groups that were concerned back then support this law and support this reauthorization.

Originally, it was balanced to address the concerns of the livestock producers with price transparency, and mandatory price reporting I think has served the industry well. Mandatory price reporting is a necessary tool to ensure that our producers have a transparent market atmosphere. As the structure of our livestock production systems continue to change, it is necessary to preserve the safety net that guarantees our producers are receiving fair prices for their livestock.

The legislation we consider today improves the quality and quantity of information, making the process more accurate and more efficient. The 5-year reauthorization is important and should be completed as soon as possible. It is important that we complete this task so we can avoid the gap in reporting that occurred last year.

I am pleased to support this bill with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and I urge its passage.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no 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 Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3408, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3408.

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

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 240) supporting the goals and ideals of a national day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and encouraging all Americans to observe that day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 240

Whereas on August 25, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the southeast tip of Florida as a Category 1 hurricane;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina moved into the Gulf of Mexico, rapidly intensifying to a Category 5 hurricane and, on August 29, 2005, made landfall on the Gulf coast as a Category 4 hurricane with 140 mile-per-hour winds, devastating communities and towns in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana;

Whereas the levees protecting the city of New Orleans, Louisiana from Lake Pontchartrain failed, causing heavy flooding in the city and inflicting incredible human and material damage;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina caused the evacuation of the city of New Orleans, marking the first time a major American city has been completely evacuated;

Whereas the number of individuals killed by Hurricane Katrina is estimated to be in the hundreds;

Whereas the damage to human life and the fabric of families torn apart by Hurricane Katrina is inestimable;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina has inflicted enormous damage to homes and businesses along the Gulf Coast, with damage estimates in the hundreds of billions of dollars;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina left an estimated five million people without power,

and it may be months before all power is restored;

Whereas the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida have received federal disaster declarations;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina ranks among the worst natural disasters in our Nation's history;

Whereas years of intense effort will be required to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and to rebuild the Gulf Coast;

Whereas the American people have an inherent spirit of willpower and strong resilience;

Whereas the American people have opened their hearts and their homes to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, sheltering its victims, providing food and medical assistance, and donating hundreds of millions of dollars to the relief effort;

Whereas Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco declared August 31, 2005, to be a day of prayer in the State of Louisiana, and asked that all Louisianans take time that day to pray for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and their rescuers; and

Whereas President George W. Bush has proclaimed September 16, 2005, to be a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress supports the goals and ideals of a national day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and encourages all Americans to observe that day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 240.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 240. This resolution expresses the solidarity of the House of Representatives with the people of the Gulf Coast whose lives have been lost, uprooted, and otherwise changed forever because of Hurricane Katrina.

On August 29, Hurricane Katrina slammed into Louisiana as a Category 4 hurricane. It left almost the entire city of New Orleans under water and ravaged numerous other Gulf Coast communities. Hundreds of people were killed and millions forced to evacuate for an indefinite period of time. Katrina was one of the most destructive natural disasters that the United States has ever endured. The entire Nation has been grieving for more than 2 weeks.

President Bush proclaimed this Friday, September 16, to be a national day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. On behalf of all Members, I commend the President for this proclamation and urge all Americans to keep the victims of this storm in their prayers.

As a Floridian, I can particularly empathize with the people of the Gulf Coast. First, it is important to remember that before the hurricane gained power and hit Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, Katrina also struck south Florida as a Category 1 storm on August 25, killing 11 people. And last summer, in just over a one-month period, three devastating hurricanes, Charley, Frances and Ivan, destroyed neighborhoods, churches, businesses and communities throughout the State of Florida. These storms killed nearly 100 people and caused billions and billions of dollars in damage.

Hurricane Katrina has proved to be even more costly, and that is why I know I speak for all Americans when I say that we stand shoulder to shoulder with the victims of this once-in-a-lifetime storm.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Government Reform, of which I am very proud to be a member, will hold its first oversight hearing on the Federal government's overall response to Katrina tomorrow morning. The committee, led by our very distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), seeks to gauge the efficacy of the hurricane preparation and recovery effort, determine what lessons our government has learned, and evaluate the preparedness of other major U.S. cities to cope with disasters of all types in the future.

This Congress is overwhelmed with grief as a result of Katrina, and all Members are resolved to do everything possible to help to provide the necessary support to authorities and volunteers who are working to rebuild this area.

Mr. Speaker, as we mourn the souls we lost to the incredible force of nature that was Hurricane Katrina, we are compelled to recognize the back-breaking, selfless, life-preserving work of the altruistic military and law enforcement personnel, relief workers, volunteers and others. Their seemingly endless work has been in full gear for more than 2 weeks now, and we are all indebted to them for coming to the rescue of our Gulf Coast neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, September 11, the October 2003 wildfires, the hurricanes in Florida last summer, and now Hurricane Katrina, these tragic events in this country have all had similar remarkable silver linings, and that is each brought out the best in the American people. Americans are an incredibly compassionate people, and they have and will do anything to help their neighbors.

In recent days, there has been a colossal outpouring of benevolence and aid from citizens across this great land.

The citizens of the Gulf Coast region have desperately needed this support. But our Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama neighbors continue to need much more aid as so many lost their homes, their jobs, their precious belongings, and even their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I know my distinguished colleagues will support this resolution, and I commend the sponsor. I urge Americans to observe the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Hurricane Katrina victims on Friday.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the people of North and South Carolina that they, too, have our prayers as they brace for Hurricane Ophelia making landfall today.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina first made landfall on August 25, 2005, on the southeastern tip of Florida as a Category 1 hurricane. Hurricane Katrina then moved into the Gulf of Mexico and steadily made her way towards the Gulf Coast, intensifying to a Category 5 storm.

On August 29, 2005, the hurricane was a Category 4 storm which sustained winds of 140 miles per hour and a storm surge over 20 feet when she devastated the Gulf Coast.

□ 1045

Hurricane Katrina swept along the coasts of Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana, leaving a path of destruction in her wake. Two of the levees that protect the city of New Orleans from the waters of Lake Pontchartrain gave way under the enormous pressure of the flood waters that Katrina left behind.

Overnight, much of the city of New Orleans was filled with water. Many residents of the Crescent City, who had thought the worst was over, were confronted by nearly 25 feet of water in the streets and in their homes.

One of the worst natural disasters in United States history, Hurricane Katrina has resulted in economic losses that include property damage to homes, cars, ports, refineries, and public property. It is estimated that Hurricane Katrina has cost at least \$125 billion in economic damage and could cost the insurance industry up to \$60 billion in claims. No dollar figure, however, can be placed on the pain and suffering Katrina has wrought on those who stood in her path.

The American people and the international community have responded overwhelmingly to this tragedy. They are donating money, lending their time, sharing expertise, making many innumerable sacrifices of their own in order to be helpful.

On August 31, 2005, Governor Kathleen Blanco declared a day of prayer in Louisiana and asked that all Louisianans pray for the victims and

their rescuers that day. On September 16, 2005, the National Day of Prayer will be observed in recognition of the many lives lost and the countless lives forever changed by Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of the way in which my own State, the Land of Lincoln, the State of Illinois, reacted to this tragedy. I take this opportunity to commend the Governor for opening the doors of the State, the county board president for extending physicians and nurses and other personnel to the affected areas, to the mayor of our city and especially to the people of my congressional district and all over the country who have given continuously in order to show that they, too, experienced the same devastation and that their hearts, their minds and their resources go out to the victims.

I would urge all of us to support a day of prayer.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas City, Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina is almost unfathomable. Hundreds of lives have been lost; families have been torn apart; people's homes, jobs, possessions and everything they have built up over their entire lives has been swept away; billions of dollars in damage has been inflicted; and the coast along the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida has been flattened and flooded. New Orleans, the Big Easy, the Crescent City, the culinary capital of the Nation, has simply become an extension of Lake Pontchartrain. It is now clear that Hurricane Katrina is one of the worst natural disasters to ever hit America.

My son Evan graduated in May from Dillard University in New Orleans and was still there when Katrina struck, and I thank God that he escaped with his life; but like so many others, he lost most of his possessions when Katrina pulled back the roof of the apartment building where he lived. Having now been separated from his friends, his work and his adopted city, his life will never be the same.

Although he lost almost everything, he was able to retrieve his video camera and was able to record what is now left of New Orleans. He shared that video with his mother and me this past week; and although I cannot fathom what it is like for those who have experienced Katrina's wrath firsthand, I can tell my colleagues that I was deeply, deeply saddened and affected by the images of utter devastation wrought by the storm.

Seeing that video reinforced my resolve to help Katrina's victims, help rebuild the Gulf Coast; and it reinforced in my mind that there is an incredible

need for prayer. That is why I decided to introduce this resolution for a national day of prayer and remembrance.

Many in our Nation believe, as do I, that prayer changes things and that it represents the highest level of human communication. As many of us now know, this Friday, September 16, has been designated as a day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina; and my resolution, the resolution we are currently considering, expresses the support of Congress for such a day and urges all Americans to join together this Friday to remember those that have lost their lives and to ask for strength and determination for those that are trying to rebuild their lives and their city.

In the wake of tragedy, the American people have always stepped up to support their fellow man and woman, and Hurricane Katrina is no different. The American people have opened their hearts, their checkbooks and even their homes in sheltering the storm's victims, providing food and medical assistance, and donating hundreds of millions of dollars to the relief effort.

In my home State of Missouri, for example, Children's Mercy Hospital of Kansas City, Missouri, has opened their doors to a number of young patients and families flown in from New Orleans by the Missouri Air National Guard, and the Red Cross has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in Kansas City.

The compassion and generosity of the American people is unparalleled; but as the devastation and full impact of Hurricane Katrina is further understood, its victims and their families will more than ever need us all to keep them in our thoughts and prayers as well.

As senior pastor of the St. James United Methodist Church in Kansas City, I have called on my congregation to support the evacuees with their time, talent, treasure and prayer. I have asked them to pray for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, their families and all those who are aiding in the recovery and relief effort.

I hope my colleagues will all join me in the support of this resolution and will join me in prayer, along with the President, at the National Cathedral this Friday and join the American people to remember all those affected by the devastating events of the past 2 weeks.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just state that I agree wholeheartedly with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) that prayer is the highest form of human communication; that it has a way of making things different. So I would simply urge passage of this resolution and thank him for its introduction.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of what denomination one belongs to, we all

know the power of prayer; and that is one reason why I am sure that my colleagues will join me in supporting the National Day of Prayer for Hurricane Katrina victims.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 240.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3132, CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 436 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 436

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3132) to make improvements to the national sex offender registration program, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by title rather than by section. Each title shall be considered as read. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII and except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment so printed may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 436 is a modified open rule that provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. This rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. It provides that the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule and that it shall be read by title.

It makes in order only those amendments to the bill that are preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD or are pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate, provides that each amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or a designee, and that each amendment shall be considered as read. It provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of House Resolution 436 and the underlying bill, H.R. 3132, the Children's Safety Act of 2005.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Chairman SENSENBRENNER for this comprehensive bill addressing the unconscionable atrocities perpetrated against our children by sexual predators and for his committee's thorough work and committed devotion to seeing this bill realized.

Mr. Speaker, this fight is not a new one. The sexual and physical abuse of our most fragile and defenseless citizens, our children, is perhaps the most offensive and utterly unconscionable act that can be committed.

□ 1100

Members on both sides of the aisle recognize the need to continually find new ways to prevent sexual abuse and to thoroughly and justly punish those who commit these heinous acts.

The Children's Safety Act of 2005 would combat the sexual exploitation and abuse of our children through mounting an offensive on numerous fronts and through combining various pieces of good, solid legislation into this one comprehensive bill. The final product compiles the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, the DNA Fingerprinting Act of 2005, the Prevention and Deterrence of Crimes Against Children Act of 2005, the Protection Against Sexual Exploitation of Children Act of 2005, and the Foster Child Protection Act of 2005.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3132 is a commonsense bill. For too long the laws have