



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2005

No. 145

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9:00 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal God and Lord of history, each day this Nation seeks Your blessing that we may know the ways that are righteous and be protected from evil.

The revered Abraham Lincoln spoke of the "mystic chords of memory." He was convinced that heroes and heroines of the past inspire people presently to make bold steps into the future.

Thus, Congress makes laws today by building upon the past.

Lord, for Lincoln, the profound obligation and duties of the Constitution were so strong that there is a link of the living with the dead and with the unborn of a new generation.

Fidelity to the Constitution is a guarantee to the future, because the living are determined "that representative government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALLONE 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minutes on each side.

### DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, a debate is brewing in Congress that will have a significant impact on the future of this Nation. There are two clearly defined sides in this debate. On the one hand are fiscal conservatives such as myself who want to cut government spending and rein in the Federal deficit. On the other hand are folks who believe that more government spending is the answer to all our problems, and these folks will raise your taxes to pay for it.

In light of the high cost associated with hurricane relief, our budget's \$35 billion savings package is simply not enough. The good news is that Congress now has the rare opportunity to rein in Federal spending by \$50 billion and reform decades-old programs that are often duplicative and ineffective.

It is disappointing that many of my Democratic colleagues are fighting the Deficit Reduction Act. Even though they complain about the deficit, they would like to increase spending by billions of dollars. These Members have no plan to reduce the deficit. Their only answer is to raise taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the last thing we need is more of the old tax-and-spend mentality. The Deficit Reduction Act gives us an opportunity to streamline our government, reform ineffective programs, cut spending, and provide greater accountability. It is time for this important legislation to pass.

### REPUBLICANS ARE NOT ADDRESSING THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans tout their budget bill as fiscally responsible, but the American

people should not be deceived. It is nothing more than another attempt to cut taxes for the wealthiest few on the backs of America's college students and America's Medicaid and food stamp recipients.

The cuts House Republicans will attempt to bring to the House floor next week are nothing but cruel. It has only been 2 months, and Republicans have already forgotten about the poverty stricken people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

While Republicans cut \$50 billion in Federal programs, they also give \$70 billion in tax cuts to the wealthiest few. That means the Republican budget bill will increase the deficit by \$20 billion. Again, increase the deficit. And Republicans call themselves fiscally responsible? Well, the American people will be watching next week, and they will not be deceived.

### PROTECTING PATIENT PRIVACY

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, nearly all Americans' personal health information remains at some risk. More than one in four health insurance plans and almost one in three care providers have indicated that they experience data security breaches of personal health information.

The problem is that only 43 percent of health care providers comply with Federal laws that protect an unauthorized disclosure of health information. As the U.S. slowly expands its use of electronic health records, Congress needs to shift from the current complaint-driven approach to enforcing privacy standards to proactively defending patients' personal information. Every American should be able to know that their medical records are secure.

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H9643

My legislation, H.R. 2234, would keep electronic medical records safe, ensure that patients have access to their own records, and notify them when information is accessed by an unauthorized user, thus reducing risk. Ensuring health data security is important for all Americans to have confidence in their hospital.

I would urge my colleagues to learn more about protecting patient privacy for the 21st century by visiting my Web site at [murphy.house.gov](http://murphy.house.gov).

#### BROWN STILL EMPLOYED BY DHS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, it might shock everyone to know that former FEMA Director Michael Brown is still on the government's payroll. Michael Brown is still earning a \$148,000 annual salary.

"Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job."

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff agreed to extend Mr. Brown's contract for yet another 30 days.

Michael Brown's recent e-mails that have now been made public show he was more interested during the crisis in his dinner reservations and his attire than getting food, water, and medical supplies to those New Orleans residents, and yet he is still getting paid by the taxpayers.

We should not be shocked. This is accountability Bush style, and the only people that get fired by the President are those who tell the truth. Look at what happened with Michael Brown and look at what happened to General Shinseki who told the truth and who was fired.

Mr. Speaker, this administration gives a whole new meaning to job security. We can do better. It is time for new priorities. It is time for a change.

#### A VICTORY FOR ALL AMERICANS

(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, our country has been built by innovative men and women who have devoted their lives to owning their homes and businesses. As a former real estate attorney, I know firsthand that ownership is an important component of the American dream.

In June, the rights of property owners recently came under attack when the Supreme Court issued a decision giving local governments the power to seize private property from one private party and give it to another. By valuing potential tax revenues and economic development over the private rights of American citizens, the court delivered a dangerous decision that misinterprets our Constitution and threatens our core values.

Led by sponsor HENRY BONILLA and Chairman BOB GOODLATTE, the House of Representatives acted last night to restore power to American citizens. By passing the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2005, Congress voted to ensure property owners truly have control over their homes, businesses, and organizations. This legislation is an important victory for all Americans.

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

#### JUSTIFYING WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. One of the attempted false justifications for the war in Iraq was that Iraq was trying to get uranium from Niger to make nuclear weapons. This lie and the attempts to justify it are key to understanding not only the Libby indictments but to understanding why we are in Iraq.

Who forged the Niger documents? What role did Italian intelligence have in the forgeries? What role did the White House Iraq group have in falsely promoting the phony nuclear threat? Who forged the Niger documents? Who took us to war on false pretenses, sending thousands of our beloved soldiers to their deaths?

Sign House Resolution 505. Support that, because that requests the President and directs the Secretary of State to provide to the House of Representatives certain documents in their possession relating to the White House Iraq group.

#### TIME TO FORGIVE AND MOVE ON

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there are some people that just cannot seem to get beyond these allegations about the President of the United States lying to us. Over and over we are told the President of the United States lied to us. But I am not sure that that is actually the case. There is evidence. Even Joe Wilson's initial oral report to his superiors indicated some support for that idea that Saddam was trying to get weapons of mass destruction. Perhaps, maybe the President lied to us. Maybe his wife, who reportedly said the same thing, maybe they did lie to us.

Maybe it is because of my Christian background that teaches forgiveness, but I say: In order for this country to move on, it is time to forgive President Bill Clinton if it was a lie and move on.

#### REPUBLICAN BUDGET PRIORITIES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, we have the new-found foe, fiscal conservatives on that side of the aisle. They control everything, the House, the White House, the Senate. They have increased the debt of the United States 62 percent in the last 5 years to \$8 trillion, and now they want to cut spending.

Now, what spending are they targeting? Is it the big wasteful spending? No. It is duplicative programs like school lunch and breakfast. I guess those kids are taking two meals. Or student loans. I guess those kids are taking a double load of classes and paying too much. So they will cut \$50 billion, and the next week they are going to cut taxes for those who earn over \$300,000 a year by \$70 billion.

Now, in their world, even though that is a \$20 billion increase in the real deficit, they say, no, that is not an increase in the deficit, because those rich people, why, they are just going to trickle down on the rest of America. They are going to put the rest of us to work, and they are going to increase productivity, and some day that will increase Federal revenues because working people pay taxes, not rich people, in their world. This is a bizarre turn of events here in Washington, D.C., and their cuts and their tax cuts should be rejected.

#### WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3057, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 532 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 532

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution