

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

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the FY2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill, which provides \$2.325 billion for international assistance programs, \$162 million above the House-passed level. The bill provides \$1.485 billion for Iraq reconstruction and fully funds the administration's request for Afghanistan.

I am particularly pleased that the conference report provides \$50 million above the President's requests for Sudan, Liberia and Jordan as well as \$20 million for Haiti. I am also pleased that we were able to include an additional \$25 million for refugee assistance and \$25 million in disaster assistance above the request level.

In light of the escalating security costs in Iraq and Afghanistan, I regret that we were not able to fully fund the administration's request for operating expenses, but I am pleased that the conference report significantly increases funding above the House-passed level.

While the conference report fully funds the President's request for assistance to Afghanistan, \$46 million in program funds for that country is not even a drop in the bucket. In light of the increasing violence and fragile political situation in Afghanistan, it is shameful that the administration failed to push for the \$600 million that Ambassador Neumann indicated was necessary.

I applaud the funding in this bill for Sudan and for other humanitarian needs in Africa. However, I was disappointed that the administration did not seek robust funding for the fledgling democracy in Liberia and the critical transition in Haiti. The funding added by Congress—an additional \$50 million for Liberia and \$20 million for Haiti—will provide critical short-term support to meet refugee and humanitarian needs as well as help to stabilize these countries during the initial months of their transitions.

I regret that our conference allocation only allowed us to maintain half of the \$100 million for Jordan that was passed by the Senate. Jordan has been a steadfast and important ally in the war on terror, as was clearly demonstrated by the assistance of Jordanian intelligence in the targeting of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. It is a shame that arbitrary limits placed on this supplemental have prevented us from fully funding this priority country.

Finally, let me speak to the bulk of the funding in the Foreign Operations section of the bill, which is for activities in Iraq. I support the additional funding because I think we owe our men and women in uniform in Iraq every chance to enhance their safety and return home speedily. To this end, I am glad that the conference report includes at least \$50 million for democracy and governance activities and \$50 million for the Community Action Program. These programs are having a tremendous im-

pact and are more cost effective than many of the investments we have made thus far.

However, I am dismayed that neither the House nor the Senate included placed these additional funds under the oversight mandate of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. By failing to include this language, the House and Senate majority sent a clear message to American taxpayers that while Congress expects them to bear the burden of reconstructing Iraq, we are not interested in taking every precaution necessary to ensure that their money is accountably and effectively spent.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

HONORING DR. DONALD R. KENNON ON HIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and pay tribute to a friend who, today, is marking his 25th anniversary with the United States Capitol Historical Society. Dr. Donald R. Kennon is the Society's Chief Historian and Vice President of Scholarship and Education.

A humble man, Dr. Kennon's career has been marked by accomplishment. He is the author of two books for the Society, including *The Speakers of the House of Representatives: A Bibliography* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985), and *The Committee on Ways and Means: A Bicentennial History, 1789–1989* (Government Printing Office, 1989), and has edited more than a dozen volumes of the Society's symposia publications.

He has been Chief Historian since 1987 after joining the Society in 1981 as an Associate Historian. He holds a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Maryland and has taught as a visiting professor at the University of New Mexico. His doctoral dissertation focused on antebellum reform in a changing society, both legally and morally in the years surrounding the Civil War.

He is treasurer of the Abraham Lincoln Institute, a scholarly organization founded in 1998 to garner public attention on writings and research regarding our nation's 16th president.

Dr. Kennon has also very ably directed educational symposia, publications and outreach programs, while writing and lecturing about the history of this body, Congress, and the Capitol.

An avid collector, Dr. Kennon has one of the area's largest collections of antique stereographic images, including many of the Capitol building and Congress. He has a keen sense of humor and loves baseball. When he's not at games, he collects antique radios and vintage slot machines.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Dr. Kennon and I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in congratulating him on 25 years at the United States Capitol Historical Society and in wishing him continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the following bills on June 12, 2006:

H. Res. 794, Recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes (Rollcall No. 251): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 804, Condemning the unauthorized, inappropriate, and coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the People's Republic of China (Rollcall No. 252): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 608, Condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China (Rollcall No. 253). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H. Con. Res. 338, Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere (Rollcall No. 254). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

And finally, Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" with regard to Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 857, waiving points of order against consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006 (Rollcall No. 255).

HONORING ZACH SHEEHAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a student from Southerland Hills Middle School in Boulder, Colorado.

Zach Sheehan has been selected to present his award winning history project at the Smithsonian National Museum of America. Zack's project was one of a handful selected by the National History Day program from hundreds of thousands nationwide.

Each project reflected on this year's National History Day theme, "Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events." Zack's project highlighted a scientist in Boulder who has had a major impact on increasing public awareness of global warming and helping spur the government to slow global warming.

It is my view that, as the world leader in science and technology, the United States must develop solutions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These solutions are of vital importance to protecting our planet's resources and permitting the economic and social progress for our Nation and the world.

In the Old Hall of the House of Representatives, Clio, the Muse of History, stands in a winged chariot representing the passage of time. Clio is looking back; recording events as they occur. Mr. Speaker, this statue served as a poignant reminder to our forbearers of the importance of history as a guide to and a watchdog for the history that is made here every day.

History education is an integral part of the education of future generations of Americans. I would like commend the National History Day program for empowering teachers to improve history education and influencing students to follow Zack Sheehan's exemplary example.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to a special company in Ohio. This year, The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company in Bascom, Ohio, celebrates 100 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company in Bascom, Ohio, is one of the oldest mutual telephone companies in the State of Ohio. Founded in 1906, The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company has succeeded in providing quality telephone service to the residents of Bascom, Ohio.

Beginning operations on February 22, 1906, The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company, known as Bascom Farmers Mutual Telephone Company from 1916 to 1953, began providing telephone service to the residents of Bascom, Ohio.

At the time of its inception in 1906, The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company began operations with only eighteen members seeking the company's services. Today, The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company, who is a vital component to the telecommunications infrastructure of Northwest Ohio, proudly serves over 940 members.

Throughout the decades, The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company, as a product of Seneca County, has clearly distinguished itself as an innovator and industry leader. Through a dedicated workforce, top-notch facilities, and excellent customer service, The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company has set a benchmark for how to run a successful business.

The real success of The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company comes not only from the technological advancements of its facilities, but from its employees. The management and staff of The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company have indeed provided their customers with the service and dependability that are expected of a first-class company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the employees and the legacy of The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company. As all who benefit from this fine establishment gather to celebrate its 100th anniversary of service, I am confident that the excellent employees will continue the successes of The Bascom Mutual Telephone Company into the future.

TRIBUTE TO MOUNT PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the historic Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina as it celebrates its 153rd anniversary on June 25, 2006. Mount Pisgah has been a beacon in times of joy and sorrow for the Orangeburg community, and I congratulate Reverend D. Edward Chaney and his congregation on this significant milestone in the life of the church.

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church began as a gathering of a small group of Christian slaves in 1863. Two years later, this group broke off from the First Baptist Church in Orangeburg. They called their new church Sunny Side Baptist. By 1868, the congregation had grown to fifty members, and two years later they changed the name to Mount Pisgah Baptist Church. The renamed church began to grow in size and its ministry. By 1877, Mount Pisgah boasted a congregation of 283 members.

The 20th century was momentous in the life of Mount Pisgah. Remarkably from 1901 until 2000, the church had only three pastors. Reverend Nelson Nix presided over the congregation from 1900–1945. During his ministry, the first church building burned in 1902. However, Reverend Nix and the congregation rebuilt the structure that is still in use today.

Reverend John D. Rhodes served as Mount Pisgah's pastor from 1945–1968, and was followed by Reverend F.G.S. Everett who led the congregation from 1969–2001. During Reverend Everett's distinguished service, Mount Pisgah was listed on the Registry of Historical Places.

Today, Reverend Chaney presides over a dynamic church that is among the oldest in Orangeburg and South Carolina. The church has added a multipurpose education complex, and more property has been acquired for future expansion. Due to the enormous growth in the church, Reverend Chaney has initiated a Million Dollar Capital Campaign for church improvements and new construction.

Mount Pisgah currently has 17 ministries that include an outreach radio broadcast that reaches far beyond Orangeburg County into neighboring Calhoun, Colleton, and Dorchester counties. The church is also renowned for its music ministry that performs inspired Christmas and Easter concerts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mount Pisgah Baptist Church on its 153rd anniversary. This vibrant church has contributed to the rich history of Orangeburg and South Carolina, and I offer my congratulations and wish Mount Pisgah continued success and Godspeed!

INTRODUCTION OF THE STEEL FINANCING FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Steel Financing Fairness Act. This bill

helps our Nation's beleaguered steel industry by stopping the government from forcing American steel workers to subsidize their foreign competitors. Specifically, the bill prohibits the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Export-Import Bank (EXIMBANK) from providing any assistance to countries that subsidize their steel industries. The Steel Financing Fairness Act also instructs the Secretary of the Treasury to reduce America's contribution to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by a prorated share of the IMF's assistance to countries that subsidize their steel industries.

One of the problems facing America's domestic steel industry is that it must compete with foreign industries that receive subsidies from their governments. Some of these subsidies are explicitly intended to provide these companies with a non-market advantage over American steel producers. The U.S. Government further compounds the damage caused by these subsidies by forcing the domestic steel producers to support their major competitors through taxpayer-funded programs.

For example, according to the most recent figures available, the five countries with the greatest EXIMBANK exposure are all among the top ten exporters of steel and/or steel products to the United States. In fact, EXIMBANK has provided almost \$20 billion of U.S. taxpayer support to these countries.

Meanwhile, OPIC has provided almost \$6 billion of the taxpayers' money to leading steel exporters. Thus, the American taxpayer has provided at least \$26 billion worth of support to the countries that are the leading competitors of the domestic steel industry. This does not count the funds provided these countries by the IMF. Since money is fungible, the practical effect of providing aid to countries which practice industrial policy is to free up resources these governments can use to further subsidize their steel industries. Thus, taxpayer dollars sent to foreign governments and industries can benefit foreign steel manufacturers even if American taxpayer money is not sent to directly benefit those industries.

However, hard as it may be to believe, organizations funded by American taxpayers actually use American tax dollars to directly assist foreign steel producers! For example, among the projects funded by EXIMBANK in recent years is an \$18 million loan guarantee to expand steel manufacturing in Red China.

Ironically, many of the supporters of these foreign giveaways claim to be promoters of free trade. This claim makes as much sense as a supporter of higher taxes and spending claiming to be a fiscally conservative supporter of limited government. Free trade is the peaceful exchange of goods and services across borders unhampered by government interference. Taxing American workers to support their overseas competitors is not free trade. Instead, it is corporatism designed to benefit certain politically powerful interests at the expense of American entrepreneurs and workers.

I have no doubt that America's steel industry can out-compete the steel industry of any country if allowed to compete on a level playing field. Unfortunately, due in part to government policy, today's playing field is in no way level. Congress must end this economically