

amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4200 which will be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and available on the Web sites of both the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Rules by tomorrow. The amendment in the nature of a substitute consists of the text of the bill ordered reported by the Committee on Agriculture with additional language for section 404 of the bill negotiated between the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

APPOINTMENT OF HONORABLE MAC THORNBERRY AND HONORABLE JOHN CAMPBELL TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH MAY 16, 2006

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 11, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY and the Honorable JOHN CAMPBELL to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through May 16, 2006.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointments are approved.

There was no objection.

WISHING MOTHERS HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity just a few days before Mother's Day to wish America's mothers a very happy Mother's Day.

We realize that mothers play so many different roles in our Nation. They are our soldiers, our factory workers, lawyers and doctor and office workers. They are also the workers that make America work; and, of course, our mothers come in all shapes, sizes, religions and of course with enormous diversity.

I wish for them a great and wonderful Mother's Day, and I hope as we plan our future in this Congress we realize that working women or mothers that stay at home care about their children, and that the work we will do will reflect on the goodness of our mothers, whether they are our extended mothers, mothers related to us by blood relationship, or mothers who have simply nourished us.

And might I simply pay tribute to my own late aunt, Valrie Bennett, and my own mother, Ivalita Jackson. For this reason, I think the reasons that mothers are always mothers, it is important to wish them a very happy Mother's Day. To the mothers of the Nation, happy Mother's Day.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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 of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

VOICE OF AMERICA

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of Mr. JONES.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect action regarding the porous borders of the United States. They expect and deserve leadership. Here is what some Americans are saying about our porous borders in correspondence they have sent to me.

Terrence Griffin from Spring, Texas, writes, "I am angry and fed up with the inaction and lack of leadership for immigration reform. Vote 'no' on amnesty. Illegal means illegal. Secure the borders first. We as Americans feel like thrown away stepchildren. I am taught that charity begins at home. America looks weak and reckless when it chooses to secure the borders of other nations, feed people of other nations and protect other nations when America is left unprotected, unsafe and unsecure."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. William Wainscott in Dayton, Texas, write, "Vote against amnesty and providing social services which are supported by the taxpayers. This has gone too long and too far. Our government law enforcement officials look the other way while our country is being invaded by people who choose to violate and disregard our system, that system being of legal entry and immigration. These illegals represent a major burden on taxpayers. They not only take away low-paying jobs, they take away good jobs. I should know. It is extremely difficult for an American citizen to get a job in the construction field because of the number of illegals getting preference in hiring. I speak from experience as a welder and a fitter. Because of preferential hiring practices of construction companies, the American has to look elsewhere for his employment."

Tracy Blackburn in Spring, Texas, writes, "A Los Angeles attorney brought into the case last week by the Mexican Consul General's office in Phoenix plans to file another motion claiming Maricopa County Attorney officials are violating State and Federal law because supposedly it is the Federal Government's job to control illegal immigration. Well, why is the Mexican Consul General able to use a local lawyer to try to prevent enforcement of American law? They are not U.S. citizens, what gives these people these rights? I am fed up with the illegal trespassers coming in here and demanding rights that they obviously do not have."

I also received a correspondence from a high school student from Humble, Texas. Jack writes to me, "I just wanted to express to you my feelings as part of the generation that will soon be voting. Though it is hard to get our voices out, as we are immediately hushed under the complaints of racism, many of my classmates, whether they are white, black or Hispanic, feel that the restriction of illegal immigrants is obviously a necessary action."

Further, Mr. Speaker, I have received correspondence from Richard of Houston. He says, "As Texans, we are on the front lines of this illegal invasion. If we fail to act, the future of our children, the next generation of Texans, is obviously at risk. I urge you to take all possible measures available, including support of local border law enforcement agencies, with the Texas National Guard to stop the threat to security and to our economy. Texans have always stood tall in the face of threats to our State and Nation. Because of the failure of national leadership, it is now this generation of Texans' turn to defend our land."

I have also received correspondence from Patricia in Houston. She says, "I am writing to let you know how I feel about the immigration issue. We have laws in effect that are not enforced. The illegal immigrants are breaking the law. They come over here and they do not want to melt into the melting pot of people. Please vote to shut down our borders and build a wall. I will even go down there and volunteer to help build that wall if necessary. You might be surprised how many people would volunteer to help build such a wall. And how dare people compare themselves to the immigrants that were our ancestors. They wanted to be Americans. They even changed their names to be more American. These people are taking Texas back one baby at a time and we are just allowing them. Most Americans, specifically those on the border States, feel that we need to close the border but are afraid of being called a racist. It has nothing to do with race, it has everything to do with the law."

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I received several cases of bricks from an individual down in Texas. With the cases of bricks that he has sent me this letter, "I am

sending you these bricks in support of an increase in the border security of the United States. These bricks should give you a start in building a wall. The American public demands some solutions to our open borders. A comprehensive border plan must include a security wall in some places, better technology, more funding of personnel for Border Patrol, and overall increased security presence on the southern border. When our borders are secure, then we can discuss the aspects of illegal immigration issues. We are tired of open borders, uncontrolled immigration, terrorist infiltration, criminal alien gangs, and all of the other horrors that arise due to our defenseless borders and unenforced immigration laws."

Mr. Speaker, the voice of America continues to cry out for us to enforce the rule of law, protect the dignity and safety of the American people. Government's number one job is public safety, and public safety starts at the border.

We have an obligation to stop the illegal invasion and stop the colonization of our country and homeland by foreign nations. Failure to do so will result in America being lost to foreign nations without even firing a shot.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is an important duty of all of us who serve here to pay respect, to express our gratitude, to join in the sorrow of those and their families who are serving this Nation in a time of war. I have tried very hard to do that whenever the occasion occurred. I have attended funerals of young men who were killed, and in one case a man not so young.

I was pleased on Saturday to attend a welcoming home ceremony for one young man who returned. I attended a ceremony to see off a group of Guardsmen.

The merits of the war are irrelevant when it comes to honoring and expressing our gratitude to those who have served.

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Having said that, I want to say that I deeply regretted that yesterday, Tuesday rather, I felt called upon to vote against a bill that was presented here under the suspension of the rules which allowed for no serious debate and zero chance of amendment, a bill which in part protected veterans' funerals from the disruption that they have encountered. And it is true that a particularly contemptible group of bigots are harassing people at some funerals. And we have every right and under the Constitution the power to stop it.

Sadly, a badly overdrafted bill was brought forth with no chance for us to

amend it. And I do not think we honor our veterans by failing to honor our Constitution. So I had to vote against the bill. Part of the bill, if it had been in part, if we could have amended it down, I would have proudly supported, the part that would have said you cannot have a demonstration in which any individual is willfully making or assisting in the making of any noise that disturbs or tends to disturb the peace or good order of the funeral, memorial service or ceremony on a military cemetery. But the bill went before that.

The bill says that for 60 minutes before a funeral and 60 minutes after, within 500 feet of the cemetery, you can't hold up a sign that might be offensive to people. You can't picket. It doesn't just say noise. It says diversion, and it defines it, any picketing, the display of any placard, banner, flag or similar device.

When we had an outrageous effort to intimidate a Danish newspaper because they exercised the right of free press and published cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, which many Muslims found offensive, some people, apologists for this outrageous behavior against the newspaper, said, well, you know it is free speech. But free speech has to be respectful. Free speech has to be within limits.

No, it does not. Free speech is not respectful speech. Indeed, the American Constitution, the principle of free speech precisely protects the right of despicable people to be obnoxious. If you don't believe in that, you don't believe in free speech.

In fact, the particular group of vicious people who have been disrupting the funerals have as their major goal getting rid of people like me, gay men and lesbians. They particularly hate us. But I will not allow their bigotry against me and the reaction against that to be used to reduce the protections of our Constitution.

The parts of this bill that say that if you try to disrupt a funeral you are going to be prevented, they are fine. But telling people that 60 minutes before or after a funeral, within 500 feet of a national cemetery, they can't picket or hold up a banner, that is not free speech. That is not what we fight for.

I have defended previously the right of the Nazis to march in Skokie, to the great horror of victims of the Holocaust, or survivors of the Holocaust.

I told the Muslims who tried to coerce the Danish press that no matter how offensive they found that cartoon, freedom of expression meant that no government should stop you from being offensive.

Disrupting a funeral, of course you should not do that. We should not allow ourselves, through restrictive legislative procedures, to act against an admitted evil, the disruption of those ceremonies, in ways that could undermine the Constitution.

So I hope this will come back from the Senate in a form I can vote for. I

would have voted for part of this bill; but I cannot, no matter how despicable the bigots who are defaming this Nation and disrupting cemeteries, I will not allow their behavior to be used as an excuse for undermining the right of other people in other places to hold signs. People holding signs within 200 feet of a cemetery, a half hour after a funeral that some people find offensive, that is free speech. And the way to counter that is to counter that. So I regret very much, in fact, Mr. Speaker, and I don't mean to look for sympathy here. I had an operation here last week. I had a stent, and I was supposed to return early Tuesday to have the stent removed. I delayed my return because I wanted to attend this funeral of the young man who was killed. Obviously, the discomfort of my stent was nothing to what people face who are in Iraq. But I simply want to testify that I will do everything I can to continue to honor these people, but that does not require us to demean the first amendment to the Constitution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of America's nurses, and I want to bring my colleagues' attention to the fact that this is National Nurses Week.

As a physician for nearly 30 years, I certainly know the importance of nurses to our Nation's health care system, and I can say without hesitation that nurses are the glue that holds our hospitals and our health care system together. They are literally on the front lines of health care, and they are the faces our patients see day in and day out.

Our Nation is facing a critical shortage in the nursing profession, Mr. Speaker. As Americans grow older and live longer, our health care system will be stretched even further to accommodate new demands. And in order for us to continue to deliver high-quality health care in this country, we will need increasing numbers of health care providers and especially registered nurses.

According to the latest projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics published in February of 2004, more than one million new and replacement nurses will be needed by the year 2012.