

Westmoreland	Wilson (NM)	Wynn
Wexler	Wolf	Young (AK)
Whitfield	Woolsey	Young (FL)
Wicker	Wu	

NAYS—20

Ackerman	Green (WI)	Petri
Barrett (SC)	Hefley	Porter
Berkley	Israel	Sensenbrenner
Cooper	Jones (NC)	Stearns
Flake	Kucinich	Tancredo
Franks (AZ)	Matheson	Wilson (SC)
Gibbons	Norwood	

NOT VOTING—8

Evans	Linder	Snyder
Kennedy (MN)	Paul	Strickland
Kennedy (RI)	Skelton	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 2240

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5427, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 5427, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill.

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

There was no objection.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE EHUD OLMERT, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, it is our distinct honor to have had with us today Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, a valued friend and trusted ally in the war against Islamic extremism.

The Prime Minister's visit focused on three principal issues in the Middle East and around the world: The challenge posted by the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority; his plan to take steps to secure Israel if no peace-partner emerges from the Palestinian Authority; and the nuclear threat from Iran.

Our friend and ally in the Middle East, Israel, has elected a strong leader in Ehud Olmert, and it was clear today that he will have the strength and fortitude to carry forward his plan to have a safe and secure Israel. He gave a wonderful and strong speech.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a supporter of Israel, proud to have had the opportunity to listen to the Prime Minister today, and I am pleased that

the leadership of this House and this Congress decided to welcome such a valued friend to this distinguished body.

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 California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 2245

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to comment upon a very large issue on our national landscape, and that is illegal immigration. One of the underreported and often unreported issues is the ham-handed approach the government bureaucracy has when dealing with those that try to come to this country legally.

I have a constituent, Mete Adan, in my district, born in Turkey, who has spent the past 16 years, Mr. Speaker, trying to become a U.S. citizen the right way, the legal way.

He is a legal immigrant to this country. And my office has worked with him since September of 2005 helping him cut through the bureaucratic red tape and the outdated immigration process.

Due to the inefficiency of our current system, which, Mr. Speaker, I must say processes over 7 million immigration applications per year using paper printouts. While you have Amazon.com processing millions of orders a day and transacting money, our bureaucracy is processing 7 million applications each year using paper.

So Mete's case has been a 2½ year debacle within this bureaucracy, marked by mistakes, errors and blunders. Cases like this are happening all across our Nation. That is why we need a new system, a new technology, to deal with those that are trying to come here legally.

Mete said, "I am still waiting. And these guys are coming up from Mexico to get citizenship and do not deserve it: He said. They do not even speak English. Now, Mr. Speaker, this gentleman studied medicine in his own country and has come here in and worked legally. Legally. He has worked legally as a computer programmer. This gentleman is very highly trained and a good potential citizen for our country.

And let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, the USCIS, the Citizenship and Immigra-

tion Services, are the ones that are mishandling this. It is also the same bureaucracy that the Senate wants to saddle with processing 10 to 20 million illegal aliens for a guest worker visa. It is simply not possible. They process as I said, 7 million applications each other using paper printouts. When they do use computers, it is Windows 95, technology that is over 10 years out of date.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask that we have a reasonable immigration enforcement policy, and that we also fix this outdated dysfunctional bureaucracy, so that we can process those that are trying to come here legally. And beyond that, perhaps at some future date, not now though, at the some future date, look at a reasonable fashion to bringing people here in a more reasonable way.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my constituent, and hopefully a new American citizen, Mete Adan. I appreciate his diligence in trying to do this the legal and right way. He is a testament to all of those legal immigrants that want to come and participate in the American dream. It is a strong story that we should all be proud of, of someone who wants to be American and hungers for freedom and the values of our society.

He is someone we should welcome to the United States. We should not have an amnesty program. We should have not a guest worker program. We should not have any of the other steps that the Senate is talking about in these current days.

Mr. Speaker, we should have a reasonable proposal and a reasonable way for people to come here and immigrate and be a part of our society. But say no to amnesty, to have border security and to do it the right way, while encouraging those that are doing it the right way, like Mete Adan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

AMBASSADOR EVANS REPLACEMENT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim Mr. MILLER's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because the White House has finally made an announcement of what many of us already knew, that Ambassador John Evans of Armenia is officially being replaced.

Ambassador Evans has given exemplary service to his country, and was a well-respected ambassador in a region of strategic importance to the United States. However, as it turns out, Evans was forced to vacate his post for publicly affirming the Armenian genocide.

Reports highly suggest that because Evans declared that "the Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the 20th Century," he is being unjustly penalized for speaking the truth.

However, by employing the proper term last year, the Ambassador was only building on previous statements by our leaders in Government, as well as the repeated declarations of numerous world-renowned scholars. Ambassador Evans did nothing more than succinctly repeat the conclusions enunciated by many before him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my fear that the Government of Turkey may have played a role in this unfortunate event. I strongly believe that they have expressed concern to the White House over Evans' remarks last year. In fact, immediately following his remarks, Evans issued a correction, all too seemingly at the behest of the administration.

And we must not allow a third party to interfere in U.S. diplomacy and refrain from declaring the truth in order to promote relations with Turkey. To this day, the Republic of Turkey refuses to acknowledge the fact that this massive crime against humanity took place under its control in the name of Turkish nationalism.

Unfortunately some 90 years later, the U.S. State Department continues to support Turkey's denials despite all evidence to the contrary. It is simply unacceptable for this administration to penalize Evans for his comments.

What he did was courageous and should be viewed as such, not punished. Ambassador Evans simply articulated the same message as that of the administration. However the only difference was his assigning a word to define the actions taken against Armenians.

Ambassador Evans is in fact an expert on the subject. He has studied the history of Armenia and based on his substantial studies he was willing to go on the record and define the systematic extermination of 1½ million Armenian men, women and children as genocide.

Mr. Speaker, in early March I wrote a letter to the State Department because I was outraged to see that Ambassador Evans was withdrawn from Armenia. Based on news reports the State Department recalled the Ambassador as retaliation for his statements.

Over 2 months have passed since I expressed my disappointment and I have yet to receive a response from the State Department. I specifically asked Secretary Rice for an explanation as to why Ambassador Evans was removed from his post. Not only was my inquiry ignored, but other Member's inquiries have also gone unanswered.

Now the White House has made an official announcement, but still has not

given an explanation. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the newly-appointed U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Richard Hoagland, will not play the word games of the White House and comply with Turkey's campaign of genocide denial.

Mr. Speaker, the New York Times did an editorial on May 16 this year detailing the dangers to Turkey and to the world of that country's continued denial of the Armenian genocide. I just want to read the last paragraph of that insignificant editorial. It says, "the preponderance of serious scholarship outside Turkey accepts that more than a million Armenians perished between 1914 and 1915 in a regime-sponsored campaign. Turkey's continued refusal to countenance even a discussion of the issue stands as a major obstacle to restoring relations with neighboring Armenia and to claiming Turkey's rightful place in Europe and the west. It is time for the Turks to realize that the greater danger to them is denying history."

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.)

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania 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 Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

GAS PRICES AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Illinois.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as the Memorial Day Weekend approaches, with the unofficial kickoff of the summer driving season, I rise this

evening to say a few words about the energy crisis in this country.

Specifically, I urge this Congress to take immediate action to crack down on price gouging of gasoline and develop alternative fuels to free Americans from the grip of foreign oil. Over the past several weeks and months, gas prices have skyrocketed across the country.

Middle class families who were already feeling economic pressure of the rising cost of health care and college expenses are getting squeezed tighter still due to the higher price of gasoline.

According to the AAA fuel gauge report, my North Carolina neighbors are paying nearly \$3 a gallon for gas. I know I paid that much when I stopped and got gas on Monday and filled my car up. Now, as a former full-time small businessman for almost 20 years, I take no back seat to anyone in support of free enterprise market capitalism.

But the gasoline price gouging of American citizens must stop. Unfortunately, the administration has chosen to turn a blind eye to this urgent problem. Just yesterday, the head of the Federal Trade Commission argued against a new Federal law against price gouging by the oil companies and suggested that they be allowed to continue to reap the profits of American consumer's pain at the pump.

I am proud that my colleagues and I have introduced the Federal Response to Energy Emergency or FREE Act. I am pleased this House has passed this important legislation. I hope the administration will end its opposition and the Senate will put this into law shortly.

Over the long term, Mr. Speaker, Congress must exercise visionary leadership to pass policies that are innovative to secure America's energy independence.

Last month I hosted a summit on biofuels in my Congressional district to explore policy options to grow our way out of this energy dependence we have. This event featured local, State and national experts on energy, biofuel producers and State government officials.

We examined the current state of the biofuel development and explored how North Carolina as the third largest agricultural producing state can become a leader in biofuel production.

What we found is that we have the technology to make our own fuel from the products we grow in our fields today. For example, soybeans are the largest crop in my State of North Carolina, making up about 25 percent of the total acreage in our State.

We have the answers to our fuel crisis growing in our fields across America. In addition to the biofuels summit, I recently discussed this topic with the Second District Youth Advisory Committee, a group of young people. And let me tell you that these young people get it. They inherently understand that the U.S. reliance on imported fossil fuels is unsustainable and leaves us