

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO END THE COMMERCIAL SEAL HUNT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from Canadian Ambassador Michael Wilson in regards to H. Res. 427 the bill introduced by Mr. LANTOS from California urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt.

CANADIAN EMBASSY,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2007.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of
Representatives, 2170 Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
Ranking Member, Foreign Affairs Committee,
House of Representatives, B-360 Rayburn
House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LANTOS AND RANKING MEMBER ROS-LEHTINEN: I am writing regarding House Resolution 427, urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt, scheduled for mark up by the Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday, June 26, 2007. As outlined below, Canada pursues a sustainable and humane harvest of the seal herds. In this context, I would ask that the Committee on Foreign Affairs reconsider proceeding with this resolution.

The Government of Canada takes its role as steward of the environment and wildlife seriously and is committed to the sustainable management of its renewable resources. The Canadian seal hunt is a sustainable, economically viable activity based on sound conservation principles.

Canada sets quotas at levels that ensure the health and abundance of seal herds. The harp seal population, approximately 5.8 million animals based on a 2004 survey, is nearly triple what it was in the 1970s. In no way can seals—and harp seals in particular—be considered “endangered species”. Fisheries and Oceans Canada manages the seal hunt and has put in place a five-year management plan for 2006-2010. In 2007 the total allowable catch was reduced considerably to ensure the resource remains sustainable.

The Canadian commercial quota is unrelated to groundfish stock levels. Several factors have contributed to the lack of recovery of Atlantic cod stocks, such as fishing effort, poor growth and physical condition of the fish, and environmental changes. In addition, there are many uncertainties in the estimates of the amount of fish consumed by seals.

The Government of Canada makes every effort to ensure the seal hunt is conducted in a safe and humane manner. The seal hunt is closely monitored and tightly regulated. Fisheries and Oceans Canada officers monitor catches, ensure humane harvesting practices, and enforce regulations and licence conditions. The hunting of harp seal pups (whitecoats) and hooded seal pups (bluebacks) is illegal—and has been since 1987. Penalties are substantial and can include court-imposed fines and orders to forfeit catches, gear, boats and licenses.

In September 2002 veterinarians from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) issued a Special Report on Animal Welfare and the Harp Seal Hunt in Atlantic Canada. In independent observations of the seal hunt, the study concluded that 98 percent of seals taken during the hunt were harvested in an acceptably humane manner, contrary to the reference in the resolution. Harvesting methods used for the seal hunt have also been studied and approved by the Royal Commission on Seals and Sealing.

An Independent Veterinarians’ Working Group formed in 2005, with representatives from the United States and four other countries, made observations and recommendations to further improve management and hunting practices. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is currently working to adopt these and other recommendations including improved enforcement and sealer training. Neither of the above groups called for a ban on the hunt.

Seals are a valuable natural resource that provides 25-30 percent of an annual income to thousands of Canadians in many remote coastal communities. This is a significant income when average annual incomes may be only \$17,000USD a year and unemployment rates are far above the national average. Sealing and fishing are also time-honoured traditions that allow people to provide for their families through knowledge of the marine environment and hard work.

In light of this clarification on the sustainable management and humane harvest of the seal herds in Canada, I would ask that the Committee on Foreign Affairs reconsider whether proceeding with this resolution is warranted.

I have included a fact sheet that provides more information on the seal harvest in Canada. The Embassy staff remain available to meet with your staff to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL WILSON,
Ambassador.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ALBERTO GONZALES IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY RESOLUTION

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with several of my colleagues to introduce a resolution that would require that the Judiciary Committee initiate an impeachment investigation of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. I have introduced this resolution only after careful consideration and exercising a great deal of caution.

Alexander Hamilton in Federalist Paper No. 66 stated, “the powers relating to impeachments are . . . an essential check in the hands of that body upon the encroachments of the executive.” The “encroachments” made by this Attorney General subvert several core constitutional values.

I believe that it is clear the Attorney General was involved in the decisions to fire several

U.S. Attorneys for not pursuing public corruption cases based on partisan political factors. I also believe that the Attorney General has made false or misleading statements to Congress in order to minimize his role in the warrantless surveillance program, the U.S. Attorney firings, and to otherwise obstruct congressional investigations.

Our judicial system must operate outside of the political process in order to preserve justice. The American people deserve an independent Justice Department that is not controlled by the political strategists at the White House. Gonzales’ lack of candor before Congress pervers and undermines the ability of Congress to trust assurances made by the executive branch and it also retards Congress’ ability to carry out its constitutionally mandated functions.

Based on the facts we know today, I believe that an investigation will reveal that the level of malfeasance of the Attorney General is impeachable. With the President showing no sign of replacing the Attorney General, Congress must assert itself and remove him from office. His removal is essential to preserve the strength of the Congress and to send the clear unambiguous message to future Attorneys General that the politicization of prosecutions and the U.S. Attorneys across the country is a repugnant degradation of the law.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey Jazz Festival, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary this September in remarkable style. The Monterey Jazz Festival is a nonprofit organization that provides year-round jazz education programs locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. The festival is famous for being the longest running jazz festival in the world and deserves recognition for its dedication to enabling the uniquely American form of music to remain alive in our community and country.

The Monterey Jazz Festival began as a dream for cofounders Jimmy Lyons and Ralph Gleason. In 1958, the dream finally became a reality with the commencement of the first Monterey Jazz Festival. The festival attracted many brilliant artists to the stage such as Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, John Lewis, Shelly Manne, Gerry Mulligan, Art Farmer, Ernestine Anderson, Harry James, Max Roach and Billie Holiday. Ever since that initial festival, one full weekend in September is devoted to the Monterey Jazz Festival, which presents the best jazz performers in the world for a 3-day celebration. The Monterey Jazz Festival not only presents live performances, but it also features jazz conversations, panel discussions, workshops, exhibitions, clinics,

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and an international array of food, shopping and festivities spread across the 3-day extravaganza.

Although the Monterey Jazz Festival is mostly recognized for its importance to the legacy of jazz, it is also devoted to keeping jazz alive in future generations and has donated its proceeds to musical education since its beginning. In fact, every spring, the Monterey Jazz Festival holds the "Next Generation Festival" which invites top student bands from across the country to compete in several music competitions, attend clinics and concerts, and even audition for the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra. By conferring so many educational scholarships to deserving students, the Monterey Jazz Festival displays its commitment to music and education. After 50 years of incredible jazz performances, the Monterey Jazz Festival continues to keep the tradition alive.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize an organization that is so deeply devoted to the perpetuation and education of jazz. I am excited for this year's celebration and look forward to many more years of jazz in the Monterey Peninsula.

TRIBUTE TO THE MERCHANT MARINES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the great forgotten heroes of our country, the United States merchant marines who bravely served our Nation during World War II. For too long, these servicemen have been denied the recognition they deserve and the benefits they have earned, and I am proud to support H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act, which rights this historic wrong.

During World War II, civilians and merchant seamen served alongside our Armed Forces in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans to bring vital goods, materials, and manpower to the theaters of combat. Many former merchant seamen returned to serve during the war while others left school to volunteer in the merchant marine. At the end of the war, the merchant mariners were instrumental in safely transporting millions of members of the Armed Forces back home to the U.S. Although these men were not considered part of our Nation's "active duty" military service, their missions were characterized by more than 9,000 casualties as a result of attacks from enemy forces, the highest of any branch of armed service.

As a grateful nation, we cannot deny the heavy sacrifices endured by these important members of the greatest generation. The merchant mariners deserve compensation for having been refused access to G.I. bill benefits at the conclusion of World War II and a pension as a reward for their service. H.R. 23 will establish Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide monthly payments of \$1,000 to eligible members of the merchant marine or their survivors who served during World War II. We can no longer ignore our responsibility to repay those who have defended and preserved our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that the House passed H.R. 23 and sent the bold message

that we will support all of America's veterans. We owe the merchant mariners so much, and it's about time we give them the thank you they deserve.

IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996
AMENDMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following letters on the bill H.R. 957 from the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs be included during the debate on H.R. 957.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 13, 2007.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 957, to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to expand and clarify the entities against which sanctions may be imposed. This bill was introduced on February 8, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition, to this Committee, among others. The bill has been reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

There have been some very productive conversations between the staffs of our committees, during which we have proposed some changes to H.R. 957 that we believe help clarify the intent and scope of the measure. My understanding is that there is an agreement with regard to these changes, and so in order to expedite floor consideration, I agree to forego further consideration by the Committee on Financial Services. I do so with the understanding that this decision will not prejudice this Committee with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I request your support for the appointment of conferees from this Committee should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

Please place this letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when this bill is considered by the House. I look forward to the bill's consideration and hope that it will command the broadest possible support.

BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2007.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing regarding H.R. 957—to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, to expand and clarify the entities against which sanctions may be imposed—which was reported by the House Foreign Affairs Committee on May 22, 2007, and is expected to be on the suspension calendar next week.

As you know, the Committee on Ways & Means has jurisdiction over import matters, such as the import ban and restrictions on imports imposed by the Iran Sanctions Act and the International Emergency Powers Act. Accordingly, the provisions of H.R. 957 fall under the Committee's jurisdiction.

There have been some very productive conversations between the staffs of our committees, during which we have proposed some changes to H.R. 957 that I believe help clarify

the intent and scope of the measure. My understanding is that there is an agreement with regard to these changes.

In order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill and will not oppose its consideration on the suspension calendar. This is done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this, or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming our understanding with respect to H.R. 957, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the RECORD.

I look forward to the bill's consideration on the floor and hope that it will command the broadest possible support.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2007.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 957, which amends the Iran Sanctions Act to expand and clarify the entities against which sanctions may be imposed, and for other purposes.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation and the mutually agreed upon text that is being presented to the House. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. I agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation in the future.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters be included the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Cordially,

TOM LANTOS,
Chairman.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF PAUL CULLINAN

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin and I would like to gratefully acknowledge the expert assistance that the U.S. Congress has received from Paul Cullinan at the Congressional Budget Office. Paul is retiring from congressional service in August, and this institution will sorely miss him.

Dr. Cullinan arrived at CBO in 1981, and has contributed to a vast range of policy analyses, budget projections, and legislative cost estimates over the past 26 years. But more important than the amount and variety of such work is the consistently high quality of that work and Paul's continual dedication to providing the Congress with thorough and timely analysis.

For the past 13 years, Paul Cullinan has served as the Manager of CBO's Human Resources Cost Estimates Unit, a role in which he has excelled and one that has allowed CBO to provide critical support to the consideration of numerous and varied pieces of legislation including efforts to reauthorize and extend higher education programs and the Food