



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007

No. 155

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 15, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal and Almighty God, before You all events of life and calendar pages flip over quickly. The human search for stability in an ever-changing world and the traffic of today's crossroads drives each of us to find new depth within ourselves as we join the motion of another week.

The story of a tsunami comes to mind. Easily we view the destructive consequences on the surface of things around us and question their eruptive origins.

Lord, show us how to detect the beginnings of violence, war, hatred, disruption, and fear. As a leader in the community of peoples, Congress needs to raise the deepest questions.

Enable Members and the people they represent to assess the true cost of the country's lifestyle and the ramifications of our silence on the most important issues.

If it is truly "in God we trust," then all else is called into question and cannot be the measurement of progress or the final goal. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SCHIP

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, what kind of Nation are we when 47 million Americans go to bed every night without adequate health care coverage? And what kind of Nation will we become when we turn our backs on those who need us the most, our Nation's children, on whose future we all depend?

The SCHIP bill, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, will provide access to necessary medical services to 11 million of our children who are most in need. We cannot, we shall not, we must not turn our backs on our Nation's children.

I urge my colleagues who have yet to consider voting up or down on this measure to think this thing all the way through. Whose side are you on? Are you on the side of our children, who need you the most? Or are you on the side of special interests? We Democrats are on the side of children. Please reconsider what kind of Nation we will be when we turn our backs on our children.

DEFICIT CONTINUES TO DECLINE

(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. Madam Speaker, the Department of Treasury and Office of Management and Budget have announced that today's budget deficit is \$85 billion less than last year. That marks a \$250 billion decline over the last 3 years and brings us even closer to balancing the budget.

□ 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.

H11497

This good news is a clear sign that a government which taxes less and spends less taxpayer dollars and spends them wisely can balance its checkbook. These recent record tax revenues are paying down the deficit, but we must do our part by honoring the hard work of the American people and not passing future bloated budgets and tax hikes.

The American people have learned to live within their means; it is time that Washington do the same. That means we do not spend \$22 billion more than we need to or tax Americans \$400 billion more than they deserve. Above all, the government must address the pending entitlement crisis. This is a situation where Congress cannot pass the buck.

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

HONORING OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK DANN, U.S. ATTORNEY GREGORY LOCKHART, AND USDA AGENT MARK BARNHART

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

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, on October 13, Ohio Attorney General Mark Dann, U.S. Attorney Gregory Lockhart, and USDA Agent Mark Barnhart received the 2007 Humane Law Enforcement Award from the Humane Society and the National District Attorneys Association. They were honored with this prestigious award for conducting one of the largest, best coordinated crackdowns on dog fighting in the Nation.

I am extremely proud that my home State of Ohio is taking a lead in cracking down on this vicious blood sport, but this raid also demonstrates the difficulty authorities have of prosecuting offenders under Federal law.

I have introduced the Dog Fighting Prohibition Act, which would strengthen Federal penalties for those participating in dog fighting and broaden the scope of the law to allow prosecution of everyone involved, from spectators to trainers to dealers. We need to do all we can to end what has become a lucrative gambling business; and to accomplish that, we must give our law enforcement officials like Mark Dann, Gregory Lockhart, and Mark Barnhart the tools that they need. I want to thank them and congratulate them on their efforts, and encourage support for the Dog Fighting Prohibition Act.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, fiscal responsibility is the cornerstone of a strong economic plan, and House Republicans are dedicated to ensuring that American taxpayers are getting the best product for their money. Un-

fortunately, I can't say my Democrat colleagues feel the same way.

We are 3 weeks into fiscal year 2008, and for the first time in a long time Congress has not sent the President a single appropriations bill. One of these bills funds our veterans, and they deserve the benefits they were promised; yet politics has taken over the Democrat leadership, and their failure is costing veterans over \$4 billion in new benefits.

The Democrat majority also has failed to deliver on promised earmark transparency that would shed light on every earmark, and we're continuing to see abuses within the system.

At almost every opportunity, the Democrat leadership has increased spending and increased taxes to pay for these spending binges. It's time to get back on track to finding commonsense solutions and stop using taxpayer dollars like it's an unlimited source of money.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Greg Lankler, Staff Assistant, Committee on Appropriations:

OCTOBER 12, 2007.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony and documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by rule VIII.

Sincerely,

GREG LANKLER,
Staff Assistant.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON CHAIRING A UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 624) congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 624

Whereas Israel joined the United Nations in 1949, as the 59th member of that organization;

Whereas the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations stated that its objective was to "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war . . . and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small . . .";

Whereas the United Nations has failed to live up to its goal to promote equal rights among states, as enshrined in its charter, in the case of Israel;

Whereas the democratic State of Israel is denied full representation within the United Nations, and its constituent agencies and bodies, yet repressive regimes in violation of United Nations human rights principles are afforded full rights and privileges;

Whereas in May 2000, Israel accepted an invitation to become a temporary member of the United Nations' Western European and Others Group (WEOG), and in May 2004, Israel was granted an indefinite extension of its qualified membership in WEOG;

Whereas since Israel was accepted as part of WEOG in 2000, it has had the right to apply for positions on United Nations committees;

Whereas the State of Israel is the only member of WEOG in a conditional status;

Whereas Israel is excluded from discussions and consultations of WEOG at the United Nations offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Rome, and Vienna;

Whereas Israel has been refused admission to the Asian States Group of the United Nations, thereby being denied the rights and privileges of full membership in the United Nations;

Whereas Israel has submitted its candidacy for membership on the United Nations Security Council for 2019 and hopes to gain the full participation rights in the United Nations to which it is entitled as a sovereign state;

Whereas at the opening of the 61st United Nations General Assembly in 2006, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated that "supporters of Israel feel that it is harshly judged by standards that are not applied to its enemies . . . and too often this is true, particularly in some UN bodies";

Whereas Israel has played an active role in the international community and within the United Nations;

Whereas Israel already sits on several important committees in the United Nations, and representatives from Israel have served as deputy chairs in the United Nations numerous times;

Whereas Israelis were first elected to notable United Nations positions in 1994, including the high administrative tribunal at the Hague, Vice Chair of the World Health Organization's Executive Committee and the Human Rights Committee, in June 2005 Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Dan Gillerman, was appointed one of the 21 new vice presidents of the General Assembly, and in July 2005, Israel was elected to deputy chairmanship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC);

Whereas, on June 19, 2007, for the first time since Israel joined the United Nations, an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Ron Adam, Director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's United Nations Political Affairs Department, was chosen to chair a United Nations committee, the Committee on Program and Coordination (CPC);