

the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker’s ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.”

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.” But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the Floor Procedures Manual published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress, (page 56). Here’s how the Rules Committee described the rule using information from Congressional Quarterly’s “American Congressional Dictionary”: “If the previous question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business.”

Deschler’s Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority’s agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of H. Res. 869, if ordered; ordering the previous question on H. Res. 859; and adoption of H. Res. 859, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 184, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 1156]

YEAS—222

Abercrombie	Gutierrez	Neal (MA)
Ackerman	Hall (NY)	Oberstar
Allen	Hare	Obey
Altmire	Harman	Olver
Andrews	Hastings (FL)	Ortiz
Arcuri	Herseth Sandlin	Pallone
Baca	Higgins	Pascarell
Baird	Hill	Pastor
Baldwin	Hinchey	Payne
Barrow	Hirono	Perlmutter
Bean	Hodes	Peterson (MN)
Becerra	Holden	Pomeroy
Berkley	Holt	Price (NC)
Berman	Honda	Rahall
Berry	Hoyer	Rangel
Bishop (GA)	Inslee	Reyes
Bishop (NY)	Israel	Richardson
Blumenauer	Jackson (IL)	Ross
Boren	Jackson-Lee	Rothman
Boswell	(TX)	Roybal-Allard
Boucher	Jefferson	Ruppersberger
Boyd (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Rush
Boyd (KS)	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Brady (PA)	Jones (OH)	Salazar
Bralley (IA)	Kagen	Sánchez, Linda
Brown, Corrine	Kanjorski	T.
Butterfield	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta
Capps	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Capuano	Kildee	Schakowsky
Carnahan	Kilpatrick	Schiff
Carney	Kind	Schwartz
Castor	Klein (FL)	Scott (GA)
Clarke	Kucinich	Scott (VA)
Clay	Lampson	Serrano
Cleaver	Langevin	Sestak
Clyburn	Lantos	Shea-Porter
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Shuler
Cooper	Lee	Sires
Costa	Levin	Skelton
Costello	Lewis (GA)	Slaughter
Courtney	Lipinski	Smith (WA)
Cramer	Loebsack	Snyder
Crowley	Loftgren, Zoe	Solis
Cuellar	Lowe	Space
Cummings	Lynch	Spratt
Davis (AL)	Mahoney (FL)	Stark
Davis (CA)	Maloney (NY)	Stupak
Davis (IL)	Markey	Sutton
Davis, Lincoln	Marshall	Tanner
DeFazio	Matheson	Tauscher
DeGette	Matsui	Taylor
Delahunt	McCarthy (NY)	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	McCollum (MN)	Thompson (MS)
Dicks	McDermott	Tierney
Dingell	McGovern	Towns
Doggett	McIntyre	Tsongas
Donnelly	McNerney	Udall (CO)
Doyle	McNulty	Udall (NM)
Edwards	Meeke (FL)	Van Hollen
Ellsworth	Meeks (NY)	Velázquez
Emanuel	Melancon	Visclosky
Eshoo	Michaud	Walz (MN)
Etheridge	Miller (NC)	Watson
Farr	Miller, George	Watt
Fattah	Mitchell	Waxman
Filner	Mollohan	Weiner
Frank (MA)	Moore (KS)	Welch (VT)
Giffords	Moore (WI)	Wexler
Gillibrand	Moran (VA)	Wilson (OH)
Gonzalez	Murphy (CT)	Woolsey
Gordon	Murphy, Patrick	Wu
Green, Al	Murtha	Wynn
Green, Gene	Nadler	Yarmuth
Grijalva	Napolitano	

NAYS—184

Aderholt	Boehner	Campbell (CA)
Akin	Bonner	Cannon
Alexander	Boozman	Cantor
Bachmann	Boustany	Capito
Bachus	Brady (TX)	Carter
Baker	Broun (GA)	Castle
Barrett (SC)	Brown (SC)	Chabot
Bartlett (MD)	Brown-Waite,	Coble
Barton (TX)	Ginny	Cole (OK)
Biggart	Buchanan	Conaway
Bilbray	Burgess	Crenshaw
Bilirakis	Burton (IN)	Davis (KY)
Bishop (UT)	Buyer	Davis, David
Blackburn	Calvert	Davis, Tom
Blunt	Camp (MI)	Deal (GA)

Dent	Kingston	Ramstad
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kirk	Regula
Diaz-Balart, M.	Klaine (MN)	Rehberg
Doolittle	Knollenberg	Reichert
Drake	Kuhl (NY)	Rogers (MI)
Dreier	LaHood	Rohrabacher
Duncan	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Ehlers	Latham	Roskam
Emerson	LaTourette	Royce
English (PA)	Lewis (CA)	Ryan (WI)
Everett	Linder	Sali
Fallin	LoBiondo	Saxton
Feeney	Lucas	Schmidt
Ferguson	Lungren, Daniel	Sensenbrenner
Flake	E.	Sessions
Forbes	Manzullo	Shadegg
Fortenberry	Marchant	Shays
Fossella	McCarthy (CA)	Shimkus
Fox	McCaul (TX)	Shuster
Franks (AZ)	McCotter	Simpson
Frelinghuysen	McCrery	Smith (NE)
Gallely	McHenry	Smith (NJ)
Garrett (NJ)	McHugh	Smith (TX)
Gerlach	McKeon	Souder
Gilchrest	McMorris	Stearns
Gingrey	Rodgers	Sullivan
Gohmert	Mica	Tancredo
Goode	Miller (FL)	Terry
Goodlatte	Miller (MI)	Thornberry
Granger	Moran (KS)	Tiahrt
Graves	Murphy, Tim	Tiberi
Hall (TX)	Musgrave	Turner
Hastings (WA)	Myrick	Upton
Hayes	Neugebauer	Walberg
Hensarling	Nunes	Walden (OR)
Herger	Pearce	Walsh (NY)
Hobson	Pence	Wamp
Hoekstra	Peterson (PA)	Weldon (FL)
Hulshof	Petri	Weller
Hunter	Pickering	Westmoreland
Inglis (SC)	Pitts	Whitfield (KY)
Issa	Platts	Wicker
Johnson (IL)	Poe	Wilson (NM)
Johnson, Sam	Porter	Wilson (SC)
Jordan	Price (GA)	Wolf
Keller	Pryce (OH)	Young (FL)
King (IA)	Putnam	
King (NY)	Radanovich	

NOT VOTING—25

Bono	Hinojosa	Reynolds
Cardoza	Hoolley	Rodriguez
Carson	Jindal	Rogers (AL)
Chandler	Jones (NC)	Rogers (KY)
Cubin	Lewis (KY)	Wasserman
Culberson	Mack	Schultz
Ellison	Miller, Gary	Waters
Engel	Paul	Young (AK)
Heller	Renzi	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1109

Mr. NEUGEBAUER changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2082, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 859, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 189, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 1157]

YEAS—226

Abercrombie Grijalva Neal (MA)
 Ackerman Gutierrez Oberstar
 Allen Hall (NY) Obey
 Altmire Hare Oliver
 Andrews Harman Ortiz
 Arcuri Hastings (FL) Pallone
 Baca Herseth Sandlin Pascarell
 Baird Higgins Pastor
 Baldwin Hill Payne
 Barrow Hinchey Perlmutter
 Bean Hirono Peterson (MN)
 Becerra Hodes Pomeroy
 Berkley Holden Price (NC)
 Berman Holt Rahall
 Berry Honda Rangel
 Bishop (GA) Hoyer Reyes
 Bishop (NY) Inslee Richardson
 Blumenauer Israel Rodriguez
 Boren Jackson (IL) Ross
 Boswell Jackson-Lee Rothman
 Boucher (TX) Roybal-Allard
 Boyd (FL) Jefferson Ruppertsberger
 Boyda (KS) Johnson (GA) Rush
 Brady (PA) Johnson, E. B. Ryan (OH)
 Braley (IA) Jones (OH) Salazar
 Brown, Corrine Kagen Sánchez, Linda
 Butterfield Kanjorski T.
 Capps Kaptur Sanchez, Loretta
 Capuano Kennedy Sarbanes
 Carnahan Kildee Schakowsky
 Carney Kilpatrick Schiff
 Castor Kind Schwartz
 Chandler Klein (FL) Scott (GA)
 Clarke Kucinich Scott (VA)
 Clay Lampson Serrano
 Cleaver Langevin Sestak
 Clyburn Lantos Shea-Porter
 Cohen Larsen (WA) Sherman
 Conyers Larson (CT) Shuler
 Cooper Lee Sires
 Costa Levin Skelton
 Costello Lewis (GA) Slaughter
 Courtney Lipinski Smith (WA)
 Cramer Loeb sack Snyder
 Crowley Lofgren, Zoe Solis
 Cuellar Lowey Space
 Cummings Lynch Spratt
 Davis (AL) Mahoney (FL) Stark
 Davis (CA) Maloney (NY) Stupak
 Davis (IL) Markey Sutton
 Davis, Lincoln Marshall Tanner
 DeFazio Matheson Tauscher
 DeGette Matsui Taylor
 Delahunt McCarthy (NY) Thompson (CA)
 DeLauro McCollum (MN) Thompson (MS)
 Dicks McDermott Tierney
 Dingell McGovern Towns
 Doggett McIntyre Tsongas
 Donnelly McNerney Udall (CO)
 Doyle McNulty Udall (NM)
 Edwards Meek (FL) Van Hollen
 Ellison Meeks (NY) Velázquez
 Ellsworth Melancon Velázquez
 Emanuel Michaud Walz (MN)
 Eshoo Miller (NC) Waters
 Etheridge Miller, George Watson
 Farr Mitchell Watt
 Fattah Mollohan Waxman
 Filner Moore (KS) Weiner
 Frank (MA) Moore (WI) Welch (VT)
 Giffords Moran (VA) Wexler
 Gillibrand Murphy (CT) Wilson (OH)
 Gonzalez Murphy, Patrick Woolsey
 Gordon Murtha Wu
 Green, Al Nadler Wynn
 Green, Gene Napolitano Yarmuth

NAYS—189

Aderholt Biggart Boozman
 Akin Bilbray Boustany
 Alexander Bilirakis Brady (TX)
 Bachmann Bishop (UT) Broun (GA)
 Bachus Blackburn Brown (SC)
 Baker Blunt Brown-Waite,
 Barrett (SC) Boehner Ginny
 Bartlett (MD) Bonner Buchanan
 Barton (TX) Bono Burgess

Burton (IN) Hobson Platts
 Buyer Hoekstra Poe
 Calvert Hulshof Porter
 Camp (MI) Hunter Price (GA)
 Campbell (CA) Inglis (SC) Pryce (OH)
 Cannon Issa Putnam
 Cantor Johnson (IL) Radanovich
 Capito Johnson, Sam Ramstad
 Carter Jordan Regula
 Castle Keller Rehberg
 Chabot King (IA) Reichert
 Coble King (NY) Rogers (AL)
 Cole (OK) Kingston Rogers (MI)
 Conaway Kirk Rohrabacher
 Crenshaw Kline (MN) Ros-Lehtinen
 Davis (KY) Knollenberg Roskam
 Davis, David Kuhl (NY) Royce
 Davis, Tom LaHood Ryan (WI)
 Deal (GA) Lamborn Sali
 Dent Latham Saxton
 Diaz-Balart, L. LaTourette Schmidt
 Diaz-Balart, M. Lewis (CA) Sensenbrenner
 Doolittle Lewis (KY) Sessions
 Drake Linder Shadegg
 Dreier LoBiondo Shays
 Duncan Lucas Shimkus
 Ehlers Lungren, Daniel Shuster
 Emerson E. Simpson
 English (PA) Mack Smith (NE)
 Everrett Manullo Smith (NJ)
 Fallin Manchant Smith (TX)
 Feeney McCarthy (CA) Souder
 Ferguson McCaul (TX) Stearns
 Flake McCotter Sullivan
 Forbes McCrery Tancredo
 Fortenberry McHenry Terry
 Fossella McHugh Thornberry
 Foxx McKeon Tiahrt
 Franks (AZ) McMorris Tiberi
 Frelinghuysen Rodgers Turner
 Gallegly Mica Upton
 Garrett (NJ) Miller (FL) Walberg
 Gerlach Miller (MI) Walden (OR)
 Gilchrest Moran (KS) Walsh (NY)
 Gingrey Murphy, Tim Wamp
 Gohmert Musgrave Weldon (FL)
 Goode Myrick Weller
 Goodlatte Neugebauer Westmoreland
 Granger Nunes Whitfield (KY)
 Graves Pearce Wicker
 Hall (TX) Pence Wilson (NM)
 Hastings (WA) Peterson (PA) Wilson (SC)
 Hayes Petri Wolf
 Hensarling Pickering Young (AK)
 Herger Pitts Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Cardoza Hinojosa Renzi
 Carson Hooley Reynolds
 Cubin Jindal Rogers (KY)
 Culberson Jones (NC) Wasserman
 Engel Miller, Gary Schultz
 Heller Paul

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1120

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 227, nays 191, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 1158]

YEAS—227

Abercrombie Altmire Baca
 Ackerman Andrews Baird
 Allen Arcuri Baldwin

Barrow Herseth Sandlin Ortiz
 Bean Higgins Pallone
 Becerra Hill Pascarell
 Berkley Hinchey Pastor
 Berman Hirono Payne
 Berry Hodes Perlmutter
 Bishop (GA) Holden Peterson (MN)
 Bishop (NY) Holt Pomeroy
 Blumenauer Blumenauer Honda
 Boren Boren Hoyer
 Boswell Boswell Inslee
 Boucher Boucher Israel
 Boyd (FL) Boyd (FL) Jackson (IL)
 Boyda (KS) Boyda (KS) Jackson-Lee
 Brady (PA) Brady (PA) (TX)
 Braley (IA) Braley (IA) Jefferson
 Brown, Corrine Brown, Corrine Johnson (GA)
 Butterfield Butterfield Johnson, E. B.
 Capps Capps Jones (OH)
 Capuano Capuano Kagen
 Carnahan Carnahan Kanjorski
 Carney Carney Kaptur
 Castor Castor Kennedy
 Chandler Chandler Kildee
 Clarke Clarke Kilpatrick
 Clay Clay Sarbanes
 Cleaver Cleaver Klein (FL)
 Clyburn Clyburn Kucinich
 Cohen Cohen Lampson
 Conyers Conyers Langevin
 Cooper Cooper Lantos
 Costa Costa Larsen (WA)
 Costello Costello Larson (CT)
 Courtney Courtney Lee
 Cramer Cramer Levin
 Crowley Crowley Lewis (GA)
 Cuellar Cuellar Lipinski
 Cummings Cummings Loeb sack
 Davis (AL) Davis (AL) Lofgren, Zoe
 Davis (CA) Davis (CA) Lowey
 Davis (IL) Davis (IL) Lynch
 Davis, Lincoln Davis, Lincoln Mahoney (FL)
 DeFazio DeFazio Maloney (NY)
 DeGette DeGette Markey
 Delahunt Delahunt Marshall
 DeLauro DeLauro Matheson
 Dicks Dicks Matsui
 Dingell Dingell McCarthy (NY)
 Doggett Doggett McCollum (MN)
 Donnelly Donnelly McDermott
 Doyle Doyle McGovern
 Edwards Edwards McIntyre
 Ellison Ellison McNeerney
 Ellsworth Ellsworth McNulty
 Emanuel Emanuel Meek (FL)
 Engel Engel Meeks (NY)
 Etheridge Etheridge Melancon
 Farr Farr Michaud
 Fattah Fattah Miller (NC)
 Filner Filner Miller, George
 Frank (MA) Frank (MA) Mitchell
 Giffords Giffords Mollohan
 Gillibrand Gillibrand Moore (KS)
 Gonzalez Gonzalez Moran (VA)
 Gordon Gordon Murphy (CT)
 Green, Al Green, Al Murphy, Patrick
 Green, Gene Green, Gene Murtha
 Nadler
 Napolitano

NAYS—191

Brown-Waite, Dent
 Ginny Diaz-Balart, L.
 Buchanan Diaz-Balart, M.
 Burgess Doolittle
 Burton (IN) Drake
 Buyer Dreier
 Calvert Duncan
 Bartlett (MD) Camp (MI)
 Barton (TX) Campbell (CA)
 Biggart Cannon
 Bilbray Cantor
 Bilirakis Capito
 Bishop (UT) Carter
 Blackburn Castle
 Blunt Chabot
 Boehner Coble
 Bonner Cole (OK)
 Bono Conaway
 Boozman Crenshaw
 Boustany Davis (KY)
 Brady (TX) Davis, David
 Broun (GA) Davis, Tom
 Brown (SC) Deal (GA)

Gerlach	Manzullo	Ros-Lehtinen
Gilchrest	Marchant	Roskam
Gingrey	McCarthy (CA)	Royce
Gohmert	McCaul (TX)	Ryan (WI)
Goode	McCotter	Sali
Goodlatte	McCreery	Saxton
Granger	McHenry	Schmidt
Graves	McHugh	Sensenbrenner
Hall (TX)	McKeon	Sessions
Hastings (WA)	McMorriss	Shadegg
Hayes	Rodgers	Shays
Hensarling	Mica	Shimkus
Herger	Miller (FL)	Shuster
Hobson	Miller (MI)	Simpson
Hoekstra	Moran (KS)	Smith (NE)
Hulshof	Murphy, Tim	Smith (NJ)
Hunter	Musgrave	Smith (TX)
Inglis (SC)	Myrick	Souder
Issa	Neugebauer	Stearns
Johnson (IL)	Nunes	Sullivan
Johnson, Sam	Pearce	Tancredo
Jordan	Pence	Terry
Keller	Peterson (PA)	Thornberry
King (IA)	Petri	Tiahrt
King (NY)	Pickering	Tiberi
Kingston	Pitts	Turner
Kirk	Platts	Upton
Kline (MN)	Poe	Walberg
Knollenberg	Porter	Walden (OR)
Kuhl (NY)	Price (GA)	Walsh (NY)
LaHood	Pryce (OH)	Wamp
Lamborn	Putnam	Weldon (FL)
Latham	Radanovich	Weller
LaTourette	Ramstad	Westmoreland
Lewis (CA)	Regula	Whitfield (KY)
Lewis (KY)	Rehberg	Wicker
Linder	Reichert	Wilson (NM)
LoBiondo	Reynolds	Wilson (SC)
Lucas	Rogers (AL)	Wolf
Lungren, Daniel	Rogers (KY)	Young (AK)
E.	Rogers (MI)	Young (FL)
Mack	Rohrabacher	

NOT VOTING—13

Cardoza	Hinojosa	Paul
Carson	Hooley	Renzi
Cubin	Jindal	Wasserman
Culberson	Jones (NC)	Schultz
Heller	Miller, Gary	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain on this vote.

□ 1126

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to a pre-existing commitment to visit wounded heroes at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, I missed three rollcall votes this morning. I ask that the RECORD show that had I been present: For rollcall No. 1156—Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 869—I would have voted “nay”; for rollcall No. 1157—Ordering the Previous Question H. Res. 859—I would have voted “nay”; for rollcall No. 1158—Adoption of the Rule of consideration of the conference report on H.R. 2082—I would have voted “nay.”

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2082, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 859, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2082) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Com-

munity Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 6, 2007, at page H14462.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this conference report.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last week was a remarkable week in the intelligence community. It was the best of times and the worst of times.

First, the good news. The week began with a release of a new National Intelligence Estimate on Iran. That estimate was a careful, meaningful review of the intelligence on Iran, which many of us hope will bring about a significant change in our approach to Iran, which is still a significant concern to all of us.

Then came the bad news. We ended the week with the revelation that the Central Intelligence Agency destroyed videotapes of interrogations. This is also a subject of great concern to all of us in this House. The committee had a briefing on it just yesterday, and we will continue to investigate the issue thoroughly.

Both the good news and the bad news have one thing in common. They show that careful oversight of the Intelligence Community is absolutely essential and absolutely critical. The authorization process is where we do much of our oversight and it's where we can address problem areas.

Madam Speaker, today, for the first time in 3 years, the House will vote on a conference report on an intelligence authorization bill. I am proud of it, and I hope my colleagues are too. This is the largest intelligence authorization in the history of our country. It is the result of 11 months of work done by our committee.

The conference process was a challenge. The Senate bill and the House bill were substantially different, but we worked hard to arrive at a middle ground. In conference, we further improved the bill. The conference adopted amendments offered by Members from both Chambers and both parties. This includes an amendment by the distinguished ranking member of the intelligence committee.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill that will strengthen our intelligence community and our Nation's security. It adds significant funds to most of the Nation's satellite architecture. It reduces funding for nonperforming intelligence activities in Iraq, while robustly funding activities against al Qaeda and terrorism in Afghanistan and around the globe.

I am particularly proud of the fact that it also includes funding for counterterrorism, human intelligence collection, analysis, training and languages. We have carefully tailored provisions to enhance the diversity of the intelligence community, which is a critical investment for the future of the intelligence community.

In another investment for the future, we've added significant funding for advanced research and development. This will also maintain our technical edge over our adversaries. We have also provided money to repair and replace aging infrastructure and to train and equip linguists and intelligence collectors, so vital and important in the global war on terrorism.

This bill promotes accountability within the intelligence community, and it puts the intelligence committee back in the business of oversight. It requires reporting to Congress on several issues of major concern to all of us, including a report on compliance with the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005 and related provisions of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 regarding detentions and interrogations, as well as Justice Department legal opinions related to all of these activities. It includes provisions to strengthen oversight by the Inspector General in the intelligence community, including a provision establishing a confirmed communitywide Inspector General armed with essential authorities.

The conference report also provides for Senate confirmation of the Directors of the National Security Agency and the National Reconnaissance Office. For agencies with such significant budgets and acquisition authority and the potential to impact American privacy rights, we think the Congress ought to have a say in their Directors through Senate confirmation.

In short, Madam Speaker, the conference report is a result of a bipartisan, bicameral effort to strengthen both the intelligence community and congressional oversight. I will be proud to vote for it, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 2½ minutes to my colleague from Alabama (Mr. EVERETT).

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the conference report to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. The process and the substance of the bill fall sadly short. As one of the crossover Members who serves on both the Select Intelligence and the House Armed Services