



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY JUNE 26, 2007

No. 104

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIREs).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 26, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALBIO SIREs 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 not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

### PLIGHT OF IRAQI REFUGEES

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this last week I had the opportunity to meet a true American hero in Iraq, Kirk W. Johnson. No matter what your position on the war in Iraq, how it started, where it's going, how it will end up, you should be deeply concerned by the 4 million Iraqis who have been forced to flee their homes. And you cannot help but be impressed by Mr. Johnson and his deep concern for their plight.

This young Arabist, who worked for the USAID as regional coordinator on reconstruction in Fallujah—from, I might add, impeccable Republican lineage—figured prominently in George Packer's haunting essay in *The New Yorker* on March 26 of this year. That essay, entitled "Betrayed: The Iraqis Who Trusted America the Most," had a profound impact on me. It is a harsh title, but the facts are harsh. In a country with a population about the size of Texas, 4 million Iraqis have been forced to flee their homes. Two million are currently outside the country, primarily in Jordan and Syria where there are jarring press accounts, for instance, of women forced into prostitution to feed their families in Syria. Mr. Johnson has been focusing on a special subset of these unfortunate people, people whose lives are at risk because they helped the United States, translators, guides, people who worked on the reconstruction effort. He has compiled a list of over 500 Iraqis that he knows personally are in that category. Five hundred, not one of whom has been able to yet make it to the United States for asylum. They are part of the tip of the refugee iceberg. Two million, as I say, in Jordan and Syria.

Mr. Johnson asks the question that each Member of Congress must confront: What kind of superpower can't convert its "very top priority"—the words, by the way, of Ellen Sauerbrey, the Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration in her testimony before the United States Senate—can't convert its very top priority into a program that starts saving the lives of people who helped us before their visas expire?

The stark reality is that only 70 Iraqis since October of last year have been admitted to the United States. Only eight in March, one in April and another in May.

I strongly urge that my colleagues join me in supporting H.R. 2265. This

comprehensive refugee legislation will allow for more Iraqis to be granted refugee status in the United States. Why should the United States accept fewer refugees than Sweden? It would allow them to apply for refugee status in Iraq. Why should they be forced to flee the country, to Jordan, for instance, when we have the largest embassy in the world in Baghdad? This legislation would put somebody in charge, having a special coordinator to help us make sure that this problem is solved. I strongly urge my colleagues to make sure that Congress does its part to deal with the greatest continuing refugee crisis in the world with the possible exception of the Darfur. This is a crisis for which the United States has a unique responsibility and a unique role in its solution.

Please examine H.R. 2265, add your name as cosponsor, but, more important, join Mr. Kirk Johnson in making the plight of these millions of unfortunate people, especially those who helped us, part of your mission in Congress.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN) at 10 a.m.

### PRAYER

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

□ 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.

H7079

In these uncertain times, when thousands of refugees have left their homeland in the search for peace, and so many of Your people immigrate for food, for a job, or for a better way of life for their children, the words of Ruth, the refugee in the Scriptures, echo in the aching hearts of so many in today's world.

"Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God too. Wherever you die, I will die, and I will lie down beside you. I swear an oath before the Lord God: Nothing but death shall divide us."

Lord, such expression to faithfulness in a human relationship builds strong families and nations. Ruth's oath speaks of a deep commitment and creates hope for the future.

Dear Lord, uphold the fragile life of refugees. Grant stability to marriages in this Nation. Sustain the families of Members of Congress and the military with patience, endurance and faithfulness.

May Your eternal love and faithfulness sometimes hinted at in the human relationships of Your people be revealed to those who take flight even today. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY NEEDS TO TAKE A CIVICS CLASS—HE IS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY has been serving as the Vice President now for 7 years, and he is claiming that he is not a member of the executive branch.

We didn't hear the Vice President disputing his place in the executive branch when he claimed executive privilege at congressional attempts to have CHENEY make public his energy task force members.

No, CHENEY is once again trying to do an end-run around the rules. Last week the House Oversight Committee learned that CHENEY had exempted his

office from the Presidential order that establishes government-wide procedures for safeguarding classified national security information.

Editorials nationwide are decrying CHENEY's actions. The Kansas City Star said that this is another example of his "insistence on secrecy and his disdain for open government." USA Today said there was "no surer way for leaders to get the country in trouble than to mix arrogance with secrecy."

Let's see if the President is still actually standing up to his second.

#### JUDGE ROBERT E. COYLE COURTHOUSE

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of Senate bill 1801, a bill to rename the U.S. courthouse in Fresno, California, as the Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse. In previous Congresses, I have introduced identical legislation, and I am pleased to see that this is finally happening.

A local man, Judge Coyle was born in Fresno, California, and earned his B.A. from California State University Fresno. After completing his undergraduate work, Judge Coyle didn't have to travel far to earn his J.D. at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. Nominated for appointment in 1980 by President Ronald Reagan, Judge Coyle was subsequently elevated to chief judge in 1990 and served in that capacity until 1996, where he took senior status.

Judge Coyle has dedicated himself to a lifetime of service in the central valley. He has proven himself a strong community leader, and was instrumental in the construction of the new courthouse downtown. It's only fitting that the building bears his name.

This should be a proud day for Judge Coyle and his family. I wish him the best in the years to come and thank him for his tireless devotion to public service.

#### SO-CALLED GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM CANNOT BE WON BY MILITARY MIGHT ALONE

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the so-called global war on terrorism cannot be won by military might alone. It is a war of ideas and philosophies. Terrorism is the tactic used by people who seem to hate what the U.S. stands for more than they love life itself. But it is hard to hate the concepts of justice, individual freedoms and human rights.

The problem is that as long as our enemies can claim that we deny justice and abuse human rights and individual freedoms, we lose ground in this war of ideas. In fact, as long as we maintain

the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, we undermine our standing, our credibility, throughout the world.

This is not what America stands for. America stands for the concept of habeas corpus and human rights. Guantanamo Bay is unAmerican, and that's why it needs to be closed.

#### PLAYING THE FIDDLE WHILE THE BORDER BURNS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Border Patrol agents report that illegals and drug smugglers are entering the United States through our national forests. They are setting forest fires at the border, at patrol stands and watch towers, attempting to smoke out the agents and divert their attention from the illegal crossings.

National forest firefighters have reported seeing illegals and drug smugglers move right on through fires as the firefighters try to put out the fires. Once assaulted with rocks, cars, guns, now agents must worry about fires. And these arsonist illegals are not just stopping at setting those fires. Reports indicate some illegals have engaged in throwing Molotov cocktails—a crude bomb made from gasoline—at our agents.

The border war has escalated. These new invaders are not the migrants in search of a better life, they are violent land burners who will do anything to invade the United States, including assaulting U.S. border agents.

There is a wildfire of illegal crossings at the border, and the Potomac amnesty-for-all crowd is fiddling the violin of blissful ignorance while the border burns.

And that's just the way it is.

#### IT'S TIME FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT TO REMOVE THE SECRECY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, over the last 7 years, DICK CHENEY has convinced himself that Saddam Hussein was involved in 9/11, that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and that the insurgency was in its last throes. Now it seems he's convinced himself that he is not actually Vice President, insisting that he, unlike the previous 44, is not a member of the executive branch.

It's difficult for any American who's taken seventh grade civics to miss the hypocrisy of this claim, especially when it comes from a man who so frequently has withheld information from Congress based on the assertion of executive privilege.

It's time for the Vice President to remove the secrecy, reject hypocrisy, and honor his pledge to support the Constitution. It's time for DICK CHENEY to start respecting the citizens who pay