



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2007

No. 116

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIREs).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 19, 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.

PRAYER

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

Lord our God, who breathes forth Your Spirit upon this world for another day, grant us true faith—a faith vision which will hold Congress and the people of this Nation together in troublesome times and through fashionable change.

Strengthen us in optimistic hope, as once again we place our trust in You.

Renew us in steadfast love as we would be loved; for lasting values and lasting virtue rest on these three: faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love. For this is Your Holy Name, now and forever.

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 gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 966) "An Act to enable the Department of State to respond to a critical shortage of passport processing personnel, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board:

Adam Ruiz of Kentucky.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, one of President Bush's most used justification for the war in Iraq has been that it is central to winning the war on terror, but the National Intelligence Estimate tells a completely different story.

Al Qaeda has only gained strength since the United States invasion of Iraq in March of 2003, and al Qaeda has regenerated in Pakistan along its bor-

der with Afghanistan, a reality that may have something to do with the fact that the great majority of our troops and resources are fighting an ill-conceived war in Iraq instead of finishing the job we started in Afghanistan.

The sad truth is that when our Nation undertook Operation Enduring Freedom after the horrific attacks of 9/11, we had al Qaeda on the run. We had them on the verge of being dismantled.

President Bush decided to alter our mission at a critical time and send our brave men and women to Iraq that had nothing to do with 9/11, to fight a war that has been a detriment to the war on terror.

President Bush had al Qaeda on the ropes. He threw them a life preserver. They were weak, and today they're stronger, according to the report.

So to President Bush, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who want to stay the course, I simply ask why? Why would we want to continue a war that the American people want to end?

THE TERRORISTS DO NOT WANT PEACE

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the terrorists we face today are the same enemies that bombed our Marines in Beirut, Lebanon, bombed the World Trade Centers in 1993, attacked Khobar Towers in 1996, bombed our embassy in Africa in 1997. This enemy values death over life and seeks not to negotiate but to war against us.

These fanatics, in the name of religion, with a doctrine of hate, preach death to the United States.

On September 11, the terrorists brought the fight to us. Now Iraq is the centerpiece of the war on terror, and so is Afghanistan. We cannot give ground to this homicidal enemy because this

□ 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.



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will only encourage more attacks. The resulting consequences are disaster, destruction and defeat.

Today we find ourselves in a global struggle. We have been attacked over and over again by these radicals.

War, no one wants war. But war will not end just because we quit, nor because we are weary of war, nor because we desire peace. The enemy will continue this war against us, whether we are in the fight or not. They do not want peace. There can be no peace until we stop them.

And that's just the way it is.

TRI-CAUCUS HEALTH DISPARITIES SUMMIT

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss the Fifth Annual Congressional Tri-Caucus Minority Health Summit which will be held this week-end in San Diego.

Hosted by the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, the event is an opportunity for Members of Congress to learn from health experts, grass roots advocates and innovative solutions and address health disparities in communities of color.

I'm proud that 11 Members from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Black Caucus and Asian Caucus will join me and health advocates in San Diego. We're prepared to discuss issues such as expanding the SCHIP program, HIV and AIDS, homelessness, foster care, border health and veterans care, along with that discussing chronic illnesses that face many communities of color that are low income and disadvantaged.

That's why my Tri-Caucus colleagues and I recently introduced H.R. 3014, the Health Equity and Accountability Act, a comprehensive bipartisan legislation which addresses health care disparities.

As Chair of the Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and the Environment, I look forward to this event and bringing a new direction to this Congress.

HOSPITAL INFECTION RATES

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, here are some grim statistics.

As of today, 1,095,890 cases, 49,320 deaths, and a cost of \$27,397,260,282. This is not a war. These are infections that people pick up in hospitals, and these are based upon CDC estimates of 90,000 deaths per year. But a more recent study came from the Association for Professionals in Infection Control, say the numbers can be as high as 119,000 deaths and 12 million cases per year.

When will we start acting to make sure that we have all hospitals act, as

so many have done, to eliminate infections from hospitals?

I ask my colleagues to cosponsor and to help pass H.R. 1174, the Healthy Hospitals Act. It is time we stop wasting health care dollars, health insurance dollars and wasting lives and start saving lives in hospitals the way so many hospitals have been able to do. Please, let's get moving to make our hospitals healthier.

CARBON MONOXIDE IN MEAT

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, carbon monoxide added to meat packaging is deceptive for consumers. Blasting meat with carbon monoxide makes spoiled meat appear to be red, wholesome, healthy when its really dangerous to eat.

Although it is well known that consumers rely heavily on color to evaluate the freshness of meat, the FDA has not required the use of carbon monoxide in the packaging of meat to be labeled.

Consumers, therefore, have no way of knowing whether the meat has been treated, and they can no longer rely on color to judge the freshness and safety of treated meat.

Here's meat we left out for 27 hours. The top's been treated with carbon monoxide, the bottom has not. The bottom is brown and nasty. The top looks fresh and wholesome. Eat either one of these packages of meat and you'll become very ill.

For this reason, I will today introduce the Carbon Monoxide Treated Foods Safe Handling, Labeling and Consumer Protection Act. This legislation is needed to help prevent consumer deception and serious risk to our public health.

Given the recent events that have highlighted food safety risks to public health, the Carbon Monoxide Treated Meat Safe Handling, Labeling and Consumer Protection Act takes the important step in helping inform and empower consumers to ensure their food is safe and wholesome.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY AND WASTE

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we hear and read about so many examples of waste by the Federal bureaucracy that almost nothing shocks or surprises us anymore. However, the Washington Post reported yesterday on a really ridiculous waste of money.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency paid \$24 million for 112,000 tons of ice after Hurricane Katrina. 42,000 tons were stored for future use, and FEMA paid \$12.5 million in storage

fees. Now, all this unused ice is going to be thrown away. But here is the really ridiculous part.

FEMA is going to pay \$3.4 million, \$3,400,000 to melt the ice. It's over 90 degrees outside. The Department of Homeland Security, of which FEMA is a part, has 171,000 employees. A first-grader could melt ice. But the Federal Government is going to pay \$3,400,000 to have it done.

No wonder the Federal Government is almost \$9 trillion in debt. If we ever created a Hall of Fame of government waste, FEMA should be the first admission.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today in full support of H.R. 3043, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008. By bringing this bill to the House floor, we demonstrate again the hard work of the Democratic majority to reverse the trend of critical cuts to programs that improve the lives of all Americans.

The bill includes an additional \$750 million for the National Institutes of Health, another \$400 million for the Social Security Administration to address the backlog of disability cases and reviews and, most dramatically, \$2 billion additionally to improve the requirements of No Child Left Behind.

Additionally, Head Start will get \$75 million in additional funding under this bill. But when you look at it, in real dollar terms, that's actually a decrease. Head Start is widely recognized as one of our most productive education programs. For every dollar that we spend on Head Start we bring in \$9 in future benefits in taxes. So the benefits of Head Start do not end just with the preparation for school.

And I understand there are budgetary constraints but, Mr. Speaker, I hope that in the conference committee we can actually put real money into Head Start.

THE CAPTURE OF MASHHADANI

(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. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to our troops for capturing the highest ranking Iraqi in al Qaeda's leadership. Mashhadani, known to be the most senior Iraqi in al Qaeda leadership, operated as chief communicator between his terrorists and senior al Qaeda leaders, including bin Laden and Zawahiri.

This arrest further confirms the connection between al Qaeda and Iraq and