



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2007

No. 125

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 1, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER 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:

From the darkness of the night, the light of a new day emerges gradually, filled with promise. Shed Your light upon Congress, Lord, that its work of unifying this Nation in defense and in leadership may be blessed with solidarity and peace.

May sincere faith and faithfulness to responsibilities demonstrate the Word of the Lord is alive and at work in our midst. It strikes at the very heart and pierces more deftly than any two-edged sword, revealing the truth that will set people free, 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 her approval thereof.

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WALBERG 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 has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3206. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 15, 2007, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed joint resolutions and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 7. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Roger W. Sant as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Patricia Q. Stonesifer as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S. Con. Res. 26. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and commanding

recipients of the Purple Heart for their courageous demonstrations of gallantry and heroism on behalf of the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE HATE CRIMES BILL

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, some time ago this House passed the Hate Crime Bill, and I was one of the sponsors and one of the supporters. Since that time, there has been a group of right-winged evangelical Republicans, national in scale, who have tried to influence preachers in my district, particularly African American preachers, and make them think that that bill will somehow quell their first amendment rights to speak what they think about the Bible and about people's conduct. That's not true whatsoever. That bill contained in it an amendment by ARTUR DAVIS that said this in no way affects anybody's first amendment right, and it doesn't. That Hate Crime Bill affects acts of violence, not acts of thought or speech; never has in this country's history and never will.

There are the Ten Commandments that we have and we've honored for many years, and one of the Commandments is, "Thou shalt not bear false witness." Well, in Memphis, Tennessee, that group has borne false witness in trying to question the Hate Crimes Bill and the votes of the Members of this House and, hopefully, the Senate when they pass that bill. It only affects violence, and violence aimed at any group is wrong. And if it's aimed at a group to intimidate, it's even more wrong.

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.

IMPROVED CARE FOR WOUNDED

(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, yesterday, the final report from the President's bipartisan Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors was released. The main goal for the Commission is to assure that every member of our Armed Forces receives the prompt, exceptional care most are already receiving. Included in these recommendations were prevention and treatment of posttraumatic distress disorder and strengthening VA support for families of the wounded. In addition, a single point of contact for patients and families is crucial so the way toward recovery is simplified.

We are striving to ensure that our brave men and women returning from battle are given the best treatment possible. Commission Co-Chair Bob Dole points out that, "Today, seven out of eight survive, many with injuries that would have been fatal in past wars."

I am grateful for the medical personnel that are working diligently to make sure our brave troops are receiving the care they deserve.

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

PROVIDING RESOURCES EARLY FOR KIDS ACT

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

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Providing Resources Early for Kids Act of 2007, the PRE-K Act.

The PRE-K Act will help more children enter school ready to succeed. It creates a new Federal/State partnership to provide better preschool opportunities for our country's children.

Research shows that participation in a high-quality early education program can improve success in school and later in life. So this bill focuses on quality. It is flexible enough to encompass many types of State-funded preschool programs so long as they are high quality. For example, in Hawaii, an Early Learning Task Force is working on a new State-funded preschool program to ensure Hawaii's children have access to a variety of high-quality preschool experiences, from Head Start to community based organizations.

The PRE-K Act is one of the best investments we can make in our children, our families, and our Nation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage.

WHAT WOULD THE DEFEATISTS HAVE US DO?

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, instead of praising and encouraging our troops in their relentless fight against the terrorist insurgents and seeing the success of U.S. troops, some choose to focus on the negative. They seem to preach gloom, doom and despair. They come across as defeatists, retreatists, and losers.

Do these people really want us to lose this war? Is their retreat political agenda more important than America's safety agenda? Now is the time, more than ever, that this Nation be behind our soldiers in this fight.

The dangers to freedom do exist. Right now in Afghanistan, Taliban forces are holding 22 civilians from a South Korean church. They have executed one hostage and plan to murder more. These Islamic radicals kill in the name of religion. Now, what would the surrender advocates have us do? Hide?

Fanatical militants are a threat to the security of free nations and the United States. It is the American troops, however, that are making a difference in beating back the forces of hatred and oppression. Our patriots deserve thanks, respect and our total commitment, not naysayers' words of criticism, contempt and complaining.

And that's just the way it is.

LOBBYING REFORM: DEMOCRATS CHANGING THE WAY BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED IN D.C.

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

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, this House took a critical step in changing the way business is done in Washington. The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 provides the most sweeping lobby reform in a generation, finally bringing unprecedented transparency to lobbyist activities.

During last year's election, the American people unequivocally called for a change in the way business is done in Washington. This bill, along with the ethics reform our Democratic majority enacted in the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress, are significant steps forward in cleaning up the culture of corruption that has plagued Washington for far too long.

As soon as Democrats took control of this Congress, we began a new era of honest and open government, finally returning this House to the American people and making sure that the work we do here is something that we can be proud of.

Madam Speaker, by passing the comprehensive lobbying reform yesterday, we are keeping our promise to the American people to make this Congress the most honest and open in history.

REFORM FISA

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, one reason America has remained free of attack for the last 7 years is because we have given the tools necessary to those on the front lines, whether it be our military or our intelligence officers. Many tactics to defend and protect this country have been used, one being electronic surveillance to gather foreign intelligence through the FISA Act.

Madam Speaker, FISA was first implemented to assist the gathering of information during another era, well before the invention of cell phones, satellite tracking, or even the Internet. Terrorist groups and, more specifically, al Qaeda, have adapted to modern technology, and it's time the U.S. did the same. We're not talking about skirting the legal process but, rather, giving our intelligence officers the ability to gather information coming from foreign and/or known terrorists in the United States.

I urge the majority to fix this problem now and help keep our country safe.

THE CHAMP ACT

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

Mr. WYNN. Good morning, Madam Speaker. You know, it's simple: If America is the greatest country in the world, then all our children should have health care. That's what Democrats believe.

Today, we're going to pass the CHAMP Act to provide health insurance to an additional 5 million children here in America, the children of the working poor. Who are the working poor? They're the people, one-half of them women, who work in service industries, who work in retail. They're laborers, they're the self-employed. Their employees don't provide health insurance, and they can't afford it. They barely make ends meet.

Now, with this bill we will move a long way toward the goal of providing universal health insurance for all American children, and I think that's a good idea. Now, during the course of the day you're going to hear lots of arguments, arguments about processing and why this wasn't fair or done in the right way. You will hear arguments about cost. But let me tell you, at the end of the day, that is all just empty rhetoric and rationalizations. Because the fact is, if America is the greatest country in the world, then all our children should have health insurance. Period.

SCHIP MAKES TITANIC WRECK LOOK SMALL

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

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, we can all think of instances where some great