

my opinion, respected as a parliamentarian apparently or knowledge of parliamentary procedure, that the reason it was delayed in coming to this body was because, as the gentleman from Georgia pointed out, you made the comment, which I think is absolutely accurate, all of you on your side of the aisle thought that we would take whatever the Senate gave us because we would be fearful; we would be fearful of not pursuing substantive legislative process to discuss this very important issue. I agree with you. Every one of your Members thought, in your words, we would blink. The question is not blinking. The question is substantively getting to a result that furthers the protection of our country and the protection of our Constitution. That is our perception. That is our belief. And I will tell my friend from California that it's not my opinion alone but it's the opinion of a number of people, including the former adviser to this administration on terrorism as well as the previous administration on terrorism, Richard Clarke, that the opinion I have expressed is an accurate opinion.

The gentleman also knows in terms, and I want to say, also, I don't think it's the appropriate place nor do I intend to get into my perception of Admiral McConnell's position. That's not the purpose of this debate. I have some views, but I'm not going to get into those. What I am going to get into and simply respond to these observations is that we believe the country is protected. We believe that in terms of all of those al Qaeda objects that you make reference to, I hope and presume, I do not know, I have no secret information that I'm disclosing, but I would be shocked and dismayed and deeply disappointed if at this point in time the administration did not have in place orders that covered at least from now until August of this year, which is when we last authorized this bill, the Protect America Act, and under which the administration could have gotten authority which would have lasted for a full year. So those orders are still in place, they will not lapse, and it will be no impediment to further interception of those communications.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Reclaiming my time, and I appreciate those comments. There's clearly a difference of opinion. Just to set the record straight, it's important that this House and the Nation know that 34 of your Members voted not to extend for 21 days, a little greater number than the 21.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman will yield, a lot of them didn't believe that the act ought to be in place, you understand, at all.

Mr. PRICE or Georgia. I appreciate that, because I was about to make that point. The objection to the extension comes from both the left and the right. It's not that we thought you would blink. We could not believe that the majority would not live up to its primary responsibility, which we perceive

as making certain that this Nation is protected. That's what we believed.

This House, Mr. Speaker, has adopted billions and trillions of dollars worth of spending in less time than it would have taken this week to come to conference and reach an agreement. We're here on Friday. We're ready to go. We are ready to go, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HOYER. I believe the gentleman is speaking about when you were in charge, passing those trillions of dollars in very short periods of time. We took a longer time, as you may recall. I think you were responsible, as a matter of fact, for some of that time that we spent.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. And I appreciate that, Mr. Leader. We slowed that down a little bit and hopefully we spent a little less.

Mr. HOYER. Right.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate that. But our side looks at the world and sees Hezbollah challenging Israel to open war. We look at the world and we see al Qaeda threatening to assassinate the Filipino President. We look at the world in, I believe, realistic eyes, and we cannot believe that this House will leave this Nation exposed to threats in this time in our history. It just is astounding to us.

And so I rise, Mr. Speaker, to reserve the right to object, because I believe strongly that the majority of Members of this House, if given the opportunity, would support the bill that came from the Senate.

I am pleased to yield under the reservation to my friend from California.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. To underscore that point, as the gentleman from Maryland knows, a letter was sent by 21 Members on your side of the aisle to the Speaker asking that the Senate bill be presented and stating that they would support it in whole if it were presented on the floor. Now, again, I'm not a math major, but 21 on your side and virtually everyone on our side perhaps, with the exception of three, certainly adds up to a majority in this House.

So, if the question is would the House be given the time to work its will, the statement of support on your side of the aisle in written form from your membership sufficient to create a majority in this House shows that we had the will if given the opportunity to support a bill coming out of the Senate which responded affirmatively to the presentation made by Admiral McConnell.

I again understand the gentleman from Maryland disagrees with the admiral, disagrees with the assessment, but the fact of the matter is a majority in this House disagrees with the gentleman from Maryland. They specifically said in their letter that all of the specific aspects of the bill about which they were concerned were taken care of by the Rockefeller-Bond bill and would support it if it were presented here on the floor and said a key part of that was the inclusion of the immunity for

those companies who had assisted this Nation. And, remember, it's not a blanket immunity. It is an immunity only if they acted in good faith at the request of the United States Government from 9/11 up until the present time. That is not a blanket immunity, and that's what we are confronted with here, a failure to allow us just to vote it on the floor. We could debate it then and the gentleman from Maryland and his minority of Members, a strong minority but a minority of Members who believe the admiral is wrong would have their opportunity to debate and attempt to persuade the majority of Members who have already indicated that they support the admiral's position and believe that we should follow on that support with actual legislation.

So that's the point I think that ought not to be lost here. It's not that we're not in charge or you're in charge. It's a question of whether the leadership will allow the majority of the House of Representatives to work its will on probably the most important issue facing the American people at the present time.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate that and I appreciate, Mr. Speaker, the indulgence of the House in allowing this debate to go forward which I think has been important.

I withdraw my reservation.

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

There was no objection.

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 and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1216. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of light motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 293. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 5 of title I of division H of Public Law 110-161, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the U.S.-Japan Interparliamentary Group conference for the One Hundred Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of title 2, United States Code, section 1151, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-702, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, reappoints the following individual to the Federal Judicial Center Foundation Board:

John B. White Jr. of South Carolina.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 110-161, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission on Children and Disasters:

Mark Shriver of Maryland and Sheila Leslie of Nevada.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 293, 110th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 19, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5400. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Wood Packaging Material; Treatment Modification [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0129] (RIN: 0579-AC32) received February 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5401. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—ELECTRONIC FILING AND REVISION OF FORM D [RELEASE NOS. 33-8891; 34-57280; 39-2453; IC-28145; FILE NO. S7-12-07] (RIN: 3235-AJ87) received February 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5402. A letter from the Chairperson, National Council on Disability, transmitting a copy of the NCD's "National Disability Policy: A Progress Report," as required by Section 401(b)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, covering the period from December 2005 through December 2006, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 781(a)(8); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5403. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Allotments From Federal Employees (RIN: 3206-AJ88) received February 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5404. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule—Reexportation of Con-

trolled Substances [Docket No. DEA-276F] (RIN: 1117-AB00) received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5405. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System Vertical Settlement, New Orleans, LA, pursuant to Pub. L. 109-234, Title II, Chapter 3; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5406. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the progress of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LaCPR) Study, pursuant to Public Law 109-148; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5407. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan report on the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MsCIP), pursuant to Public Law 109-148; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5408. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's recommended re-authorization of a flood damage reduction project for the Santa Barbara Streams, Lower Mission Creek, Santa Barbara, California; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5409. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's environmental assessment report for the Tanque Verde Creek, Arizona; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5410. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report to Congress on the extent to which the implementation by the United States Coast Guard of regulations issued or enforced, or interpretations or guidelines established, pursuant to Public Law 104-55, carry out the intent of Congress and recognize and provide for the differences in the physical, chemical, biological, and other properties, and in the environmental effects, of the classes of fats, oils, and greases described under that law; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5411. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's interim report in accordance with Section 1807(e) of Public Law 109-59, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5412. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "2006 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges and Transit: Conditions and Performance," pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 502(h); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5413. A letter from the Chair, National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, transmitting the Commission's report entitled, "Transportation

for Tomorrow: Report of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5414. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Guidance Necessary to Facilitate Electronic Tax Administration—Updating of Section 7216 Regulations [TD 9375] (RIN: 1545-BA96) received January 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5415. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Guidance Regarding Marketing of Refund Anticipation Loans (RALS) and Certain Other Products in Connection with the Preparation of a Tax Return [REG-136596-07] (RIN: 1545-BH12) received January 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5416. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Revenue Procedure 2008-12—received January 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H. Con. Res. 300. Concurrent resolution recognizing the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TANNER, and Mr. LAMPSON):

H. Con. Res. 301. Concurrent resolution encouraging the United States Geological Survey, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Defense to support a recovery mission for the human remains of the crew killed in the George One crash in Antarctica, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Science and Technology, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 82: Mr. SKELTON.

H.R. 1032: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SOLIS, and Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 1419: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 2352: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2702: Mr. LOEBSACK.