



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

No. 42

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 12, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN F. TIERNEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend W. James Thomas, II, Shiloh Church of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we come before You today to praise You for Your goodness to our Nation and for blessing us in ways we do not deserve. We celebrate the diversity of languages and cultures that have shaped and enriched our national life. With the many problems we face in our Nation, we thank You for leaders who are passionate about our Nation's future.

And now, dear God, give us Your light and Your truth to guide us. Keep our faces toward You and our feet in paths of righteousness. Give our Nation's leaders the fortitude to stand strong for what is right. Keep us, sustain us, and do not allow us to lose sight of You. Deliver us from sin, pardon our offenses, and absolve us from all wickedness. Grant us the highest joy, that of glorifying and enjoying You.

This we pray in Your holy name. 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.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. 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. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CUELLAR 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. 1593. An act to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 270. Concurrent resolution to make corrections in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1593.

H. Con. Res. 306. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2516. An act to assist members of the Armed forces in obtaining United States citizenship, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING REV. W. JAMES THOMAS, II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, our pastor today was Pastor W. James Thomas, II.

Pastor Thomas is God's visionary for Shiloh Church of Memphis, located in Memphis, Tennessee. Serving as pastor since 1994, his consistent obedience to God has taken the Shiloh congregation from glory to glory. The membership has grown from 75 to 600 and counting. During these years, Pastor Thomas has been preaching and teaching God's uncompromising Word with a boldness that has changed the lives of the people at Shiloh and throughout the country.

To accommodate the vision and growth of the church membership, Pastor Thomas led the congregation in the acquisition of a 19,000 square foot worship and educational facility in 1998. In

□ 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.

H1541

2003, the sanctuary was completely renovated and office complex expanded.

Spiritually, Pastor Thomas was saved and received much of his spiritual development in the Church of God in Christ. He was called to the ministry at the age of 14 and began pastoring at the age of 18 in Knoxville, Tennessee. He graduated cum laude from Crichton College in Memphis with a bachelor of science degree in Biblical studies and is currently a candidate for the master of divinity degree. He has also attended and received degrees from Harvard University and Yale University, where he had completed the first Graduate School of Theological Studies' special intensive course at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge and the Yale School of Divinity in September 2006.

He's very active in our community in Memphis, Tennessee. He is married to Minister Antonia R. Thomas, who serves alongside him in the ministry. And even possibly as important or more important than this congregation, he has two children. One is Private First Class Reginald Cleveland, who is an officer and security person for this Chamber, from Memphis, Tennessee, who is here today; and he has a daughter in middle school.

I appreciate Pastor Thomas serving the United States House of Representatives as our pastor this morning.

CALENDAR WEDNESDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIND). Today is the day of Calendar Wednesday. The Clerk will call the roll of committees.

The Clerk called the committees.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SESSIONS (during the call). I have a point of parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas may state his inquiry.

Mr. SESSIONS. I understand that the procedure that the Chair just went through is known as Calendar Wednesday. Is it correct that any bill reported by a committee and placed on the Union or House Calendar could have been called up by the chairman as the committee name was read?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Calendar Wednesday business may be called up only on formal authorization by the reporting committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. A further point of parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. SESSIONS. On February 12, a bipartisan majority in the Senate passed S. 2248, a responsible bill to provide long-term authority for our intelligence community to help detect and prevent acts of terrorism. For a month now, it has been sitting at the desk in the House awaiting action. Would it have been in order for the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or the chairman of the Judiciary Committee or their designee to call up S. 2248 at this time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. No.

Mr. SESSIONS. Further point of parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. SESSIONS. H.R. 5440, the House counterpart to this bipartisan Senate legislation, was introduced by Congressman FOSSELLA on February 14. Would it be possible for Mr. HOEKSTRA, the ranking member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, to call up this bill under his committee's jurisdiction or for any of the 21 members of the Democrat majority who signed a letter to Speaker PELOSI on January 28 asking her to move this legislation to "ensure a strong national security apparatus that can thwart terrorist attacks across the globe and to save American lives here in this country," for them to call up this bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A committee member other than the chairman must have specific authorization of the committee to call up a bill on Calendar Wednesday.

Mr. SESSIONS. Further point of inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. SESSIONS. Is it in order for any member of the minority to call up a long-term FISA modernization bill that would strengthen the Nation's intelligence capacities while protecting the civil liberties of Americans during the call of the committees?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Again, a committee member other than the chairman must have specific authorization of the committee to call up a bill on Calendar Wednesday.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman for letting us know that it's up to the chairman or the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will continue.

The Clerk called the committees.

□ 1015

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIERNEY). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 5, nays 375, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 124]

YEAS—5

Davis, Lincoln
Honda

Johnson (IL)
Kingston

Miller, George

NAYS—375

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.

Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg

Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebuck
Loftgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmuter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)