

NOT VOTING—31

Ackerman	Conyers	Reynolds
Aderholt	DeFazio	Richardson
Bachus	Filner	Rush
Baird	Gutierrez	Sullivan
Barton (TX)	Jefferson	Tancred
Braley (IA)	Matheson	Tanner
Brown (SC)	McKeon	Walden (OR)
Calvert	Miller, Gary	Waters
Campbell (CA)	Musgrave	Wu
Cannon	Nunes	
Cohen	Renzi	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 1 minute remains in this vote.

□ 1639

Mr. LEVIN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 304, I was unable to vote because of pressing business with my constituents in my home district. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to instruct on H.R. 2419 offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 169, nays 222, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 305]

YEAS—169

Akin	Crenshaw	Goodlatte
Alexander	Cubin	Granger
Bachmann	Culberson	Graves
Baldwin	Davis (KY)	Hall (TX)
Barrett (SC)	Davis, David	Hastings (WA)
Bartlett (MD)	Davis, Tom	Hayes
Biggett	Deal (GA)	Heller
Bilbray	Dent	Hensarling
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart, L.	Herger
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hobson
Blackburn	Doggett	Hoekstra
Blunt	Doolittle	Hulshof
Boehner	Drake	Hunter
Bonner	Dreier	Inglis (SC)
Bono Mack	Duncan	Issa
Boozman	Ehlers	Johnson, Sam
Boustany	Emerson	Jones (NC)
Brady (TX)	English (PA)	Jordan
Brown (GA)	Everett	Keller
Brown-Waite,	Feeney	Kind
Ginny	Ferguson	King (IA)
Buchanan	Flake	King (NY)
Burgess	Forbes	Kingston
Burton (IN)	Fortenberry	Kline (MN)
Buyer	Fossella	Knollenberg
Cantor	Fox	Kuhl (NY)
Capito	Franks (AZ)	Lamborn
Carter	Gallely	Larson (CT)
Castle	Garrett (NJ)	Latham
Chabot	Gerlach	LaTourette
Coble	Gingrey	Latta
Cole (OK)	Gohmert	Lewis (CA)
Conaway	Goode	Lewis (KY)

Linder	Petri	Shimkus
Lucas	Pitts	Shuster
Lungrun, Daniel	Platts	Smith (NE)
E.	Poe	Smith (TX)
Mack	Porter	Souder
Marchant	Price (GA)	Stark
McCarthy (CA)	Pryce (OH)	Stearns
McCaul (TX)	Putnam	Terry
McCotter	Radanovich	Thornberry
McCrery	Ramstad	Tiahrt
McHenry	Regula	Tiberi
McHugh	Rogers (KY)	Turner
McMorris	Rogers (MI)	Upton
Rodgers	Rohrabacher	Walberg
Mica	Ros-Lehtinen	Wamp
Miller (FL)	Roskam	Westmoreland
Moore (WI)	Royce	Whitfield (KY)
Moran (KS)	Ryan (WI)	Wilson (NM)
Murphy, Tim	Sali	Wilson (SC)
Myrick	Saxton	Wittman (VA)
Neugebauer	Scalise	Wolf
Obey	Schmidt	Young (AK)
Pearce	Sensenbrenner	Young (FL)
Pence	Sessions	
Peterson (PA)	Sherman	

NAYS—222

Abercrombie	Gordon	Moran (VA)
Allen	Green, Al	Murphy (CT)
Altmire	Green, Gene	Murphy, Patrick
Andrews	Grijalva	Murtha
Arcuri	Hall (NY)	Napolitano
Baca	Hare	Neal (MA)
Barrow	Harman	Oberstar
Bean	Hastings (FL)	Olver
Becerra	Herseth Sandlin	Ortiz
Berkley	Higgins	Pallone
Berman	Hill	Pastor
Berry	Hinche	Perlmutter
Bishop (GA)	Hinojosa	Peterson (MN)
Bishop (NY)	Hirono	Pomeroy
Blumenauer	Hodes	Price (NC)
Boren	Holden	Rahall
Boswell	Holt	Rangel
Boucher	Honda	Rehberg
Boyd (FL)	Hooley	Reichert
Boyd (KS)	Hoyer	Reyes
Brady (PA)	Inslee	Rodriguez
Brown, Corrine	Israel	Rogers (AL)
Butterfield	Jackson (IL)	Ross
Camp (MI)	Jackson-Lee	Rothman
Capps	(TX)	Roybal-Allard
Cardoza	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Carnahan	Johnson (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Carney	Johnson, E. B.	Salazar
Carson	Jones (OH)	Sánchez, Linda
Castor	Kagen	T.
Cazayoux	Kanjorski	Sanchez, Loretta
Chandler	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Clarke	Kildee	Schakowsky
Clay	Kilpatrick	Schiff
Cleaver	Kirk	Schwartz
Clyburn	Klein (FL)	Scott (GA)
Conyers	Kucinich	Scott (VA)
Cooper	LaHood	Serrano
Costa	Lampson	Sestak
Costello	Langevin	Shays
Courtney	Larsen (WA)	Shea-Porter
Cramer	Lee	Simpson
Crowley	Levin	Sires
Cuellar	Lewis (GA)	Skelton
Cummings	Lipinski	Slaughter
Davis (AL)	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Davis (CA)	Loebsack	Smith (WA)
Davis (IL)	Lofgren, Zoe	Snyder
DeGette	Lowe	Solis
Delahunt	Lynch	Space
DeLauro	Mahoney (FL)	Speier
Dicks	Maloney (NY)	Spratt
Dingell	Markey	Stupak
Donnelly	Marshall	Sutton
Doyle	Matsui	Tauscher
Edwards	McCarthy (NY)	Taylor
Ellison	McCollum (MN)	Thompson (CA)
Elsworth	McDermott	Thompson (MS)
Emanuel	McGovern	Tierney
Engel	McIntyre	Towns
Eshoo	McNerney	Tsongas
Etheridge	McNulty	Udall (CO)
Fallin	Meek (FL)	Udall (NM)
Farr	Meeks (NY)	Van Hollen
Fattah	Melancon	Velázquez
Foster	Michaud	Visclosky
Frank (MA)	Miller (MI)	Walsh (NY)
Frelinghuysen	Miller (NC)	Walz (MN)
Giffords	Miller, George	Wasserman
Gilchrest	Mitchell	Schultz
Gillibrand	Mollohan	Watson
Gonzalez	Moore (KS)	Watt

NOT VOTING—42

Weiner	Weller	Woolsey
Welch (VT)	Wexler	Wynn
Weldon (FL)	Wilson (OH)	Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1646

Mr. SHERMAN changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 305, I was unable to vote because of pressing business with my constituents in my home district. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 299, 300, 301, 302 and 303 and “no” on rollcall votes 298, 304 and 305.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLEIN of Florida) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable John A. Boehner, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to Section 1853(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9-11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-53), I am pleased to appoint Mr. Henry Sokolski of Arlington, Virginia and Mr. Stephen Rademaker of McLean, Virginia to the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism.

Both Mr. Sokolski and Mr. Rademaker have expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill their requests.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Maryland, the majority leader, to tell us about next week's scheduled bills.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the Republican whip for yielding.

On Monday the House will meet in pro forma session at 2 p.m. On Tuesday the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and at 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday no votes are expected at this time.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. A final list of suspension bills will be announced, as is the custom, by the close of business tomorrow. We expect to consider the Iraq/Afghanistan supplemental appropriations bill. In addition, we also hope to consider the farm bill conference report. And it is possible, if the budget conference were completed, that we might consider that as well.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for that information.

Is it likely on the two conference reports you mentioned that the farm bill conference report will come before the budget conference report?

Mr. HOYER. It's likely that that will happen. I can't assert that, but I think it's likely.

As you know, the farm bill has been up to agreement and then back. I understand it is now agreed to and that Mr. PETERSON would like to bring it to the floor, assuming that the agreement holds, on Wednesday. So I think it's likely.

Mr. BLUNT. I am told if we went to the new budget, there might be some additional PAYGO items, but the current budget makes that farm bill more workable. So I think that might be the case.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman will yield, I see the chairman on the floor. The chairman and I have discussed that issue, and that's why I indicate that it is likely. Mr. PETERSON has worked extraordinarily hard, along with a lot of others. But because he's on the floor, I want to commend Chairman PETERSON for the work that he has put in on this. It's been a very rough conference and a very rough agreement. But he and Mr. LATOURETTE have worked closely together, and I congratulate them both.

Mr. BLUNT. That's right. Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. PETERSON have talked to both of us a lot about this bill, and I think it's coming to some conclusion now.

Mr. HOYER. I said Mr. LATOURETTE. I'm sure he's worked hard, too, but Mr. GOODLATTE is the ranking member.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. LATOURETTE was probably working on the Coast Guard issues in the farm bill.

I would like to ask the gentleman on the supplemental. I noticed in a number of printed reports that one of the reasons we didn't get to the supplemental was that the Blue Dogs were

claiming some credit that the PAYGO issue, which you and I actually discussed last week, was a problem. At that time you thought that we might be able to waive PAYGO for both the GI portion of the supplemental and the unemployment insurance portion of the supplemental. I wonder where we are on that topic of PAYGO as it relates to those two issues.

Is that a decided issue yet, and how would you expect that it may be decided?

Mr. HOYER. First, let me say that I don't believe that the PAYGO, under the proposal that has been made, applies to the GI Bill, to the Webb bill, or to whatever bill there might be. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN has a bill as well. Mr. MITCHELL has worked very hard on his bill. But however that might be considered, we believe that technically it does not need a waiver of PAYGO. But, clearly, the unemployment insurance, which would be considered as an emergency, as was the stimulus for stimulating the economy, would be dealt with as an emergency.

Mr. BLUNT. I was fortunate enough to have a meeting with Secretary Gates this week, and he, of course, encourages us to get this supplemental done quickly because, otherwise, they immediately get into trying to transfer funds around and things that may be available but do create huge management problems. I do hope we can get this done before the Memorial Day break, as you suggested we would.

Mr. HOYER. Will my friend yield?

Mr. BLUNT. I yield.

Mr. HOYER. We were trying to get it done quickly this week. There were some delays, as I recall, in the process. That was not the only reason, as the gentleman has observed. But we hope to get it done quickly.

Mr. BLUNT. You mentioned the other alternatives to the so-called Webb bill, and the Herseith Sandlin bill that is cosponsored by Mr. BOOZMAN on this side, I'm told by our Members and frankly some people from the Pentagon that it has some real merit over the other bill. Since we don't have any options in that bill, at least the bill we were talking about this week, no options to bring alternatives to the floor, I would hope that we could look at all of the alternatives in that part that benefit our servicemen and women and be sure we're bringing the best alternative the House has available to it to the floor next week.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

I will say that Congresswoman HERSETH SANDLIN has worked very hard on that. I'm sure Mr. BOOZMAN has as well. The committee has addressed that bill. It's a good bill. It's not as extensive, as you know, as the Webb bill, which has also been worked on pretty hard by former Secretary of the Navy WEBB, JIM WEBB, the Senator from Virginia. Both bills obviously seek to make sure that our warriors who come back, those who have defended freedom

in Iraq and Afghanistan, that when they come back, we invest in their education so they, in turn, can grow our economy and our country and do what the veterans of World War II did. But we're looking at those and they're under discussion.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that.

When you look at the anticipated spending and the scoring on those bills, both of them add so many new things to the benefit area that there's very little money spent in the first year. And since it takes that long to really get the new system up and running, I would just suggest again that the closer we are to a system that the military can be supportive of, both individuals in the military and the institutions, I think all of us want to take a step forward on those things that relate to servicemen and women and particularly those servicemen and women that may have been left out of past benefits for those who served. That would relate most directly to the National Guard and the reserves who are called up maybe for multiple periods of time but never for a long enough period of time at one consecutive time of full-time service to qualify for past benefits. We want to do that, but certainly we want to do that in the very best way, particularly when you look at how long it takes to retool the way that these benefits are made available for that to happen. Since it appears at this point that we'd have no alternative to bring, in this case, a better House alternative to the floor, I hope we are putting the right set of building blocks together to really build a better future for those who serve and are willing to put their lives at risk and their other activities on hold for us.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BLUNT. I would.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding and certainly agree with the sentiments he has just expressed, which is why, of course, we want to see this move forward quickly in the supplemental. But the alternatives that the gentleman has expressed are being looked at.

Mr. BLUNT. I'm also wondering, as we approach the Memorial Day recess and we have had this series now of days of the highest gasoline prices ever, will there be any legislation on the floor to reduce the price of gasoline as we go into Memorial Day and the other summer driving seasons?

Mr. HOYER. We certainly, as you know, passed a number of pieces of legislation which have attempted to look at a number of different issues. One, of course, was the manipulation by the OPEC nations to artificially inflate prices. The other thing we have looked at is price gouging at the pump. We passed that. The other item we looked at, of course, was the energy bill itself. And the other was we asked the FTC to look at manipulation. We wrote to the FTC about 3 weeks ago. The FTC gave

attention to our letter and is now exercising, as I understand, its jurisdiction under the legislation that we passed to look at prices.

In addition, we have numerous hearings scheduled. We've had some this week, next week, and the week after looking at various different aspects of this. Clearly, our consuming public, whether they be commercial, which are probably having the most critical problem because that's their livelihood, as well as those of us who are not driving for commercial sake but for important sake, to get to school, to get to work, to get to hospitals, to do all those things, we are very cognizant, as I know all of us are, of the strain that is being put on the consumers of our country.

□ 1700

Not only are they seeing an economic downturn, but at the same time that they are having reduced capacity to purchase things critical to them, gasoline and home heating oil are going up almost every week 5 to 10 cents. And so we are addressing that. We met with all the chairmen who reported out the energy bill last year and asked them to address this issue short term, medium term and long term.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that.

I would like to find something to do that would have this impact as we get into this driving season. I know that Mr. RYAN introduced a bill today that would take the money that otherwise would have been used for earmarks on both sides of the aisle and use that to offset the loss of revenue to the highway trust fund of a gas tax holiday. That would be one of the things that we could do in the next 2 weeks that should have immediate impact at the pump by Memorial Day if we did it before that Memorial Day break. But if we could do something to reduce gas prices, that would be a major thing.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield on that?

Mr. BLUNT. I would yield.

Mr. HOYER. One of the things I know I am personally for, and I think the Speaker is for that, as well, and we have urged the administration to take action, is not purchase additional oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve at this time. I would be opposed to taking oil out of the reserve. But if we stop purchasing oil for a period of time, reduce our demand as we fill the SPR, not only will we reduce demand, economists tell us that would have an effect on price, perhaps about the same as the gasoline tax holiday that you refer to.

There are a number of pieces of legislation. Mr. WELCH has a bill. Mr. LAMPSON has a bill. And many, many other Members have a bill. The administration, we believe, can do this on its own. We think that would be good policy while we have this crisis to stop filling up, not reducing, but to stop filling up our own reserve and reduce demand. Economists tell us that would

have a positive effect on bringing prices down as well.

Mr. BLUNT. Based on the increase in prices, if in fact that would have the same impact as a gas tax holiday, maybe we should do both. I suspect there would be substantial support on the floor to do both.

The only other item I am going to mention today is the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. It was 1 year ago tomorrow that the House, the Senate and the administration made an agreement on trade. That was about a year after the Colombia Free Trade Agreement had been negotiated. We have not passed that agreement yet and don't have any schedule on the floor. I would hope that we will continue work to get the Colombia Free Trade Agreement and the other trade agreements but particularly the Colombia agreement to the floor and do that in the spirit of the agreement that the Speaker and administration and Senate negotiators announced a year ago.

I would yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to say that both the Speaker and I believe that the administration, in reaching an agreement that you refer to, made a positive step in terms of incorporating within trade agreements a consideration of workers' rights and environmental concerns so that our manufacturers and our job producers in the United States had a fair, more level playing field in which to compete and that our workers were competing with workers who had the right to organize and were getting decent wages.

The Colombia agreement, as you know, was not sent down here after agreement between the administration and the House leadership. The response was to simply not take it off the agenda but take the time limit during which we might consider that. That was an interim step which did not, as the Speaker has pointed out, take Colombia off the agenda. It simply didn't put it on the agenda for immediate consideration. But that is still on the agenda. It is still available, a force, and it is still under discussion.

Mr. BLUNT. I hope we can get it done.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next, and further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, for morning-hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5818, NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5818 and amendments to H.R. 3221, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Upton moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2419 (an Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012) be instructed to recede to the provisions proposed to be added to Section 9001 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 in the form of a definition of "Renewable Biomass."

Mr. UPTON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motion be considered as read.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) will be recognized for 30 minutes each.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I will say I know that the hour is late. Many of us are trying to get home for the weekend, and there is business after me. So I don't at all intend to take too much of my 30 minutes that I have. But let me yield myself as much time as I may consume now.

Mr. Speaker, we are woefully unprepared to meet our energy needs for the next 30 years. Some estimates say that our needs in this country are going to increase as much as 50 percent by the year 2030. So we are going to have to do a much better job on not only looking at alternative forms of energy, we are also going to need to do much more on conservation, nuclear and a whole host of things. And as the majority leader indicated a short time ago, we are looking for some long-term strategies.

What this instruction to the conferees does is it takes, in essence, a piece of legislation, a bipartisan piece