



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008

No. 9

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 22, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MCGOVERN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for 2 minutes.

PROTECT AMERICA

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a matter of great urgency. In just a few short days, the legislation that permits our intelligence community to monitor terrorist communications will expire. This law, known as the Protect America Act, is a vital tool used by American agents to quickly intercept and act upon electronic communications between foreign terrorists.

Just last summer, we passed this law because Congress recognized that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 was not designed to govern the surveillance of modern telecommuni-

cations, the same electronic communications that groups like al Qaeda are using to plan attacks against U.S. citizens. I, for one, still believe that intelligence analysts shouldn't need to consult with lawyers every time a suspected terrorist buys a new disposable cell phone. But unless we act before February 1, that is exactly the kind of legal delay that our intelligence agents will face.

So let's abandon the partisan rhetoric and enact a long-term reauthorization of this important law, and let's do so without adding new bureaucratic hurdles or exposing private communication companies to unjustified lawsuits. Our men and women on the front lines deserve every tool we can give them to intercept and interrupt terrorist plots. The American people count on them to keep us safe. Let's pass this law.

PAYROLL TAX HOLIDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized during morning-hour debate for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFazio. The Bush administration presided over the creation of the housing bubble and the underlying exotic financial instruments with their typical "hands off" regulatory approach. Now it has exploded, and some in the administration are recognizing that the economy is in trouble, something that middle-income America and average Americans have known for quite some time.

Finally, the President and his appointees are talking about some stimulus. But they are drawing a line. They are saying yes, we will do some stimulus, but we will not invest in America. There will be no infrastructure investment. They are saying that would be bad. So far, there's no indication either that they intend to bring any regulatory discipline to the bizarre, exotic, over-leveraged, and opaque financial

markets, something that also cries out to be done.

Stimulus, yes. I believe we can reach agreement on that. It needs to be targeted toward those who have been hurt the worst: Middle-income and working families. The best way to do that, the most progressive way to do that would be through a payroll tax holiday. Nearly half of the people in this country pay more in payroll taxes than they do Federal income taxes. It's a flat, regressive tax. Forty-four percent pay more in payroll taxes than they do income taxes. Lower income Americans, seniors in particular, who work part-time jobs to augment their retirement Social Security, pay no taxes, and would not get any rebates under the President's plan. They need help too. They are struggling with higher costs of medical care, fuel, and heating like everybody else in this country.

So a payroll tax holiday would be the fairest way to get money to the people who need it the most, who would be most likely to spend the money, and provide some short-term stimulus to the economy. That is short-term. But long-term we need to reinvest in America, and it is strange the President draws a line in the sand there. It is not so strange, I guess, since the Secretary of Transportation last week, Mary Peters, recommended phasing out any Federal role, any Federal investment in our roads, bridges, highways, and transportation systems in this country. She said the financial markets will take care of that, they will lend us the money, the same financial markets that are totally in the tank and having to go overseas now, the same big firms that are borrowing money from Saudi Arabia and other state funds in order to stay afloat because of all their speculation. No. We need investment in America.

□ 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.

H353

Unemployment among construction workers is up to nearly 10 percent, and nearly a million are unemployed. If we just spent \$15 billion on ready-to-go and needed infrastructure projects in this country; roads, bridges, highways, water and sewer systems, we could put 712,000 people to work. That's 712,000 people. We could basically wipe out unemployment in the construction trades. But the President says no. He won't borrow money to invest in America, he will borrow some money to provide some short-term consumption.

Of course, part of the problem with that is those who won't just use it to pay bills, or essentials, which many will, will be buying things that aren't made in America any more. So that money is going to leak overseas to China when they buy that flat screen television with the \$600 or \$800 rebate the President is proposing.

So we need both. We need a stimulus, and that will help some if it's targeted to those most in need, but we also need a long-term reinvestment in our country. It will make us more economically efficient, it will save fuel, and it will put people to work. It's worth borrowing money to do that.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, You not only design but create. You sustain and shape what we know as reality. In Your hands as the craftsman and artist, we are instruments for a time. Fitting into the palm of Your hands we can accomplish Your will and produce what You have in mind for us. Or we can prove unfit to achieve Your purpose for the task at hand.

Almighty God, help us to see ourselves as instruments in Your hands shaping the times we live in. In addition, enable us to see every other living person as Your creative instrument as well.

Only by relating to each one as Yours can we find our true identity, work together, and truly give You glory, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. POE 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.

MEXICAN BORDER RAIDERS HAVE STRUCK AGAIN

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in the desert sand dunes near the western town of Yuma, Arizona, Mexican border raiders have struck again. These outlaws snuck into America driving high dollar SUVs. They were smuggling dope into America. But American lawmen were waiting for these bandits. Upon seeing the good guys, however, the drug dealers sped back toward the safe haven of complacent Mexico.

Border Agent Louis Aguilar of El Paso, Texas, cut them off and threw tire spikes into their path. But the illegal driving a fancy Humvee at a speed of 55 miles an hour ran over and killed Agent Aguilar. One witness said "the driver swerved and hit the agent on purpose." The Humvee, bandits and drugs disappeared in the dust across the border to a protected hideout in the badlands of Mexico.

Aguilar was 32, married and had two little kids. The Mexican government said it will find the killers. Yeah, right.

There is a border war going on, Madam Speaker. Agents should have the authority to prevent the infiltration of criminal bandits into our homeland by any legal means necessary. Otherwise, our Nation will continue to be at risk by these invaders.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, January 17, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER, on January 16, 2008, the Committee on Transportation and Infra-

structure met in open session to consider 17 resolutions authorizing the General Services Administration ("GSA") Capital Investment Program for Fiscal Year 2008, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 3307. The resolutions authorize leases for various Federal agencies. The Committee adopted the resolutions with a quorum present.

Enclosed are copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on January 16, 2008.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

LEASE—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, SAN JOSE, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 122,000 rentable square feet for the Internal Revenue Service, currently located at 55 S. Market Street, San Jose, CA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,270,000 for a lease term of up to 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 82,274 rentable square feet for the Department of the Treasury, currently located at 1650 65th Street, in Emeryville, CA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$2,879,590 for a lease term of up to 12 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives