

mortgage restructured with the FHA assistance who will benefit, actually, it's the neighborhood. Foreclosures really don't hit individuals alone, they hit neighborhoods. Because if you end up with a foreclosed home and an abandoned house, it's an attractive nuisance for people in the neighborhood who have bad intent. We know the price of copper. These houses are being stripped of their copper wiring. And oftentimes the copper strippers are not very careful about how they get it out. They've been known to nick and cut and damage gas lines and cause fires and explosions, not to mention other damage.

And so when you have a concentration of foreclosed and abandoned buildings in a neighborhood, it really does put downward pressure on the homes of everybody in the neighborhood, even the people who have been fortunate enough to pay every single mortgage payment on time every time. And so it really is something to help everybody, not just the individuals who are being directly assisted.

And of course, as you also know, when a house is abandoned, the city cannot receive property taxes on that house anymore. And so really what it's doing is coming up with a practical solution which will allow the bank to keep getting some of that money back, maybe not the originally intended amount, but a portion; of course half a loaf is better than none often. And so it's a practical solution to a serious problem. And it's just one more example of how Democrats and how freshman Democrats like you and I are part of solutions to try to improve our Nation.

And we're trying to bring benefits not only to our citizens, but also, as you mentioned before, our veterans, trying to make sure that our vets and all kinds of people who are going through this foreclosure crisis are able to keep their homes, neighborhoods are able to be stable, cities are able to receive property tax, city police departments aren't having to run out to properties and spend resources kicking people out of abandoned houses, or fire departments putting out fires. It really is a responsible way to sort of operate and try to improve the situation here.

Well, Mr. PERLMUTTER, it looks like we've got about 5 minutes left. Any parting shots?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Well, I'd like to go back to the gas prices.

You know, I think that the gas prices show the lack of an energy plan by the prior Republican Congress, by this White House, except to the degree that it has caused an increase in oil prices.

You know, we're in Iraq in a substantial way; and a lot of it, in my opinion, has to do with oil. Now, the average price per gallon of fuel paid by U.S. military units in Iraq is at least \$3.23. The price per gallon of gasoline for Iraqi residents is \$1.36. Why the difference there? Oil revenues for the Iraqi Government is expected to be \$70

billion, which should be paid back to this country when we are running a deficit. We're spending \$2.5 to \$3 billion a week to be in Iraq. And that obviously has had an effect on our economy over the course of these 5 years that we've been in Iraq.

We've got to change the direction of this Nation, Mr. ELLISON. We're trying to do that every day. We need to change the direction when it comes to energy. We've got to change the direction when it comes to Iraq. We've been changing the direction when it comes to our veterans and living up to our contracts and responsibilities in terms of their benefits.

We're making a difference. We have a long way to go to really change the direction of this Nation. This country is in need of big change in a lot of ways. And I'm glad that I've been elected to the Congress by the people of the suburbs of Denver to try and institute some of that change.

And so with that, I would yield back to you, sir.

Mr. ELLISON. Well, Mr. PERLMUTTER, I want to be a witness to what you just said. You have made a great difference. You, together with our freshman class—which I'm also a member of—have been here trying to improve the lives of Americans. And what we've been offering, yes, vision on energy policy, yes, vision on dealing with unemployment insurance and the jobs and the economy, yes, vision on veterans. But what we're really offering is a bigger vision of America, not just a litany of bills, but a bigger vision of our country, a bigger vision, an America that is fairer, that's more prosperous, that's more innovative, that takes care of its own. This is the America that we all know we can have because people like your dad and mine fought for an American that could be that way. And we believe that it is our generation's responsibility to make a better America for our children and our parents and everyone.

So it's been great hanging out with you, Mr. PERLMUTTER. Have a great night.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Good night.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FLAKE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. KAPTUR) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. YARMUTH, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WESTMORELAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 12, 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:

7085. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Temporary Importation of Horses; Noncompetitive Entertainment Horses From Countries Affected With Contagious Equine Metritis [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0164] (RIN: 0579-AC35) received June 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7086. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mexican Fruit Fly; Designation of Portion of Willacy County, TX, as a Quarantined Area [Docket No. APHIS-2008-0057] received June 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7087. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to Treatments for Plant Pests [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0091] received May 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7088. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Livestock Mandatory Reporting; Reestablishment and Revision of the Reporting Regulation for Swine, Cattle, Lamb, and Boxed Beef [Docket No. AMS-LS-07-0106] (RIN: 0581-AC67) received May 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7089. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Exotic Newcastle Disease; Quarantine Restrictions [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0036] (RIN: 0579-AC42) received May 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7090. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's report entitled, "Study on Increasing the Usage of Recovered Mineral

Components in Federally Funded Projects Involving Procurement of Cement or Concrete to Address the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users," pursuant to Public Law 109-59, section 6101(a); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7091. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Administrative Changes: NRC Region IV Address Change and Phone Number and E-mail Address Changes [NRC-2008-0270] (RIN: 3150-AI39) received May 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7092. A letter from the Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Foreign Trade Regulations: Mandatory Automated Export System Filing for all Shipments Requiring Shipper's Export Declaration Information [Docket Number 031009254-6014-03] (RIN: 0607-AA38) received May 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7093. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a copy of the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General of NASA for the period ending March 31, 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7094. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the Office's final rule—Cost Accounting Standards Board; Accounting for the Costs of Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) Sponsored by Government Contractors—received May 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7095. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Nonforeign Area Cost-of-Living Allowance Rates; Puerto Rico and Hawaii County, HI (RIN: 3206-AL28) received May 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7096. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Compensatory Time Off for Travel; Prevailing Rate (Wage) Employees (RIN: 3206-AL52) received May 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7097. A letter from the Under Secretary and Director, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rules of Practice Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in Ex Parte Appeals [Docket No. PTO-P-2007-0006] (RIN: 0651-AC12) received June 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7098. A letter from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Changes to the Visa Waiver Program to Implement the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) Program [USCBP-2008-0003 CBP Dec. No. 08-18] (RIN: 1651-AA72) received June 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7099. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—26 CFR 1.1445-2: Situations in which withholding is not required under section 1445(a) (Also: 897; 1445; 1.897-1; 1.897-2; 1.897-5T; 1.897-6T; 1.1445-5.) (Rev. Proc. 2008-27) received May 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 2631. A bill to strengthen efforts in the Department of Homeland Security to develop nuclear forensics capabilities to permit attribution of the source of nuclear material; with amendments (Rept. 110-708 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 5811. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require preservation of certain electronic records by Federal agencies, to require a certification and reports relating to Presidential records, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-709). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. ARCURI: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1265. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5749) to provide for a program of emergency unemployment compensation (Rept. 110-710). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2631 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. GOODE, Mr. COBLE, Ms. FOX, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. HAYES):

H.R. 6233. A bill to reinstate the Interim Management Strategy governing off-road vehicle use in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina, pending the issuance of a final rule for off-road vehicle use by the National Park Service; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 6234. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require corrosion mitigation and prevention plans for bridges receiving Federal funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 6235. A bill to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HOBSON, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 6236. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to modernize the disability benefits claims processing system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the accurate, consistent, and timely delivery of compensation to veterans and their families and survivors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 6237. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a credit for

long-term care insurance premiums and for taxpayers with long-term care needs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DINGELL (for himself, Mr. BARROW, Mr. HILL, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. CAPP, Mr. GORDON, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. UPTON, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 6238. A bill to provide for the establishment of an interagency working group to conduct a study to identify the factors that affect the pricing of crude oil and refined petroleum products, and to make recommendations on appropriate coordination of oversight and regulation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAVES (for himself and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota):

H.R. 6239. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to suspend temporarily the process of identifying schools and local educational agencies as in need of improvement and of imposing sanctions on such schools and local educational agencies; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6240. A bill to change the date for regularly scheduled Federal elections and establish polling place hours; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 6241. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include vision restoration therapy devices and associated software used in the patient's home to treat impaired visual function due to acquired brain injury within the definition of durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H.R. 6242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 6243. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from the Federal motor fuels excise tax for ground emergency and non-emergency ambulance services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 6244. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue regulations that require that any award fee under a cost-plus-award-fee contract entered into by the Department of Homeland Security shall be determined and paid based on a successful acquisition outcome that is specified in the contract, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 6245. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a direct link on the website of the Department of Homeland Security to the website of the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.