



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008

No. 121

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend James Rousakis, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Clearwater, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, being glorified at all times, knowing that we can do nothing without divine guidance, send Your blessings and direct to divine wisdom and power the Members of the United States House of Representatives that they may accomplish their task faithfully and diligently, being profitable to the United States of America, a continuous example to the world of freedom and human rights. Be their light when the day is dark; their fortress in the hour of temptation; a house of defense to save them; their strength when the flesh is weak and the spirit depressed; their courage in the hour of danger and adversity and their hope when all other hope fails. Grant them perfect health of mind and body. Direct their thoughts in the way of truth that they may enact, order and enforce those laws that are true and just. Enlighten them to govern and lead the United States of America in the way of prosperity and righteousness. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. 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.

WELCOMING REV. JAMES ROUSAKIS

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome a good friend and inspired leader from Tampa Bay, Father James Rousakis of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Clearwater, Florida.

I have known Father James for nearly 20 years and have become a big admirer of him, as well as his wonderful wife, Presvytera Vasiliki, an incredible woman who is just as much a leader at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church as Father James.

When I asked Father James what compelled him to a life in the church when he was on a completely different career path at age 23, he said he was attending Holy Thursday church services during Easter and a compelling voice said over his left shoulder, "You need to be here every day!" Listening to that voice, Father James became ordained as a priest in 1971, and the rest is history.

He has served the Orthodox faithful in Rochester, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; Portland, Maine; Indianapolis; and now Clearwater Florida. As Vicar of the Tampa Bay Greek Orthodox Church for the Metropolis of Atlanta, Father James Rousakis will begin his 18th year of pastorship in my district. With his boundless energy, Father James has helped to foster incredible growth in the membership and ministries at Holy Trinity.

Madam Speaker, I wish Father James many more years of compassionate and enlightened service in the Tampa Bay area, and am glad that he didn't ignore that profound voice 45 years ago.

Welcome, Father James.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

LIHEAP

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, last winter our Nation experienced record high heating bills, and this summer's cooling bills are expected to follow suit. LIHEAP is authorized at \$5.1 billion, and the program has never been fully funded. Concerns are high across the Nation that LIHEAP will not be able to help those people that need the most help because it is set to run out of money before the most intense periods of the heating and cooling seasons start.

Congress and the President can act by fully funding LIHEAP through authorizing the spending of \$3.12 billion in the second economic stimulus package. With this action, Congress and the President would send a clear message to the Nation: We do care about those that are most vulnerable. LIHEAP works not only to protect our Nation's vulnerable, low-income populations but also to stimulate the economy so that those families can spend money more fully for other things.

Fully funding LIHEAP should be a top priority for this Congress, and we should fully fund the program in the second stimulus package. We have an opportunity to help those that are having a hard time to get by during these times.

PRIME MINISTER SINGH'S MAJORITY REMAINS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 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.



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Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday India's Parliament held a confidence vote on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's majority coalition. Prime Minister Singh's majority prevailed. This is good news for the U.S.-India civilian nuclear agreement that is currently under consideration by the International Atomic Energy Agency and Nuclear Suppliers Group.

A minority party of the Indian Parliament called for the vote in opposition to Prime Minister Singh's decision to send the nuclear agreement to the IAEA for consideration. Yesterday's victory provides a political mandate for the agreement between the United States and India which will strengthen our partnership as well as further the advancement of nuclear energy, which is good jobs and stable power for the people of India.

As the citizens of my home State of South Carolina know, nuclear energy is a clean and renewable energy source. For over 30 years, over 50 percent of electricity generated in our State has come from nuclear power.

As a long-time supporter of the civilian nuclear agreement, I am grateful that we will continue to step closer to having the agreement implemented.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

LIHEAP

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. In the face of rising demand for help with home energy costs, the Ohio Department of Development reports that it has \$17 million less than last year to help low-income households pay energy bills. Cuyahoga County was forced to cut assistance checks this summer from \$175 to \$100.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds have helped millions of Americans stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter. However, LIHEAP dollars have been stretched to the breaking point as more and more people find it impossible to pay their energy bills. It's outrageous that the most vulnerable Americans—children, the disabled, and elderly—go hungry and develop long-term health problems as the profits of oil and other energy companies skyrocket.

I support a second stimulus package that includes \$3.12 billion for the LIHEAP program. But I believe we must also redouble our efforts to address the economic policies that create and perpetuate energy insecurity.

Support a second stimulus package for these Americans who rely on the LIHEAP program.

THE CITY BY THE BAY CATERS TO CRIMINAL ILLEGALS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I bring you an update from the City by the Bay. San Francisco recently spent \$50 million proudly advertising that it was a sanctuary city. I now give you the results of this very successful PR campaign, because it has worked.

This week's example is illegal Edwin Ramos. He loves San Francisco because even though he has been arrested twice for felonies, the compassionate folks of San Francisco never wanted him deported back to El Salvador. So he stuck around, got arrested for a gun charge this spring, and still wasn't sent home.

So last week he got a bit of road rage and gunned down Anthony Bologna and his two sons, Matthew and Michael, while they were returning from a family picnic. Mrs. Bologna blames the city for the murders because it "caters to illegals". I hope the mayor of San Francisco is proud of his sanctuary policy for illegals because it's cost three lives.

Mrs. Bologna should have a wrongful death cause of action against the City of San Francisco, especially the mayor, for its sanctuary policy. And Congress should prohibit all Federal funds from going to cities like San Francisco that proudly ignore American immigration laws and welcome foreign outlaws like Ramos.

And that's just the way it is.

RELEASE OIL FROM SPR TO BRING DOWN PRICES TODAY

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, Americans are paying the price for President Bush's lack of an energy policy. It's this lack of a policy that has produced record prices for consumers and record profits for Big Oil. This President has the authority to send oil into the American market by opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, an action that would put oil on the market in 13 days and would provide relief at the pump immediately.

But instead of providing American drivers with relief from \$4-a-gallon gas, the administration has decided instead to give their friends in Big Oil one last gift before they leave office. The President's action to lift the offshore drilling moratorium will do nothing to lower prices at the pump now. In fact, his own Energy Information Administration says opening up new areas for drilling won't lower gas prices for 20 years, and even then by only a couple of pennies.

Madam Speaker, deploying some oil from the Reserve would increase the supply of oil and help bring down the

cost of gasoline. With so many Americans struggling in today's economy, it's time President Bush stands up for consumers and taps into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

A MORE RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO THE HOUSING AND FINANCIAL MARKETS IS NEEDED

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, later today the House will consider legislation that will negatively impact our Nation's housing and financial markets, not to mention the taxpayers, for years to come.

The majority has combined some reforms that are long overdue. One of those is to make Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have a stronger regulator and to modernize FHA to make it relevant and more effective for borrowers across our country. Unfortunately, this bill also includes provisions that would put the taxpayers on the hook for people that may have borrowed money that they shouldn't have borrowed and for lenders that made loans that shouldn't have been made. It also diverts billions of dollars from Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae at a time when we're saying that they may not be adequately capitalized.

Madam Speaker, at a time when Americans are having a hard time making their mortgage payments and dealing with high food prices, they do not want to be saddled with their neighbor's house payment.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this legislation.

□ 1015

DEMOCRATS URGE PRESIDENT TO RELEASE OIL FROM THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, since President Bush took office, the price of oil has skyrocketed from \$30 a barrel to a recent high of \$150 a barrel. These prices are debilitating millions of American families who can't even afford to go to the grocery store.

Two months ago, Congress forced the President to take action and stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which is already at its highest levels ever. On July 1 we stopped putting oil into the reserve, which could lower prices at the pump anywhere from 10 to 25 cents. This action will have real results for the American people.

And now Democrats are urging the President to release oil from that reserve to provide additional assistance right now to American consumers.

Some say that we should only use oil from the reserve in an emergency.