



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008

No. 24

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Rev. Chad Eaton, Biltmore Baptist Church, Arden, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Heavenly Father, we ask for Your presence today in this great Chamber. Please bestow upon each Representative today divine wisdom and discernment.

We stand at a difficult time in the history, not only of our great Nation, but of the world. May the decisions made here today not only honor the districts they represent, but first honor You.

Father, it is because of Your great blessing and provision that this Nation has prospered in the past. I pray that this body recognize its need and continued dependence upon You to maintain that blessing.

May these Members seek to be servants today instead of being served, and find favor with You because of their desire to know, honor and serve only God the Father, with humility, character, and courage.

May God once again bless America.

I ask this in the strong name of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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 with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3773. An act to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING REV. CHAD EATON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. SHULER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend and my brother in Christ, Chad Eaton, for opening the House of Representatives in prayer today.

Chad Eaton is the pastor of Sports Outreach at Biltmore Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina.

Chad is married to Kim Eaton, and they have one son, Cole.

Chad has been a great friend to my family and to me, and to the members of our church. I appreciate the dedication he has shown to reaching the youth in our community for Christ.

I ask my colleagues to welcome Chad as he has led us in prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

ARMY CHOOSES TO KEEP CRITICAL REPORT SECRET

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, this week we learned that the Army refused

to release a report it commissioned from the RAND Corporation on the mistakes made in the planning and the implementation of the Iraq war.

We all know that mistakes were made. However, it's important that the Bush administration hear from independent voices exactly why the war in Iraq did not go as the administration planned.

The RAND report, uncovered by the New York Times earlier this week, chided both President Bush and then-National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, for not resolving differences between the State Department and the Pentagon. It also highlighted the administration's failure to develop a single national plan that integrated "humanitarian assistance, reconstruction governance, infrastructure development and postwar security."

Madam Speaker, the Bush administration has a lot of lessons to learn but refuses to listen to any independent critiques. I would hope the administration would take this report seriously and would also conclude that the status quo in Iraq cannot continue.

It's time that we bring our troops home.

FIX FISA NOW

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we need a permanent fix to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and we need it now.

Our enemies will not take a vacation if the Protect America Act is left to expire. Therefore, it is dangerous for American families to let our intelligence-gathering capabilities be limited because of a failure by Congress.

We face an enemy well equipped to exploit the technologies of the 21st century for their evil purposes. Our intelligence community knows what it

□ 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.

H873

needs to combat that enemy and has told us on countless occasions. Yet the efforts by some to water down a fix to FISA or punish American businesses for cooperating with the government has brought us to another deadline. We face the choice of acting to defend this country or further delaying a fair solution.

I hope we take the bipartisan Senate bill and pass this fix immediately. Let's get this done to protect American families.

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

PENTAGON TO KEEP 130,000 TROOPS IN IRAQ

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, Defense Secretary Gates confirmed what many of us in Congress have long suspected: the Bush administration plans to leave nearly 130,000 troops in Iraq until the day he leaves office next January.

The war in Iraq has been misguided from the start and mismanaged in its prosecution. It has led to a significant military readiness crisis, deteriorating conditions in Afghanistan, a readiness crisis for National Guard forces here at home, and a record low standing for us abroad.

This month, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau said that 88 percent of our stateside Guard units are "very poorly equipped" with less than half of what they needed to respond to a domestic crisis. Five years of war in Iraq is indeed straining our troop force and their equipment. Yet the Bush administration wants more of the same.

Mr. Speaker, this Democratic-led Congress will continue to fight to change direction in Iraq and responsibly redeploy our troops home.

CONGRESS WORKS FAST TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, BUT MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, economists said if Washington wanted to help jump-start our Nation's economy, it needed to act fast. That's exactly what we did. Congress acted in a strong bipartisan fashion to pass an economic stimulus plan that will be signed into law by President Bush today.

The new law will put hundreds of dollars into the hands of more than 130 million American families, including seniors and disabled veterans, who will then spend it to reinvigorate our economy.

The law also expands financing opportunities for Americans who are in danger of losing their homes because of

the mortgage crisis and promotes small business investment in plants and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats are proud that we have been able to work so quickly to produce an economic stimulus plan that is timely, targeted and temporary. We are also proud of the fact that this package provides immediate relief to low- and middle-income families and small businesses that need the help the most.

We will continue to rebuild and strengthen our economy, create good jobs, and give relief to families that are struggling to make ends meet.

COMMEMORATING THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Day of Remembrance. This marks the 66th anniversary of the executive order which authorized the incarceration of over 120,000 Americans, primarily of Japanese descent, but also Italian and German Americans.

I stand today to remember those that were taken from their home and their communities, citizens and residents of our country that were victims of an unwarranted and unjust political paranoia.

In 1988, Congress apologized for that internment and took steps not to allow this black mark in our history to happen again.

Mr. Speaker, in rising today, it is also important to remind ourselves in these times where scapegoating and fear-mongering against a certain people is becoming more and more prevalent, this day reminds us not to allow this to happen again and to, above all, protect everybody's rights, protect everybody's inherent rights in this country, and not to allow this to happen again.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate February 19, the National Day of Remembrance for Japanese American internment.

During World War II, fear and mistrust clouded judgment and allowed brazen racism to take hold. Sixty-six years ago next week, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which sent 120,000 American citizens and legal residents of Japanese descent into internment camps, forcing them to lose their homes, jobs and possessions. Some of these families were held in internment even while their sons showed great patriotism by serving in the Army. In my home State of Hawaii, 10,000 individuals were investigated and an estimated 1,250 Japanese Americans were detained in our islands.

During trying times such as our Nation once again faces, we must not allow prejudice against people based on race, creed or national origin to shape public policy. Fear tests our moral fortitude, and this National Day of Remembrance reminds us to reflect on our past actions in order to make just decisions which uphold our Constitution.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House today to address the issue of gun-related violence and deaths in America. Last Thursday, the first day I began this series of statements on the plague of gun violence that's sweeping our country, two more gun-related incidents captured the Nation's attention.

In Portsmouth, Ohio, an estranged husband shot and then stabbed his wife to death on the schoolhouse steps. She was a fifth grade teacher, and she died in front of her students.

The second incident that grabbed headlines that day occurred during a city council meeting in Kirkwood, Missouri. In that suburban town, the assailant took the lives of five innocent people. A sixth victim, Kirkwood Mayor Michael Swoboda, is still clinging to life. And so in a sign of respect for the victims, Kenneth Yost, police officers Tom Ballman and William Biggs, and council members Michael Lynch and Connie Carr of Kirkwood as well as teacher Christi Layne of Portsmouth, I enter these six names in the RECORD.

When will America join me in saying, Enough is enough? Stop the killings.

□ 1015

CONGRESS WORKS FAST TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, BUT MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today President Bush will sign our bipartisan economic stimulus legislation into law. Getting this bill done quickly is a victory for the American people that will inject confidence and consumer demands, promote economic growth and create jobs.

130 million low- and middle-income Americans will receive tax rebates in the coming months. These rebates are welcome relief to many families who are struggling in this economy. Family incomes and home prices are down as health care and energy, food and education costs and mortgage foreclosures have climbed. Economists estimate that every dollar included in these rebate checks will lead to \$1.26 in economic growth. The new law should also