

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the Foreign Service, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chair, H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, authorizes funding for the Department of State, the United States Peace Corps, and various international organizations. I cannot support H.R. 2410. This legislation recklessly overspends American tax dollars, fails to enact any much-needed reforms of international organizations, and actively supports a radical social agenda that conflicts with the majority views of the American people.

By authorizing more than \$40 billion over five years, the House Democrats are again recklessly spending money that the American people do not have. At a time when so many Americans are struggling to make ends meet, exorbitant increases in foreign policy spending are absolutely inappropriate.

H.R. 2410 authorizes additional funding of 13 percent for the State Department, 32.4 percent for the Peace Corps, and 35 percent for State Department salaries. These types of increases clearly demonstrate that Congressional Democrats are failing to be good stewards of the nation's treasury.

H.R. 2410 also provides billions of dollars for the United Nations and other international organizations without demanding any reforms. Without serious reforms the United Nations will continue to fail to meet the challenges facing our world. This legislation does nothing to reformulate the U.S. payments to the United Nations to more accurately reflect current economic conditions. It fails to implement a code of conduct for UN employees, does nothing to reform UN procurement or budgetary procedures, fails to freeze the UN budget, and does not address the UN's continued push for an international tax. Providing billions of American tax dollars without conditions weakens any effort to bring about meaningful reform.

Most concerning, though, is that H.R. 2410 aggressively advocates for a radical social agenda. American foreign policy should advocate for the national interests of the American people, not a divisive, extremist policy to placate liberal activists.

First, this legislation establishes an Office for Global Women's Issues to promote the task of "women's empowerment internationally." Given the rescission of the Mexico City Policy and this administration's strong commitment to abortion, there were serious concerns that this office will be used to promote the legalization of abortion abroad. The Obama administration and Democrat leadership clearly intend to use this office to promote international abortions.

All doubt was removed when Republicans offered a substitute amendment to ensure this office would not advocate for international abortions. It was defeated on a party-line vote.

H.R. 2410 also takes an extraordinary step to require the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor to track violence or restrictions based on "perceived sexual orientation and gender identity." The bill would also require that the annual human rights report include information about violence or discrimination based on "perceived sexual orientation or gender identity." Finally, the bill would require Foreign Service officers to take instruction on identifying violence or discrimination based on "perceived sexual orientation or gender identity." Our tax dollars are not well spent monitoring the treatment of homosexuals worldwide.

This legislation furthermore mandates that American diplomats make overturning other country's laws regarding homosexuality a foreign policy priority. During committee consideration of the bill, Rep. MIKE PENCE offered an amendment that charged the State Department with continuing in their work to "to protect all people against gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, as described in section 116(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961." This language would have committed the U.S. to the protection of homosexual people—as they would any person—against torture, cruel, inhuman treatment, or "other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, and the security of person." Unfortunately, this amendment was voted down by committee Democrats.

U.S. foreign policy should be focused on progressing clear national security interests of the American people. Carving out special considerations regarding homosexuality, irrespective of larger foreign policy goals, could hinder vital diplomatic efforts. U.S. foreign policy should not be used as to promote special interests concerns, but the vital common strategic interests of this nation.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 2410.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2892—the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010:

As requested by me, Rep. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, H.R. 2892—the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010, provides for the City of New Orleans Emergency Medical Services ("EMS"), New Orleans, LA in support of an Emergency Operations Center. This is in the FEMA—State and Local Programs—Emergency Operations Center Account in the amount of \$750,000. This will benefit the City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, Suite 4W07, New Orleans, LA 70112 in the form of upgrades and retrofitting of a new permanent Emergency Operations Center for the city's sole 9-1-1 emergency medical service provider. This funding will help secure and store equipment and medication, and provide a training center and base of operations for the emergency medical services. Currently, Emergency Medical Services are operating

from a pairing of FEMA trailers staged underneath the Crescent City Connection overpass. Moving to the new facility on City Park Avenue and making the proposed changes to the facility will provide for the critical operational needs. Having a secure medication and equipment storage area, training areas, and a protected emergency operations center will help the department serve the citizens of New Orleans and better secure the city.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN GLADDEN
MACK**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing communicator and deaf friend, Joan Gladden Mack, upon her retirement after a 28-year career in television and radio. Ms. Gladden is a remarkable woman who I have known since our days as students together at South Carolina State College.

Joan Gladden was born in a close-knit Gullah community on James Island, South Carolina. She graduated as salutatorian of Gresham-Meggett High School in 1960, and received scholarships to attend South Carolina State. Joan was gifted in the sciences, and majored in biology with the intention of pursuing a career in medicine or physical therapy. But her brothers persuaded her to join them in New York, where she took a job as a program director for the New York City Youth Board.

After four years in the "Big Apple," Joan decided to return home where she continued her work with youth as the program director for the YMCA. She later served as a caseworker for the Charleston County Department of Social Services and a teacher in the County's Manpower Program. It was during her time at the Manpower Program, that Joan's career path changed.

In 1972, many media outlets, including WCSC-TV in Charleston, started recruiting African Americans for on-air positions. While Joan had no formal training in broadcast journalism, many leaders in the black community encouraged Joan to apply. She went to apply during her lunch hour and was asked to stay for an interview. She returned the next day for an on-air audition and, as they say, the rest is history.

Ms. Mack was hired the same day as her audition and became the public service director and co-host of "Kaleidoscope," a morning talk show on WCSC-TV. Despite landing the job, Joan was unsure of the longevity of her new career and decided to continue teaching with Manpower in the evenings just in case things didn't work out.

Her talent and tenacity ensured Joan's success. She became a local celebrity and a role model for both blacks and whites. After spending five years at WCSC-TV, Joan moved to WCBF-TV where she became a news reporter and later anchored the news. Yet she yearned to do more reporting that would allow her to have an impact on the community. She became an investigative reporter and covered three stories of which she is especially proud: one involving teen pregnancy, another prison overcrowding and the third involved abuse in the state mental hospital.

After 14 years in the news business, Joan began looking for a greater challenge. She requested a position in the station's management, which had no African American representation. Her request was denied, and Joan felt it was time to move on.

In 1985, Joan was hired by the College of Charleston as its media resources coordinator. She rose to serve as the university's public relations director and director of administration. Ten years into her work at the College of Charleston, Joan was presented with an opportunity to keep her hands in broadcasting, and jumped at the chance.

In 1995, South Carolina ETV closed some of its broadcast sites around the state. One of those sites was on the USS Yorktown in Mt. Pleasant. The College of Charleston was asked if it would house the broadcast equip-

ment from that studio and in return the college received 30 minutes of air time for a weekly show. "Conversations With Joan Mack" was born, and the show has aired for 14 years on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. on public radio stations throughout South Carolina. The show focuses on politics, social issues and the arts, and I am honored to have been a guest on Joan's show on several occasions.

In addition to her life in broadcast journalism, Joan devotes time to her faith, which she credits with keeping her grounded. After attending Catholic masses with friends in college, Joan researched the religion and converted to Catholicism. She has served as president of the local and state levels of the National Council of Catholic Women, and as director of the Atlanta Province, which allowed her to represent the region on the national

board. She also serves as a lector and Eucharistic minister at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Charleston.

Joan is married to Charles Mack, who worked for Amtrak. They raised daughters, Dandria Williams-Clark and Kashauna Simmons, and son, Charles Austin Mack. Today the couple are the proud grandparents of eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Joan Mack on her groundbreaking career and well-deserved retirement. I am sure Joan will continue her community involvements, and being a role model for many in the Charleston community. I wish her Godspeed and all the best in the next phase of her life.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 22

3 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine over-the-counter derivatives, focusing on modernizing oversight to increase transparency and reduce risks.
SD-538

JUNE 23

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010.
SR-232A

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
African Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine drug trafficking in West Africa.
SD-419
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine religious liberty, media freedom, and the rule of law in Russia.
SVC-203/202

10:30 a.m.
Judiciary
Crime and Drugs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 845, to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies with the laws of the State.
SD-226

11 a.m.
Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010.
SR-222

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010.
SR-222

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine high-speed passenger rail.
SR-253

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
S-407, Capitol

3:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010.
SR-232A

5:30 p.m.
Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010.
SR-222

JUNE 24

9 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine type 1 diabetes research progress.
SD-106

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010.
SR-232A

Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs quality management activities.
SR-418

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Colin Scott Cole Fulton, of Maryland, and Paul T. Anastas, of Connecticut, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD-406

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of A. Thomas McLellan, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director of National Drug Control Policy, Alejandro N. Mayorkas, of California, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, and Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.
SD-226

10:30 a.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine emergency preparedness, aging and special needs.
SD-562

11 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine certain issues concerning Iran.
SD-419

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the EB-5 Regional Center Program, focusing on job creation and foreign investment in the United States.
SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010.
SR-222
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Capricia Penavic Marshall, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service, Department of State.
SD-419

JUNE 25

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010.
SR-222

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 797, to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 2000, and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the prosecution of, and response to, crimes in Indian country.
SD-628

JUNE 26

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010.
SR-222

JULY 14

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 796, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land.
SD-366

JULY 15

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine bridging the gap in care of women veterans.
SR-418

JULY 29

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine veteran's disability compensation.
SR-418