



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009

No. 190

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 15, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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 6, 2009, 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 25 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

DECISION TO PROSECUTE GUANTANAMO BAY TERRORISTS IN NEW YORK CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I previously came to the well of the House to voice my disappointment in the then recently announced decision to prosecute certain Gitmo detainees, Gitmo terrorists, in New York City.

NOTICE

If the 111th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 23, 2009, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 111th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Thursday, December 31, 2009, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Thursday, December 31, 2009, and will be delivered on Monday, January 4, 2010.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/cong_record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at <http://clerk.house.gov/forms>. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT-59.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the *Congressional Record* may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512-0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman.*

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.

H14879

I return today, Mr. Speaker, to reiterate my concern and disappointment about this ill-advised decision, which, in my opinion, will cause our prosecutorial ship of state to sail directly into the tide of procedural reefs, rocks and shoals. When ships steam near reefs, rocks and shoals, collisions and/or groundings become imminent, if not inevitable.

The commanding officer of this ship, President Obama, and his executive officer for this issue, the Attorney General, should bring this ship about, terminate the course now pursued and formulate a better course that will serve good purposes. The present decision, in my opinion, serves no good purpose and is seriously flawed.

My disappointment regarding this matter, Mr. Speaker, is shared by thousands and thousands of New Yorkers specifically and Americans generally. New Yorkers should not be forced to endure 9/11 yet again.

What about the costs that will be inevitably incurred to conduct these prosecutions? Thousands upon thousands of dollars will be spent, thousands upon thousands of dollars we simply do not have.

Mr. Speaker, furthermore, many of us fear that the decision to prosecute in New York City has the trappings of converting the courtroom into a three-ring circus to the detriment of America, public relations-wise. I have earnestly tried to detect something positive about this decision, and I have come up empty time and time again.

I fear President Obama and Attorney General Holder are so rigidly inflexible in defending their decision. This aside, I respectfully urge them to reconsider and reexamine the decision, hopefully reject it and subsequently embrace a policy that is more sound and that will attract more support from the American people.

This is a terrible decision, Mr. Speaker, and I hope it can be rectified.

GLOBAL WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this morning, listeners to NPR Marketplace heard the insurance industry dealing with the problems of global warming. Extreme weather events, actually, is why they were concerned. That term global warming actually means drought, flood, heat waves, intense storms, breaking seasonal patterns. In my region of the Pacific northwest, it means long, slow trends, like the increase in spring temperatures over the last 70 years, that lead to a significant decline in the snow pack that we rely upon for drinking water and hydropower.

As our congressional delegation heads to Copenhagen this week to join with parliamentarians from around the world, we will be able to be involved

with a critical discussion on how we are going to meet those challenges. Our delegation is going to be somewhat unique because, while other groups of parliamentarians in other countries are of different parties and disagree on the best solution to deal with climate change and extreme weather events, ours, with the possible exception of Saudi Arabia, will be the only one where there are some people who actually question the science and the need for action.

This is unfortunate, because the facts are clear. Even regarding the recent dust up over stolen e-mails of some of the climate scientists, it doesn't change the scientific consensus that we are involved in a period of significant global warming and that human activity is the cause. Despite some dispute over whether this year is the fourth, fifth or sixth warmest in history, there is no question but that the current decade will be the hottest since we began recording temperatures.

Even with the consensus on science, there still is a great deal of real controversy in Copenhagen about how we are going to move forward.

I think it's very important for us to highlight the encouraging dynamic that is taking shape, because there is a consensus for taking action. The question is in implementation both of speed and scale.

There is good news that the United States is no longer missing in action. As the world's largest economy, the second largest emitter this year and still the leader in the history of the world in total emissions, it's important that the United States finally joins with the rest of the developed world to deal with this question. It is encouraging that the Obama administration and the new Congress has been acting from the very beginning of this session of Congress with an \$80 billion investment in clean energy.

After years of delay, the Obama administration acted on what we passed in the last Congress to increase the long overdue improvement in automobile fuel efficiency. The EPA has finally announced that it is going to follow the law dealing with carbon pollution, as the Bush administration was directed by the Supreme Court but refused to do.

We have had the historic passage of the Waxman-Markey legislation, for the first time in history putting Congress on record supporting comprehensive climate legislation. The administration will use the House bill as the basis for targeted reductions in greenhouse gases. We have emerging in the Senate a bipartisan framework with Senator KERRY, Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator GRAHAM providing the leadership in that area.

It's exciting to see the pieces come together, Mr. Speaker. It is frustrating to see it slow, and time is of the essence, but finally it's clear that action is in everybody's interest. The United States can no longer afford to waste

more energy than anybody in the world. It's exciting to see the European Union, China and India all acting, at least in their own way, moving in this direction. The dominos are falling for new, clean, energy economies, managing forests to protect the planet and new sustainable agriculture.

All this will happen. The question is when. I am encouraged that in Copenhagen there is a process that the United States can help move us forward.

TIME FOR A NEW APPROACH TO RESTORE OUR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a new approach to bring our country back to where it was for most of the two centuries, the land of hope and opportunity.

Unfortunately, there is a growing fear about our Nation's future among many in my congressional district, as well as throughout the Nation. The economic recession continues, according to many constituents with whom I speak every day.

My constituents tell me how they have personally felt the constant drumbeat of rising unemployment, the ballooning cost of college tuitions, the reality of postponing retirement and the continuing credit implosion that has hurt so many homeowners and small businesses. No doubt our Nation continues to struggle and people need help.

But the congressional majority and the administration have spent the last year on an agenda that grows big government, that escalates the deficit, that borrows billions from adversarial foreign governments. As a result of this unprecedented government spending spree, our national debt will reach uncharted levels, doubling over the next 5 years and tripling in just 10 years.

Not surprisingly, as our debt doubles and revenues plunge, creating jobs has taken a back seat to other issues. The \$800 billion stimulus bill has failed to create or save the millions of jobs that it promised. Since it was passed, in fact, we have actually lost 3.3 million jobs while the unemployment rate remains at 10 percent nationally, and in my home State of Florida it has now reached 11 percent. The question now is can we still grow our economy, create jobs and help struggling families without further mortgaging our children's future.

First, we should agree to block any Federal tax increases until unemployment drops below 5 percent. Americans of all political persuasions can agree that the government should never raise taxes during periods of high unemployment.

Second, we need to restore confidence in America's economic future. Record