

going to be resolved sometime, now that it is in the court system. And it goes on and on.

We have Tim Mahoney, who was using taxpayer funds to pay extortion to a former staffer to keep his mistress a secret from his wife. The voters kept him from coming to Congress. Recently, Senator BURRIS, who now it's pretty clear that there are accusations that he perjured himself when he gave testimony about the Governor's campaign funds, and yet no one seems to be wanting to do anything about that. This just goes on and on and on.

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And, quite frankly, there is so much more to go, I don't really want to go into it. I have talked about some of these things previously.

And what is the issue that I am trying to bring forth here? The issue that I am trying to bring forth here is: Government, when you send someone to Washington, whether you send them 100 miles or 50 miles away from home, or whether you send them 2,000 miles away from home, you expect to be able to trust those people to do what they said they would do and to stand for what they say they stand for. And one of the things you want to know is that these people are trustworthy.

Now, when we have issues like this that are raised without being answered and we have a body whose job it is to resolve those issues, the Ethics Committee, and the Ethics Committee is not doing their job, or if they are we are not seeing the results, then you can't expect people in Wichita, Kansas, or Round Rock, Texas, or San Francisco, California, to hear these things and see these things and not wonder, are those people trustworthy enough to be taking care of my business in the Nation's capital? And I think many of them would then say, if it sticks to one, it sticks to all; which is basically the message that was put out by the Democrats in the last Congress.

I don't agree that if it sticks to one, it sticks to all. I think any time you gather the amount of people that gather in this Congress there are going to be mistakes made. I don't think you can get past it. And I think you can take any body of people, even any membership in a church, and you are going to find that there are issues that would cause people to be concerned. That is not our job. Our job is to make sure that we are the most honest, ethical Congress in history, as the Speaker has challenged us to be. And it is her job as the Speaker, I think, to promote going forward on these issues in every way she can to get these matters resolved; because until they are resolved, they deserve to be talked about, and when they are talked about they can't help but cause people to be concerned.

I am going to tell you that I have been in Congress now since 2002, and prior to that time I served 20 years as a trial judge in Georgetown, Texas, trying felony cases among other

things. But I can tell you, I have encountered an awful lot of people on both sides of the aisle in this Congress, and the vast majority of these people are beyond reproach and outstanding individuals and great Americans. They are working long, terrible hours, and wearing out a lot of shoe leather marching up and down these halls to subcommittee and committee hearings to make sure that the Nation's business is done to best of their ability. And that is why, as someone who believes that there is a world of right and wrong, good and evil, that it isn't what each person thinks it is, but there is a concept among humanity that says certain things are right and certain things are wrong. And you can't make it relative to anything. It is a fact.

As one who believes that way, I think it is our duty, and, in particular, it is my mission to point these things out and say let's resolve these issues. And that is part of my message here, because I don't want the vast, vast majority of the people in this Congress tainted. I don't care what party they are in, I don't want them tainting the whole body politic of the Congress. There are just too many good people here working too hard to do the right thing, what they and their constituents perceive to be the right thing. That is as it should be.

But for us to not address these issues, allow them to be swept under the carpet and forgotten, whenever you mention something and it just logs a little thought pressed in the back of somebody's brain, it is always there until it is resolved. We need to resolve these issues and they need to be resolved properly. And if we are going to put people who have unresolved issues in a position of authority in this Congress, I think that brings consequences that are grave to the Congress and this Nation.

So, therefore, if people are in a position where ethics is questioned, morality is questioned, it is for the good of the Congress that they not serve in those positions. It happens to be a Republican party rule that if someone is indicted, they must step down from the position of leadership. And that actually occurred in the last Congress.

I happen to be someone who, for 20 years, told juries every week: An indictment is nothing but a legal accusation. It is no proof of guilt, and no assumption of guilt should be taken by any member of the jury based upon the indictment. It is a legal acquisition, a form by which the State knows what it has to prove and the defense knows what it has to defend. But the Republicans decided that was enough to require someone to step down, which is kind of above and beyond the call of duty; but if that is the standard, it ought to be the standard for everybody. Everyone should choose to adopt the high standards that are set by the highest of standards in this body.

So that is what I have been talking about in these days when I have come

in here, and that is what I will continue to talk about, because I believe in our court systems. I believe that our court systems are good sources of justice for the people who use them. And every time somebody walks out the door, one party is unhappy. But the fact is, they resolve the conflict, and they do it justly and fairly between the parties.

I believe we should justly and fairly deal with each other in this Congress, and I believe that we should justly and fairly respect each other in this Congress. And I believe that when there are issues which taint the Congress, we should be willing to demand those issues be resolved; and, if they aren't resolved, we should demand that the persons who are not trying to get it resolved step down from positions of authority that they may hold.

Now, that may be harsh, but I believe in justice. If you believe in justice, right is right and wrong is wrong. And if there is wrong and it goes unresolved, it is bad for the entire Nation and the world. And for that reason, I have been standing before this House many days all by myself, kind of the voice crying in the wilderness. Let's get to be a just body again. Let's get to be where people look at congressmen and say, I am proud to know that Congressman.

You know, when I ran for the Congress, I was in College Station, Texas, and I ran into three of my colleagues in the judiciary, trial judges, district judges, in College Station. And they asked me, why would anybody leave the branch of government that generally makes sense to go to the branch of government that never makes sense? And I laughed and I said, well, maybe an old judge can help make some of it make sense. And maybe not. But I also at that time thought they thought, and as I thought and still think, that the Congress is worthy of respect.

So that we may be a body worthy of respect, I raise these issues. I will continue to raise these issues until we have resolved these issues, and hopefully we can go forward in raising the standards for this body so that people look with respect upon the Congress of the United States of America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 17.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today, March 11 and 12.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 17.

Mr. GOODLATTE, for 5 minutes, March 11.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS REFERRED

Concurrent Resolutions of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 4. Concurrent resolution calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise the case of Robert Levinson with officials of the Government of Iran at every level and opportunity, and urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson and to share information on the investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

S. Con. Res. 10. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 1,000 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 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:

809. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Women's Final Four Fireworks Display, Ybor Turning Basin, Tampa Bay, Florida. [Docket No. USCG-2008-0095] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

810. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bay Area Destination Fireworks Display Seddon Channel, Tampa Bay, Florida [Docket No. USCG-2008-0089] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

811. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of

Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fort Lauderdale Super Boat Grand Prix, Atlantic Ocean, Offshore Fort Lauderdale, FL. [USCG-2008-0058] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

812. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Provision Fireworks Display [Docket No. USCG-2008-0023] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

813. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Old Tampa Bay, FL. [Docket No. USCG 2008-0024] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

814. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Haulover Cut, St. Thomas, USVI [Docket No. USCG-2007-0174] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

815. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Thames River Channel, New London, Connecticut [Docket No. USCG-2008-0004] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

816. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Safety Zone; Columbia River, all water within 200 yards radius around the Ship ZHEN HUA 17. [USCG-2008-0139] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

817. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Safety Zone; M/V Magdelana, Columbia River bank to bank from River Mile 75 to River Mile 77. [USCG-2008-0144] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

818. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Langley Air Force Base Air Show, Willoughby Point, Hampton, VA. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0159] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

819. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Red Bull Air Race; San Diego Bay, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0162] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

820. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Island Creative Management, LLC Fireworks Dis-

play, San Francisco Bay, CA. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0194] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

821. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Benefit Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, CA. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0195] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

822. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Olympic Torch Ceremony, San Francisco Bay, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0262] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

823. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; KFOG Kaboom Fireworks Display, San Francisco, CA. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0261] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

824. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Francisco Giants Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0260] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

825. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Boat Fire Miami Beach Marina Salvage Operations [Docket No. USCG-2008-0257] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

826. A letter from the Director, National Legislative Commission, American Legion, transmitting the financial statement and independent audit of The American Legion, proceedings of the 90th annual National Convention of the American Legion, held in Phoenix, Arizona from August 22-28, 2008 and a report on the Organization's activities for the year preceding the Convention, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 49; (H. Doc. No. 111-23); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 813. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 306 East Main Street in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "J. Herbert W. Small Federal Building and United States Courthouse" (Rept. 111-27). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 837. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 799 United Nations Plaza in New York, New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building" (Rept. 111-28). Referred to the House Calendar.