

notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas, The Hill reported that a prominent lobbying firm, founded by Mr. Paul Magliocchetti and the subject of a "federal investigation into potentially corrupt political contributions," has given \$3.4 million in political donations to no less than 284 members of Congress.

Whereas, the New York Times noted that Mr. Magliocchetti "set up shop at the busy intersection between political fund-raising and taxpayer spending, directing tens of millions of dollars in contributions to lawmakers while steering hundreds of millions of dollars in earmark contracts back to his clients."

Whereas, a guest columnist recently highlighted in Roll Call that "... what [the firm's] example reveals most clearly is the potentially corrupting link between campaign contributions and earmarks. Even the most ardent earmarkers should want to avoid the appearance of such a pay-to-play system."

Whereas, multiple press reports have noted questions related to campaign contributions made by or on behalf of the firm; including questions related to "straw man" contributions, the reimbursement of employees for political giving, pressure on clients to give, a suspicious pattern of giving, and the timing of donations relative to legislative activity.

Whereas, Roll Call has taken note of the timing of contributions from employees of the firm and its clients when it reported that they "have provided thousands of dollars worth of campaign contributions to key Members in close proximity to legislative activity, such as the deadline for earmark request letters or passage of a spending bill."

Whereas, the Associated Press highlighted the "huge amounts of political donations" from the firm and its clients to select members and noted that "those political donations have followed a distinct pattern: The giving is especially heavy in March, which is prime time for submitting written earmark requests."

Whereas, clients of the firm received at least \$300 million worth of earmarks in fiscal year 2009 appropriations legislation, including several that were approved even after news of the FBI raid of the firm's offices and Justice Department investigation into the firm was well known.

Whereas, the Associated Press reported that "the FBI says the investigation is continuing, highlighting the close ties between special-interest spending provisions known as earmarks and the raising of campaign cash."

Whereas, the persistent media attention focused on questions about the nature and timing of campaign contributions related to the firm, as well as re-

ports of the Justice Department conducting research on earmarks and campaign contributions, raise concern about the integrity of Congressional proceedings and the dignity of the institution.

Now, therefore, be it: *Resolved*, that (a) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or a subcommittee of the committee designated by the committee and its members appointed by the chairman and ranking member, shall immediately begin an investigation into the relationship between the source and timing of past campaign contributions to Members of the House related to the raided firm and earmark requests made by Members of the House on behalf of clients of the raided firm.

(b) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives within 2 months after the date of adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

HONORING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, A WARRIOR, A HERO, A STORYTELLER

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you very much for your leadership. I would like to associate myself with the 1 hour of the Congressional Black Caucus in honoring John Hope Franklin, and I want to thank the leadership of the gentlelady from Ohio and the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

John Hope Franklin was, in essence, a storyteller that was long awaited for by the United States of America. His "From Slavery to Freedom" indicated the broadness of the history of African Americans in the United States. It was a singular treatise that everyone had to read to find out about themselves, about America, and about the question of race and racism. His work on the President's Race Commission was without comparison. And he was the only one, I believe, that could have taken the helm with the President's appointment, appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton.

His easy hand, his comfort level with race and racism, of where we had come from and where we were going, helped us tell the story and balanced the role and responsibility of this commission. We lost a warrior, a hero, a storyteller, one that could only be told by him, a scholar.

We thank you. And may you rest in peace.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET RESPECTS SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, our Democrat colleagues have a budget which borrows too much, spends too much, and taxes too much. The Republican budget will do the opposite. It will curb government spending, create jobs, and control debt.

Our Republican budget sends a clear message to the American people that we understand the concerns with jobs we are all facing. We will share in those challenges and take responsibility for how we spend their tax dollars. When we find ourselves in a time of fiscal crisis, we are looking for ways to cut wasteful spending, pay off debt and secure future fiscal sanity.

Republicans are offering a budget that reflects, respects and supports the small businesses of America, one that makes the tough choices and keeps more tax dollars in the pockets of American families.

The Democrat budget is the philosophy of massive borrowing and spending that threatens inflation and devaluation of Social Security.

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

NATIONALIZATION OF THE AUTO INDUSTRY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the nationalization of the auto industry continues. The President has announced the Federal Government is going to exercise more forced control over American car companies. The President fired the CEO of General Motors and wants more automotive restructuring the Federal way.

General Motors and Chrysler have already received billions in taxpayer bailout money and are poised to win favor with the White House for even more money.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, General Motors and Chrysler have already failed. Why should taxpayers continue to subsidize these failures? Why? Because the almighty Federal Government forces taxpayers to pay off these special interest groups. The government ought not to pick who wins and

who loses in the business world. The free market should decide.

General Motors and Chrysler should not receive any taxpayer money and should restructure under bankruptcy like other failed businesses do. But the socialization of the American economy continues.

By the way, Madam Speaker, if you like the way the Federal Government runs other government businesses like the post office, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, FEMA and the IRS, you will love the new federalized auto industry.

And that's just the way it is.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH THE MAJORITY

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I applaud the President of the United States for making his priorities health care, education, and energy, and putting them right in his budget.

I listened to my friends on the other side of the aisle, and I think that they are in no position to lecture us about fiscal responsibility given the fact that this President inherited trillions of dollars of debt. In the last 8 years we were going way beyond our means in our budget. We were spending and spending. So give me a break about fiscal responsibility.

I think the fiscal responsibility rests with the majority here and the President, who is trying to do something, trying to make his needs the American people's needs and making his budget shape the American people's budget.

So I want to applaud the President and our majority because we want to help with education, we want to help with health care, and we want to make America energy independent. That is what we are doing. I'm glad we are not the Party of No. I'm glad we are the Party of Yes and the future.

HONORING THE WHITEFIELD ACADEMY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE GHSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, with the NCAA Basketball Tournament now down to the Final Four, I want to recognize a very talented group of high school student athletes from Smyrna, Georgia, near my home in Cobb County. In this year's Georgia High School Association State final, the Whitefield Academy Boys Basketball team, or the Wolf Pack, upset number one ranked Turner County 69-53 to claim the class A State title.

The game was all tied up at the half, but Whitefield opened the second half with a 16-2 run, and they never looked back. Madam Speaker, in the end it

was discipline and determination that allowed Coach Tyrone Johnson and the Whitefield Academy Wolf Pack to hand Turner County their very first loss of 2009 and claim the school's second class A boys' State Championship.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Whitefield Academy on their State championship as well as all of the hard work that got them there.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO HIT POLICY COMMITTEE

Pursuant to section 13101 of the HITECH Act (P.L. 111-5), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member to the HIT Policy Committee for a term of 3 years:

Mr. Paul Egerman, Weston, Massachusetts

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE PRESIDENT IS RIGHT TO EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC AID IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, President Obama announced his strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan on Friday. I personally am encouraged by much of what he had to say, but I remain concerned by other parts of his approach to the problems in that region.

The President said that "a campaign against extremism will not succeed with bullets and bombs alone" and that a big change from the last administration's approach is absolutely necessary. And I will tell you it is a very welcome change. President Obama called for a package of assistance that will help Pakistan to build schools, roads and hospitals. He also called for a "civilian surge" in Afghanistan. He wants to send agricultural specialists, educators and engineers to help develop the Afghan economy.

The President said that "these foreign assistance programs relieve the burden on our troops. It is better to help a farmer seed a crop than it is to send our troops to fight tour after tour with no transition to Afghan responsibility."

Madam Speaker, I wholeheartedly support these economic assistance efforts. I have said for a long time that the best way to fight terrorism is to give people real hope for a better future so that they don't become terrorists in the first place.

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I'm also heartened by the President's clarification of the roles of NATO, the U.N. and other international partners. He is asking them to help with the civilian effort, and he's asking the United Nations to bring all the nations of the region together, including Iran, to help stabilize the region.

I recently joined my colleagues, Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, in sending a letter to the President asking him for such clarification because I remain concerned about other parts of the administration's approach, including the decision to send 17,000 more combat troops to Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, history makes it clear that the Afghan people do not look kindly on foreign armies. The press is already reporting that the decision to send more troops is encouraging Taliban leaders in Afghanistan and Pakistan to unite to fight us.

I'm also concerned about the cost of sending more troops, the cost in both lives and treasure. It will require a 60 percent increase in military spending at a time when our economy right here at home is suffering so badly.

That's why, Madam Speaker, now is the time to take a deep breath. Now is the time to pause to consider whether there are other alternatives to sending our troops to Afghanistan. To help with this, the Congressional Progressive Caucus has put together a series of forums on Afghanistan and Pakistan. The purpose of these forums is to engage Members of the House in discussions about our policy options. The forums feature leading experts on Central Asia. In fact, the first forum was last week, and it examined the history and cultures of the Afghan people.

The upcoming forums will examine American strategic interests in Afghanistan and the northwest border of Pakistan, the role and goals of our military in that region, the problems that a comprehensive strategy of Afghanistan should address, our policies toward Afghanistan in the context of Pakistan, and the development of an international diplomatic strategy for the region.

I invite all Members of the House to attend these forums. They are non-partisan. They're nonideological, and they offer different perspectives and different ideas, because now is the time to explore our choices in Central Asia and to work with the administration to develop the most effective policies. That is what the American people expect us to do, and that is what we must do in the days ahead.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1388, SERVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. POLIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-67) on the resolution (H.