

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Financial Services, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-84) on the resolution (H. Res. 251) directing the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit to the House of Representatives all information in his possession relating to specific communications with American International Group, Inc. (AIG), which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1145, NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 1145, including corrections in spelling, punctuation, section and title numbering, cross-referencing, conforming amendments to the table of contents and short titles, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on the following motion to suspend the rules previously postponed.

NATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS APPRECIATION DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 247.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 247.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WATER RESOURCES IN AMERICA

(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, today I rise to add my support to H.R. 1145, the bill that we just

discussed on the floor of the House, that requires the President to establish an agency that addresses the question of the increasing lack of water resources in the United States of America. In the recognition of Earth Day that occurred yesterday, where we are looking to green our country and green this Earth, we also must ensure that we have the water that is necessary for this Nation.

I will introduce a water bill that will also take into consideration the lack of water around the world. I am also very much appreciative of the language in the bill that looks at questions of areas that have had disasters, such as my area in Houston, and homes that have suffered from flooding, such as the White Oak area in Houston.

This is a good step. We need an expanded water bill to help all of the world. And certainly we need to pay tribute to the concept of greening this Earth and protecting this Earth—its water resources and its green resources—to make this a better place for all of us to live.

CONGRESS MUST COME TOGETHER

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

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, I come before the House today to express the views of a freshman Congressman whose knowledge and experience of the workings of Capitol Hill have spanned a little more than 3 months.

While I am greatly honored to be a Member of this governing body and cherish the friendship and support I have received from my colleagues, I would like to use this forum to express a concern: how we operate as a governing body.

Aristotle said, "Virtue is the mean between two extremes." This definition of virtuous state of character was appropriate over 2,000 years ago, and it continues to be true today.

Virtuous character, properly exercised, is to react to circumstances in the appropriate way and to the appropriate degree. I believe that we, as Members of Congress, must govern from a political spectrum that resonates the mean, and not the two extremes.

What are these two extremes? Left-wing liberalism, whose governing stance simply focuses on the immediate, with little attention to moral implications and burdens on future generations, and right-wing conservatism, whose rhetoric seeks to inflame rather than inform.

The future of America is too important for this body to be embattled and impeded by radical ideologies and political maneuvering.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FUDGE). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the House for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I would yield my minute to my friend from Louisiana.

Mr. CAO. Thank you very much.

We must remember who we represent as Members of Congress—the average American whose language does not reflect the extremes, but who simply asks, how will I pay my bills? How can I raise my children to be successful and moral citizens? And how can I worship and express freely my religious faith?

Our public policy today, depending on who is in power, tends to reflect a limited political agenda, which gets the country in trouble in one manner or another. While history is our mentor, we must look at the state of our Nation today and address our shared problems through the cumulative knowledge we have acquired as we continue to progress and evolve as a Nation.

Neither liberals nor conservatives can relive their past. We, as a governing body, must use all of our knowledge and tools that we have to address the problems of a dynamic and evolving national or global society in the appropriate way and to the appropriate degree. This, of course, requires a delicate balancing act where all Members of Congress are invited to the discussion table—and not as liberals or conservatives, but as problem solvers there to address the human needs of the average American.

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

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

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of National Day of Silence.

Last Friday, April 17, marked the 13th annual National Day of Silence, a day where students throughout the country follow in the footsteps of the great civil rights advocates like Mahatma Gandhi and spend the day in civil disobedience. These students remain silent for one day to bring attention to and highlight the discrimination some of their peers endure by speaking out about sexual orientation and their personal gender identity.

When asked to explain why they will participate in a National Day of Silence, some of the young people in my district said, "We stand up and stand out by not speaking out on that day."

The Day of Silence is a day to acknowledge the roads already traveled and the ones soon to be traveled to show how far we have come and how much further we have to go. The Day of Silence brings attention to the oppression that queer youth face from their peers and their classroom, and is a reminder that we still have much work to do.

I commend all my constituents who observe the Day of Silence. Though the nationally observed Day of Silence has passed this year, I would ask my colleagues to take a moment of silence

today to reflect what we can do for our LGBT youth to make their lives better, to make their schools safer, and to end discrimination.

□ 1430

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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 WOMEN OF AFGHANISTAN

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, I applaud the Obama administration for focusing on the human face of our Afghanistan policy. Rather than going with a policy based on military might alone, the administration is supporting an expansion of the surge of diplomats, of development officials, of humanitarian needs and experts.

The economic, political, and social needs are great in Afghanistan. A recent report released by Women for Women International found a "bleak and frightening picture for life" in Afghanistan. According to reports, Madam Speaker, 80 percent of Afghan women are affected by domestic violence, over 60 percent of marriages are forced, and half of all girls are married before the age of 16. Despite this focus on the needs of women and girls in Afghanistan, the situation remains grim.

Like many women in conflict, the drive for security and stability remains strong among the women in Afghanistan. Despite the fact that Afghan women are more likely to be impoverished, uneducated, and excluded from health service than men, polls indicate that Afghan women are optimistic about their future. Like women everywhere, they want to play a role in decision making at every single level of society.

Through the recent poll by Women for Women International, the voice of the Afghan woman can be heard. When asked what the biggest problem is that they face in daily life, the top response was lack of important commodities. Again, it's the basics, food and supplies, that Afghan women want for their families. When asked what the government should fix, they answered

security and peace first. When asked what were the biggest health care and education problems, women overwhelmingly pointed to insufficient resources and funding. It's clear that the mothers, Madam Speaker, in Afghanistan want all that mothers want around the world: to provide for the basic needs of their families. They want their children to be well. They want their children to be well fed, well educated, and safe.

While I remain concerned about the increase in our military presence, I am hopeful that the administration's diplomatic surge can help the people of Afghanistan, particularly the women. Along with our international partners, we must work to address the pressing immediate needs of all Afghans.

Madam Speaker, the use of smart power in the place of military force will send a clear message that the United States promotes diplomacy and humanitarian relief over war.

THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS VERSUS WAL-MART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it does us well to remember our American history.

Over 145 years ago, this country was engaged in a great Civil War, from the North and from the South. And during that war between the States, several battles took place not far from this Capital. One took place over in Orange County, Virginia. It's called the Battle of the Wilderness. It had the sixth highest number of casualties on both sides during that conflict.

Just to put it in perspective, it occurred on May 5 through May 7 in 1864, 145 years ago. There were 160,000 troops involved in that battle: 100,000 from the North, 60,000 from the South. That's the number of troops today we have in all of Iraq and all of Afghanistan put together. During that 3-day battle, 29,000 casualties: 18,000 from the Union, 8,000 from the Confederates.

The battle was so fierce, Madam Speaker, that in the wilderness, the woods, where this battle took place during those 3 days, it was so heated, literally, that the woods caught on fire and many soldiers from the North and from the South that were wounded burned to death. Two of the States had the highest casualties, one in the North and one in the South. The highest in the North was from Vermont. The Vermonters sustained 78 percent casualties. In the South the Texas Brigade sustained over 60 percent casualties. On the first day of the battle, the Union troops were able to move the Southern troops back. The second day General Robert E. Lee sent the Texas troops in the middle, and he said that Texans always moved them. Be that as it may, the casualties were high on both sides.

I bring this attention to the House today and to you, Madam Speaker, because all of these casualties, all of these troops that engaged in that battle were Americans and we should not forget that. And that is why we have the Battle of the Wilderness battlefield today. About 900,000 Americans a year go to this battlefield in Orange County, Virginia.

But now we have a problem. The corporation called Wal-Mart wants to build a Wal-Mart on this sacred, hallowed ground.

I have a map of the Wilderness battlefield. It's outlined here. But you see right up here in the northeastern portion where this X is, that's where Wal-Mart wants to profit from these 900,000 people coming into Orange County every year. They have the legal right. The county fathers have said they can build in this location. But we would hope that Wal-Mart would change their mind. And I say "we" because Mr. WELCH, the good man from Vermont, and I have written Wal-Mart and we have asked them to do the right thing and locate this Wal-Mart 3 miles away from the battlefield.

Now, Madam Speaker, I'm not sure what Wal-Mart's intentions are, but I can tell you their corporate model down in Texas. They build a Wal-Mart. They build it from property line to property line. They lay that asphalt. They build one of those beautiful stores, and a few years later, they abandon that property and move down the road and build another Wal-Mart. I don't know if that's their plan here or not, but be that as it may, they should not build this Wal-Mart in this location.

We've written Wal-Mart. We have received no written response from them. Military historians from all over the world have asked Wal-Mart don't build on this battlefield because that's a part of American history. So far they continue to deal with this and say they're going to.

I support property rights. I support the idea of a corporation making money. No question about it. They now have the legal right to move here. But now they need to make the American decision to do what's best for America and not what's best for this corporation.

Madam Speaker, this land, like other battlefields in our country, is consecrated with the blood of Americans; 29,000. Many are still buried there and known only to God. And we owe them the right to keep this battlefield preserved for history and not to have a corporation like Wal-Mart come in and lay asphalt over their graves.

So we are asking Wal-Mart to do the right thing. Put your Wal-Mart somewhere else, 3 miles down the road, so that this battlefield can be preserved for American history.

Madam Speaker, I will include in the RECORD a letter that Congressman PETER WELCH from Vermont and I have sent to Wal-Mart.