

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to without amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 131. Concurrent resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the National Motto of "In God we trust" in the Capitol Visitor Center.

H. Con. Res. 135. Concurrent resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to place a marker in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center which acknowledges the role that slave labor played in the construction of the United States Capitol, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1007. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a limited 6-month period for Federal judges to opt into the Judicial Survivors' Annuities System and begin contributing toward an annuity for their spouse and dependent children upon their death, and for other purposes.

S. 1289. An act to improve title 18 of the United States Code.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DREAM ACT AND IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, last week, hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country, many of whom were in Colorado, picked up their phones and called Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano to ask her to delay the deportation of a young man from Miami, Florida, Walter Lara.

Let me tell you a little bit about Walter. Walter moved to the United States from Argentina when he was 3 years old, and he has never left. He has dedicated thousands of hours to serving his community, tutoring children in mathematics and computers. He stood out in high school as an honor student and graduated from Miami Dade Honors College in 2007. But instead of following his dream and pursuing a promising career in computer animation and Web design, Walter's graduation gift was an imminent deportation order.

Walter was scheduled to be deported over the 4th of July weekend, but thanks to a week of intense activism by congressional leaders, the SEIU, bloggers, and thousands of grass-roots activists who made calls and sent letters on Walter Lara's behalf, the Department of Homeland Security moved to defer 23-year-old Lara's scheduled deportation back an entire year until July 3 of 2010.

While I was thrilled to hear that Walter's deportation has been delayed and he would be able to stay in the United States, this action alone is far from enough. What will happen to Walter in 2010 if we don't pass comprehensive immigration reform? What does it mean for the hundreds of thousands of Walters throughout the country who came to the United States as children, excelled in school, played by the rules, only to face deportation?

Despite meeting State residency requirements, immigrant students in most States are charged out-of-state or international tuition rates which effectively render college inaccessible. These kids, Mr. Speaker, are as American as anybody else, but for far too long they have had their dreams shattered by an education system that ignores their good grades and hard work.

Educational opportunity is a right, and something that we are all taught that if you work hard in this country and you don't give up, you can achieve anything. But the doors to opportunity have been shut for thousands of hard-working students who have been raised and educated in our country.

Even though Walter was able to stay, the U.S. Government deports thousands of students just like Walter and will continue to do so until we pass the DREAM Act as part of comprehensive immigration reform. The DREAM Act will ensure that children who have grown up in the United States and studied in American schools can remain here and work and pay taxes and live in our country.

Under the American DREAM Act, qualified students would be eligible for temporary legal immigration status upon high school graduation that could lead to permanent legal residency if they attend college or serve in the military.

Students like Walter are our greatest natural resource, and they should have access to higher education, the key to both individual success and our Nation's economic growth and prosperity.

I recently had the opportunity to visit an immigrant detention facility in Aurora, Colorado. These are young people, people of all ages, who are picked up. They might have broken the speed limit, they might have a taillight out on their car, they might simply have been loitering, and now, with taxpayer money, we are putting them up at \$120 a day of our hard-earned money rather than them being out working and paying taxes to reduce our deficit.

Mr. Speaker, in this era of budget deficit, putting Walter and people like

him in a government hotel that taxpayers are paying for for \$120 a day makes absolutely no sense when Walter would rather be out working and paying taxes to help reduce our deficit.

To help the hundreds of thousands of Walters across the country, now is the time to pass comprehensive immigration reform, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

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

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WE NEED TO CUT TAXES

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the people of this country many times get so frustrated because they think that we here in Congress don't hear them, we don't listen to them. I have a couple of letters here I would like to read into the RECORD—at least part of them—so that my colleagues in the House can get some flavor for what the people in mid-America are thinking right now.

This letter is from a lady named Emmaline P. Henn in Huntington, Indiana. And she says: "Dear Congressman Burton, it was great to hear you and speak with you at Huntington's Lincoln Day Dinner, but we want to stress the things we said then. We do have confidence in you"—which I really appreciate.

She says: "We are appalled by what is happening in Washington. Now in our 80s, we have seen many administrations; none has been as frightening as this one. In less than 6 months, President Obama and his team have drawn the U.S. Government deep into private business. The government's business is governing, not business.

"There is no doubt the President and his team have taken us far on the road to socialism, so far that we fear there may be no return. Their spending is out of this world, and it will not save the economy.

"In the long run, bailouts don't work. The health care issue, the credit card issue, the card check issue, and more, are taking us far from free enterprise and are causing many citizens to give up on self-reliance and responsibility in favor of relying on the government. There is little incentive for talented people to innovate, work hard, and create business. What a terrible lesson.

"We pray you fight for this movement. At the same time, we pray you will support keeping the United States safe in every way you possibly can."

You can hear the frustration in this lady by the way her letter sounds. But then there is another one here from a

General Motors dealer in Wabash, Indiana. And I will just read part of this letter because I think it really—I want to put the whole thing in the RECORD, but I want to read part of it because it tells you the frustration that small business people have in this country.

It is from David and Kay Dorais. And she says: “My husband, David Dorais, and I are the owners and operators of Dorais Chevrolet in Wabash, Indiana. This business was started over 60 years ago by my husband’s grandfather, Gus Dorais.

“Gus was the first All American in football from Notre Dame University. He came to Wabash, Indiana, from Detroit. He began a Chevrolet dealership operating under the philosophy of ‘give back to the community that has given so much to you.’ This is the philosophy we have strived to operate under.

“We have always been extremely loyal to General Motors and to our community. Small business is what helped to build this great country of ours, and loyalty is what makes all of us successful. We have always given back whenever asked, often times without being asked. We have always paid taxes. We have always voted. We have always made contributions. We’ve always participated in the programs that General Motors asked us to participate in.”

And then they go on to say that they had an attorney that was talking to them about the way they’re being treated by the government and by General Motors, which is now controlled by the government—Government Motors now, no longer General Motors. And they say: “We are now no longer to be a part of the ‘new General Motors.’ We are no longer good enough, even though we were part of the faction that helped to support them for years.

“Yesterday I listened to an attorney representing auto dealers speak. He is the first person I have heard make any sense in this mess. He asked, where are your elected representatives? Where are the elected officials that you donated to? Where are the elected officials that you voted for? He further added that these people never hesitated to ask for your help, but where are they now? The most important question asked was, why are you allowing them to turn their backs on you?”

And I would just like to say, if I were talking to my colleagues in the House, my friends in the Senate, or if I were talking to the President, I would say, it’s time for us to pay attention to these people. Instead of putting everything under government control, instead of trying to bail out everything by printing money that we don’t have, we ought to be cutting taxes like they did under Ronald Reagan.

We cut taxes across the board when we had terrible problems back in the early eighties. We had 14 percent inflation, we had 12 percent unemployment—worse than we have right now, and when Reagan came in, instead of throwing money at everything what he

did was said, we’re going to give people some of their money back, we’re going to cut their taxes. We’re going to cut business taxes because if we do that, they will have more income and more money to spend on expanding our economy to buy products, to produce new products. And he did that.

□ 1445

And because of that, we had one of the longest periods of economic expansion in this country’s history.

You compare that to what we’re seeing today where businesses are being driven out of business. This business has been there for 60 years, and they’re going out of business because we’re trying to solve the problems by letting government solve everything. Sixty-one percent of General Motors is going to be run by the unions now, and we’ve spent \$57 billion bailing these companies out when we could have done it the way Ronald Reagan did.

I want to end by just saying I feel real frustration when I get these letters from my constituents, and I hope my colleagues are paying attention and the people at the White House are paying attention, because instead of printing more money and throwing more money and putting more government control in charge of everything, we ought to be giving the American people the right to have some of their money back so they can expand this economy, because government sure isn’t doing it.

JUNE 3, 2008.

Congressman DAN BURTON,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BURTON: My husband, David Dorais, and I are the owners and operators of Dorais Chevrolet in Wabash, Indiana. This business was started over 60 years ago by my husband’s grandfather, Gus Dorais. Gus Dorais was the first All American in football from Notre Dame University. He came to Wabash, Indiana from Detroit. He began a Chevrolet dealership operating under the philosophy of “give back to the community that has given so much to you”. This is the philosophy we have strived to operate under.

We have always been extremely loyal to General Motors and to our community. Small business is what helped to build this great country of ours and loyalty is what makes all of us successful. We have always given back whenever asked, often times without being asked. We have always paid taxes. We have always voted. We have always made contributions. We have always participated in the programs that General Motors asked us to participate in. We have even participated in extra programs that General Motors did not request, such as an advertisement group. My husband served as an officer in this group for years. We employ many people, who also help to keep our community alive. We pay our employees a fair and honest wage and we provide insurance to them. We feel we have done everything that an American citizen should do. We have been voted Small Business of the Year in our community, the only auto dealer to receive this award.

May 15th, 2009 we received a letter from General Motors that stated they will not be renewing our contract with them. Our American Dream became our American Nightmare. The Automotive Task Force (none of

which drive American cars) handed down their decree. We are now no longer to be a part of the “New General Motors”. We are no longer “good enough”, even though we are a part of the faction that helped to support them for years. Yesterday I listened to the attorney representing auto dealers speak. He is the first person I have heard make any sense in this mess. He asked, where are your elected representatives? Where are the elected officials that you donated to? Where are the elected officials that you voted for? He further added that these people never hesitated to ask for your help, but where are they now. The most important question asked was, “Why are you allowing them to turn their backs on you?”

These are the people that wanted your support to put them in their present position. It is a position that is to help the people. Where are they and why are you not furious that they are turning their backs on you”. It did give me reason to think. Politicians run on the premise of helping the people. Yet, when you are actually needed, where are you? Has a political office simply become a place to sit and receive a check? Are campaign promises simply empty words used to become elected. During the last election it was all about the Middle Class, all about small business, it was all about keeping business alive, it was all about keeping people employed. What happened? Was it all simply political rhetoric, business as usual.

As previously stated, we are a small business. We do believe in helping and giving back. We believe in helping and supporting those around us. We have even managed to keep doing this in these difficult economic times. We are a small business in Wabash, Indiana that does give back in every way possible. We are a small business in which the owners do not take huge paychecks in order to give back to a community that we are loyal to. We received the Small Business Award because of our loyalty. It is our hope that this is not a word that has been forgotten in government. No, we are not as profitable as we once were. Yet these are difficult times and they will pass. Given the opportunity, we will again be profitable—even more profitable than in the past. It is our hope that you will look at this Small Business of the Year in Wabash, Indiana. Look at the contributions we make to the people who live here. It is our hope that you have not turned your back on us.

Sincerely,

DAVID and KAY DORAIS.

MAY 27, 2009.

Representative DAN BURTON,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BURTON. It was great to hear you and speak with you at Huntington’s Lincoln Day Dinner, but we want to stress the things we said then. We do have confidence in you.

We are appalled by what is happening in Washington. Now in our eighties, we have seen many administrations. None has been as frightening as this one. In less than six months President Obama and his team have drawn the U.S. Government deep into private business. The government’s business is governing not business.

There is no doubt the President and his team have taken us far on the road to socialism, so far that we fear there may be no return. Their spending is out of this world and it’s not what will save the economy. In the long run bailouts don’t work.

The health care issue, the credit card issue, the card check issue and more are taking us far from free enterprise, and are causing many citizens to give up self-reliance and responsibility in favor of relying on the

government. There is little incentive for talented people to innovate, work hard and create business. What a terrible lesson!!

We pray you fight this movement!!

At the same time, we pray you will support keeping the United States safe in every way you can.

Sincerely,

EMMALINE P. HENN.

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

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. REICHERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE HEALTH CARE BILL'S PUBLIC OPTION WILL DENY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CHOICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I came to talk about the health care problems here in America. I'm a medical doctor. I have practiced medicine for three-and-a-half decades. I'm an old-time general practitioner. I treat infants all the way to the elderly. My patients are like family. They're like friends. They are friends. They are family. And I'm very concerned about where we are going as a Nation.

Certainly health care in this country has become extremely expensive. In fact, I myself, prior to being elected to Congress, being a small businessman, could not afford a comprehensive

health care insurance policy. I had a catastrophic health care policy because that's all I could afford. There are many small businessmen and women all across this country that are in the same category that I was in. Now, since I have been elected to Congress, I buy into the government health care insurance program that all Federal employees can buy into.

We hear from our President that everybody in this country should have a public option, an option that they can buy into. Last night my good friend JOHN SHADEGG in a Special Order was talking about the draft of the bill that Energy and Commerce is going to be looking at next week. And during Mr. SHADEGG's discussion last night on this floor, he said that the public health care option is not an option at all. And, in fact, the American people, if I could speak to them, Mr. Speaker, I would ask them to look at what is being proposed and how quickly this major policy change is being brought to the forefront.

Next week on Tuesday, the Energy and Commerce Committee is going to start their process of looking at the health care reform bill. Tuesday they are scheduled to have opening statements by the members of the committee. Wednesday and Thursday they're going to have markup. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the American public quite understands that term. It's a term that we use, as you know, where the committee goes through a bill line by line, issue by issue, section by section, and amendments are offered, voted on, and are put in place in the final product.

Well, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee has decided to not go through the regular order process of letting the Health Subcommittee look at the bill. He wants the whole committee to do so. Why? Well, it's reported that the reason that he wants to do that is because he's concerned about the subcommittee's taking too much time and maybe not even passing out this bill.

The majority, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me, is trying to force this down the throats of the American people in a very expeditious manner. Why would they want to do that? Well, I think the American people, if they knew what was going on, Mr. Speaker, would understand that this major policy change is being hastened through the legislative process so that it can be put in place so that the American people don't have the light of day shed upon this bill so that the American people can say anything about it.

Over and over again, Mr. Speaker, in this House with these appropriation bills, we have seen a change, an historical change, of how regular order is carried out. Normally an appropriations bill is brought to the floor with an open rule. Both sides agree on amendments that are introduced. Both sides agree on time limits, and we can go through a regular order. But the

majority has declined to allow that to happen. Even leadership, some of the leadership on the other side, reportedly, would like to do so. But the Speaker and the chairman are declining to allow that to happen.

So we're getting bill after bill presented to the floor that nobody has had the opportunity to read. The public can't read it. The Members of Congress can't read it.

We've had thousand-page bills, such as the nonstimulus bill that was presented by the President and was introduced in the dead of night, and we voted on it on this floor where no human being anywhere had had the opportunity to read that bill. No one, Mr. Speaker, had the opportunity to read that bill. It was 1,100 pages. Our leader, Mr. BOEHNER, had that large stack of paper and dropped it on the floor. No one had the opportunity to read that bill.

We don't have a health care bill. I have not seen it. No member of the Energy and Commerce Committee has seen it on either side, Democrat or Republican, because it has not been produced. Though Tuesday morning they're going to start opening statements on that bill.

We here in Congress have not seen the bill. We here in Congress have no way to evaluate the bill. We here in Congress have no way to understand what the bill says in totality and how we can introduce amendments to the bill to make it better. Democrats and Republicans alike are being denied their opportunity to allow amendments to all these appropriations bills and to a lot of the authorization bills, such as the tax-and-cap bill, which is going to be a disaster economically for America. This process is blatantly unfair. It's unfair to Democrats. It's unfair to Republicans. But most of all, it's unfair to the American people. The American people should demand better.

Our Speaker, when she came to office in the prior Congress, said we're going to have a new era of openness and honesty, high ethics, transparency. Nothing could be further from the truth. That's what went on in the last Congress and is particularly going on in this Congress. And we are having this health care reform bill being put together by just a small handful of the committee leadership and the leadership of this House, Democrats. The medical doctors, health care professionals, at least on our side, aren't even being consulted. We have, I'm not sure, 10 or 11 of us on our side. Not the first one of us has been consulted about what my patients and all of our patients need in health care reform.

We are being shut out of the process, and that's not fair to the American people, Mr. Speaker. The American people should demand more. They should demand openness. They should demand transparency.

We've had resolutions where we wanted to have at least 72 hours of every bill being posted on the Internet