

would have voted: "nay" on each of these measures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 772, House Concurrent Resolution 191 is hereby adopted.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 191

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2918) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 158(a) of division B, strike "section 158" and insert "section 157".

(2) In section 158(b) of division B, strike "section 158" and insert "section 157".

(3) In section 162 of division B, strike "sections 158 through 162" and insert "sections 157 through 161".

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 25, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 24, 2009, at 5:57 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1707.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1687. An act to designate the federally occupied building located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, SW., Canton, Ohio, as the "Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 2053. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 525 Magoffin Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "Albert Armendariz, Sr., United States Courthouse".

H.R. 2121. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Galveston, Texas, to the Galveston Historical Foundation.

H.R. 2498. An act to designate the Federal building located at 844 North Rush Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "William O. Lipinski Federal Building".

H.R. 2913. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 301 Simonton Street in Key West, Florida, as the "Sidney M. Aronovitz United States Courthouse".

H.R. 3607. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, 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. 832. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America, and for other purposes.

S. 1599. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to include in the Federal charter of the Reserve Officers Association leadership positions newly added in its constitution and bylaws.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York for the purpose of announcing next week's schedule.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

On Monday, the House will not be in session.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business.

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business today.

In addition, we will consider Senate 1707, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 through 2014 to promote an enhanced strategic partnership with Pakistan and its people; the conference report on H.R. 3183, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010; and additional motions to go to conference on appropriations bills.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman.

Reclaiming my time, according to Politico, the Speaker announced at your caucus meeting on Wednesday that she intends to have the final version of the Democrat health care bill drafted by the end of next week. My question is: Was the Speaker's statement accurate? And do we expect floor action on the health care bill in the House?

Mr. CROWLEY. A bill will be brought to the floor when a bill is ready to be brought to the floor. I would leave it at that. The bill will be brought to the floor when it's ready to be brought to the floor.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Was the Speaker correct? Do we think it is going to be brought to the floor or ready by next week?

Mr. CROWLEY. Well, if the bill is ready to be brought to the floor by next week, it could very well be that case. The bill will be brought to the floor when the bill is ready to be brought to the floor.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Will the bill be drafted by next week so peo-

ple on the other side could actually see it?

Mr. CROWLEY. Again, the bill will be brought to the floor when the bill is ready to be brought to the floor.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Well, I thank the gentleman for his answer.

Earlier this week on Monday, our Republican whip, ERIC CANTOR, held a bipartisan town hall on health care with Democrat BOBBY SCOTT, both of Richmond, Virginia, showing bipartisan action. Following the town hall, the majority leader on your side told the media that he would like to meet and discuss health care reform with us, and we have expressed our willingness to meet with him. But we have not been asked by the majority leader yet.

Do you believe that we will be at any time soon, so that our leader can continue to carry on that bipartisan conversation?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the gentleman for his question. I think the gentleman knows, as do I, that the majority leader is a man of his word; and if he gave his word to do that, I anticipate that he will follow through on that. I can't speak for him. But knowing if that's what he said, I'm sure that he will follow through on that request.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. We look forward to that. Being one of the signatures early on in this health care discussion to a letter that the leadership on this side sent to the President saying that we were willing, able and wanting to sit down to discuss health care, we're still waiting for the President to allow us to have that discussion in a bipartisan manner.

I do believe that the work that our Republican whip, ERIC CANTOR, and Congressman BOBBY SCOTT on your side of the aisle, that the bipartisanship that they showed down there was very positive. We look to your majority leader coming forward and following up and having that discussion with our leader.

Mr. CROWLEY. I think we all welcome bipartisanship on this debate, and we hope in the end that this will be a bipartisan solution to what is a problem not only for Democrats and Republicans but for all Americans. I think if we could have more productive town halls around the country like the one you referred to that took place where the facts and the issues can be exposed, talked about and deciphered, I think we will all be better off for that.

□ 1145

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman.

I would like to know from one standpoint early on and within here as we look across America and we look at the jobless and the idea that we want to create jobs here, many on this side of the aisle worked very hard on a stimulus bill that focused on small business, where 79 percent of all jobs are created. We wanted to focus on job creation. We presented that to the President. Unfortunately, that did not get put into the stimulus.

But the President told us that unemployment would not rise above 8.5 percent if we passed the Democrats' stimulus. Since the signing of the stimulus bill, Americans have lost another 2.5 million jobs and unemployment is now at 9.7, much higher than what the President said it would be.

Will this House bring any legislation next week to help create jobs?

I yield.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I don't think there's any question that these have been very, very difficult months and, quite frankly, years that the American people have been suffering through. We have looked consistently at months—prior to recent months—of 600,000, 700,000 jobs lost per month, quite frankly, going back to the previous administration, under the Bush administration, where the job loss was at its height. I'm happy to note that that job loss has been diminishing steadily over the past few months, and, in fact, we saw an additional 21,000 fewer jobs lost in this month than the prior month.

Having said that, the road to recovery remains a long one, and we understand that. That's why we took the steps that this administration took, following up on the legislation passed in the prior Congress to help stimulate the growth of jobs in this country. And I believe, as many of my colleagues do, that increasingly there are signs that the economy is turning around. I know that Mr. Bernanke, Federal Reserve Chairman said, "The recession is likely over at this point." I think those are very optimistic statements, and I appreciate the chairman's response to a query.

But I do think we still have a long way to go, and we will work to ensure that job loss is not only stemmed but that we have actual job growth. And we anticipate when the Recovery Act is fully appreciated that we will begin to see job growth in this country.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's willingness to work together. And knowing that with the stimulus the President said unemployment would not go above 8.5, and now it's 9.7, and sitting on Financial Services listening to Mr. Bernanke saying that it will continue to rise, would your side of the aisle be willing to work with us so we could reprogram the money in the stimulus to actually be job creation or help pay down this national debt so our country could actually be stronger? Do you see any future ability of making that happen?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the gentleman.

I'll just restate for the record: The CBO, the CEA, Moody's all estimate there are 1 million more jobs now than there would have been without the Recovery Act that we passed here in the House. The Congressional Budget Office said in the budget economic update

that "even though some elements of the CBO's forecast, particularly the unemployment rate, have clearly worsened, such revisions to the forecast reflect a much sharper deterioration in underlying labor market conditions than had been anticipated rather than a smaller impact of the legislation." In addition, the CBO also said that "the fiscal stimulus provided under the American Recovery and Investment Act will significantly boost economic activity above what it otherwise would have been."

So I think, going back to what I said before, we're seeing a reversal in job loss. We are not at zero yet, but as I said before, 21,000 fewer jobs were lost in the prior month than they were the month before that. I think that's showing that it is stemming, it is slowing down. And we anticipate that if it continues in that way, which we all hope for and anticipate it will, we will begin to see job growth.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, when the President first got elected, this side of the aisle invited him to our conference and we sat down and had a discussion about which direction the stimulus bill should go. We actually had a very honest debate.

This side of the aisle wanted to focus on job creation. Our focus was about small business. That's where 79 percent of the jobs are created. And the President said, Well, why don't you write out a bill and bring out some ideas?

So a number of us worked together, a lot of hours, a lot of nights, crafting legislation. And we put this together, and we actually sat down and said, You can't just write down legislation; you need to score it. The idea is for the American people to know what this would cost and how many jobs would it create. And as we put that scoring together, do you know it created twice as many jobs with half the amount of money in the stimulus bill? And we handed that to the President. Unfortunately, it did not get into the bill. And the President said that it was more important on the time of when the stimulus bill passed, and not what was in it; he said if the bill was passed now, unemployment would not go above 8.5 percent.

Well, I don't need a CBO study to understand that's not true. It's now at 9.7. And I think the American people want us to work together to create jobs, not to sit here and somehow celebrate the idea that only 21,000 jobs were lost. We need to be able to work together and celebrate a million new jobs created. We have legislation that allows it, that focuses on small business, focuses on job creation. And I look forward that this Congress could come together.

Mr. CROWLEY. Will the gentleman yield once again? I just want to respond, if I could, to the gentleman.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I'm glad to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CROWLEY. Thank you for yielding.

I appreciate your words of desire for more bipartisanship, and I would just suggest that the Recovery and Reinvestment Act that we passed reflected more bipartisanship in the legislation than was reflected by the vote that took place here on the floor. I think there were many attempts to include some of the ideas and thoughts from your side of the aisle that were included in that bill, and I can talk about a number of them. But it was not reflected in the overall vote that took place. I, too, hope that in the future we can have more of a reflective vote of bipartisanship on issues like that, as we had this week when both Democrats and Republicans voted 331-83 to extend unemployment for those Americans who are still out of work, who are looking and struggling to find employment. And I hope the Senate will act to pass that bill and send the bill on to the President as soon as possible.

I appreciate the gentleman's yielding for this discussion.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, the gentleman is correct. The bipartisan vote for the stimulus bill was a "no" vote. A number of people on the other side of the aisle also saw that that bill would not hold us to only 8.5 percent unemployment, that there was a better way, a better idea.

The one thing I would always ask the gentleman and those on the other side, bipartisanship means the power of the idea wins at the end of the day. So when a paper is presented that shows it creates twice as many jobs with half the cost, the pride in ownership should not be there. We should allow the American people to actually win, that jobs being created is a much better place for America. And when that is presented again, which we will always gladly do, to sit here and work with you, because we want to put people before politics. We want to create an America that is strong, and we want to leave America not in debt.

So as we move forward, I would always challenge everybody on this floor: The amount of the national debt that is accumulating in this administration is unheard of, and we have to make sure, this generation that's going before us, that we leave an America better off than we were before.

Mr. CROWLEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I would be glad to yield.

Mr. CROWLEY. I appreciate again his comments and his desire to work in a bipartisan way to help lift America out of the doldrums that it's in, lift America out of what has been called "the Great Recession."

I think it's also important to note that we didn't get here in the last 9 months. And we can decry the overspending by this administration all we want, but we also have to reflect upon the overspending of the prior 8 years, which I recognize the gentleman was not serving in the House of Representatives at the time, when the other side

of the aisle increased the spending and increased the deficit beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

So I appreciate your thoughts. I too want to help stop putting debt on the backs of my children and my grandchildren. We both share that. And we all need to work together in a bipartisan way to help this President. As he has said, his desire is to slash the national debt in half, and I think we're going to work together to make that happen.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, if the President only slashes it in half, it's still the highest deficit that we have ever had.

I am one who likes to look forward. I may have only been here 3 years, but the one thing I have seen, if you take the entire history since the creation of this country, there have been 44 administrations. If you just take the first 43, from George Washington to George Bush, and you add up all the amount of debt that was accumulating, and that's from the creation of this country to our battles with Britain, to World War I, to the Depression, to World War II, Katrina, Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, Korea, the creation of a highway system, it is equal to the amount of debt that is going to be doubled. That is something that cannot be maintained. That is something that cannot be happening.

The way to get out of it, you have to control your spending and you have to create jobs. That's why the power of the idea needs to win at the end of the day.

So we will continue to come up with the ideas. We will continue to try to work in a bipartisan manner, and we will continue to hand them to you. But the only thing I ask of you is when you see something that would create twice as many jobs with half the cost, let's put people before politics, let's put America first, and let's move forward to the future.

Mr. CROWLEY. I would ask the gentleman, as a point of clarification, was that from George Washington to the beginning of George Bush's term or the end of George Bush's term?

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. It's to the end of George Bush's term.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

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

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

There was no objection.

CMS GAG RULE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, we are now on day 5 of the Obama administration's gag order barring Medicare Advantage plans from telling their enrollees about the benefit cuts that will result from the Democrats' health care bill.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services actually overturned a Clinton-era ruling that said "prohibiting such information would violate basic freedom of speech and other constitutional rights."

Yesterday, Ways and Means Republicans formally requested a hearing to investigate the CMS gag rule.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to get to the bottom of this and find out if the administration is politicizing Federal agencies to stop Americans from learning the truth about his policies.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HEALTH CARE PLAN

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of attention to the fact that Members of Congress held town hall meetings during the month of August, and there was much discussion about the passion that was expressed there.

Well, it's now September, and we're still holding town hall meetings. I had one last Saturday in my district. And let me tell you the passion is still there.

The average citizen in my district looks to Congress to do the right thing. And they are not satisfied. They are not pleased. They are not happy in any way, shape, or form with respect to the Obama health care plan and its various versions here in the House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

They have asked me to convey to my colleagues the fact that they are concerned about the size of government, the cost of government, the size of taxation, and the amount of debt we're imposing on our children and our grandchildren. They want us to get serious about those things. They don't want us to give up on them.

By the way, they're not mobs. They're not un-American. They are the very essence of America. They come to my meetings in ones, twos and threes. They are everyday Americans wanting a responsive House of Representatives that recognizes simple truths.

□ 1200

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETERS). 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.

U.N.: HAVEN FOR INTERNATIONAL TYRANTS?

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. Mr. Speaker, Libya is about to get \$2.5 million in aid from the American taxpayers. And \$200,000 each is marked for foundations run by Omar Qaddafi's two kids.

Omar Qaddafi is an international terrorist. He gave the order for the bombing of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. And then he led the cheers for the killer when he was returned to Libya. Men, women and children boarded that airplane headed for New York's JFK Airport. A Libyan official checked a suitcase with a bomb in it. The airplane exploded, killing 243 passengers and 16 crew members, mostly Americans. Eleven people on the ground in Scotland were killed when large chunks of the plane fell out of the sky and hit their town.

What are we doing giving this man and his family U.S. taxpayer dollars? Has America lost its way?

The United Nations is starting to look like the bar scene in the Star Wars movies. Murderers, thugs, and terrorists freely roam the halls, and they are asked to speak before the General Assembly. There was a time when the United Nations was a threat to tyrants, but now it seems like it is their home.

Omar Qaddafi said at the U.N. that Lee Harvey Oswald, the person who killed President Kennedy, was an Israeli spy. He called for a civil war in Iraq. He condemned the war on terror in Afghanistan, and he said the swine flu is a biological weapon created in laboratories. Can't tell who he blames that on, however.

Omar also said in his 100-minute rambling rant that we should call the United Nations Security Council the terrorist council, made up of the United States and other nations.

Omar's twin terrorist tyrant, Ahmadinejad, also had some choice things to say at the United Nations this week. The little fella from the desert of Iran said that Israel is committing genocide. He said that capitalism has caused all of the misery in the world. The tiny tyrant also praised himself for his glorious election this year. You know, Mr. Speaker, that is the election where he and his government beat and killed unarmed peaceful protesters that opposed him.

He says the Holocaust is a myth. He wants the destruction of Israel and the United States, and he is building nuclear weapons. Who do you think those weapons are for? And what is the United States' reaction? Well, we canceled our missile defense system in Poland, a defense system that was to protect the United States from intercontinental ballistic missiles from Iran. And our Polish allies think we betrayed our commitment to them and Eastern Europe.