

CONGRESS AND PROGRESS

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues an important and insightful commentary in the Sunday Washington Post—"A Very Productive Congress" by Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Norman Ornstein is no raving liberal, nor is AEI considered among the ranks of progressive think tanks. Even more to the point, Ornstein is no fan of this august body. As the editor's note describes, he is co-author of "The Broken Branch: How Congress Is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track." His study, co-written with Thomas Mann, was published in 2006 when, I might suggest, a great many in the House today would have readily agreed.

So it is significant and, frankly, a hopeful sign for progress in our democracy that Ornstein cites the high legislative achievement of the 111th Congress and the dramatic if overlooked success of President Obama since January 2009:

"... This Democratic Congress is on a path to become one of the most productive since the Great Society 89th Congress in 1965-66, and Obama already has the most legislative success of any modern president—and that includes Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson," Ornstein writes. "The deep dysfunction of our politics may have produced public disdain, but it has also delivered record accomplishment."

Ornstein in particular praises the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as a monumental achievement that would draw even greater recognition if it had been passed as a series of separate programs to reshape and fund education reform, health information technology, an energy smart grid, far-reaching job recovery and much more—"Instead, the Congress did it in one bill."

I am a dedicated viewer of the Sunday talk shows. This past Sunday my channel surfing failed to locate a single commentator, legislator, scholar or talking head referencing the Ornstein essay. So I am sharing Norman Ornstein's article here in hopes that it will stimulate further discussion, appreciation of the Congressional leadership, and proper perspective of our accomplishments at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 31, 2010]

A VERY PRODUCTIVE CONGRESS, DESPITE
WHAT THE APPROVAL RATINGS SAY

(By Norman Ornstein)

When President Obama urged lawmakers during his State of the Union speech to work with him on "restoring the public trust," he was hardly going out on a limb. The Congress he was addressing is one of the least popular in decades. Barely a quarter of Americans approve of the job it's doing, according to the latest Gallup/USA Today poll, while 58 percent said it was below average or one of the worst ever, according to an NBC/Wall Street Journal survey last month.

It's not hard to find reasons why Americans are down on Capitol Hill, and why President Obama's approval rating has dropped below 50 percent in many polls. A year into the 111th Congress, unemployment

remains at 10 percent, and many Americans are struggling to get by—even as they've watched Congress bail out banks and coddle the same bankers now salivating over massive new bonuses. At the same time, the public has had a front-row seat to the always messy legislative process on health care and other issues, and this past year that process has been messier, more rancorous and more partisan than at any point in modern memory.

There seems to be little to endear citizens to their legislature or to the president trying to influence it. It's too bad, because even with the wrench thrown in by Republican Scott Brown's election in Massachusetts, this Democratic Congress is on a path to become one of the most productive since the Great Society 89th Congress in 1965-66, and Obama already has the most legislative success of any modern president—and that includes Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson. The deep dysfunction of our politics may have produced public disdain, but it has also delivered record accomplishment.

The productivity began with the stimulus package, which was far more than an injection of \$787 billion in government spending to jump-start the ailing economy. More than one-third of it—\$288 billion—came in the form of tax cuts, making it one of the largest tax cuts in history, with sizable credits for energy conservation and renewable-energy production as well as home-buying and college tuition. The stimulus also promised \$19 billion for the critical policy arena of health-information technology, and more than \$1 billion to advance research on the effectiveness of health-care treatments.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan has leveraged some of the stimulus money to encourage wide-ranging reform in school districts across the country. There were also massive investments in green technologies, clean water and a smart grid for electricity, while the \$70 billion or more in energy and environmental programs was perhaps the most ambitious advancement in these areas in modern times. As a bonus, more than \$7 billion was allotted to expand broadband and wireless Internet access, a step toward the goal of universal access.

Any Congress that passed all these items separately would be considered enormously productive. Instead, this Congress did it in one bill. Lawmakers then added to their record by expanding children's health insurance and providing stiff oversight of the TARP funds allocated by the previous Congress. Other accomplishments included a law to allow the FDA to regulate tobacco, the largest land conservation law in nearly two decades, a credit card holders' bill of rights and defense procurement reform.

The House, of course, did much more, including approving a historic cap-and-trade bill and sweeping financial regulatory changes. And both chambers passed their versions of a health-care overhaul. Financial regulation is working its way through the Senate, and even in this political environment it is on track for enactment in the first half of this year. It is likely that the package of job-creation programs the president showcased on Wednesday, most of which got through the House last year, will be signed into law early on as well.

Most of this has been accomplished without any support from Republicans in either the House or the Senate—an especially striking fact, since many of the initiatives of the New Deal and the Great Society, including Social Security and Medicare, attracted significant backing from the minority Republicans.

How did it happen? Democrats, perhaps recalling the disasters of 1994, when they failed to unite behind Bill Clinton's agenda in the

face of uniform GOP opposition, came together. Obama's smoother beginning and stronger bonds with congressional leaders also helped.

But even with robust majorities, Democratic leaders deserve great credit for these achievements. Democratic ideologies stretch from the left-wing views of Bernie Sanders in the Senate and Maxine Waters in the House to the conservative approach of Ben Nelson in the Senate and Bobby Bright in the House, with every variation in between. Finding 219 votes for climate-change legislation in the House was nothing short of astonishing; getting all 60 Senate Democrats to support any version of major health-care reform, an equal feat. The White House strategy—applying pressure quietly while letting congressional leaders find ways to build coalitions—was critical.

Certainly, the quality of this legislative output is a matter of debate. In fact, some voters, including many independents, are down on Congress precisely because they don't like the accomplishments, which to them smack of too much government intervention and excessive deficits. But I suspect the broader public regards this Congress as committing sins of omission more than commission. Before the State of the Union, the stimulus was never really sold in terms of its substantive measures; it just looked like money thrown at a problem in the usual pork-barrel way. And many Americans, hunkering down in bad times, may not accept the notion of "countercyclical" economic policies, in which the government spends more just when citizens are cutting back.

Most of the specific new policies—such as energy conservation and protection for public lands—enjoy solid and broad public support. But many voters discount them simply because they were passed or proposed by unpopular lawmakers. In Massachusetts, people who enthusiastically support their state's health-care system were hostile to the very similar plan passed by Congress. Why? Because it was a product of Congress.

Well before Sen.-elect Brown's Bay State upset, it was clear that a sterling legislative record in the first half of the 111th Congress did not guarantee continuing action in 2010 or beyond. And now, Democrats' success at keeping 59 senators in line means little if they cannot find someone on the other side willing to become vote No. 60. With Republicans ebullient over the Massachusetts election, the likelihood is that they will feel vindicated in their "just say no" strategy. Obama's leadership lectures notwithstanding.

If the midterm elections in November turn out to be more like 1994, when Democrats got hammered, than 1982, when Republicans suffered a less costly blow, the GOP will probably be emboldened to double down on its opposition to everything, trying to bring the Obama presidency to its knees on the way to 2012. That would mean real gridlock in the face of a serious crisis. Given the precarious coalitions in our otherwise dysfunctional politics, we could go quickly from one of the most productive Congresses in our lifetimes to the most obstructionist.

And voters would probably like that even less.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy

on earmarks, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information regarding project funding I had requested and which was included within the Joint Explanatory Statement of Managers to accompany the Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3326, the Defense Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2010, which is commonly referred to as the Defense Appropriations Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2010 (even though no formal conference was held). To the best of my knowledge, these requests: (1) are not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) are not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meet or exceed all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable. I further certify that neither my spouse, nor I, have any personal financial interests in these requests.

Project Title: Senior Scout, Electro-Optical Infrared Capability Amount: \$4.8 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Army Aircraft Procurement
Address of Requesting Entity: Utah Air National Guard, 169th Intelligence Squadron, and Lockheed-Martin, 7563 South 4470 West, West Jordan, Utah 84084.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would provide for infra-red imaging capabilities for better all-condition imagery of high-value intelligence target identification and location functions.

Project Title: Senior Scout, Line of Sight Datalink
Amount: \$2.4 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Army Aircraft Procurement
Address of Requesting Entity: Utah Air National Guard, 169th Intelligence Squadron, and Lockheed-Martin, 7563 South 4470 West, West Jordan, Utah 84084.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would upgrade the Senior Scout platform by incorporating line-of-sight equipment, antenna systems, and infrastructure components for increased data processing and dissemination capacity to meet greatly increasing military mission demands.

Project Title: Senior Scout, Remote Operations Capability
Amount: \$2.4 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Army Aircraft Procurement
Address of Requesting Entity: Utah Air National Guard, 169th Intelligence Squadron, and Lockheed-Martin, 7563 South 4470 West, West Jordan, Utah 84084.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would upgrade the Senior Scout intelligence platform by upgrading the remote data processing functionality, improving processing times and dissemination of crucial time-sensitive intelligence to end-users.

Project Title: Automated Composite Technologies and Manufacturing Center
Amount: \$9.6 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Defense Production Act Purchases
Address of Requesting Entity: ATK, Inc., Freeport Center Building H-8, Clearfield, Utah 84016.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would be used in partnership with the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill AFB, to continue multi-year effort to develop high tech cutting-edge carbon fiber placement and equipment in support of Air Force aviation platforms and weapons systems, leading to better technical competence within the government depot system in support of these systems.

Project Title: Dugway Field Test Improvements
Amount: \$3.6 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Army RDT&E
Address of Requesting Entity: ITT, Inc., 8262 South 5260 West, South Jordan, Utah 84088.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding will incorporate cutting-edge radar and sensor technology into the capabilities of U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, for use in its vital chemical and biological defense test mission, to allow for more accurate test characterization of biological and chemical threats. Project is in conjunction with the Space Dynamics Laboratory at Utah State University.

Project Title: Multiple Source Data Fusion for Dugway Proving Ground
Amount: \$2 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Army RDT&E
Address of Requesting Entity: ITT, Inc., 8262 South 5260 West, South Jordan, Utah 84088.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding is needed to support the U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground in its unique mission of chemical and biological defense testing, by supporting technology improvements to monitor and analyze chemical and biological stimulants, including development of stand-off referee instrumentation and data fusion methods.

Project Title: Precision Strike Munitions Advancement with Integrated Millimeter Wave Power Sources to Satisfy Army Strategic Goals

Amount: \$3.28 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Army RDT&E
Address of Requesting Entity: Innosys, Inc., 2900 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding will be used to develop an integrated millimeter wave amplification portable power system to support autonomous operations of precision strike weaponry, such as micro UAVs and helicopters, providing warfighters with greater and more flexible weapons and tactical surveillance capabilities.

Project Title: Transitioning Stretch Broker Carbon Fiber to Production Programs
Amount: \$3.2 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Army RDT&E
Address of Requesting Entity: Hexcell, Inc., 6700 West 5400 South, West Valley City, Utah 84118.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding needed to continue industry efforts to develop advanced carbon fiber technology to allow for the forming of more geometrically complex weapons system and aviation components at the time of manufacture, and also to allow for the development of a Mil-HdBK-17 approved data base, which is necessary for the new technology to be certified for use on current and future defense program production.

Project Title: Unserviceable Ammunition Demilitarization via Chemical Dissolution at Tooele Army Depot
Amount: \$1.6 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Army RDT&E
Address of Requesting Entity: Battelle Memorial Institute, 4225 Lake Park Blvd., Suite 200, West Valley City, Utah 84120.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Project would continue efforts begun in FY09 to design and construct a prototype acid hydrolysis conventional munitions demilitarization process for the disposal of high-risk/high-cost unserviceable and obsolete ammunition stored at Tooele Army Depot, Utah, in a more environmentally responsible manner.

Project Title: CAD/CAM Aircraft Structural Overhaul Work Center
Amount: \$2.5 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Air Force RDT&E
Address of Requesting Entity: Mission Support, Inc., P.O. Box 160135, Freeport Center Building Z-15, Clearfield, Utah 84016.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding will be used to provide computer-aided design/computer aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) technology in workstations for the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill AFB, Utah, for use primarily on legacy aircraft repairs of aviation component parts, such as the A-10 weapon system, increasing parts manufacturing accuracy and reducing repair and overhead costs to the government.

Project Title: UAV Sensor and Maintenance Development Center
Amount: \$3.92 million
Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: Air Force RDT&E
Address of Requesting Entity: Space Dynamics Laboratory at Utah State University, 1695 North Research Park Way, North Logan, Utah 84341.

Matching Funds: None
Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.
Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would provide technical assistance to the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill AFB,

Utah, in the areas of developing, calibrating, and integrating various sensors and other payloads onto UAV platforms, which will facilitate future R&D development of UAV capability within the military.

Project Title: Compliance Tools Development for Metals in Antifouling Paints

Amount: \$800,000

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Navy RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Kennecott Copper (Rio Tinto) and International Copper Association, 260 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding:

Funding would be used to develop environmental modeling software tools to survey site-specific naval installations for buildup of harmful heavy metals in harbor sediments caused by paints and coatings on naval vessels at port. This tool will allow the navy to measure and monitor which coatings are best and most cost-effective for anti-fouling paints (some of which contain copper), and allow the Navy to remain in compliance with environmental standards.

Project Title: Tomahawk Cost Reduction Initiative

Amount: \$3.28 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Navy RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Williams International, Inc., 3450 Sam Williams Drive, Ogden, Utah 84401.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding:

Funding is needed to incorporate new manufacturing technologies into the Tomahawk production line that will reduce the per-unit costs for future missiles. This funding has a quick pay-back period on this proven "weapon of choice" in many conflicts.

ON THE RECENT ARSON ATTACKS ON THE ETZ-HAYYIM SYNAGOGUE ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the recent arson attacks on Jan. 5 and 16 targeting the historic Jewish synagogue in the port-city of Hania on the island of Crete.

The Etz-Hayyim Synagogue holds a library of religious books and functions as a museum and memorial in the ancient harbor city of Chania. Etz-Hayyim dates back to the Middle Ages and serves as one of the last Jewish monuments on the island of Crete, in addition to serving as a house of worship.

I applaud the Greek authorities' quick action and recent arrests of the suspected perpetrators of the attacks and urge the individuals responsible be swiftly brought to justice. The State Department has praised the Greek government for condemning the attacks and taking a strong stand against anti-Semitism and

racism. I join them in their praise and congratulate the Greek government for its swift and decisive reaction.

These are only the most recent in a series of anti-Semitic incidents to surface in Greece from Veria to Ioannina and to Volos in the recent past. In fact, this type of virulent anti-Semitism continues to rise worldwide and must be met with equal defiance and determination to defeat those who would perform these despicable acts.

We must not let this type of anti-Semitism percolate as the world has seen the evil that stems from this type of hatred and bigotry. I stand firmly with Greece and the Jewish community of Hania, and Jewish communities around the world, and implore the international community to voice their outrage against this intolerance.

I urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, due to the death of my brother I was unable to participate in the legislative proceedings of the House during the week of January 18, 2010. If I had been present I would have voted the following:

Rollcall 6 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to congratulate the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine for its 150 years of commitment to advancing science and improving health. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 7 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to congratulate the Penn State women's volleyball team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I national championship. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 8 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to commend the University of Virginia men's soccer team for winning the 2009 Division I NCAA National Championship. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 9 was on a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3254, H.R. 3342, and H.R. 1065. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 10 was on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 11 was on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the Idaho Wilderness Water Resources Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 12 was on passage of the Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 13 was on passage of the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 14 was on passage of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 15 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to express condolences to and solidarity with the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 16 was on a motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment—Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 BUSINESSES OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce 2009 Businesses of the Year.

The Businesses of the Year Awards are divided into eight categories. Each year, the Prince William Regional Chamber identifies a business for each category that best exemplifies the entrepreneurial and community spirit of the County. The winners represent some of Prince William's most heartening stories of success and charity.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the recipients of the 2009 Businesses of the Year Awards:

New Business of the Year: Dogtopia of Woodbridge.

Small Business of the Year: The Dog Eaze Inn.

Medium Business of the Year: Whitlock & Associates Wealth Management.

Large Business of the Year: R.W. Murray Co.

Home Based Business of the Year: ImageWerks.

Community Service Organization of the Year: Greater Prince William Community Health Center.

Cultural Arts Organization of the Year: Youth Orchestras of Prince William.

Community Outreach Award: Larry Hair Designers, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2009 Businesses of the Year and wishing them continued success. Strong businesses are the backbone of a healthy and robust economy, and we do our community a service to encourage their creation and growth.

THE RELEASE OF DANGEROUS DETAINEES FROM GUANTANAMO BAY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter that I received earlier today from Deputy National Security Adviser John Brennan in response to my many letters to him and the President on the release of dangerous detainees from Guantanamo Bay to unstable countries. In Mr. Brennan's letter, he confirms that detainee recidivism has dramatically grown from 13 to 20 percent over the last year. The administration has been suppressing this information for many months and I have urged the White House on several occasions to release it to the public.