

CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS PILOT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, S. 2950.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2950.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010, TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, February 5, 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 Jersey?

There was no objection.

□ 1600

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SECRETARY UDALL

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Last week, former Secretary of the Interior and Representative Stewart Udall celebrated his 90th birthday. The proud father of Senator TOM UDALL and uncle of Senator MARK UDALL, Secretary Udall now resides in my home State of New Mexico.

Stewart Udall's legacy is visible throughout our country from his time as Interior Secretary for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. It is visible in the lands he protected and the laws he enacted, groundbreaking law that protected our water, air, and animals in their natural habitats. In his tenure, the United States enacted the Clear Air Act, the Wilderness Act, the Endangered Species Act, and many others.

When he left public office, he continued his work, taking up the cause of Navajos who suffered the effects of uranium mining. Secretary Udall advocated for the passage of early legislation to protect harmed uranium miners and their families while instigating cleanup efforts.

Secretary Udall let compassion and common sense guide his career in public service. He is a great American and a great New Mexican.

Happy birthday, Secretary Udall.

SHORT-SIGHTED DECISION ON F-22S

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Friday, January 29, Russia's fifth-generation fighter jet, with stealth capabilities, successfully completed its first test flight. This is an ominous development indeed, as it comes on the heels of the Obama administration's decision to terminate production of our own fifth-generation air superiority fighter, the F-22A Raptor.

The administration's decision to end the F-22 program at 187 aircraft was clearly not driven by military requirements, as a longstanding Air Force requirement for the F-22, developed to meet the national military strategy, is 381. While President Obama and Secretary Gates were expending great capital in shorting the Air Force by nearly 200 F-22s, it should be clear to all of us what the Russians have been doing.

Air superiority is not something we should take for granted, Madam Speaker, for owning the skies is what enables us to own the battlefield. The President's shortsighted decision on the F-22 ignores the possibility that at some point in the future, we could find ourselves in conflict with a conventional military power that could challenge our air superiority, a possibility I don't think any of us would like to imagine.

EXECUTIVES, SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS, AND UNION MEMBERS SAY "ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS"

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, according to a new Zogby poll, senior executives, business owners, and members of union households think the best way to deal with illegal immigration is to enforce the law. When asked to choose between enforcement or a pathway to citizenship with conditions, 59 percent of executives, 67 percent of small business owners, and 58 percent of union households chose enforcement. When asked whether more immigrants are needed to address our job needs or if there are enough Americans to fill them, 61 percent of executives, 65 percent of small business owners, and 72 percent of union households said there are plenty of Americans available to fill unskilled jobs.

These findings are no surprise. Citizens and legal immigrants should not be forced to compete with illegal immigrants for scarce jobs.

WHAT AMERICANS WANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, today Congress voted to raise the national debt limit to \$14.3 trillion, or

\$121,000 per American family today. The vote is the third debt increase since the Democrats took control of Congress and they have passed a debt increase three times in the last 12 months. This is a burden to small businesses and communities, will hurt our economic growth and prosperity for years to come, will raise interest rates and hurt our ability for our communities to gain jobs.

This is irresponsible, and yet it's merely a symptom of the problem. The problem is that Washington cannot control its spending.

We need folks in Congress who will look at the budget line by line, as the President pledged in the last campaign, and look at how to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, and curb the growth of government and balance our budget. That is what the American people want, and that is what I am fighting for.

PAYGO PROTECTS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(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, many people might not be focused on the work that was done today and led by the Democratic Caucus, and I think it's important to reinforce what we did today. We protected the American people. We protected our veterans. We protected our seniors with Social Security and Medicare. We protected the most vulnerable, our children.

As everyone knows, our children have, many times, the least opportunity for health care reform except for the work that we did just a few months ago when we worked to enroll some 11 million more children in the Children's Health Insurance Program. But at the same time as we move forward, we know more and more children are uninsured.

The PAYGO work that we did and the work that we did addressing the question of this Nation's deficit was clearly not a selfish act; it was a selfless act. And that is to say to our seniors, We'll never forget you. We'll never abandon your Medicare and Social Security.

Our veterans have offered themselves on behalf of this Nation, and we will never, never forget our veterans and our soldiers. And we certainly will not forget the most vulnerable in our society who need food stamps and medical care.

We did the right thing today, and I am proud to have voted "yes."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER). 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 Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas 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 California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, everywhere I go in Wisconsin, people are saying the same thing: Government must live within its means. I agree. After all, being fiscally responsible is the Wisconsin way.

People all across northeast Wisconsin pay their bills on time, and they're tired of seeing their money wasted on bailouts for Wall Street speculators. Everyone, and I mean everyone, is rightfully angry, and so am I. We simply don't believe in rewarding failure in Wisconsin, and that is why I voted against every single bailout that came along.

And never forget, never forget how we fell into this mess.

When I was elected in 2006, the people in power in Washington, D.C., were pursuing borrow-and-spend policies, policies that drove our economy into the ditch without paying a single dime for them. Without paying for a single dime, the previous administration spent money we did not have on two wars—two wars at the same time—two tax cuts for the rich, gigantic handouts to big drug companies on Wall Street, and a trillion-dollar bailout for their friends on Wall Street in the big banks, and asking, asking our children and grandchildren to pay for it all.

Well, enough is enough. We must live within our means. Our government must invest in our own people right here at home, not on Wall Street and not overseas. We must rebuild our own economy and grow the jobs. We need to work our way back into prosperity.

When voting for any legislation, I only have the best interests of my constituents in Wisconsin in mind. The pay-as-you-go rules which were enacted today will be successful, as they were in the 1990s, and this is exactly the medicine we need today to begin to turn today's enormous debts into future surpluses. That is why I strongly support the passage of pay-as-you-go rules, just as I have seven times previously during my public service.

It's really a simple, responsible thing to do. Washington must live within its means and pay its bills on time, just as

we do around our own kitchen tables every month across Wisconsin.

Mandatory pay-as-you-go rules are critical to reducing our national debt. Over time, these responsible spending rules will contain Federal expenditures and balance our budgets, for when government attempts to spend money on one program, it must either raise revenues or cut spending on another program. It's just that simple. Live within our means.

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 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 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 Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT 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 California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK 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 Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

DOES CONGRESS HAVE THE COURAGE TO CONFRONT THE ECONOMIC THREAT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE?

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

Mr. AKIN. Madam Chair, in the next hour we're going to be talking about a subject that has caught the attention of Americans. It's, generally speaking, a boring subject, but now it's not become boring anymore, and that is the problem with the Federal Government overspending, the problem with the budgets that have been proposed, the problem of the financial trajectory of our country and the threat that that trajectory poses.

I'd like to step back in time a little bit as a Republican to talk about the fact that over a 12-year period, Republicans had deficit spending in a number of years at about a hundred billion dollars or maybe a little more. If you put that all together over 12 years, you have over a trillion dollar amount of deficit spending.

But what we're looking at in 1 year now is over a trillion dollars. In other words, the Democrats are spending more in 1 year than we did in 12 years, or you could say that they're spending enough in 1 month to compensate for every year of the Republicans.

Now, the past President was criticized that he overspent; he spent too much money. His biggest deficit was in 2008 with the Pelosi Congress at about \$450 billion of excessive spending.

Just the number of billion dollars, it's hard for us to recognize how does that relate to something. So let's put it in perspective and take a look at it as a percent of the gross domestic product of our country.

The \$450 billion deficit with the Pelosi Congress and President Bush, that number would be about 3.1 percent of GDP. That is actually fairly average for many different years and different Presidents.

The 2008 deficit was followed by 2009, of course, and it was, again, the Pelosi Congress, but this time the Obama administration. And after all kinds of criticism of the Republicans for spending too much money, the budget was \$1.4 trillion of deficit. That is three times worse than the worst year of President Bush.