

HOMELAND SECURITY: “THE BORDER IS SECURE” NOT SO FAST

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to the Secretary of Homeland Security, our southern border is secure.

Well, not so fast with that pronouncement.

According to the General Accounting Office—those are the people that we pay to actually give us the true facts on such matters—half of the southern border is not under the operational control of the Border Patrol. Forty-four percent is secure; the rest is not. So who operates the other 56 percent? And, further, a mere 15 percent of the border is considered airtight.

Texas is the least secure border of all the Southern States. Our Border Patrol does a fine job but they need some help. The border sheriffs are superior lawmen, but they are overwhelmed with cross-border crime. With 37 percent of the people in Texas border jails being foreign nationals, those sheriffs, like the Border Patrol, are outmanned, out-gunned, and out-financed.

There is a border war going on, and it's time to send the National Guard to the southern border to protect the homeland.

Homeland Security should deal in reality, not myth and propaganda, and realize that over half of the border is the wide open spaces and that it remains porous to the drug bandits.

And that's just the way it is.

THE REPUBLICAN SPENDING PLAN

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, right now Congress' top priority should be creating jobs and lowering the deficit with intelligent spending cuts.

The President's proposed budget is a good starting point, putting us on track to lower the deficit by \$1.1 trillion over 10 years.

But instead of focusing on a bipartisan approach, the Republican spending bill includes cuts that will destroy jobs—and I say destroy jobs—and kick hundreds of thousands of children to the curb; 55,000 fewer teachers in the classroom; 1,300 fewer police officers on our streets; 200,000 kids kicked out of Head Start—while many Republicans live in their Capitol offices.

If the Republicans are serious about cutting the deficit, then why were they so happy to support the tax cuts for the wealthiest few Americans?

Today's debate is about the haves and the have-nots. Unfortunately, the have-nots, once again, are getting the short end of the stick.

Let us put aside this misguided bill and work together on a reasonable budget to put America's families first.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF AGENT ZAPATA, U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL AGENT

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express our deepest sorrow about a terrible attack against two agents from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement while they were driving between Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico.

Special Agent Jaime Zapata tragically lost his life in his service to our country. Special Agent Zapata joined ICE in 2006, and he was most recently detailed to ICE's attach office in Mexico City.

We also send our thoughts and prayers to the second agent, Victor Avila, who was injured in the attack and who remains in stable condition. We pray for him to have a speedy recovery.

Honorable agents like these two men have our Nation at the forefront of their minds each and every day. They work day in and day out on our borders, protecting our Nation's citizens, and we take pride in the dedication that they have.

We are blessed to have brave men and women who work in the service of our Nation every day. Their work can never be underestimated. Our deepest condolences go out to the families of these brave men, of these great American patriots.

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AMERICANS WANT JOBS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in strong opposition to the Republican spending plan that would hurt Missouri families that I represent and make it harder for police to keep our neighborhoods safe.

In St. Louis, we learned yesterday that a \$4.6 million budget shortfall for our city's police department might not be covered, which would cost the city 65 active duty officers. Now, some in Congress are talking about slashing critical programs like the COPS program and pulling over 1,300 police officers off the streets.

I'm in favor of a vigorous debate here on cutting red tape and finding commonsense solutions to our Nation's challenges, but eliminating the essential police officers from our streets would put families at risk. Americans still want this Congress to take up a jobs agenda. Instead, we're debating what's been called ideologically driven cuts that kill jobs.

We live in an era of divided government and shared responsibility for America's future. I look forward to working with members of both parties

to make tough choices before us and to finally be able to take up the jobs agenda that our constituents need.

THE DE FACTO DRILLING MORATORIUM IS DESTROYING OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, last week written across America's newspapers were headlines of how Egyptians stood up to what they viewed as a restrictive and arbitrary government.

Perhaps those protests should serve as a wake-up call for us all, if for no other reason than for where they took place. You see, just east of Cairo is the Suez Canal and SuMed pipeline, which combined carry nearly 5 million barrels of oil a day to countries around the world. Egypt's future remains uncertain, and because of the restrictive and arbitrary anti-drilling policies imposed by President Obama, so does the future for thousands of families in south Mississippi. By refusing to issue new drilling permits this administration continues to impose a de facto moratorium on U.S.-based companies, which is having a devastating effect on gulf coast families.

Having worked on an offshore platform, I know firsthand the impact those jobs have on a local economy. Without drilling in the gulf, many small businesses will suffer as more jobs are lost and the effect of those lost wages trickle throughout the economy.

Mr. Speaker, you don't ground the entire airline industry when there's an airplane crash. Now is the time for this administration to do what's right for the American people by allowing further offshore exploration and reducing our reliance on foreign sources of oil.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN CR SPENDING CUTS

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

Mr. Sires. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Republicans' dangerous spending cuts. Our commitment to reducing our deficit must not come at the expense of our Nation's future and the security of our communities. The Republican spending bill is irresponsible and reckless, and the proposal would eliminate jobs at a time when we need to create them the most.

It would have cut funding for 1,300 police officers through the COPS hiring program, and it will eliminate 2,400 jobs for firefighters through the SAFER program. By cutting transportation funding, this bill eliminates 3,427 jobs in New Jersey alone. It rescinds \$2.5 billion for high-speed rail and makes deep cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which protects outdoor recreational spaces. Additionally, this bill cuts millions from housing programs that help families pay their rent.

We have had 101 votes in this House, and not one Republican proposal has created one single job. Now this spending measure threatens to make matters worse.

I urge my colleagues to oppose these shortsighted cuts.

ARMY DENTAL CORPS ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Army Dental Corps as they celebrate their 100th year of service to our Nation. On March 3, 1911, the Congress of the United States recognized dentistry as a distinct profession by establishing a dental corps with commissioned officers.

As a long practicing dentist, I know that dental health is a critical component of overall health and military readiness. Therefore, I commend the Army Dental Corps' work to improve oral health for soldiers and their families.

I have the utmost respect for the thousands of dentists who have served in the dental corps throughout the century, providing excellent care to thousands, and I commend the Army Dental Corps' efforts to keep our troops healthy and our fighting force in the best possible shape throughout the world.

I WILL FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to respond to remarks delivered yesterday on this floor by my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, in which he harshly criticized the duly elected government of Puerto Rico and the island's chief Federal judge. The speech was inappropriate and insulting to the people of Puerto Rico. I hope such action will not be repeated, but if it is, make no mistake: I will return to the floor of this House again to defend my constituents and the government they chose in free elections from all unwarranted attacks. I will rise then in the same capacity that I rise now, as Puerto Rico's only elected Representative in Congress and the only Member of this Chamber who can make any claim to speak on behalf of the island's nearly 4 million American citizens. I will fight for my people because it is my privilege, my honor, and my duty to do so.

EXTENDING COUNTERTERRORISM AUTHORITIES

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 93, I call up the bill (H.R. 514) to extend expiring

provisions of the U.S.A. PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 and Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 relating to access to business records, individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers, and roving wiretaps until December 8, 2011, with the Senate amendment thereto, and I have a motion at the desk.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FISA Sunsets Extension Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SUNSETS OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO ACCESS TO BUSINESS RECORDS, INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS AS AGENTS OF FOREIGN POWERS, AND ROVING WIRETAPS.

(a) USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT AND RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005.—Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Re-authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-177; 50 U.S.C. 1805 note, 50 U.S.C. 1861 note, and 50 U.S.C. 1862 note) is amended by striking "February 28, 2011" and inserting "May 27, 2011".

(b) INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.—Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 118 Stat. 3742; 50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking "February 28, 2011" and inserting "May 27, 2011".

MOTION TO CONCUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Smith of Texas moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 93, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include other materials on H.R. 514.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate amendment to H.R. 514 extends the three expiring

provisions of the Patriot Act for only 90 days. I am disappointed that the Senate refused to agree to the 10-month extension approved by the House earlier this week. Repeated short-term extensions of these authorities create uncertainty for our intelligence agencies. They don't know if the tools they rely on to keep America safe today will be available to them tomorrow. That is why the House sought a 10-month extension, to allow sufficient time to reauthorize the law while providing greater certainty to the intelligence community.

With adoption of this amendment, the House and Senate will now have to move expeditiously to approve a Patriot reauthorization bill so we can avoid the need for another short-term extension. It is important that the House approves this 90-day extension today to keep the expiring intelligence-gathering provisions in place.

In a recent letter to Congress, Director of National Intelligence Admiral Clapper and Attorney General Holder said that "it is essential that these intelligence tools be reauthorized before they expire" and they "have been used in numerous highly sensitive intelligence collection operations."

Last week, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano warned that "the terrorist threat . . . is at its most heightened state since the 9/11 terrorist attacks."

Just this week, the FBI announced that the probability that the U.S. will be attacked with a weapon of mass destruction at some point is 100 percent. The head of the FBI's WMD Directorate said that the type of attack that keeps him awake at night is an attack by a so-called "lone wolf."

With the likelihood of a weapons of mass destruction attack at 100 percent, we cannot afford to leave our intelligence officials without the tools they need to keep America safe. The war on terror is not over, but the terrorist threat is constantly evolving. We must fully arm our intelligence community with the resources they need to prevent another devastating and deadly terrorist attack.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time. Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to concur in the Senate amendment, which will have the effect of passing the extension of the expiring provisions of the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act and Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for giving me the chance to go early. I particularly want to speak now because when we voted the second time on the Patriot Act, the first time I did vote against the extension, but the second time I missed the vote—my fault—but