

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. At the beginning of a new day and another week, help us to discover the power of resting in You and receiving assurance and encouragement in Your amazing grace.

Send Your Spirit down upon the Members of the people's House who have been entrusted by their fellow Americans with the awesome privilege and responsibility of sustaining the great experiment of democratic self-government.

May they be reminded always of whom they are. May they be open to Your inspiration, that they might overcome the temptation to work through the issues of this day on their own strength and cleverness. Grant them wisdom, insight, and vision, that the work they do will be for the betterment of our Nation during a time of struggle for so many millions of Americans.

May they earn the trust and respect of those they represent, whether or not they had earned their vote, and make history that expands the great legacy of so many who have served in this Chamber before now, a legacy of noble service, sometimes political risk, but always great leadership.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE SENATE MUST TAKE ACTION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released its November jobs report citing the gruesome unemployment rate of 8.6 percent. This revelation marks the 34th straight month where the Nation's unemployment rate has remained at or above 8 percent. This is a tragedy for American families who do not have jobs or have given up looking for jobs.

House Republicans continue to remain focused on job creation, making the issue our number one priority. Since January, the House has submitted numerous bills, many with bipartisan support, to the Senate in hopes of passage, which will help put American families back to work. Just last week, the House passed three more commonsense bills, bringing the total number of job-creating bills awaiting action by the liberal Senate to 25.

I urge the Senate majority leader to bring any of the House jobs bills up for a vote and begin focusing on ways to promote job growth.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m.

□ 1531

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1540. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1540) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe

military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON (NE), Mr. WEBB, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. UDALL (CO), Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN (MA), Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VITTER, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT CONSOLIDATION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 944) to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 944

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PRESERVATION OF ROCKS AND SMALL ISLANDS ALONG THE COAST OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The Act of February 18, 1931, entitled "An Act to reserve for public use rocks, pinnacles, reefs, and small islands along the seacoast of Orange County, California" is amended by striking "temporarily reserved" and all that follows through "United States" and inserting "part of the California Coastal National Monument and shall be administered as such".

(b) REPEAL OF RESERVATION.—Section 31 of the Act of May 28, 1935, entitled "An Act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to dispose of certain lighthouse reservations, and for other purposes" is hereby repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 944, introduced by our colleague from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) will remove an unused lighthouse reservation currently in place for certain rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California. The bill would add them to the California Coastal National Monument.

The lighthouse reservation has been in place since 1935 to provide locations for searchlights and other coastal defense equipment of that time. The bill will provide for the consistent management of geological features along the coast of Orange County.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. LUJÁN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUJÁN. H.R. 944 would correct a situation in which two acts from the 1930s are inadvertently preventing certain rocks, pinnacles, reefs, small islands, and lighthouses off the coast of Orange County from being included in the California Coastal National Monument.

In 2000 President Clinton created the California Coastal National Monument, which spans the entire 1,100 miles of the California coast and encompasses more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles. However, the act designating the monument included only unreserved and unappropriated rocks and islands, and under the 1930s acts, these natural and cultural sites were reserved.

H.R. 944 would strike the reservation language in one act and repeal another act to provide that these areas finally be permanently protected as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Therefore, we support the passage of H.R. 944.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the facts of the bill have been presented by both of the gentlemen speaking before me.

This bill actually passed the floor of this House by a vote of 397-4 in the last Congress. They simply ran out of time in the Senate; otherwise, I think it would be law today. So I appreciate everyone's indulgence with passing this bill off this floor again today, I hope.

It has been mentioned that this was from 1935. Of these rocks and small is-

lands, they originally thought, oh, we might put lighthouses there. Then they thought they might use them to help defend the California coast against Japanese submarines during World War II. Neither of those purposes is of much value anymore. So that's why, if we put this in the California Coastal National Monument, we will be able to preserve these rocks and islands and the sea life around them, and they will become a part of our environmental heritage going forward.

With that, I thank everyone for their assistance.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 944.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT LEASE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 535) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 535

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fort Pulaski National Monument Lease Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. LEASE AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") may lease to the Savannah Bar Pilots Association, or a successor organization, no more than 30,000 square feet of land and improvements within Fort Pulaski National Monument (referred to in this section as the "Monument") at the location on Cockspur Island that has been used continuously by the Savannah Bar Pilots Association since 1940.

(b) RENTAL FEE AND PROCEEDS.—

(1) RENTAL FEE.—For the lease authorized by this Act, the Secretary shall require a rental fee based on fair market value adjusted, as the Secretary deems appropriate, for amounts to be expended by the lessee for

property preservation, maintenance, or repair and related expenses.

(2) PROCEEDS.—Disposition of the proceeds from the rental fee required pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 3(k)(5) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-2(k)(5)).

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A lease entered into under this section—

(1) shall be for a term of no more than 10 years and, at the Secretary's discretion, for successive terms of no more than 10 years at a time; and

(2) shall include any terms and conditions the Secretary determines to be necessary to protect the resources of the Monument and the public interest.

(d) EXEMPTION FROM APPLICABLE LAW.—Except as provided in section 2(b)(2) of this Act, the lease authorized by this Act shall not be subject to section 3(k) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-2(k)) or section 321 of Act of June 30, 1932 (40 U.S.C. 1302).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 535 would allow the Savannah Bar Pilots Association to continue leasing a facility at Fort Pulaski National Monument as they have done since the 1940s.

Congressman JACK KINGSTON of Georgia is the author of the House version of this bill, H.R. 2687, that the Committee on Natural Resources heard in September. The National Park Service testified in support, and we are pleased that this is one piece of legislation that will not cost the taxpayers a dime.

So I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. LUJÁN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUJÁN. Fort Pulaski was completed in 1812. The Savannah Bar Pilots were founded in 1864, and they have had a lease to use part of the fort since 1940. It would appear that Congress is a little late in getting around to formalizing this arrangement.

The Bar Pilots provide an invaluable service by protecting the people and the cargo entering the Port of Savannah. This has been a good use of part of the fort and should continue, so we support the passage of S. 535.

I yield back the balance of my time.