H658

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H. CON. RES. 99

Labor Task Force to study the role that

enslaved African-Americans played in the

construction of the Capitol and to make rec-

ommendations to Congress on how to com-

Whereas the report of the Architect of the

Capitol entitled "History of Slave Laborers

in the Construction of the United States

Capitol" documents the role of slave labor in

Whereas enslaved African-Americans per-

Whereas enslaved African-Americans also

Whereas the marble columns in the Old

formed the backbreaking work of quarrying

the stone which comprised many of the

floors, walls, and columns of the Capitol;

memorate their contribution;

the construction of the Capitol;

Barton (TX) Bass (CA) Bass (NH) Becerra Benishek Berg Berkley Berman Biggert Bilbray Bilirakis Bishop (GA) Bishop (NY) Bishop (UT) Black Bonamici Bonner Bono Mack Boren Boswell Boustany Brady (PA) Brady (TX) Bralev (IA) Brooks Broun (GA) Brown (FL) Buchanan Bucshon Buerkle Burgess Butterfield Calvert Camp Canseco Cantor Capito Capps Capuano Carnahan Carson (IN) Carter Cassidy Castor (FL) Chabot Chaffetz Chandler Chu Cicilline Clarke (MI) Clarke (NY) Clay Cleaver Clyburn Coble Coffman (CO) Cohen Cole Conaway Connolly (VA) Convers Cooper Costa Costello Courtney Cravaack Crawford Crenshaw Critz Crowlev Cuellar Culberson Cummings Davis (CA) Davis (IL) Davis (KY) DeFazio DeGette DeLauro Denham Dent DesJarlais Deutch Diaz-Balart Dicks Dingell Doggett Dold Donnelly (IN) Dovle Dreier Duffy Duncan (SC) Duncan (TN) Ellison Ellmers Emerson Engel

Eshoo

Issa

Farenthold Langevin Farr Lankford Fattah Larsen (WA) Filner Larson (CT) Fincher Latham Fitzpatrick LaTourette Fleischmann Latta Lee (CA) Fleming Flores Levin Forbes Lewis (CA) Fortenberry Lewis (GA) Foxx Lipinski Frank (MA) LoBiondo Franks (AZ) Loebsack Frelinghuysen Lofgren, Zoe Gallegly Lowey Garamendi Lucas Luetkemeyer Gardner Garrett Luján Lungren, Daniel Gerlach Gibbs Ε. Gibson Lynch Gingrey (GA) Mack Gohmert Malonev Gonzalez Manzullo Goodlatte Marchant Gosar Marino Gowdy Markey Granger Matheson Graves (GA) Matsui McCarthy (CA) Graves (MO) Green, Al McCarthy (NY) Green, Gene Griffin (AR) McCaul McCollum Griffith (VA) McCotter Grijalva McDermott McGovern Grimm McHenry Guinta Guthrie McIntyre Gutierrez McKeon McKinley Hahn Hall McMorris Hanabusa Rodgers McNerney Hanna Harper Meehan Harris Meeks Mica Hartzler Hastings (FL) Miller (FL) Hastings (WA) Miller (MI) Miller (NC) Havworth Heck Miller, Gary Heinrich Miller, George Hensarling Moore Herger Moran Herrera Beutler Mulvanev Murphy (CT) Higgins Himes Murphy (PA) Hinchev Mvrick Hinojosa Nadler Napolitano Hirono Hochul Nea1 Holden Noem Nugent Holt Honda Nunes Hoyer Nunnelee Huizenga (MI) Olson Hultgren Olver Hunter Owens Hurt Palazzo Pallone Inslee Israel Pascrell Pastor (AZ) Jackson (IL) Paulsen Jackson Lee Payne (TX)Pearce Jenkins Pelosi Johnson (GA) Pence Johnson (IL) Perlmutter Johnson (OH) Peters Johnson, E. B. Peterson Johnson, Sam Petri Pingree (ME) Jones Jordan Pitts Poe (TX) Kaptur Keating Polis Pompeo Kelly Kildee Posev Price (GA) Kind King (IA) Price (NC) King (NY) Quiglev Kingston Rahall Rangel Kinzinger (IL) Kissell Reed Kline Rehberg Kucinich Reichert Labrador Renacci Lamborn Reves Richardson Lance Landry Richmond

Schweikert Rigell Rivera Scott (SC) Roby Roe (TN) Scott (VA) Scott, Austin Scott, David Rogers (KY) Rogers (MI) Sensenbrenner Rohrabacher Serrano Rokita Sessions Rooney Sewell Ros-Lehtinen Sherman Roskam Shimkus Ross (AR) Shuler Ross (FL) Simpson Rothman (NJ) Sires Slaughter Roybal-Allard Smith (NE) Royce Runyan Smith (NJ) Ruppersberger Smith (TX) Smith (WA) Rush Ryan (OH) Southerland Rvan (WI) Speier Sánchez, Linda Stark Stearns Т. Sanchez Loretta Stivers Sullivan Sarbanes Scalise Sutton Thompson (CA) Schakowsky Schiff Thompson (PA) Schilling Thornberry Tiberi Schmidt Schock Tierney Schrader Tipton Tonko Schwartz Amash Huelskamp Bachmann Long Blackburn Lummis Campbell McClintock Neugebauer Flake

NOT VOTING-13 Blumenauer Fudge Shuster Burton (IN) Michaud Terrv Cardoza Paul Thompson (MS) Carney Platts Edwards Ribble

NAYS-15

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1044

Mr. ISSA changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

Mr. QUAYLE changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the motion to instruct was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker. on rollcall Nos. 47 and 48, I missed both votes due to an automobile accident. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" in both cases.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMAN-CIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CERE-MONY TO UNVEIL THE MARKER WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THE ROLE THAT SLAVE LABOR PLAYED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES CAP-ITOL

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 99, and ask for itsimmediate consideration in the House

Towns Tsongas Turner (NY) Turner (OH) Upton Van Hollen Velázquez Visclosky Walberg Walden Walsh (IL) Walz (MN) Wasserman Schultz Waters Watt Waxman Webster Welch West Westmoreland Whitfield Wilson (FL) Wilson (SC) Wittman Womack Woodall Woolsev Yarmuth Young (AK) Young (FL) Young (IN)

participated in other facets of construction of the Capitol, including carpentry, masonry, Quayle carting, rafting, roofing, plastering, glazing, Rogers (AL) painting, and sawing; Stutzman Wolf Senate Chamber and the sandstone walls of Yoder the East Front corridor remain as the last-

ing legacies of the enslaved African-Americans who worked the quarries: Whereas slave-quarried stones from the remnants of the original Capitol walls can be found in Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia:

> Whereas the Statue of Freedom now atop the Capitol dome could not have been cast without the pivotal intervention of Philip Reid, an enslaved African-American foundry worker who deciphered the puzzle of how to separate the 5-piece plaster model for casting when all others failed;

> Whereas the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center was named Emancipation Hall to help acknowledge the work of the slave laborers who built the Capitol;

> Whereas no narrative on the construction of the Capitol that does not include the contribution of enslaved African- Americans can fully and accurately reflect its history;

> Whereas recognition of the contributions of enslaved African-Americans brings to all Americans an understanding of the continuing evolution of our representative democracy;

> Whereas in 2007 the Slave Labor Task Force recommended to Congress the creation of a marker commemorating the contributions of enslaved African-Americans in the construction of the Capitol; and

> Whereas the marker dedicated to the enslaved African-Americans who helped to build the Capitol reflects the charge of the Capitol Visitor Center to teach visitors about Congress and its development: Now. therefore, be it

> Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO UNVEIL MARKER DEDICATED TO ENSLAVED AFRICAN-AMERICANS WHO HELPED BUILD THE CAPITOL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on February 28, 2012, for a ceremony to unveil the marker which acknowledges the role that slave labor played in the construction of the United States Capitol.

(b) PREPARATIONS .- Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? There was no objection. The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows: Whereas enslaved African-Americans provided labor essential to the construction of the United States Capitol; Whereas in 2005 Congress created the Slave

subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia, the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring of the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at 1 p.m. in pro forma session. No votes are expected. On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few bills under suspension of the rules, a complete list of which will be announced by the close of business tomorrow. In addition, the House will consider H.R. 7, the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012. The House may also consider legislation relating to H.R. 3630, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information with respect to the two pieces of legislation and the suspension bills.

If I might inquire, Mr. Leader, of the timing. The conference committee has met, as all of us know, a few times since being appointed on December 23. They were supposed to have a meeting today, but apparently that meeting was cancelled. We adopted a motion to instruct conferees on January 18, with only 16 Republicans opposing and just a few Republicans opposing this time on a similar motion to instruct, urging the conferees to report back by February 17.

You know as well as anybody, we will be off for the President's week work period, and we will not be back until the night of the 27th, which only gives us the 2 days and that evening to pass this bill if we do not pass it before the 17th.

In December, we almost, as you well know, did not extend the payroll tax holiday or the unemployment or the SGR package. That would have resulted, as the gentleman knows, in 160 million Americans having a tax increase, benefits lost for many unemployed Americans—almost 2.3 over the next 3 months—and we only have 3 full days left before the February break. Of course, the gentleman, Mr. CAMP, the

chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, chairs that conference.

Can the gentleman tell us whether or not there is a reasonable expectation that we will be able to act on this bill and have the conference committee report on the House floor?

Mr. CANTOR. I will say to the gentleman, as I said before and as reflected by the vote that just occurred on the motion to instruct conferees, we, too, desire a resolution of this issue next week. I think the gentleman knows that we've been on this floor before in the same discussion where it is imperative for us to send a signal to the hardworking taxpayers of this country that they're not going to have their taxes go up. So it is my hope that we're going to see some productivity out of the conference committee.

I think the gentleman knows my position as to why there has been no productivity. Frankly, last week, I urged the gentleman to point his ire to the other side of the Capitol because it is that side of the Capitol and Leader REID who have been unwilling to come forward with a resolution to this issue.

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As the gentleman knows, the House has taken its position. We believe we ought to extend the payroll tax holiday for a year and do so in a responsible manner so as not to raid the Social Security trust fund. But there's been no willingness on the part of Leader REID and his conferees to even offer a suggestion as to how to resolve this impasse.

So, again, I say to the gentleman, we are committed to making sure taxes don't go up on hardworking people in these economic times.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments. I am pleased to hear that.

As the gentleman knows, Mark Zandi just a few days ago said that failure to extend the payroll tax and the unemployment insurance benefits "would deliver a significant blow" to our fragile economic recovery and could cost our economy 500,000 jobs and raise the unemployment rate by at least threetenths of a point and lower economic growth by seven-tenths of a point.

Now I'm pleased to hear what the majority leader has said, but of course we still have some concern. Representative PAUL BROUN, one of your Members from Georgia said, This payroll tax holiday is just a gimmick to try to get Obama reelected. This is bad policy. Representative CHAFFETZ from Utah, one of your colleagues, said, Tax holidays just are bad policy. A year is pretty short. The chairman of your campaign committee, PETE SESSIONS, was quoted in the L.A. Times. Representative PETE SESSIONS of Texas, who heads the House Republican campaign committee, called Obama's plan-that is, the extension of the payroll tax—"a horrible idea." He said GOP candidates would have no difficulty explaining to voters why they

want to let the tax break expire. And then, of course, the chairman of the conference committee, my good friend, for whom I have a great deal of respect, apparently does not agree with what the majority leader just said in wanting to extend this tax cut, because he said, I'm not in favor of that. I don't think that's a good idea.

Now that was, admittedly, back in August, so it was some months ago when he said that. But it gives us some concern that the leadership of the conference committee, Mr. CAMP and others, are in the position where they don't really think, as seemed to be reflected in the last year, that this tax cut ought to be extended. They do. however, believe—very strongly, as I understand it-that the tax cut for the wealthiest in America, the Bush tax cuts, ought to be extended, and they ought to be extended without paving for it. And, in fact, you provided in your rule that you adopted in this Congress that they could be extended without paying for them.

I don't think that's your position, as I understand it, with respect to tax cuts for middle class Americans. Would the gentleman like to comment on those observations?

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, I would just say, really it's not productive to engage in politics and division. We ought to be about multiplication here. We ought to be about growing the economy. We ought not be talking in the way that the gentleman suggests, that somehow we Republicans prefer one group of people over another. That's not true. We're here fighting for the hardworking taxpayers.

I just said, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman, that we, as Republicans in this House, do not support taxes going up on anybody. We believe that Washington spends too much money. We don't believe you ought to tax anybody, especially the job creators, the small businessmen and women who we're relying on to create jobs and get this economy back to where it needs to be, in a growth mode.

So the gentleman knows very well my position, and it is the position of our conference. We do not want to see taxes going up on hardworking taxpayers. I said it before, and I will say it again: We hope that the conferees can produce something for us to vote on, but we are not in any way, shape, or form advocating for taxes to go up on hardworking people. No. We are for making sure that doesn't happen. So, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many times I can say that to underscore our commitment.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his recommitment to that proposition.

Let me ask the gentleman, therefore, given the fact, am I correct that you do not believe the extension of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts need to be paid for? Is that still your position?