FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, this bill provides mechanisms to ensure that FISA's longstanding exclusivity is crystal clear. It states that only a new statute directly addressing the Executive branch's foreign intelligence surveillance authority can modify FISA. It provides clarity for the public and for telecommunications carriers by requiring requests for assistance to cite the statutory authority uuder which they are issued.

In a January 19, 2006 White Paper on NSA Legal Authorities, the Justice Department made public a legal justification for the President's Terrorist Surveillance Program, TSP. It claimed that the President had an extra-statutory legal basis for foreign intelligence surveillance outside of FISA, both implicitly through an Authorization for the Use of Military Force or through a broad reading of Article II of the Constitution. Those arguments fly in the face of the longstanding doctrine of FISA exclusivity and are contrary to the plain language of the FISA statute. To be clear, the inclusion of these additional exclusivity mechanisms in this measure does not ratify the Administration's arguments with respect to the TSP. Nor does the bill's treatment of liability issues in Title II stand for a Congressional ratification of the Administration's actions under the TSP.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks to a few additional staff who worked tirelessly over the past few months on this FISA compromise, including Margaret Cantrell of the Whip's staff, Ted Kalo and Mark Dubester of the Judiciary Committee, Wyndee Parker of the Intelligence Committee, and Chris Healey of Senator ROCKEFELLER's Intelligence Committee staff.

COMMENDING DR. RAY AUTHEMENT UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, after 34 devoted years as president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Ray Authement retired this month. A legend in higher education, he stood as the longest serving university president in the country. The significant changes to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and for the city of Lafayette demonstrate his invaluable service to the school and the greater community.

As the university's chief, Dr. Authement is credited with producing nationally recognized programs for computer science, Francophone studies, and environmental and biological research at UL Lafayette during his tenure. He supervised the construction of a significant portion of the campus, including Lafayette's Cajundome and convention center. And, most notably, he is responsible for raising the university's stature academically, spearheading higher enrollment requirements and recruiting highly qualified faculty and staff.

His vision and commitment for the school shaped lifetimes for the thousands of alumni, like myself, for which we are forever grateful.

Dr. Authement's vision for UL Lafayette first manifested itself as he pushed to develop a computer science program during the new technology's infancy. His leadership drove the university to create the first Master's program in the United States for computer science, defining a cutting-edge path for the university's future growth. The nationally recognized computer science program continues to maintain this distinction since the 1980s.

When Authement began his tenure in Lafayette, the school was officially known as the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Dr. Authement recognized the misperception by many of the institution as simply a regional school. Perspective students, potential employers and many across the State failed to consider the school as a top-tier university, and as a result, the school was unable to flourish fully.

After a protracted fight with the State legislature and other State leaders, Authement successfully changed the school's name to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1999. Most importantly, the new name conveys the prominence of the university. In bonding the university to the city in the title, Authement highlighted the connection between Lafayette and the school.

Dr. Authement leaves the university a much better place. One of his final projects, the Capital Outlay program, which outlines construction and renovation for 5 years, enables UL Lafayette the opportunity to continue its growth. The plan increases the university's foundation endowment from $600,000 to $140 million. A chief component of the project's success was Authement's famed fiscal responsibility, which inspired enormous confidence that donations would be used wisely.

Enabling the success and achievements of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Authement developed and maintained an impressive reputation for the school. His dedication to improving Lafayette encouraged the city to greater heights. The legacy Dr. Authement leaves behind at UL Lafayette and in the community is everlasting as the students who carry the university's banner are attributable to his good work.

I wish he and his wife Barbara all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives together, and I thank both of them for their commitment to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

RECOGNIZING TOM STEVENS, SHARON NEVITT AND JEANNIE DIVINE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary congressional service of three individuals who will be leaving the United States Capitol Guide Service at the end of June. Tom Stevens, Sharon Nevitt and Jeannie Divine have together provided 87 years of service to Congress, and their departure will certainly leave a void that is difficult to fill.

Tom Stevens has served as the Director of Visitor Services, charged with managing our dedicated crew of Capitol Guide Service and Congressional Special Services employees. He first came to the Guide Service in March 1985, and has served as the head of this organization since 2003. Tom has done an outstanding job, managing the group that provides assistance to literally thousands of visitors who come to the U.S. Capitol from around this Nation and the world every day. In addition, Tom has worked tirelessly to help plan and prepare for the opening of the Capitol Visitor Center.

Sharon Nevitt has served the Guide Service since November 1977, in a variety of management positions, and she currently is the Assistant Director of the Guide Service. Her commitment to this institution has been dedicated and extraordinary. Working side by side with Tom Stevens, Sharon has worked diligently over the past few years to ensure that the transition to operations in the Capitol Visitor Center will be successful and beneficial for all of our visitors.

Jeannie Divine joined the Capitol Guide Service in May 1988, coming directly from 13 years of service with the Architect of the Capitol. Jeannie is part of the fabric of this institution, as she is one of the unheralded staffers who work with our offices every day to schedule tours and coordinate the many visits we have by constituents. She has done a difficult job with consummate professionalism and ceaseless good humor.

Madam Speaker, we are indeed fortunate to have had the services of these dedicated individuals. Their work on the behalf of our constituents and visitors has been exemplary and I invite my colleagues to wish them well in their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF HOMELAND SECURITY RELIEF CORPS ACT OF 2008

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, last Friday, 121 truckloads of needed Household supplies arrived in the Gulf Coast for people displaced by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Though these supplies are surely still welcome, they arrived 3 years late.

Tragically, at the same time that 90,000 ''living kits'' were distributed by FEMA in Louisiana, other Americans, this time in the Midwest, have experienced a trauma of their own, as flood waters rose and levee after levee was breached. Resources-whether human, financial, or equipment-must be made available immediately to the American people in need, whether that need is a result of storms, floods, terrorist attacks, and other emergencies.

A recent Mason Dixon poll indicates that some residents of hurricane-vulnerable states say they will not evacuate and prefer to weather storms at home. Furthermore, the results of the poll indicate that many residents lack disaster plans and are still misinformed about how to protect themselves and their