

the bill (H.R. 2082) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BAYH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. NELSON (FL), Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. HATCH, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BURELL;

As additional conferees: Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. KYL; to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2106. An act to provide nationwide subpoena authority for actions brought under the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund of 2001.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

S. Con. Res. 45. Concurrent resolution commending the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation for its work in aiding children and families affected by child abuse, and designating November 2007 as National Courage Month.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND DR. CLAY EVANS

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome our guest chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Clay Evans, the pastor emeritus of the Fellowship Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Evans, the son of A. Henry and Estanauly Evans, was born on June 23, 1925, in Brownsville, Tennessee. Ordained a Baptist minister in 1950, the illustrious founding pastor of the affectionately called "SHIP" has been responsible for launching the ministerial careers of 93 men and women.

Mr. Speaker, he was my catechizer at my own ordination.

Dr. Evans has been a leader in the civil rights movement since 1965. He was a staunch supporter in the Chicago crusade of Dr. Martin Luther King. That staunch support caused funding for his new church to be cut off, and the structure stood unfinished for 8 years.

From 1971 to 1976 he was the founding national board chairman of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. Rev. Evans was the founding president and chairman of the African American Religious Connection, the founding president of the Broadcast Ministers of Chicago, and was a board member of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

This radio and television minister, who reached listeners weekly in more

than 20 States, has been happily married to the former Lutha Mae Hollingshed for more than 60 years, and they are the proud parents of five children.

Although Rev. Evans retired as pastor on December 8, 2000, he remains a man of faith, a man of vision, and one who emphatically believes: "It is no secret what God can do."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3554

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, due to an error in my office, the name JOHN SALAZAR was added to the bill H.R. 3554, and I would ask unanimous consent that his name be removed from H.R. 3554.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REPUBLICANS NEED TIME TO REFLECT ON SCHIP

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, my Republican friends need some time to reflect on the children's health program; not over the course of the 2 weeks just for pressure, but to get their facts straight, to stop getting their information from the White House talking points and get information from the American people, their Governor, about how the program actually works.

President Bush is worried that it won't go to poor children because some families earning up to \$83,000 a year will be eligible.

First of all, this is NOT a program for poor children, most of whom are already eligible for Medicaid. It is for children of working families, 90 percent of whom earn less than \$40,000 a year. No one gets \$83,000, because the Bush administration turned down one State's request. A few do have higher incomes because the States requested it and the Bush administration approved it.

The Bush administration, if they don't like families getting it, can stop approving those waivers.

SUPPORT THE MENTAL HEALTH SECURITY FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last April, 33 students

were killed at Virginia Tech. That tragedy exposed problems with Federal laws that are a barrier to schools communicating with parents when a student has a serious problem. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 states that students' records cannot be released except "to protect the health and safety of the student and others."

Unfortunately, the interpretation of that law is so unclear that schools are fearful of being sued.

The just-released report from the National Association of Attorneys General Task Force on Campus Safety calls for an update of the FERPA law that would allow for protection from liability if schools make good-faith efforts to protect students, faculty and staff.

That is precisely what my bill, H.R. 2220, offers, a way to allow schools to communicate with parents when a student has significant mental health problems that increase the risk for suicide, homicide or violent acts while we still protect the confidentiality of records.

I ask that all my colleagues join me and Representative GRACE NAPOLITANO in cosponsoring our bill, the Mental Health Security for Families in Education Act, and work to protect our students.

Let's take down the walls between parents and schools. Let's take action now to save lives tomorrow.

PRIORITIES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in 7 years, the President has been awfully reluctant to use his veto pen. But when it comes to important health care legislation, this President hasn't hesitated to say "no" to the American people.

Stem cell research, which could cure diseases and save millions of lives, the American people support it. The President vetoed it.

Children's health insurance provides health care to children from working middle-class families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but can't afford private insurance. The American people support it. This President vetoed it.

In my district, Dolores Sweeney works for an insurance company, has three children, and is trying to get private health care for her children, but cannot get it in the private insurance marketplace. Her employer does not provide health care. Her children are on SCHIP. This bill is right for Dolores Sweeney and the 10 million children that get health care through it. The President vetoed it.

Even Republican Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY said about the President and SCHIP, He simply doesn't understand the bill and he is wrong.

The only health care legislation this President supported was a prescription

drug bill which gave billions of dollars away to the special interests. It is time for the President to stand with the American people and support our children.

POLITICAL POSTURING ON SCHIP

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we have seen an incredible amount of political posturing this week over SCHIP. The SCHIP program was created in a bipartisan effort to ensure poor children without health insurance have health care coverage. Poor children without insurance. Children, not adults. Some States have more adults on SCHIP than children. Poor children, not families making \$83,000 a year, to get free health insurance. Poor children without insurance.

Under the Democrat bill, one in three children who already have private insurance would drop their private coverage to get free government coverage.

Let's ensure poor children have health coverage and do it in a bipartisan way, not shutting out Republicans the way they did in this last bill.

This Democrat Congress truly is a dysfunctional Congress. They can't even get SCHIP reauthorization right.

MISTREATMENT OF RETURNING SOLDIERS

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my outrage and utter disgust regarding the treatment of some of our brave men and women who have just returned home from serving gallantly in Iraq.

Recently, members of the Minnesota National Guard, known as the Red Bulls, were told that they did not qualify to receive benefits under the GI Bill. Why? Because they were deployed for 729 days in Iraq and not the 730 days mandated by the GI Bill to receive benefits.

The fact that they would deny educational benefits to courageous veterans who risked their lives defending our freedoms, many of whom were deployed for 20 consecutive months, is shameful and appalling. Supporting our troops means taking care of them when they come home and providing them with the benefits they have earned and rightfully deserve.

Mr. Speaker, if I might invoke the words of Alexis de Tocqueville: "America is great because America is good. And if America ever ceases to be good, it will cease to be great."

Mr. Speaker, this action does not reflect the goodness of our great Nation.

OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SPENDING

(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, the American people deserve better from their government when it comes to the way it spends their hard-earned taxpayer dollars. As Jerry Bellune of the Lexington County Chronicle would say, "It's the people's money, not the government's money given to the people."

It seems that this Democrat majority which rode to power on a wave of promises about open and transparent Congress has decided these principles do not apply when it comes to all earmarks. So I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, if identifying who is sponsoring an earmark is okay on spending bills, why is it not okay on all legislation?

The American people deserve more transparency from their government, not multi-million dollar spending packages slipped silently into legislation under a bureaucratic cover.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th. Thank goodness for Rush Limbaugh, who supports our troops.

□ 1015

DENOUNCING ATTACKS ON RUSH LIMBAUGH

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce the liberals' fraudulent attacks on Rush Limbaugh. Anyone who reads the widely available transcript as I have done sees that Mr. Limbaugh was appropriately referring to the pretenders who pose as medal winners or who falsely claim to have committed atrocities in Iraq when he used the phrase "phony soldiers."

No, the real scandal here is that liberals in America and here in this Congress are willing to manipulate facts to smear those they disagree with. But there's an even more insidious agenda by liberals going on and that is to reinstitute the so-called Fairness Doctrine, which is actually a way to silence conservatives on the radio waves. Mr. Limbaugh deserves mega-kudos for being a forceful and effective voice on the side of common sense and for being an example of the first amendment in action. After all, isn't that what our country is supposed to be about?

RECOGNIZING CHARLOTTE'S BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, last April, Charlotte police officers Sean Clark

and Jeff Shelton were shot and killed in the line of duty as they responded to a call at an east Charlotte apartment complex. As a result of these tragic murders came the Blue Ribbon Campaign. Many miles of free blue ribbon were distributed throughout the greater Charlotte area. Jeff Katz, a former police officer who hosts the afternoon drive show on WBT in Charlotte, North Carolina, urged listeners to display the blue ribbons on cars and homes as well as on their persons to visibly support law enforcement. On his radio show, Katz asked listeners to donate to a special memorial fund for the families of the slain officers. In a matter of hours, Katz had pledges of \$50,000. Those making pledges were directed to make their donations directly to the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 9.

I want to commend these officers and their families for their sacrifice and thank their brothers and sisters in law enforcement for their commitment to keep the city safe. I also want to thank Jeff Katz and countless citizens for their tremendous efforts in the Blue Ribbon Campaign responding to this tragedy. Out of this tragedy it was encouraging to see the tremendous outpouring of support from the whole community for our law enforcement personnel who risk their lives every day for all of us.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3648, MORTGAGE FORGIVENESS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 703 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 703

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3648) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 3648 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.