

[Roll No. 387]

YEAS—218

Abercrombie	Hill	Perlmutter
Ackerman	Hinchey	Peterson (MN)
Allen	Hinojosa	Pomeroy
Andrews	Hirono	Price (NC)
Arcuri	Hodes	Rahall
Baca	Holt	Ramstad
Baird	Honda	Regula
Baldwin	Hookey	Reichert
Barrow	Hoyer	Reyes
Bean	Inslee	Richardson
Becerra	Israel	Rogers (AL)
Berkley	Jackson (IL)	Rogers (MI)
Berry	Jefferson	Ros-Lehtinen
Bishop (GA)	Johnson (GA)	Ross
Bishop (NY)	Johnson (IL)	Rothman
Blumenauer	Johnson, E. B.	Roybal-Allard
Boswell	Jones (OH)	Ruppersberger
Boyd (FL)	Kagen	Ryan (OH)
Boyd (KS)	Kaptur	Salazar
Braley (IA)	Kennedy	Sánchez, Linda T.
Brown, Corrine	Kildee	Sánchez, Loretta
Buchanan	Kilpatrick	Sarbanes
Butterfield	Kind	Schakowsky
Capito	Kirk	Schiff
Capps	Klein (FL)	Schwartz
Cardoza	Kucinich	Scott (GA)
Carnahan	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Carson	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Castle	Larson (CT)	Lee
Castor	Lee	Levin
Chandler	Levin	Lewis (GA)
Childers	Lewis (GA)	Sherman
Clarke	Lipinski	Sires
Clay	LoBiondo	Skelton
Cleaver	Loeback	Slaughter
Clyburn	Lofgren, Zoe	Smith (NJ)
Cohen	Lowey	Smith (WA)
Conyers	Lungren, Daniel E.	Snyder
Cooper	Lynch	Solis
Costa	Mahoney (FL)	Space
Courtney	Maloney (NY)	Speier
Crowley	Markey	Spratt
Cummings	Marshall	Stark
Davis (AL)	Matheson	Stupak
Davis (CA)	Matsui	Sutton
Davis (IL)	McCarthy (NY)	Tanner
DeFazio	McCollum (MN)	Tauscher
DeGette	McDermott	Taylor
DeLauro	McGovern	Thompson (CA)
Dicks	McIntyre	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	McNerney	Tierney
Doggett	McNulty	Towns
Donnelly	Meeks (NY)	Tsongas
Edwards	Michaud	Udall (CO)
Ellsworth	Miller (MI)	Udall (NM)
Emanuel	Miller (NC)	Van Hollen
Engel	Miller, George	Velázquez
Eshoo	Mitchell	Visclosky
Etheridge	Mollohan	Walz (MN)
Farr	Moore (KS)	Wasserman
Filner	Moore (WI)	Schultz
Foster	Murphy (CT)	Waters
Frank (MA)	Murphy, Patrick	Watson
Giffords	Nadler	Watt
Gordon	Napolitano	Waxman
Green, Al	Neal (MA)	Weiner
Grijalva	Oberstar	Welch (VT)
Gutierrez	Obey	Weller
Hall (NY)	Olver	Wexler
Hare	Pallone	Wilson (OH)
Harman	Pastor	Woolsey
Hastings (FL)	Payne	Wu
Herseth Sandlin	Pelosi	Yarmuth

NAYS—193

Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Cramer
Akin	Brady (TX)	Crenshaw
Alexander	Broun (GA)	Cubin
Altire	Brown (SC)	Cuellar
Bachmann	Brown-Waite,	Culberson
Bachus	Ginny	Davis (KY)
Barrett (SC)	Burgess	Davis, David
Bartlett (MD)	Burton (IN)	Davis, Lincoln
Barton (TX)	Buyer	Davis, Tom
Biggart	Calvert	Deal (GA)
Bilbray	Camp (MI)	Dent
Bilirakis	Cannon	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bishop (UT)	Carney	Diaz-Balart, M.
Blackburn	Carter	Doolittle
Blunt	Cazayoux	Doyle
Boehner	Chabot	Drake
Bono Mack	Coble	Dreier
Boozman	Cole (OK)	Duncan
Boren	Conaway	Emerson
Boustany	Costello	English (PA)

Fallin	Kuhl (NY)	Radanovich
Feeney	Lamborn	Rehberg
Ferguson	Lampson	Renzi
Flake	Latham	Reynolds
Forbes	LaTourrette	Rodriguez
Fortenberry	Latta	Rogers (KY)
Fossella	Lewis (CA)	Rohrabacher
Fox	Lewis (KY)	Roskam
Franks (AZ)	Lucas	Royce
Frelinghuysen	Mack	Ryan (WI)
Gallegly	Manzullo	Sali
Garrett (NJ)	Marchant	Saxton
Gerlach	McCarthy (CA)	Scalise
Gingrey	McCaul (TX)	Schmidt
Gohmert	McCotter	Sensenbrenner
Gonzalez	McCrery	Sessions
Goode	McHenry	Shadegg
Goodlatte	McHugh	Shays
Granger	McKeon	Shimkus
Graves	McMorris	Shuster
Green, Gene	Rodgers	Simpson
Hall (TX)	Mica	Smith (NE)
Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)
Hayes	Miller, Gary	Souder
Heller	Moran (KS)	Stearns
Hensarling	Moran (VA)	Sullivan
Hergert	Murphy, Tim	Tancredo
Hobson	Murtha	Terry
Hoekstra	Musgrave	Thornberry
Holden	Myrick	Tiberi
Hulshof	Neugebauer	Turner
Hunter	Nunes	Upton
Inglis (SC)	Ortiz	Walberg
Issa	Paul	Walden (OR)
Johnson, Sam	Pearce	Walsh (NY)
Jones (NC)	Pence	Wamp
Jordan	Peterson (PA)	Weldon (FL)
Kanjorski	Petri	Westmoreland
Keller	Pickering	Whitfield (KY)
King (IA)	Pitts	Wilson (NM)
King (NY)	Platts	Wilson (SC)
Kingston	Poe	Wittman (VA)
Kline (MN)	Porter	Wolf
Knollenberg	Price (GA)	Young (AK)
	Putnam	Young (FL)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Capuano

Melancon

NOT VOTING—21

Berman	Everett	Pascrell
Bonner	Fattah	Pryce (OH)
Boucher	Gillibrand	Rangel
Campbell (CA)	Jackson-Lee	Rush
Cantor	(TX)	Shuler
Delahunt	LaHood	Tiahrt
Ehlers	Linder	
Ellison	Meek (FL)	

□ 1544

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania changed his vote from "yea" to "nay." Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. CHILDERS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of Thursday June 5, 2008, I have an excused absence to attend my son's school graduation. If I were present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 384 and 385. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 386 and 387.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUNT. I yield to my friend from Maryland, the majority leader, to tell us what we plan to do next week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the Republican whip for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

We will consider several bills under suspension. The final list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business tomorrow.

We will consider H.R. 6003, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008; H.R. 6063, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008; and also hope to consider the Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental appropriations bill.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that information.

On the appropriation bill, supplemental appropriations bill, I think we are getting close to the time that the Pentagon may have to send out furlough notices to civilian employees, and probably beyond the time where they had to start shifting money from other accounts to the Army.

Does my friend believe we will have that bill relatively early in the week, or is your confidence it will just be sometime next week?

Mr. HOYER. I am reasonably confident it will be sometime next week. It is my hope it will be earlier in the week rather than later in the week. But I cannot say that at this point in time. There's still work being done on the bill. Chairman OBEY is working very hard on a draft proposal that can be enacted in a short time frame.

We are aware of the time constraints of which the gentleman spoke. I anticipate we will include a package of items that we believe are a cost of the war, the GI benefits that have been discussed, and also items that address a small number of pressing needs. We are strong believers in PAYGO, as you know, but we understand that we have to deal with the other body and the White House, who has not supported that effort. We are sometimes not in agreement with their position, and we will have to keep working on that issue. I know Mr. OBEY is working hard on that.

Mr. BLUNT. In that regard, has any conclusion been reached or not about whether tax increases similar to the ones that the House sent over to the Senate or other ways to pay for the ongoing expenses of the GI Bill that we all hope that we can arrive at a language on that we can be supportive of will be part of the package, or will the Senate view that there doesn't need to be a pay-for in this package be the prevailing view?

I would yield. Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Again, I would reiterate, as you know, we feel very strongly that the

new entitlement program for the GIs, which is something we strongly support, but ought to be paid for as a new entitlement so that it does not add to the debt.

The Senate did not agree with that proposition. As a result, that is not in the bill that has come back to us from the Senate. So we are currently trying to figure out what to do on this issue, but we feel very strongly that the GI Bill ought to be adopted one way or the other.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for that.

On other appropriations bills, you have announced in the press that the Appropriations Committee will begin its subcommittee markups next week. Do we anticipate that some of these appropriations bills would be on the floor this summer, and if so, which ones?

I would yield.

Mr. HOYER. I again thank the gentleman for yielding.

I can't tell you exactly which ones, but I do anticipate there will be appropriations bills on the floor this summer. I don't, at this point in time, have the ability to tell you specifically which ones.

Mr. BLUNT. On gas prices, as I am sure you have noticed, Republicans have been talking about gas prices a lot this week. We'd like to see some legislation scheduled that would allow more exploration, more American security in our energy sector. Is there anything like that scheduled?

Mr. HOYER. Not next week. Although, as you know, we passed a major energy bill last year that was signed by the President that looks to real solutions to the problem of reliance on petroleum products and that is relying on alternative energy sources. We believe strongly on this side of the aisle that both from an environmental standpoint, a global warming standpoint, and an energy independence standpoint that looking to alternatives is absolutely essential.

As you know, gas prices have risen very, very substantially during the course of the last 7½ years. As I have indicated before, during the 8 years of the Clinton Presidency, they rose approximately a nickel a year, from \$1.06 to \$1.46. Under this administration, they have gone from that \$1.46 to now \$3.86, \$3.90, \$4, and over \$4.

I know your contention is that it has just been in the last 12 months that this has happened. We disagree with that proposition. It's an interesting proposition to try to sell to the American public. But the bottom line is, frankly, for the last 35 years, since the late seventies when we had the long gas lines, we have not moved to alternative energy sources in the way we should have, in my view, so that we could not be held hostage by some, frankly, who have profit, understandably, in mind, but not necessarily the best interests of our consumers or our country. We support a diversified clean energy portfolio for our country.

I want to make an observation because I have been listening today with interest. You may find this of interest. We have nearly a whole refineries' worth of capacity idle right now. Not for lack of supply, but for lack of use of existing refineries. As a matter of fact, we are at 87 percent, which is about 10 percent below what we usually are over the last 10 years. So for whatever reasons, refiners are now at 10 percent below the capacity they usually are on average over the last 10 years at this time.

Secondly, since 2000, drilling on land has increased dramatically. Your side of the aisle has talked a lot about how we need more capacity to drill. I will tell you that since 2000, drilling on land has increased dramatically, climbing 66 percent. A two-thirds increase. Notwithstanding that increased drilling, gas prices have increased.

In addition to that, I will tell my friend that oil and gas companies hold leases to nearly 68 million acres of Federal land and waters on which they are not producing oil and gas. It is our belief and experts' belief that these 68 million acres of leased but currently inactive Federal lands and waters could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day. That is existing leases on existing land that are not being used today.

As a matter of fact, well less than half of the currently authorized leased land for oil drilling is not being used. It would nearly double if we did that total U.S. oil production and increased domestic natural gas production, by 75 percent. That is without a single new lease or single new drilling authorization being passed.

It would also, of course, cut U.S. oil imports by more than a third and be more than six times the estimated peak production from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that is discussed so much on your side of the aisle.

So while we are trying to focus on understanding what effect high prices have today and what manipulation may be going on in the marketplace today that is impacting on prices, we do continue to focus on the long-term solution, which is not, frankly, looking at petroleum products, which are a wasting resource and which will not in your lifetime and my lifetime but in our grandchildren's lifetime not be the source of energy to either power our cars or our economy but alternative sources of energy.

We look forward to working with you on all of those. We believe that there is a lot of excess capacity in refining, excess capacity on leases for oil and for natural gas that currently exists that, for whatever reasons, are not being pursued now.

Mr. BLUNT. I appreciate the gentleman's information on that. I will even be glad to accept some of it. Maybe gasoline was \$1.46 in 2000. It had moved almost to \$2.50 in the next 6 years. It has gone to \$4 in the last 18 months.

That is a record we are more than happy to talk about.

In terms of refining capacity, actually we have been bringing refined gas product into the country in recent months. I don't know enough about refineries to know if a 10 percent downage in refineries is normal or not. I do know we haven't built a new refinery since 1976, and a number have closed.

In terms of seeking oil, the Chinese now have an agreement with the Cubans that they can drill for oil 45 miles off our coast. Our companies can't do that. There's tremendous potential, I believe, and I think many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle do, in the water, in the oil shale, and certainly the gentleman is right, and neither of us want to particularly give away our age in suggesting that that transition that we both anticipate will occur, will not totally occur in our lifetime. Even if we knew what it was right now, the last person will put the last gallon of gas in the last car that burns gas 30 or 40 years after we move toward whatever that next thing is that powers the economy.

We certainly need to encourage getting there, and I think there are many parts to that puzzle, from wind and solar and nuclear and better battery technology. But we firmly believe that you can have impact, and I don't mean we in the royal sense, I mean those of us who have been talking for years about supply, that you can have impact on the world price by just announcing that the United States was going to go after its reserves, known and unknown, and that unknown criteria is much more promising because of recent finds in this entire hemisphere than we would have thought it would have been.

We are eager to enter into that and feel strongly that more supply is part of the important transition to a different energy future, and would like to see legislation on the floor that increases supply.

In terms of legislation, one issue that we have talked a lot about, you and I have worked on, one of my colleagues has worked on a lot, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, I am going to yield for a moment to my good friend from California.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would just like to underscore the seriousness of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act fix. We did it, as the gentleman knows, last August, for a 6-month period of time, the Protect America Act. It was enough bipartisan support that it passed, but it had a 6-month life on it. Since February 16 at 12:01 a.m. we have not had that or similar ability for our intelligence community to act.

While they made some decisions within that 6-month period which carry over to the present time, as the gentleman from Maryland knows, we

are up against it with respect to this summer.

□ 1600

I know that the distinguished majority leader announced his hope that we would have some sort of answer on this before Memorial Day. We missed that date. The gentleman knows our position, that a vast majority of Members on this side of the aisle, combined with the Members on your side of the aisle who have publicly said they would support the bipartisan Senate version, would give us that answer today. But I understand that the gentleman is attempting to mollify more Members on his side of the aisle.

So my question would be, can the distinguished majority leader give us some idea of when we might see something on the floor that we might vote on that might in his judgment get enough bipartisan support to pass in the event that you continue not to bring us the Senate bill?

Mr. BLUNT. Reclaiming my time, I yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding and I thank the gentleman for his observation and question. While I don't have a date, I do believe that we are making very significant progress. You have heard me quoted as saying that on the floor. I think that has been true for the last, frankly, 4 to 5 weeks, and I really think that everybody who has been addressing has been working in a very forthright, open and conscientious way to get us to a place where we can have legislation on the floor which will accomplish the objective the gentleman seeks.

I think we are making good progress, and I am therefore hopeful that this will be sooner rather than later. I don't want to set a date. I wanted to do it by Memorial Day. We didn't get there. But we are working very hard, and I am hopeful in the near future we will get there.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Will the gentleman further yield?

Mr. BLUNT. I further yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. The distinguished majority leader has indicated we did not have the urgency of passing this because until August of next year it appeared that we had certain protections. We can't articulate what those are here on the floor. So I guess my question would be, does the gentleman expect that we will have it to vote before we leave for our recess in August?

Mr. HOYER. Yes.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman.

After next week, we have 2 weeks remaining before our July 4 District Work Period, and I hope we can continue to work together to find a solution to that problem, to get the supplemental on and off the floor in a way that it properly funds the troops, and we get our work done. We will be working together to do that.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning-hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING HOUSE PAGES

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the pages to come up here and occupy the seats in the Chamber. Anywhere you want, either side. Maybe the next time you occupy that seat, you will be a Member of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude and the gratitude of the entire House to all the pages who have served so diligently in the House of Representatives during the 110th Congress.

This is the 16th Congress that I have served in. I have been Chairman of the Page Board or ranking member for about 20, 23, 24 years. I was appointed by Tip O'Neill. That is probably ancient history to you. That is very recent history to me.

Mr. Speaker, I have attached a list of the fine young people who have served this House as pages and will include their names as part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGES SPRING CLASS OF 2008

Adriana Daniela Aguilar, TX; Claire Jumanna Ashcraft, CA; Cole Salim Ashcraft, CA; Hannah Elizabeth Barkley, MS; Maurice Patrick Barry, MA; Erika Lauren Bertrand, NE; Amber E. Cassidy, TX; Charles E. Coe, PA; John Cowart, FL; Maggie Carlisle Cupit, MS; and Matt Cyr, TN.

Carlos DeLaTorre, TX; Stephanie Diaz, HI; Brandon Estes, FL; Kelly Jo Fuller, GA; Shara Guarnaccia, NJ; Philmon Ghirmai Haile, WA; Jane Elizabeth Hamm, OK; Kathleen Shea Howard, NC; Michael J. Janusa, TX; Evan R. Johnson, IA; and Matt Jolley, UT.

Tara Marie Kelly, MA; Esther Kofman, CA; Satchel Clay Kornfeld, OR; Lauren LaVelle, CA; Thomas Lerum, CA; Brian Licata, NJ; Victoria Linville, TN; Jessica L. Malekos-Smith, CA; Jill E. Marshall, NY and Tara Mason, MO.

Elizabeth Milner, MS; Elizabeth L. Monsma, CA; Tiana Moore, CA; Jesse Mark Neugebauer, NE; Kaleigh Elizabeth Nolan, NY; Courtney Shene Owens, SC; Daniel Pavlovic, CA; Emma Peel, TX; Jacob William Peeples, MA; Ashley S. Pierce, DC; and Wylee M. Price, NM.

Miles Pulsford, KY; Andre Renaldo Fernandez, PR; Elizabeth Ann Reynolds, WA; Yi Ping Caitlin Patricia Roberts, VA; Max D. Robertson, NC; Jason Oliver Roman, NY; Jeffrey P. Schumacher, OH; Lea Shipman, AK; Hannah Leigh Shuman, FL; and Katie Smith, CA.

Feddie Justin Strickland, SC; Lianna Stroter, MI; Alexandria Christian Templeton, AL; Callie Sioux Tysdal, SD; Timothy Wainwright, PA; Megan Walden, CA; Nicki Warner, WV; Gabriel M. Weinstein, MD; Nicole M. Westergaard, IA; and Kiyana H. Williams, NJ.

To the Page Class of Spring 2008—Thank you and good luck!

I am sure you will pick up several copies of that RECORD when you go home.

We all recognize the important role that congressional pages play in helping the U.S. House of Representatives operate. This group of young people, who come from all across our Nation, represent what is really good about our country.

To become a page, these young people have proven themselves to be academically qualified. They have ventured away from the security of their homes and families to spend time in an unfamiliar city. Through this experience, they have witnessed a new culture, made new friends and learned the details of how government operates.

As we all know, the job of a congressional page is not an easy one. Along with being away from home, the pages must possess the maturity to balance competing demands for their time and for their energy. In addition, they must have the dedication to work long hours and the ability to interact with people at a personal level. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, they face a challenging academic schedule of classes in the House Page School.

You pages have witnessed the House debate issues of war and peace, hunger and poverty, justice and civil rights. You served this House during a time of war. Many pages have never experienced that. You have seen the awesome responsibility Members of this House have when they vote on that question of war and when they vote on the funding of that war. You have witnessed a great deal of real history.

You have seen Congress at moments of greatness, and you have seen Congress with all its human frailties. You have witnessed the workings of an institution that has endured well over 200 years. No one has seen Congress and Members of the Congress as close up as you have. I am sure that you will consider your time spent in Washington, D.C., to be one of the most valuable and exciting experiences of your lives, and that with this experience you will all move ahead to lead successful and productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Page Board, I ask my colleagues