

We believe in fighting for economic justice and security in the United States and global economies. We also believe in protecting and preserving civil rights and civil liberties. We also believe in promoting global peace and security. These are some of the essential core beliefs of the Progressive Caucus, and you can count on us to come, week in, week out, with the progressive message to talk about how these critical values impact you.

Tonight we have spent time, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE and Congressman RAÚL GRIJALVA, talking about the imperial presidency that we have just seen ushered out of the door. We have seen a 500-page report, this big, thick, giant, humongous, enormous report full of facts and information in detail about allegations that the Bush administration may have overstepped its constitutional bounds. We believe this needs to be looked into. We believe the groundwork has been laid for an inquiry for a blue ribbon panel.

The vehicle, we believe, that should be used to get to the bottom, to get to the truth, is H.R. 104. H.R. 104, which Members and their community can look it up and read it, but what it would tell you if you looked it up is it would contain 47 separate recommendations designed to restore our Constitution's traditional system of checks and balances.

Chief among the recommendations are, one, continuation of congressional oversight; two, independent probes by the Justice Department; three, creation of a blue ribbon commission to fully investigate the activities; and they go on and on and on. You can look up the report online. It's there for you to look at it, at judiciary.house.gov/hearings/printers/110th. You can look it up that way.

Finally, we want to look into and don't want the American people to forget that our constitutional system is delicate. It must be maintained. It is a three-part system of checks and balances, executive, judiciary and legislative. The legislative branch is the first one mentioned in the Constitution.

We are a coequal branch of government. We don't work for the President, not the President we just got, Barack Obama, although we support him and wish him well. He is not our boss. The people are our boss. Also, we don't work for the President. We have a duty and an obligation to provide oversight to the executive.

We need to get to the bottom of allegations of torture and inhumane treatment, extraordinary rendition, warrantless domestic surveillance, the U.S. Attorney General scandal, a contrived drive to go to war with Iraq, signing statements to override laws of the land, intimidation and silencing of critics. We need to get into what happened with Valerie Plame. Why didn't Rove, Bolton and Myers show up to the Judiciary hearing after they were duly served? These are issues the American

people have a right to know, and we intend to get to the bottom of it.

This is going to conclude the Progressive Message. Mr. Speaker, it has been a wonderful hearing.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BOUCHER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and January 22 on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. LUMMIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, January 27 and 28.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHOCK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, January 27 and 28.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MASSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Thursday, January 22, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

177. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a document entitled, "Gasoline Savings From Ethanol Use by State"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

178. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Global Security Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's fiscal year 2008 report on the Regional Defense

Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2249c; to the Committee on Armed Services.

179. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [44 CFR Part 67] received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

180. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Minimum Capital Ratios; Capital Adequacy Guidelines; Capital Maintenance; Capital; Deduction of Goodwill Net of Associated Deferred Tax Liability [Docket No.: OTS-2008-0019] (RX: 1550-AC22) received January 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

181. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Teaching American History Grant Program Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.215X. — received January 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

182. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's intent to sign a Project Agreement concerning the Development of Advanced Non-Acoustic Sensing Technologies under the Agreement between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for Technology Research and Development Projects, Transmittal No. 22-08, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

183. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's intent to sign a Project Agreement concerning the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle under the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Australia concerning Cooperation on Land Force Capability Modernization, Transmittal No. 18-08, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

184. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's intent to sign a Project Agreement concerning the C-130J Block 7 and 8.1 Upgrade among Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, Transmittal No. 21-08, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

185. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Cote d'Ivoire that was declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

186. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national

emergency with respect to the former Libe-rian regime of Charles Taylor that was de-clared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

187. A letter from the Secretary, Depart-ment of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Actions Taken on Office of Inspector General Rec-ommendations" for the period ending March 31, 2008, pursuant to the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

188. A letter from the Secretary, Depart-ment of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Actions Taken on Office of Inspector General Rec-ommendations" for the period ending Sep-tember 30, 2008, pursuant to Inspector Gen-eral Act Amendments of 1988; to the Com- mittee on Oversight and Government Re- form.

189. A letter from the Associate Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior, trans- mitting notification that the Department has adopted and will fully follow the guide- lines of the No FEAR Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

190. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2008, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, section 647(b) of Divi- sion F; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

191. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's strategic plan for fiscal years 2010-2015; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

192. A letter from the Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmit- ting the Administration's semiannual report from the Office of the Inspector General dur- ing the 6-month period ending September 30, 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

193. A letter from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, trans- mitting a letter pursuant to the require- ments of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, 31 U.S.C. 3554(e)(2)(2000); to the Com- mittee on Oversight and Government Re- form.

194. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of National Drug Control Pol- icy, Executive Office of the President, trans- mitting a report pursuant to the Federal Va- cancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Com- mittee on Oversight and Government Re- form.

195. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of National Drug Control Pol- icy, Executive Office of the President, trans- mitting a report pursuant to the Federal Va- cancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Com- mittee on Oversight and Government Re- form.

196. A letter from the Acting Director, Of- fice of Sustainable Fisheries, National Ma- rine Fisheries Service, Department of Com- merce, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2007-2009 Specifications [Docket No.: 061228342-7068-02] (RIN: 0648-XM06) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

197. A letter from the Acting Director, Of- fice of Sustainable Fisheries, National Ma- rine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries in the Western Pacific Crustacean Fisheries; Deepwater Shrimp (RIN: 0648-AV29) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

198. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Ad- ministrator, For Regulatory Programs, Na- tional Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab Fish- eries; Groundfish Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Individual Fish- ing Quota Program; Western Alaska Commu- nity Development Quota Program; Record- keeping and Reporting; Permits [Docket No.: 080302360-7686-03] (RIN: 0648-AT91) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

199. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Ad- ministrator for Regulatory Programs, Na- tional Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan [Docket No.: 0812081564-81568-01] (RIN: 0648-XM18) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

200. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fish- eries Service, National Oceanic and Atmos- pheric Administration, transmitting the Ad- ministration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries (RIN: 0648-XM15) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

201. A letter from the Director, Depart- ment of Justice, transmitting the Depart- ment's report entitled, "Report to the Na- tion 2007" from the Office for Victims of Crime for fiscal years 2005-2007, pursuant to Section 1407(g) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

202. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Justice, transmit- ting the Department's final rule — Vol- untary Departure: Effect of a Motion to Re- open or Reconsider or a Petition for Review [EOIR Docket No.: 163; AG Order No. 3027-2008] (RIN: 1125-AA60) received January 6, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

203. A letter from the Secretary, Depart- ment of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a re- port for fiscal year 2005 through 2008 on ex- penditures from the Pershing Hall Revolving Fund for projects, activities, and facilities that support the mission of the Department, pursuant to Public Law 102-86, section 403(d)(6)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

204. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of action taken to extend the "Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Khmer Archaeological Material," pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2602(g), section 303(g); to the Com- mittee on Ways and Means.

205. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Inter- im Guidance under section 475A (Notice 2009-08) received January 15, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

206. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Required Minimum Distributions for 2009 (Notice 2009-9) received January 15, 2009, pur- suant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Com- mittee on Ways and Means.

207. A letter from the Chief Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service,

transmitting the Service's final rule — Post- ponement of Certain Tax-related Deadlines by Reason of a Federally Declared Disaster or Terroristic or Military Action [TD 9443] (RIN: 1545-BG16) received January 15, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Com- mittee on Ways and Means.

208. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Post- ponement of Certain Tax-related Deadlines by Reason of a Federally Declared Disaster or Terroristic or Military Action (Rin: 1545- BG16 (TD 9443) received January 15, 2009, pur- suant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Com- mittee on Ways and Means.

209. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Re- venue Ruling: 2009 Prevailing State Assumed Interest Rates received January 15, 2009, pur- suant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Com- mittee on Ways and Means.

210. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the President intends to exercise his authority to waive the prohibition on the use of Economic Sup- port Funds for Barbados, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Nam- ibia, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tan- zania, and Trinidad and Tobago, pursuant to Public Law 110-161, section 671 Div. J; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

211. A letter from the Program Manager ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Changes to the Competitive Acquisition of Certain Du- rable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) by Certain Provisions of the Medicare Improvements for Patients Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) [CMA-1561-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AP59) received January 15, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally re- ferred, as follows:

By Mr. BOREN:

H.R. 611. A bill to provide for marginal well production preservation and enhancement; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infra- structure, for a period to be subsequently de- termined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall with- in the jurisdiction of the committee con- cerned.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 612. A bill to amend section 1922A of title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of supplemental insurance available for totally disabled veterans; to the Com- mittee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 613. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces following their death; to the Com- mittee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PITTS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WESTMORE- LAND, Mr. COLE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mrs.