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No. 123

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHUSTER).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
October 4, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL SHUSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for 5 minutes.

### H.R. 10 WILL IMPROVE HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this week we will consider what is perhaps the most significant piece of legislation of this Congress. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, we all recognized that we had to take dramatic steps to ensure that it never happens again. H.R. 10, the 9/11 Recommendations Implementations Act, is the culmination of years of extensive study, debate and dedication by those who are committed to improving our Nation's homeland security.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important bill introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) not only because it takes extensive steps to reform our intelligence agencies, but also because it addresses a critical threat to our national security: The porous nature of our borders. We know it is far too easy for illegal immigrants to cross the border into this country, and we cannot ignore the fact that terrorists can gain access to the United States this way.

So I am particularly pleased that as we worked on this bill, we were able to include measures to strengthen our ongoing efforts to eliminate illegal border crossings. This legislation adds 10,000 new border patrol agents to intercept illegal immigrants and potential terrorists, as well as 4,000 new immigration enforcement investigators to track illegal immigrants down within our borders. These 14,000 new agents are badly needed and will immediately improve illegal immigrant interdiction and interception operations.

Additionally, H.R. 10 allows for expedited deportation of illegal immigrants and limits the ability of potential terrorists to claim political asylum to avoid being repatriated to their home country. All of these measures will upgrade our ability to win the battle that is taking place every day along our borders.

Perhaps most notably, H.R. 10 includes provisions to counter the explosive increase in identity fraud committed by illegal immigrants and terrorists. This issue is of paramount concern to me, because I firmly believe that if we can eliminate job access for illegal immigrants, then we will be much closer to completing our ultimate goal of eliminating illegal immigration.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, T.J. Bonner, a 26-year veteran of the Border Patrol, and president of the National Border Patrol Council, estimates that we can

eliminate as much as 98 percent of illegal border crossings if we can give employers access to verifiable identity information on prospective employees and if we crack down on employers who hire illegal workers. Ninety-eight percent is a remarkable number, and it would allow the Border Patrol to focus on targeting criminal aliens and terrorists.

Because of this, Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 5111, the Bonner Plan, to improve the security of our Social Security cards and provide a method by which employers could immediately verify the authenticity of that Social Security card. My bill would also increase fines for hiring an illegal worker by 400 percent, and provide for prison sentences of up to 5 years per count.

A major first step toward passage of the Bonner plan in its entirety has been the inclusion of very important provisions to combat identity fraud in H.R. 10 which we will be passing as I said this week. H.R. 10 includes new Federal minimum standards to ensure the integrity of both driver's licenses and birth certificates, both of which are widely used source documents which allow illegal immigrants to obtain other documents and access to social services. These new Federal standards will increase the difficulty for illegal immigrants to hide the true nature of their illegal status in our country.

And similar to the Bonner plan, H.R. 10 improves the privacy and integrity of an individual's Social Security number, limits the number of replacement Social Security cards a person may receive, and investigates whether the Social Security number itself can be used as a tool to verify a worker's authorization to work in the United States. All of these provisions are vitally important to the war against illegal immigration and the war on terrorism, so I stand here today to enthusiastically express my support for passage of H.R. 10 with the immigration measures fully intact.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Since I introduced it on September 21, the Bonner plan, H.R. 5111, has received interest and support from many of my colleagues, including Senators KYLE, CORNYN and CHAMBLISS. The bill also garnered a unique group and I believe unprecedented group of bipartisan cosponsors, including the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), a past chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, as well as the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO), the chairman of the Immigration Reform Caucus. We all share the goal of eliminating illegal immigration, and I hope very much that we are able to see full and enthusiastic support for H.R. 10 as we move ahead with it this week.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

As a clear, cool westerly blows across the Nation and the somber tones of autumn settle upon us, the Members of the House may be called to a syncopated discipline of self-surrender. With more determined steps, all walk into the season when seeds of the future fall to the Earth.

With grateful hearts for so many blessings, Lord, allow Your people to use their freedom wisely, and befriend the barren, the voiceless, and the hardened. Cover us with a protective cloak, that the paralysis of fear may be massaged to accept the planting of hope into our tiring body. In these days of diminished light, prepare us for Your hidden promise. For You are the Lord of every season and forever. Amen

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1533. An act to amend the securities laws to permit church pension plans to be invested in collective trusts.

H.R. 2714. An act to reauthorize the State Justice Institute.

H.R. 4278. An act to amend the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5105. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out construction and related activities in support of the collaborative Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project on Kitt Peak near Tucson, Arizona.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2273. An act to provide increased rail transportation security.

S. 2435. An act to permit Inspectors General to authorize staff to provide assistance to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and for other purposes.

S. 2495. An act to strike limitations on funding and extend the period of authorization for certain coastal wetland conservation projects.

S. 2882. An act to make the program for national criminal history background checks for volunteer groups permanent.

S. 2883. An act to amend the International Child Abduction Remedies Act to limit the tort liability of private entities or organizations that carry out responsibilities of the United States Central Authority under that Act.

S. 2884. An act to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to award grants to public transportation agencies to improve security, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-173, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individuals to the Commission on Systemic Interoperability:

Vicky B. Gregg of Tennessee; and  
Ivan G. Seidenberg of New York.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 1, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 1, 2004 at 11:00 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2408.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2771.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 501.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,  
Clerk of the House.

#### APPOINTMENT TO COMMISSION ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN STUDY ABROAD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 104(c)(1)(I) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (P.L. 108-199), and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Chair announces that the Speaker and minority leader of the House, with the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, jointly appoint Mr. Melville Peter McPherson, East Lansing, Michigan, chairman of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program.

#### APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON SYSTEMIC INTEROPERABILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1012(c)(1) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. 242b note), and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House to the Commission on Systemic Interoperability:

Mr. Gary A. Mecklenburg, Chicago, Illinois,

Dr. Don E. Detmer, Crozet, Virginia.

#### REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR 3-YEAR TERM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 491 of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1098(c)), the order of the House of December 8, 2003, and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, the Chair announces on Friday, October 1, 2004, the Speaker reappointed the following member on the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a 3-year term:

Ms. Norine Fuller, Arlington, Virginia.