

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1840

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5719, TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008**

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5719, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

**HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CRITTENTON FOUNDATION**

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

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an historic anniversary of the National Crittenton Foundation, which was the first charitable organization created under a congressional charter, and is celebrating 125 years of service.

People who recognize the Crittenton name often recall only the maternity homes that were usually hidden and welcomed girls and young women seeking support during their unplanned pregnancies. Much less is known about the influence of the national network of affiliated Crittenton agencies and their lasting impact on the social work profession.

The unique relationship between the National Crittenton Foundation and the Crittenton family of agencies is based on the belief that addressing compelling social issues in the United States is best done through a network of independent local agencies supported by a national body.

There are now over 23 Crittenton agencies across the country. Together they have provided over 2,200 years of continuous service to 5 million vulnerable girls, young women and their families.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Crittenton Foundation and its family of agencies across the country happy anniversary, and our best wishes for another 125 years of success.

□ 1845

**TAX DAY**

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

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, once again, the tax man cometh. Today, April 15, is a day American taxpayers scramble to comply with a tax code over 67,000 pages long.

In 2007, individual taxpayers spent over 3 billion hours complying with the Federal income tax laws. Individuals spent \$26.5 billion for tax software, tax repairs, postage, and other costs related to filing their Federal income taxes. And corporations spend over \$156 billion to comply with the Federal tax laws.

Americans may send \$2.5 trillion to the IRS, but the costs to our economy is much greater. Despite this, the majority party is forcing a \$654 billion tax increase on the American people, the largest tax increase in American history. It is time to scrap this oppressive tax code. It is time to take a look at the fair tax or the flat tax as viable alternatives to our overly burdensome tax code, and it's time to stop punishing taxpayers and pass fundamental tax reform.

**AMERICA, WE ARE ON YOUR SIDE ON TAX DAY**

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today is Tax Day, April 15, and that's why the Democrats have risen today to be able to tell the American people we're on your side. The Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008 may cost \$22 million, but I can assure you that it pales in comparison to the money that my friends are spending on the unending war in Iraq.

I am glad to stand with the taxpayers of America, making sure that the elderly and the disabled are exempted from liability for employment taxes or payments to home care service providers. They deserve our respect, and today we give it to them.

I am glad that we are requiring a written notice to taxpayers of the eligibility of the earned income tax credit. It's a shame that so many think that there is so much fraud for hardworking Americans who don't file for their taxes who deserve it, and I'm delighted to stand with Americans to repeal the authority of the IRS to enter into private debt collection, those guys who have harassed the elderly, the shut-ins, hardworking Americans because they are private bounty hunters.

Today we stand with hardworking Americans. We will do so as well. And we honor our troops, declare the war's end, bring them home and reinvest in America.

**LOWERING THE COST OF FUEL**

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, it is, in essence, the third day in the legislative schedule when I come to the floor to talk about energy prices.

When this Democrat majority took over the House, the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$58 a barrel. Today, it hovers around \$111 a barrel.

In 2006, the Democrat leadership promised lower gas prices. What we've seen, in reality, is higher gas prices. We've seen negative change, which has caused bitterness in rural America with the high-increasing cost to travel around rural America. All we're asking is for a plan to bring on more supply.

I have been in this well numerous times in this Congress to talk about coal-to-liquid technologies. We shouldn't limit it to that. We should talk about expanding renewable fuels. We should talk about the outer continental shelf. We ought to talk about ANWR. We need to bring more supply to lower the cost of fuels because the average American citizens are tired of paying these high gas prices, and it hurts the economy of this country.

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. GIFFORDS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

**IRS EQUALS IRAQ REVENUE SUPPLIERS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today is April 15, Tax Day. Right now, millions of Americans are hurrying to report their incomes to the IRS. Usually, "IRS" stands for "Internal Revenue Service," but today, it might as well stand for "Iraq revenue suppliers" because so much of our tax revenue is paying for the occupation of Iraq.

Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize winning economist, has calculated the occupation will cost at least \$3 trillion. That means that the occupation will cost each of our 300 million citizens \$10,000, or an incredible \$40,000 for a family of four.

America's hardworking families are struggling to keep their heads above water as we sink into a deep, what I