

accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

#### COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS ON THE INTERNET

(c) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

#### CALENDARS

(d)(1) The Committee shall maintain a Committee Calendar, which shall include all bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to or reported by the Committee and all bills, resolutions, and other matters reported by any other committee on which a rule has been granted or formally requested, and such other matters as the Chair shall direct. The Calendar shall be published periodically, but in no case less often than once in each session of Congress.

(2) The staff of the Committee shall furnish each member of the Committee with a list of all bills or resolutions (A) reported from the Committee but not yet considered by the House, and (B) on which a rule has been formally requested but not yet granted. The list shall be updated each week when the House is in session.

(3) For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), a rule is considered as formally requested when the Chairman of a committee which has reported a bill or resolution (or a member of such committee authorized to act on the Chairman's behalf):

(A) has requested, in writing to the Chair, that a hearing be scheduled on a rule for the consideration of the bill or resolution, and

(B) has supplied the Committee with an adequate number of copies of the bill or resolution, as reported, together with the final printed committee report thereon.

#### OTHER PROCEDURES

(e) The Chair may establish such other Committee procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out these rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee and its subcommittees in a manner consistent with these rules.

#### RULE 9—AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended or repealed, in the same manner and method as prescribed for the adoption of committee rules in clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such Member at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting at which the vote on the change occurs. Any such change in the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record within 30 calendar days after their approval.

#### HAMAS—A HISTORY OF HATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Israel and Hamas are fighting each other in the Gaza Strip. The question is, what is this fighting all about?

For centuries, the Jews and Muslims have fought over a strip of land in what we call the Holy Land called the Gaza Strip. It's a territorial dispute, but it's also a conflict of a religious nature.

The Gaza Strip is a tiny sliver of land about two times the size of Wash-

ington, D.C., with a population of about 1.5 million people. It is bordered by the State of Israel on three sides and the Mediterranean Sea to the West.

The modern war between Israel and the Palestinians began after Israel became a sovereign nation in 1948, after the end of World War II. After the Egyptian invasion of Israel in May of 1948 and the subsequent occupation of the Gaza Strip, large groups of Palestinian refugees began to arrive and live in Gaza.

In the last half of the 20th century, territorial control bounced back and forth between Israel and its Muslim neighboring countries. In the 1990s, Israel transferred security and civilian responsibility for the Palestinian-populated areas of Gaza to the Palestinian Authority. After that transfer, Palestinians elected Yasser Arafat to be their leader, a person who was by no means pro-Israel, but a leader at the very least who worked for peace between Israel and Palestine.

In September 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew all of its settlers and soldiers and dismantled its military facilities in the Gaza Strip on the condition that the Palestinian terrorist groups, like Hamas, would stop terrorizing innocent civilians in Israel near the Gaza border, but that did not happen. Hamas continued its relentless attacks against the Jews, causing an escalation of tension in that region.

Then in January of 2006, the people of Palestine elected Hamas to head the Palestine Legislative Council. The international community did not accept the Hamas-led government because it refused to renounce violence, refused to recognize the State of Israel, and refused to honor previous peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

After a series of infighting between Hamas and more moderate Palestinians, Hamas militants succeeded in a violent takeover of all the military and government institutions in the Gaza Strip.

So since 2000, Hamas terrorists have targeted over 1 million Israeli civilians in Gaza and Israel literally firing thousands of rockets, missiles and mortar shells into Israel. In just the past 10 days, Hamas has fired more than 500 rockets at innocent Israeli civilians, and there is no end in sight.

The anti-Semitic hate speech propagated by Hamas leaders is no figment of anyone's imagination. It is real. It's enticing an entire generation of young people to become terrorists, all in the name of religion. Even our State Department has designated Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization for as long as that list has existed.

But we don't have to take our own government's word for it. In 2005, a Hamas leader in Gaza told the media that, "Neither the liberation of the Gaza Strip nor the liberation of the West Bank or even Jerusalem will suffice us. Hamas will pursue the armed

struggle until the liberation of all our lands. We don't recognize the State of Israel or its right to hold onto one inch of Palestine. Palestine is an Islamic land belonging to all the Muslims."

Later in 2006, another leader said, "Israel is not a legitimate entity, and no amount of pressure can force us to recognize its right to exist. Israel must be humiliated and degraded."

These are not the words of a people who desire peace and reconciliation. These are the words of a people who blatantly call for the complete destruction of Israel and will not stop at anything until that happens.

What's worse, Hamas doesn't care what it takes to make this happen, even if that means killing its own people.

Since the fighting began, Israel has allowed over 200 truckloads of food and medicine to enter Gaza, even under shellfire. Just today, Israel agreed to cease its ground operations for 3 hours every day so that humanitarian supplies can be taken into Gaza.

But meanwhile, Hamas is not only preventing its own wounded civilians from crossing into Egypt to receive medical treatment, but they're stealing medicine and supplies meant for civilians and using them for their wounded terrorists.

What makes Hamas even more inhumane is their willingness to put their own people in harm's way. Time and time again, Hamas has intentionally launched missiles into school yards and residential areas, putting Palestinians at risk, daring Israel to try and come after them, even hoping for Palestinian civilian lives to be lost in these attacks.

It's time for the rest of the world to stand in solidarity with Israel in its fight against terrorism and demand that Hamas immediately end its rocket fire attacks on Israel and stop smuggling through tunnels between Egypt and Gaza. However, Hamas says it will never end their war against Israel until Israel ceases to exist.

In the face of such hate, Madam Speaker, Israel is left with no other choice but to defend its people and its sovereign territory from these murderous terrorists.

And that's just the way it is.

#### NEW CONGRESS, REAL COMMITMENT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the wonderful opportunity of a new Congress is that it is not bound by the mistakes of the past.

As foreclosure rates rise in Ohio and across our Nation, it's pretty obvious that the Federal responses are not working on Main Street, whether it's the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout or the \$300 billion FHA loan workout program.

Citigroup, for example, was one of the big culprits that caused the financial meltdown; yet, they got paid \$25 billion from the public Treasury. But Ohio, where foreclosures are raging, got nothing. Instead, out-of-State megabanks are buying up Ohio banks, while more Ohio homeowners get boot-ed out of their homes.

Last year, in my home County of Lucas, another 4,100 homes were foreclosed. That's a minimum of 10,000, 10,000 more people who were not helped by Treasury's failed TARP program. Ohio's families alone need \$20 billion to stop the real estate hemorrhage which is less than what Citibank received, and would go to real people, not ersatz and paper trades on Wall Street.

In Toledo, Ohio, you can now buy a home for \$4,500, but last fall, rather than local homeowners being refinanced in this Wall Street bailout bill, one California investor figured it out. He bought 137 foreclosed properties in Toledo at auction, an auction sponsored by the very Wall Street banks that caused the trouble in the first place. Houses are being auctioned at prices so low we could have put the original occupants back in. Even cities would be able to bid on these homes on behalf of their local homeowners, their property owners, but they've not yet received any funds from the \$4 billion neighborhood stabilization program that we were told was supposed to keep local neighborhoods whole.

But the Wall Street banks are cleaning up. They get the bailout money. They don't have to manage those properties. They auction them to outsiders and then they're just waiting for their taxes to be filed for 2008 at the IRS to get all those losses booked and get more back from the people of the United States.

Something is very wrong and unco-ordinated with the manner in which the Federal Government is allowing equity to be bled from local homeowners and from our communities at large and awarded to Wall Street whole.

Wall Street banks that hold or sell mortgages on these foreclosed properties are not managing their property holdings. These holdings are then frequently stripped of copper, electrical wiring and other materials, further devaluing adjacent properties and decimating entire neighborhoods.

The \$300 billion FHA program designed to help modify troubled mortgage loans is as ineffective as the Wall Street bailout. The program has received fewer than 200 applications nationwide since taking effect October 1 and not a single loan has been modified.

A bank's receipt of TARP funds should be conditioned on them lending money and engaging in mortgage workouts to ensure the program at least starts to work somewhat. Many banks and servicers are still reluctant to structure manageable workouts with their customers. Among them are JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo and

Wilshire, who have received \$65 billion among them in Treasury funds.

What's fair about that? May the 111th Congress pass more than just hollow legislation. Let's pass a measure worthy of the oath we took yesterday to protect our Republic from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Jesse James robbed banks because he said that's where the money is. Well, Wall Street just robbed the biggest bank of them all, the public Treasury. It's time for Congress to blink and do what's right in the 111th Congress of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Today, Madam Speaker, I join my colleague Congressman LANGEVIN in this tribute to Senator Pell, the great statesman from Rhode Island. His name is well-known throughout this country, associated most notably with the Pell Grant, the grant that allows millions of young people in this country opportunity to get a higher education.

But Madam Speaker, we wanted to pay tribute to Senator Pell not only for what he did to open the doors for millions in this country for economic and educational opportunity, we wanted to pay tribute to him for all that he's done as a five-term Senator from Rhode Island and one of the most distinguished Senators ever to serve not only Rhode Island but this country.

He was the author of the Humanities Act, National Endowment for the Humanities, which allows the arts to be accessible to the average person as well.

He was really the founder and the person who really began the belief that we ought to work cooperatively around the world in terms of foreign policy. As the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, he was the one who led in diplomacy.

And my friends, he was far ahead of his time as an environmentalist as well.

Madam Speaker, we could talk about his policies and what they meant to our country, but to know him as a person is to really say the most about Senator Pell. He was the most self-effacing, genteel, kind-hearted man that you could ever know. And in a world of rough-and-tumble politics, it's hard to find a genuine person such as that. And for that reason, on a personal level I

was honored to know him and serve with him and today join my colleague, JIM LANGEVIN, in paying tribute to him.

Senator Pell left an extraordinary legacy that is appreciated by so many people around the world.

He spent his life in service to our country from his start in 1960 as a U.S. Senator from Rhode Island to his retirement in 1997, and in the years beyond in which he remained active in our State.

Our Nation has lost one of its most visionary and thoughtful legislative leaders, and his hallmark, the Pell Grant, exemplifies his efforts to promote education and opportunity for all Americans. So many families, though they may not know his name, were touched by the work and generous spirit of Senator Pell.

There are so many areas in which he led our country to the forefront such as oceanography, foreign policy, and college tuition assistance. His commitment to public service and his notable contributions to Rhode Island and our Nation continue to inspire people of all generations.

The magnitude and depth of his accomplishments may never be known because he let others take the credit and acclaim. His style was understated yet magnanimous and his work ushered in many essential policies that have shaped our world today.

Earlier this week, President Clinton, Vice President-elect Biden, Senator KENNEDY, Senator REED and many of his other friends from around the globe paid tribute to his work and celebrated his life.

He will be truly missed and my sympathies and prayers are with his family. He leaves behind his wife of 64 years, wonderful Nuala O'Donnell Pell; his son, Christopher T.H. Pell, of Newport; a daughter, Dallas Pell, of New York City; as well as five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

But those of us who will miss him extends much farther. It is our country's sorrow to lose such a giant of the Senate and the Nation.

And with that, I would like to yield the floor to my colleague and friend from the Second Congressional District, Congressman LANGEVIN.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I am honored to join with him today in paying tribute to our State's former senior Senator, Senator Claiborne Pell, who passed away on the 1st of this year. He was an incredible public servant, and someone who I was proud to call a friend and a mentor. He was one of Rhode Island's greatest statesmen and gentlemen, as I said, who passed away on the first day of 2009.

Born on November 22, 1918 into a prominent and wealthy family, Senator Pell was better known as a champion for the common man and also the "Father of the Pell Grant Program." After receiving a degree from Princeton University, he served in the United States Coast Guard during World War II and later traveled the world as a Foreign Service Officer of the State Department. In 1960, he was elected to his first of six terms as a United States Senator from Rhode Island. After retiring in 1997, he became our State's longest-serving Senator.