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Raising a question of the Privileges of the House

Mr Bishop of Utah submitted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, a Representative from California, served from 1997 to 2002 as Ranking Democratic Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and,

WHEREAS, Representative Pelosi currently serves as Speaker of the House, a position of considerable power and influence within the Congress; and,

WHEREAS, Title 3 of the United States Code designates the Speaker of the House as third in line of succession to the Presidency; and,

WHEREAS, Speaker Pelosi has publicly challenged the truthfulness of what she and other congressional leaders were told by Central Intelligence Agency officials about the agency's use of enhanced interrogation techniques on suspected terrorists; and,

WHEREAS, in an MSNBC interview on February 25, 2009, Speaker Pelosi stated, "I can say flat-out, they never told us that these enhanced interrogation techniques were being used"; and,

[WHEREAS, Speaker Pelosi's public statements allege a sustained pattern of deception by government intelligence officers charged by law with informing Congress about the agency's activities; and,]

WHEREAS, when asked at a press conference on May 15, 2009 widely reported by the news media, "Madame Speaker, just to be clear, you're accusing the CIA of lying to you in September?" Speaker Pelosi stated, "Yes"; and,

WHEREAS, during the same press conference the Speaker subsequently stated, "So yes, I'm saying they are misleading, the CIA was misleading the Congress" and further, "they mislead us all the time" and "they misrepresented every step of the way"; and,

WHEREAS, in a memorandum to CIA employees on released publicly on May 15, 2009, Democrat Leon Panetta, the CIA Director, stated, "It is not our policy or practice to mislead Congress. That is against our laws and our values. As the Agency indicated previously in response to Congressional inquiries, our contemporaneous records from September 2002 indicate that CIA officers briefed truthfully on the interrogation of Abu Zubaydah, describing the enhanced interrogation techniques that had been employed"; and,

WHEREAS, when asked in a press conference held June 4, 2009, "Madame Speaker, are you still receiving intelligence briefings?" Speaker Pelosi responded by saying, "Yes, I am; yes, I am"; and,

WHEREAS, a June 5, 2009 article on Human Events.com entitled, "Pelosi Still Receives CIA Briefings, But Won't Say If They're Truthful" stated, "She refused to answer when asked whether or not she believes intelligence professionals are still lying to her"; and,

WHEREAS, national and international media reports on this controversy have damaged the reputation of the House by raising questions about whether the effectiveness of congressional oversight may have been undermined through false or misleading statements by intelligence officials; and,

WHEREAS, in order to safeguard the reputation of the House it is imperative to reconcile as soon as possible the aforementioned contradictory statements by Speaker Pelosi and CIA Director Panetta;

Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that

- (1) a Select Subcommittee of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence shall be established to review and verify the accuracy of the Speaker's aforementioned public statements ;
- (2) the Select Subcommittee shall be comprised of four members of the full committee, two appointed by the chairman of the committee and two by its ranking minority member;
- (3) The subcommittee shall have the same powers to obtain testimony and documents pursuant to subpoena authorized under clause 2(m) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.
- (4) the Select Subcommittee report its findings and recommendations to the House not later than sixty calendar days after adoption of the resolution.