

WE ARE FREE

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, from the hellish streets where Iranians demand freedom, voices arise to pray for deliverance and liberty; but, elsewhere, safely ensconced in freedom, others argue for appeasement and “neutrality.” We must choose wisely between these competing voices and visions, lest we betray our allegiance to liberty.

Some voices allege America’s support of Iranian democracy demonstrators harms their cause, strengthens the regime, increases the repression, and, once the freedom seekers are slaughtered, precludes “good” relations with the murderous mullahs.

Their siren song is wrong. Despite pronouncements, America has not intervened, the mullahs publicly accuse us of it, their illegitimate puppet Ahmadinejad demands our prostration at the regime’s feet, and all the while, the regime butchers innocents.

□ 1945

On June 24, CNN recorded a call from a terrified Iranian girl, who told of democracy demonstrators being hacked with axes, shot or thrown from bridges. She pleaded: “You should stop this. You should help the people of Iran who demand freedom. You should help us. It’s time to act.” She was pleading to America. She was pleading to us.

Once, another generational chance for freedom was seized, as Soviet dissident and gulag prisoner Natan Sharansky attests, “We developed our own tapping language to communicate with each other between the crawls of our cells. We had to develop new communication methods to pass on this great, impossible news.

“Reagan dared to call of the great Soviet Union an evil empire. That moment made it impossible for anyone in the West to continue closing their eyes to the real nature of the Soviet Union.

“It was one of the most important, freedom-affirming declarations, and we all instantly knew it. For us, that was the moment that really marked the end for them, and the beginning for us. The beginning of a new revolution, a freedom revolution. Reagan’s revolution.”

As for voices clamoring for a “grand bargain” with Iran’s inhumane regime if it clings to power, Sharansky warns: “How a government treats its own people cannot be separated from how that government could be expected to treat other countries.” How did the regime treat the family of Neda Agha-Soltan, the student it shot in the streets? Her state executioners refused to tender Neda’s body to her family; buried her without a funeral; banned all signs of mourning; and forced her family to flee from their Tehran home.

To defeat such a regime, Sharansky offers Reagan’s example: “Ronald

Reagan had the moral clarity to understand the truth, and the courage both to speak the truth and to do what needed to be done to support it.”

What concrete actions can we take today to aid the Iranian people’s march to freedom?

We must increase funding for Radio Farda and other democracy building programs to provide the Iranian people with the free flow of information and communications in their struggle to be free.

The President must use his full authority under the Iranian Sanctions Act to deter companies from investing in Iran’s energy sector.

We must place column 2 tariff rates on Iran’s remaining exports to the United States. We must pass the Global Online Freedom Act to prevent American companies from assisting foreign governments, including Iran, from censoring and monitoring their people on the Internet. We must pass the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act and the Iran Threat Reduction Act to embargo the flow of refined fuel to and increase the pressure upon the regime.

The President must prohibit regime members from entering the United States of America.

We must seek a United Nations Security Council resolution denouncing the regime; demanding a new, internationally monitored election; and tightening the current U.N. sanctions against the regime until this election occurs and its outcome’s integrity verified.

We must work with American labor organizations to establish a support fund for Iranian workers striking in protest of the regime.

Finally, we must link all of our relations with Iran, and with those nations abetting the regime’s perpetuation in defiance of its people’s freedom to human rights.

If we pale and fail to take these measures, we will be haunted by the cries of the oppressed Iranians abandoned to preserve our neutrality in this time of moral crisis.

But, when we act, we will expand freedom to the oppressed and enslaved; and ensure it for our children and ourselves. Only then will we have honorably performed our duty to liberty by guaranteeing generations of Americans and Iranians may proclaim, “We are free.”

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

JUNE 26, 2009.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC,
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to alert you that I have sent a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California

informing him that I will be resigning as the United States Representative for the 10th Congressional District of California effective immediately.

In May, I had the distinguished honor of being nominated by President Obama to serve as Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. Keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists, making sure other countries do not obtain them and, one day, I hope, ridding the world of these terrible weapons, has become my passion and, I hope, my life’s work.

It has been an immense pleasure working with you Madam Speaker. I owe you, and my colleagues on both sides of the isle, a debt of gratitude for your leadership, guidance and dedication. I eagerly await the opportunity to work with you in my new role with the Obama Administration.

Sincerely,

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER.

— JUNE 26, 2009.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC,
Governor ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
California State Capitol Building, Sacramento,
CA.

DEAR GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER: On May 5th, I was nominated by President Obama to serve as Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. Therefore I am resigning my position as the United States Representative for the 10th Congressional District of California effective immediately.

Thirteen years ago, the people of California’s 10th Congressional district bestowed upon me the privilege of serving as their representative in Congress. It has been a remarkable period marked by tremendous challenges and remarkable achievements. I take great pride, along with my distinguished colleagues in the California delegation, in working to make our communities safer, California more prosperous and our nation more secure. No matter where I am serving in government, I always will remember those who sent me to Washington and I always will be grateful for their support and the trust they placed in me.

I also wanted to thank you for your leadership. It has been a pleasure to work with you and your staff and I look forward to continuing our productive relationship.

Sincerely,

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), the whole number of the House is 433.

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

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

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN JAMES HALL

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, there are difference makers among us. I rise today to honor a man who committed his life to public service and put his life on the line working to save people in our community.

Just a few short weeks ago, James Martin "Marty" Hall, City of Canton, Ohio Fire Captain of 15 years, made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty after suffering a fatal heart attack just hours after serving a volunteer fire shift at the Greentown Fire Department.

Captain Hall was a member of the City of Canton's fire force for more than 20 years.

Captain Hall clearly moved our community. Joining the thousands of friends and neighbors and loved ones who lined the streets of Canton for his funeral procession deeply moved me. This man was a respected member of our city who touched and saved many lives, including a child he performed CPR on after rescuing him from a burning home in Canton.

Captain Hall's peers called and said to him as they bid him farewell, "If you needed to be rescued, Captain Hall and his crew would be the crew you wanted coming for you."

Captain Hall was a hero in our community and in his home. Being a father of four small children, it was exceptionally emotional to witness his three daughters stand up at his funeral and say, "We're going to miss you, Daddy."

Their words should remind each of us that our time on Earth is limited and we must live fully each day. Captain Hall's passing shocked our community, and he will forever remain one of our community heroes.

My prayers and deepest condolences go out to his family as they grieve this tragic loss. Captain Hall's family and our community reflect on his service both in the military and as a firefighter.

Today, I take this moment to honor his life and his service to our country. We thank you, Marty, for your service.

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.)

SAD DAY FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day for America, and I don't mean because of the death of Michael Jackson; I mean because if this legislation we just passed were to become law, tens and hundreds of thousands of people would lose their jobs.

In my district, we are already getting green jobs. We will have thousands of

green jobs, but we are going to lose tens of thousands of other jobs. My congressional district in northeast Indiana is the number one manufacturing district in the United States. One county has 57 percent of the people working in manufacturing. I heard on this floor that we don't have any manufacturing jobs left in America anymore. Oh, yes, we do.

In my district, we have 30,000 jobs related to the recreational vehicle area. We have 40,000 jobs related to auto and truck. We make boats. We have tire factories. We have axle factories and windshield factories. We are the manufacturing center, along with JOE DONNELLY's district in the South Bend area and PETE VISCOSKY's in northwest Indiana.

We still have an industrial base, an industrial base that has tried to adjust and accommodate and make the changes they need to make. We have the most efficient steel factories in America. We have two steel factories that were roughly a billion dollars each to build, five new core facilities; the only two steel companies in America that haven't lost money because they have cut their costs 75 percent. They have their labor cost down at 4 to 5 percent, yet we are looking at energy costs that could go up 80 to 100 percent because, you know what, you can't power a steel plant in Indiana with solar panels. You cannot do this with windmills. Manufacturing takes an incredible amount of energy.

Now let me be honest. I admire the Amish. My great, great grandpa was one of the first Amish settlers in the State of Indiana. My great grandpa left about 1880. It is fine if you want to be Amish with no electricity and windmills and ride around in a horse and buggy, but that should be a choice, not pronounced on you by the Federal Government.

For people who want to come to the Notre Dame games in South Bend, I worry that in a couple years you can go over to Elkhart County, one of the largest Amish settlements, and go, Oh, look at that Amish farm. There's no electricity there. They're riding around in a buggy; but it won't be Amish, it will be everybody in the area because that is county that has 57 percent manufacturing, a county that the President went in with the stimulus package and said, This is the highest unemployment area in the United States, and we are going to bring you jobs. And instead, we are bringing death to manufacturing.

I just don't understand it. Maybe my district should introduce legislation to make it a national historical industrial park area where people could go and see what steel mills used to look like. They could go and see what axle companies used to look like. What it looked like to make the Silverado and the Sierra pickup before we drove them to China, before we moved the last companies out.

And in between, you could see soybean and corn farms, and apparently

we made some change here, but it is amazing we even had to make this change, that ethanol soy-diesel, we have the biggest integrated soy-diesel plant in the world. Dreyfus was worried down to the original draft of this bill they were going to be put out because they were cutting down trees to plant soybeans and corn for ethanol, except our trees are already cut down. Oh, you mean they were going to cut down trees in Brazil? Well, not our companies. But because we are internationalists now and we're trying to be one world, if we grow soybeans in Indiana, then we have to offset it with trees in other places, and now maybe we won't have to offset it and maybe we won't wipe out soy-diesel and ethanol. What kind of joke is this?

I honestly did not think that this House could pass this bill.

These are hardworking, blue collar workers. Many in my area, if not most, union members. Look, they are not necessarily big fans of MARK SOUDER or Republicans. It is their constituency who they are putting out of work, people who didn't necessarily have a college degree, who worked in steel mills, who worked in auto places, who got up early in the morning and worked a hard day and thought they could make it in America.

But no, we are shipping their jobs away from America because now they are dirty, even though now they will go to other countries where it will be dirtier air?

What about farmers who get up and they work hard all day, six, seven days a week in the peak season, and now they are going to be told that their energy costs are going to go up. The REMCs in my area, which are huge, when I have gone to their meetings, 1,400 and 1,500, they say it is going to be \$60 to \$80 minimum a month on each of their people who are working hard ever day and are trying to figure out now, with a 15 percent average unemployment in my district, that they are supposed to take this kind of a heating bill.

I do not understand this. If you don't have steel, how do you have a military? Are we going to build our big aircraft carriers out of bamboo? What are we going to do here? Maybe we can have China build the steel for our military. That will work real well. They are our good buddies.

Before, when we heard the day of infamy from Franklin Delano Roosevelt, we at least had a manufacturing base to respond. This day of infamy, if this bill becomes law, we won't have a manufacturing base to respond.

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

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