

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, May 13, 2010, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at 10:53 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY FELIPE CALDERON HINOJOSA, PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Majority Floor Services Chief, Mr. Barry Sullivan, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER);

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR);

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN); and

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Sen-

ators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);
The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY);

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN); and

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON).

The Majority Floor Services Chief announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Her Excellency Faida Mitifu, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for her.

The Majority Floor Services Chief announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m., the Majority Floor Services Chief announced His Excellency Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico.

The President of Mexico, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President CALDERON. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Honorable Members of Congress, and as we say in Mexico, amigas y amigos Congressistas, it's a great honor to stand before you today. I would like to thank Congress and the American people for this invitation. I want to express my gratitude to all of you here who have supported Mexico during very challenging times. I also salute the Mexican Americans and all Latinos who work every day for the prosperity of this great Nation.

Mexico is a young country but a very old nation. Our roots go back thousands of years. However, this year is especially significant for us. We are celebrating the bicentennial of our

independence, 200 years of being proudly free and proudly Mexican. At that time, Mexico was the first nation to abolish slavery in the whole of continental America. And it is exactly 100 years since the Mexican Revolution, a revolution against oppression, a revolution for justice and democracy. As you can see, Mexico was founded on the same values and principles as the United States of America. We are very proud of this past. However, the Mexican people and the government are focused on the future. That is why Mexico is a country in a continuous process of transformation. We are determined to change, and we are taking the decisions that are going to make Mexico a more prosperous democracy.

One of the main changes taking place in Mexico is our commitment to firmly establish the rule of law. That is why we are deploying the full force of the State to confront organized crime with determination and courage. But let me explain. This fight is not only and not mainly about stopping the drug trade. It is first and foremost a drive to guarantee the security of Mexican families who are under threat from the abuses and the vicious acts of criminals. As I told the Mexican people in my inaugural speech, restoring public security will not be easy and will not be quick. It will take time; it will take money; and unfortunately, to our deep sorrow, it will take human lives as well. This is a battle that has to be fought because the future of our families is at stake. But I told them then, you can be sure of one thing: This is a battle that, united, we, the Mexican people, will win.

We cannot ignore the fact that the challenge to our security has roots on both sides of the border. At the end of the day, its origin is the high demand for drugs here and in other places. Secretary of State Clinton has said, "We accept our share of the responsibility. We know that the demand for drugs drives much of this illicit trade." This is symbolic of our new relationship. We have moved from the suspicion and the mutual recrimination of the past to the cooperation and mutual understanding of the present.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate President Obama for his recent initiative to reduce the consumption of drugs. I hope, for the good of both nations and the entire hemisphere, that this succeeds. Now let me tell you what Mexico is doing to confront and overcome this problem. First, we have not hesitated to use all the power of the State, including the federal police and the armed forces, in order to support the local governments that are facing the greatest threat from organized crime. This is a temporary measure to restore order. The goal is to provide local governments time and the opportunity to rebuild and strengthen their security and judicial institutions. Second, we are weakening the financial and operational capabilities of criminal gangs. Federal

operations have led to record seizures of drugs, cash, and weapons from the criminals. We are hitting them, and we are hitting them hard. The federal forces have also arrested many important felons who are now facing Mexican justice, and we have extradited a record number of criminals to face justice here in the United States. Third, we are rebuilding our institutions and security forces, especially at the federal level. We have more than tripled the federal police budget since the beginning of my administration and multiplied the size of its force. We are recruiting honest young men and women with values who are better trained, better paid, and better equipped. Fourth, we are transforming our judicial system to make it more transparent and efficient. We are moving towards open and oral trials that are the basis of your own judicial system. And fifth, we have set up social programs to prevent young people from turning to crime, including prevention and treatment for addictions. As you can see, we are doing everything we can to fight this threat and to secure our common future.

We are fulfilling our duty as a good neighbor, taking care of business on our side of the border. The U.S. is also helping. Congress approved the Merida Initiative, which we greatly appreciate, and our administrations are sharing more information than ever to fight crime. However, there is one issue where Mexico needs your cooperation, and that is stopping the flow of assault weapons and other deadly arms across the border. Let me be clear on this. I fully respect, I admire the American Constitution, and I understand that the purpose of the Second Amendment is to guarantee good American citizens the ability to defend themselves and their Nation. But believe me, many of these guns are not going to honest American hands. Instead, thousands are ending up in the hands of criminals. Just to give you an idea, we have seized 75,000 guns and assault weapons in Mexico in the last 3 years, and more than 80 percent of those we have been able to trace came from the United States. And if you look carefully, you will notice that the violence in Mexico started to grow a couple of years before I took office in 2006. This coincides with the lifting of the assault weapons ban in 2004. One day, criminals in Mexico, having gained access to these weapons, decided to challenge the authorities in my country. Today, these weapons are aimed by the criminals not only at rival gangs but also at Mexican civilians and authorities. And with all due respect, if you do not regulate the sale of these weapons in the right way, nothing guarantees that criminals here in the United States with access to the same power of weapons will not decide to challenge the American authorities and civilians.

It is true that the U.S. Government is now carrying out operations against gun traffickers. But it is also true that

there are more than 7,000 gun shops along the border with Mexico, where almost anyone can purchase these powerful weapons. I also fully understand the political sensitivity of this issue. But I would ask Congress to help us, with respect, and to understand how important it is for us that you enforce current laws to stem the supply of these weapons to criminals and consider reinstating the assault weapons ban. By any legal way that you consider, let us work together to end this lethal trade that threatens Mexico and your own people.

I have spoken at length on this issue, about security, because I know it is a big concern of the American people. However, as I said, Mexico is a country undergoing deep transformations, and our relationship is about much more than just security. We are turning our economy into one that is competitive and strong, capable of generating the jobs Mexicans need. I believe in freedom. I believe in market. I believe in all those principles that are able to empower economies and provide well-being for the people.

We are carrying out a set of structural reforms that had been ignored for decades in Mexico. We started, for instance, by reforming the public pension system, and with this, we guaranteed the retirement of public servants, and at the same time, we will save 30 points of GDP at net present value in our public finances. We passed a tax reform that reduced our dependence on oil and allowed us to continue financing our development, keeping our public deficit close to 1 percent of GDP. We also made important changes to the oil sector. This will allow Pemex, the public oil company, to award more flexible contracts to specialized global companies and so become more efficient and increase its operational and financial capacity in order to get more oil and natural gas. This will ensure our energy independence and strengthen regional energy security as well. And finally, we have increased investment in infrastructure from 3 points of GDP to 5 points of GDP a year, building the roads, ports, airports, and energy plants we need to modernize. This is the highest investment level in infrastructure in decades. These changes are making us a more modern country and a stronger partner of the United States.

The energy reform, the fiscal reform, the pension reform, the investment in infrastructure, among others, have all prepared us for a better tomorrow but also allowed us to overcome the terrible economic crisis last year. Then, Mexico's economy experienced its worst contraction in modern times. However, thanks to strong regulations, not one cent from taxpayers went to a single bank in Mexico last year. We were also able to quickly implement countercyclical measures, such as a temporary public works program and increased credits for small businesses. In this way, we were able to save hun-

dreds of thousands of Mexican jobs. We managed this even though we had to face a series of emergencies, any one of which would have derailed a weaker country. We faced the perfect storm last year. Besides the crisis, we overcame the second worst drought in 70 years, the biggest ever drop in oil production, and the outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus. So today I can come here before you and say with confidence that Mexico is standing tall, a stronger and more determined nation than ever, a nation and a people ready to face the future and take their rightful place in the world. And the future starts now, now that the Mexican economy is recovering.

So far this year, Mexico has created more than 400,000 new jobs, which is the highest number ever created in a 4-month period in Mexico. In the first quarter, the Mexican economy grew 4.3 percent, and we are expecting to grow more than 4 percent this year in our economy, which means, among other things, more well-being for our people and more Mexicans buying more American products. We have made structural reforms to modernize our economy, and we want more. Today our Congress is debating stronger antitrust regulation as well as new labor legislation that will provide more opportunities for women and young people. And my government is auctioning both wireless frequencies and an optic fiber backbone in order to increase competition and coverage in telecoms. Mexico is on the right track towards development now.

As well as promoting economic progress, we are improving the quality of life of all Mexicans under the principle of equal opportunities for all. Thanks to Oportunidades, an advanced poverty relief program, Mexico was able to reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty from 35 million in 1996 to 14 million in 2006. This program reaches the 6 million poorest families, which means one in four Mexicans. Equal opportunity means more and better education, and we have provided scholarships to 6 million poor children of all ages. At the same time, we are investing more than ever in free public universities. And today, almost 90,000 students graduate as engineers and technicians every year in my country. We want all our young people to have the chance to study. Equal opportunity means access to health services for everyone. We have tripled the budget for Popular Health Insurance and rebuilt or renovated 1,700 public hospitals and clinics in 3 years, more than one a day. This will allow us to reach a goal any nation would be proud of, universal health coverage by 2012. A doctor, medicine, and treatment for any Mexican that needs it. Equal opportunity means more and better education, cutting-edge poverty fighting programs, and universal health coverage. By improving opportunities for all, we are giving people one less reason to leave Mexico.

As you can see, Mexico is a country in transformation. This is making us an even more strategic partner for the future prosperity of the American people. The world is more global and more interconnected every day. It is also divided into large economic regions. Those regions that maximize their comparative advantages will be the ones that succeed. And we both need to compete with Asia and with Europe. Mexico and the United States are stronger together than they are apart. Our economic ties have made both economies stronger, and together, we can renew our partnership to restore stronger and faster economic growth on both sides of the border. A stronger Mexico means a stronger United States. Let us not forget, Mexicans are the second-largest foreign buyers of American goods in the world. And a stronger United States, of course, means a stronger Mexico. So I invite you to work with Mexico and consolidate North America as the most competitive region in the world. I believe in that. Let us create more jobs for American workers and more jobs for Mexican workers.

Members of Congress, I am not a President who likes to see Mexicans leave our country searching for opportunities abroad. With migration, our communities lose their best people, the hardest working, the most dynamic, the leaders of the communities. Each migrant is a parent who will never see his children again.

Quiero decirles a los migrantes, a quienes estan trabajando aqui por la grandeza de este pais, que los admiramos, que los extranamos, que estamos luchando por sus derechos y que estamos trabajando duro por Mexico y por sus familias.

I want to say to the migrants, all those who are working really hard for this great country that we admire them, we miss them, we are working hard for their rights, and we are working really hard for Mexico and for the families. Today we are doing the best we can do in order to reduce migration, to create opportunities, and to create jobs for Mexicans in our own country, where their homes are and where their families are. As many jobs as we can. And Mexico will one day be a country in which our people will find the opportunities that today they look for outside of the country. Until then, Mexico is determined to assume its responsibility. For us, migration is not just your problem. We see migration as our problem as well.

My government does not favor the breaking of the rules. I fully respect the right of any country to enact and enforce its own laws. But what we need today is to fix a broken and inefficient system. We favor the establishment of laws that work and work well for us all. So the time has come for the United States and Mexico to work together on this issue. The time has come to reduce the causes of migration and to turn this phenomenon into one

of legal, ordered, and secure flows of workers and visitors. We want to provide the Mexican people with the opportunities they are looking for. That is our goal, that is our mission as government; to transform Mexico into a land of opportunities, to provide our people with jobs and opportunities, to live in peace and to be happy.

I want to recognize the hard work and leadership of many of you in the Senate, and in the House, and of President Obama, who are determined to find responsible and objective answers to this issue. I am convinced that comprehensive immigration reform is also crucial to secure our common border. However, I strongly disagree with the recently adopted law in Arizona. It is a law that not only ignores a reality that cannot be erased by decree but also introduces a terrible idea: using racial profiling as a basis for law enforcement. And that is why I agree with President Obama, who said the new law “carries a great amount of risk when core values that we all care about are breached.” I want to bridge the gap of feelings and emotions between our countries and our peoples. I believe in this. I believe in communications, I believe in cooperation, and we together must find a better way to face and fix this common problem.

And finally, the well-being of both our peoples depends not only on our ability to face regional challenges but global ones as well. That is the case of climate change. That is the case, for instance, of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in the world. Climate change is one of humanity’s most pressing threats. Global warming demands the commitment of all nations, both developed and developing countries. That is why Mexico was the first developing country to commit to emissions reduction targets and programs. As host of the upcoming COP 16, we are working hard to make progress in the fight against climate change. Because of your global leadership, we will need your support to make the meeting in Cancun next November a success.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Honorable Members of the United States Congress, Mexico is a country in deep transformation, indeed. We are building the future our people deserve, a future of opportunity, a future of freedom, of equality, of the rule of law, a future of security in which families and children can go out to work, study, and play without fear, and most of all, a future in which our children and their children will see their dreams come true. I have come here as your neighbor, as your partner, as your ally, and as your friend. Our two great nations are joined by geography and by history, but more important, we are joined by a shared brilliant future. I believe in the future of North America as the strongest, most prosperous region in the world. That is possible.

President Franklin Roosevelt once said that “the only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts

of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.” And I say, let us work together with a strong and active faith in order to give our people the future they deserve.

Thank you very much for your invitation. God bless America. Viva Mexico.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o’clock and 52 minutes a.m., His Excellency Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Majority Floor Services Chief escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President’s Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, (at 11 o’clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1301

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at 1 o’clock and 1 minute p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING THE RECESS

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to ten 1-minute per side.

DEPENDENT CARE COVERAGE EXPANSION

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 7 the largest private employer in