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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. ELLMERS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 21, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RENEE L. ELLMERS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

WORLD WATER DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, for many, tomorrow is just an ordinary Thursday, like any other day. But for hundreds of millions of people who lack access to clean water and billions who lack access to adequate sanitation, this ordinary Thursday is part of the daily struggle.

But this Thursday is World Water Day, where those of us fortunate enough to live in developed countries

are encouraged to reflect on just how fundamental freshwater is to our health, our children's well-being, and how much we take for granted. We've never had to try to work that hard to find drinking water. We don't have to choose between drinking dirty water and going thirsty. For many of us, freshwater is so safe, abundant, it's hard to even imagine life without it.

But on this World Water Day, we should reflect that every 20 seconds a child dies needlessly from waterborne disease. Today, and every day, women will spend 200 million hours collecting water. This week, 3 million students will miss school because they lack access to clean water or sanitation. Indeed, half the people who are sick around the world today are sick needlessly from waterborne disease.

There is a vision, there is a knowledge to do something about it, but, sadly, we don't have the resources, and we actually don't have the plan. The United States does not only have an obligation to do the right thing and save lives, but it's also in our self-interest to provide access to safe water.

United States security experts testified before this Congress that water problems will contribute to the instability in states important to United States national security interests.

With all the problems the world faces, Congress needs to prioritize programs that deliver the highest return on investment with substantial multiplier effects. And when it comes to foreign assistance, increasing access to clean water is perhaps the most effective use of taxpayer dollars. The World Health Organization estimates that up to \$34 is saved for every dollar invested, saved from health care costs and resulting in increased economic productivity.

Indeed, it affects other efforts of our aid. We're involved with trying to eradicate diseases like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, but taking the medicine

with dirty water compounds the problems in terms of diarrheal diseases that result from that dirty water.

Madam Speaker, since we've passed the Water for the World legislation 7 years ago, where Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee Henry Hyde, Senator REID, and Senator FRIST were my partners, we've increased our leadership globally. We owe a debt of gratitude to Secretary Clinton, who has made water a cornerstone of her work while at the helm of the State Department. But we do need to do more; and one simple step, an area where we find broad bipartisan support, is the Water for the World Act that is cosponsored with my friend and colleague from Texas (Mr. POE).

This legislation strengthens the capacity of USAID and the State Department, increases aid effectiveness, transparency, accountability for sanitation water and hygiene, and it has no net cost, according to the CBO.

I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and hope that we can move it forward in this Congress, as there has been movement in the Senate. Millions of lives will be transformed.

JOSEPH KONY AND THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to begin my remarks by commending all the citizens and young students in my congressional district and, indeed, throughout the country who have worked so hard to raise awareness about Joseph Kony and his brutal crimes. As we can see in this poster, there's Kony, and these are just a few of the photos of so many innocents who have been mutilated by Kony and his thugs.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Joseph Kony is a mass murderer, whose campaign of violence against innocent civilians spans decades. The predatory forces doing his bidding are known as the Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, and they have perpetrated some of the worst human rights abuses of our time.

Under the direction of Kony, the LRA has murdered, raped, mutilated, and abducted tens of thousands of innocent people, many of whom are children. They target remote villages, butchering civilians, abducting women and children to serve as sex slaves and fighters. Kony's bloody reach now extends to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, and the newly formed Republic of South Sudan.

One measure that we could accomplish would be for the U.N. peacekeeping missions in the region to more effectively coordinate their actions and share information related to Kony and the LRA, because this is a threat that crosses many international borders.

I'd like to thank my colleague, Congressman ED ROYCE, for introducing a new bill, H.R. 4077, which I proudly support. H.R. 4077 would authorize the Secretary of State to use the State Department's Rewards Program to gain intelligence and strengthen the capacity of those who are actively engaged in fighting transnational organized crime and also apply it to the search for Kony and the LRA.

This program has served as a valuable incentive for those with crucial information to come forward and help round up foreign nationals wanted for a range of brutal crimes and activities that threaten regional and global security and stability and U.S. national security interests. It will be an important tool in helping bring Kony and his circle of thugs, the Lord's Resistance Army, to justice.

I'd also like to thank Congressman JIM MCGOVERN for introducing House Resolution 583, of which I am also a proud cosponsor. Mr. MCGOVERN's resolution echoes current law and puts the House on record in strong support of U.S. efforts to counter the Lord's Resistance Army. It urges the President to work closely with Congress to address critical gaps in U.S. strategy and to enhance U.S. support for the regional measures already there to fight the Lord's Resistance Army.

As we have seen over the past 25 years, Kony's assault on innocent lives has no limits. Now is the time to help bring Joseph Kony and his fellow criminals to justice. As a Nation, let us assure that we have done all that we can to end this ongoing tragedy and hold this evil man accountable for all of his crimes.

I thank all of the young people throughout my district who have communicated through Twitter and Facebook and different modes of social media to express their outrage over Kony's evil deeds; but now, let's take action. Let's pass these bills.

□ 1010

BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Last Thursday, a different kind of March madness took place in the NCAA basketball tournament. In a game between Kansas State and Mississippi State, Angel Rodriguez, a Puerto Rican point guard for Kansas State, was met with taunts from Mississippi State students while he was getting ready to shoot a free throw. The taunt: "Where's your green card?"

That wasn't the only March madness. Earlier this month in San Antonio, Texas, a white high school in San Antonio chanted during the regional basketball championship trophy presentation. Their chant: "USA, USA, USA." Why did they chant USA? Because their team had defeated San Antonio's Thomas Edison High School, a team of mostly Latino players.

One U.S. citizen asked to produce his green card, one entire team of Americans taunted as if they were foreigners.

These young people, subjected to hatred and bigotry, handled it well.

Angel Rodriguez ignored the taunts and played a great game. If he hadn't been busy helping Kansas State win the game, he might have mentioned to everybody that he was from Miami or that all Puerto Ricans are citizens of the United States.

I'm impressed that the kids from Thomas Edison High School kept their cool. They deserve our praise not only for being good basketball players, but just for being great kids.

Mississippi State and Alamo Heights have apologized for the taunts. That's an important step in the right direction. That's not the issue. The issue is why people think it's okay to treat Latinos as if they are second-rate Americans, why so many people think being Latino means being a suspect in our own country, why they look at a young man named Rodriguez and think he doesn't belong in this country. It's because misguided kids taunting Latinos is not really the disease. It's the symptom.

The heart of the sickness is more troubling. The truth is, when it comes to Latinos and immigrants, far too many so-called leaders in our Nation are starting the taunts.

On the campaign trail and on talk radio and on TV, and even here in this Chamber, there are leaders that act like the biggest bullies in the schoolyard. If elected officials have no boundaries when it comes to scapegoating and demonizing immigrants and Latinos, then why should young people at a basketball game know any better? Why does an American, a Puerto Rican citizen basketball player, get taunted about a green card?

It's easier to understand when you hear the frontrunner for the Republican nomination of President pro-

moting a national immigration policy that makes all Latinos look like suspects and all immigrants look like criminals.

Mitt Romney has said that Arizona's anti-immigrant law—a law that essentially demands racial profiling of anyone who looks like they might be undocumented—is a model for our Nation. But that's not all Mitt Romney has said to American Latinos. He has said all 11 million immigrants, most of them Latinos, should self-deport, even if they've lived here since they were children and have American citizen families.

Mitt Romney has even gone as far to attack the first Latino Supreme Court justice. He believes that Justice Sotomayor is unqualified to serve on the Supreme Court. He's proud of the support of anti-immigrant extremists, including the author of Arizona's anti-immigrant law. He has attacked the DREAM Act, a perfectly reasonable bill. And Mitt Romney is hardly a lone voice. It is sad.

One Member of this House said he would be for any measure to stop illegal immigrants "short of shooting them." Even hanging them? Gassing them? One other colleague of ours here called undocumented immigration a slow-rolling, slow-motion terrorist attack on the United States.

Pat Buchanan wrote a book entitled "State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America." Folks like Buchanan and Limbaugh regularly use words like "hordes" and "swarms" to describe immigrants.

Maybe Mitt Romney thinks he's just saying what he needs to say to get the Republican nomination, and maybe some elected officials think their extreme rhetoric doesn't really carry outside the Halls of Congress. But America knows better. So does a group of Kansas State basketball players and a group of good kids from San Antonio, Texas. They know that words matter very much.

Here's my advice to the Romneys and the Buchanans of the world and a few of my colleagues here in the House: Instead of bullies, why don't you be leaders? And why don't you try some words that bring people together instead of insults that tear our Nation apart.

A THREAT TO OUR HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, this Friday, March 23, marks the second anniversary of President Obama's health care law after 2 years. It's clear the law has already left more victims in its path than people it was meant to help. And unfortunately, along with the 20 million employees who will probably lose employer-sponsored health care, it may be our seniors who take the hardest hit.

Millions of seniors and disabled Americans rely on Medicare, yet the