



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2012

No. 92

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 18, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times, with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

In these days, give wisdom to all the Members that they might execute their responsibilities to the benefit of all Americans.

Bless them, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRESIDENT OBAMA CREATES MORE CHAOS AND UNCERTAINTY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the administration showed it is less concerned with supporting policies that will put millions of unemployed Americans back to work and instead has decided to go in an entirely new direction. Unilateral changes in law that have been done for political expediency put individuals ahead of the 12.5 million people who have been seeking work for the past 3½ years.

Mr. Speaker, the administration has produced an executive order that is a political decision—purely political—and one that will continue to block opportunities for American citizens trying to find employment.

Prosecutorial discretion is what we heard this was. This is not prosecutorial discretion. Prosecutorial discretion means you decide whether or not to prosecute an individual for a crime they may or may not have committed. What this is is new policy, new policy that is being implemented by the administration unilaterally—no respect for the people's House, no respect for the United States Congress, no respect for the legislative branch. Instead, prosecutorial discretion now has morphed into, well, we'll provide you a work permit good for 2 years that's renewable for 2 years.

This administration has a history of picking winners and losers. This time

it's got to stop. This Congress needs to stand up to this administration starting today.

CHIEF IGNORER OF THE LAW

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker:

With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that's just not the case, because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed.

Mr. Speaker, that was President Obama a year ago. But that was then and this is now.

On Friday, the administration issued an imperial decree, acting to unilaterally ignore portions of the immigration law of the land. Mr. Speaker, the last time I checked, it was Congress who makes law, not the President. And it is the job of the Executive to enforce laws, not ignore the ones he just doesn't like.

The President has no interest in fixing the broken immigration system. Instead, he has decreed this temporary amnesty in hopes of winning votes in November. He doesn't like the constitutional process for law-making because it just gets in his way, so he acts like an emperor instead of a President.

It's time for the former constitutional professor to read the Constitution.

And that's just the way it is.

UNCERTAINTY DESTROYS JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in Wednesday's Washington Examiner, columnist John Stossel quoted Economist John B. Taylor of the Hoover Institution who stated:

□ 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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Unpredictable economic policy—massive fiscal stimulus and ballooning debt, the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing with multiyear near-zero interest rates, and regulatory uncertainty due to ObamaCare and the Dodd-Frank financial reforms—is the main cause of persistent high unemployment and our feeble recovery.

Over the last 3 years, our economy has not improved, our unemployment rate has remained above 8 percent, our small business owners have been forced to pay higher taxes, and the government spending continues to spiral out of control. The President and his liberal allies in the Senate continue to support legislation that creates more barriers resulting in job loss. The President and the Senate should work with House Republicans and pass over 30 House bills that are aimed to create jobs through private sector growth.

In conclusion, God bless our troops; and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery for Earl Brown of Columbia.

SENATE SUGAR VOTE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I want to praise my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY, for introducing an amendment to the farm bill to phase out the Federal sugar program. Though the Senate narrowly voted to table the amendment, it demonstrated that there is substantial bipartisan support to reform a program that hurts American job creators and consumers.

Today's Wall Street Journal editorial entitled "A Tale of Two Conservatives" also praises Senator TOOMEY and calls out the Republicans who voted against this free-market amendment.

By some estimates, the Federal sugar program artificially doubles the price of sugar in the United States. While we protect sugar growers and processors, sugar users and consumers are at a severe disadvantage. American jobs have been lost as foreign competitors benefit from reduced prices for raw sugar.

The Department of Commerce estimates that sugar-using industries lost 112,000 jobs from 1997 to 2009. Here in the House, I'm working with DANNY DAVIS on a bipartisan amendment to the farm bill. I hope that when the Chamber considers reforming the farm bill, Democrats and Republicans can come together to protect jobs and stop the government from playing favorites.

PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION FROM WHITE HOUSE ATTACKS

(Mr. BROOKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, last week Barack Obama unilaterally and unlawfully changed America's immigration law by ordering the Federal Govern-

ment to accept illegal aliens' applications for work permits. I am deeply alarmed that America's President so blatantly undermines the rule of law.

Article I, section 1 of our Constitution states:

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

Article I, section 8 states:

The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization.

Article II defines executive branch power. It does not give any President the power to make his own laws. In America, we elect Presidents, not Caesars. The only way to change America's immigration law is as our Constitution demands, through Congress, not by imperial decree. In America, no one, not even the President, is above the law. I urge Congress and all law-abiding Americans to protect our Constitution from White House attacks.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all Members to avoid personal references toward the President of the United States.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the more than 1,500 youth from across America visiting our Nation's capital this week to participate in the 48th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. These high school juniors and seniors are attending meetings with their Senators and Representatives, watching floor action from the respective galleries, and visiting museums and memorials dedicated to our country's rich past.

I personally look forward to meeting with the 18 participating students from Nebraska and urge my colleagues to take time this week to meet with youth from their States as well. These students are part of a great tradition. Every June, for the past 48 years, more than 50,000 young citizens and future leaders have come to Washington, D.C., with the help of their electric cooperatives. Electric Cooperative Youth Tour alumni are now engaged at many levels of government as well.

I want to once again applaud these young people and thank participating electric cooperatives and rural electric associations for sponsoring these programs to instill lessons of citizenship in the next generation.

□ 1410

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CAREER OF DR. JOHN W. BECHER

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Dr. John W. Becher, or "Chief" as he was called by scores of medical residents, an osteopathic physician who has dedicated his life to his patients, his students, and to the improvement of the medical profession.

Dr. Becher's commitment to the field of emergency medicine spans more than 30 years. As professor and chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, he has helped countless students and residents, myself included, develop their skills and become an essential part of our health care workforce.

As a young resident at Albert Einstein Medical Center, I was fortunate to have Dr. Becher's insight and guidance as my residency director. His dedication to emergency medicine was evident then, and his understanding of the osteopathic profession was invaluable to my training and to my career.

His involvement in the field of osteopathic medicine is unparalleled. In addition to his work at PCOM, he currently serves as the secretary treasurer of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners and is a member of the board of trustees for the American Osteopathic Association.

He was a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association for nearly 20 years, and he is the past president of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians—and these are only some of his accomplishments. His never-ending contributions and service to his profession and his patients have rightly been recognized, most recently by the awarding of the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal.

Dr. Becher's lifelong commitment to patient care and to the excellence of future physicians serves as a powerful legacy to the field of emergency medicine. I consider myself fortunate to have learned under his leadership, and it is an honor to recognize his achievements.

Chief, my sincere congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 15, 2012 at 10:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 128.