

you could help us by reminding the people that we have a switchboard down here. It's 202-225-3121.

It may not be able to do anything because the leadership just walked away without the courtesy of saying that they didn't have time to deal with the millions of people whose lives have been affected. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, if you can remind Americans who are just watching that maybe they should call and ask the Congress and ask the Speaker, Please, reconsider. We're going to be here tomorrow. We were told to be here tomorrow.

Whatever happened to make someone angry tonight, the people that are suffering as a result of this disaster, they're not responsible. Don't make them pay for it.

#### HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise not as a person from a State that was directly affected, because my State of Pennsylvania, while impacted, had no where near the devastation of that which I saw in New York, New Jersey, and parts of Connecticut.

In fact, I was in New York a week ago in an elevator and met a man who was telling me how happy he was that he finally had a chance to get out of the pickup truck that he had been sleeping in since the storm. He was hoping, for the first time, to get back to his home. His story is just one of hundreds of thousands through this devastated region.

We have stepped up for our neighbors in other parts of our country because these acts of nature are larger than any individual. We must be larger than that. Support the ability to give that support to those in this time of need.

#### HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, if you've ever had a natural disaster affect your area or if you have ever visited a natural disaster, be it in California, my home State, or on the east coast or in the Midwest, whether Iowa and the floods or Missouri in recent times, and spoke to and listened to the pain in the voices and saw the fright in the eyes of the people affected, you would wonder why we are not bringing this legislation to the floor. It isn't about a natural disaster; it's about a human experience.

When I was a very new Member of Congress in the late eighties, we were affected in California by the Loma Prieta earthquake. I bring that up because the very next day after the earthquake, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Jamie Whitten, came to the floor of the House without anyone going to him or asking

him. He went to the floor of the House and said to the people of California, Congress will honor our responsibility to the American people. We will put forth what meets the needs of the people. We need to work together to get that done. It was such a comfort.

These were just words. It was such a comfort to the people just to hear that and to know that a chairman would act upon that. And for the past few weeks, I know that our colleagues from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, some in Pennsylvania and other surrounding areas, have been assuring their constituents and the people of their areas that the Federal Government would be there for them. It is a social compact. It is the most important tie they have to us.

Again, if you could hear their personal stories you will know they'll never be made whole. The rug has been pulled out from under them in terms of their housing, their belongings, their pictures, their memories, the character of their neighborhoods. The rug has been pulled out, and now tonight, is this Congress, this House of Representatives, going to pull the rug out again from them legislatively?

Just as a reminder, the Senate of the United States, in a bipartisan fashion, passed a \$60.4 billion assistance program for this natural disaster. It met the documented needs that were put forth by the people of the regions, by Governor Christie, by Governor Cuomo, by Governor Malloy, Governor Bloomberg, and so many others. So, documented need.

Again, it's not going to make everyone whole emotionally in their personal belongings and their memories and the rest, but it is a sign of respect that we cannot let what happened stand and that the resources will be there to try to return them to some sense of order and home and home life.

I don't know if any decision has been made. I hope not. I hope that as the leadership meets and considers a possible agenda for tomorrow, they would reconsider this because this goes deep into the hearts of people as they feel a sense of helplessness for something they had no responsibility for, a natural disaster.

Remember last year when we visited some of the places where homes were uprooted? It's earth, wind, and fire. When something like that happens, it's the wind, it's the water, it's the fire. It's every kind of thing assaulting people. Let's not be a part of that assault by putting doubts in their mind as to whether there is an appreciation for what they have lost, a respect for who they are, and honoring of our social compact that the government will be there when people are in need.

Again, I hearken back to Jamie Whitten. We never had a moment to fear that our needs would be met. Let's just make this night pass as if it never happened. Let's just replace the impression that is out there with the idea that tomorrow we will take up the Sen-

ate bill or take up the compromise that has been worked out to take this in two tranches. We cannot leave here doing nothing. That would be a disgrace.

□ 2350

#### HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. PLATTS. As a retiring Member, I am proud to stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle from New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania to urge action on this important issue.

Over the past 2 years, I've often been frustrated by the actions of the Senate—or the inactions, I should say, of the Senate—where we would send bill after bill over there. Not that they would vote it down, but they just wouldn't vote. They wouldn't allow the will of the people to be expressed by a vote's being taken.

If we conclude this session of Congress at noon on Thursday of this week without voting on this important issue, we are denying the will of the people to be expressed. We're not allowing that to happen. I would contend of the will of the people of America that the one thing they're comfortable in spending their money on is in helping their fellow Americans, and there is great need in New Jersey, in New York and elsewhere.

We need to stand together, and I hope that we will come to the decision that it's never too late to do the right thing. The right thing is to allow the will of the people to be expressed, for this issue to be voted on and to let the Members express their opinions through their votes. I'm certain, if that's the case, if that happens, the will of the people will be to send the aid that is so badly needed.

#### HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. PAYNE. I am very dismayed by what I have heard tonight. Citizens of this Nation—any of us—would think at a time of natural disaster they could depend on their Congress, their Nation, the people of this country. Many times, we have come to the aid of citizens throughout this Nation. Why not now? What is different now? New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and parts of Pennsylvania have been devastated. My district not as much, but we still have issues there that need to be addressed.

Just the other day, I was on vacation with my children, and I got a call. There was a leak in the roof of my house. I did not realize there was about a 10-foot patch in my roof missing—from Sandy. I had the wherewithal to take care of it, but there are hundreds of thousands of residents in those States who need our help.

I was told by a Member of this body, who was laid to rest this year, that this was a great body to serve in. Please let me know that he was telling the truth.

#### HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. DENT. My congressional district abuts the State of New Jersey. Hundreds of thousands of people in my congressional district were without power for some time. We were very much impacted, but what I noticed most during this terrible hurricane were all the New Jersey and New York license plates in my congressional district. We were sheltering many of the evacuees who were looking for friends and family and who were just looking to go to a place where they could be comfortable.

I think it would be very wise for leadership to reconsider the decision to adjourn the House before dealing with this legislation. Frankly, I'm not yet convinced that this legislation has adequately addressed some of the concerns we have in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but I'm willing to work with everybody to make it right. In having witnessed what happened to our friends in New Jersey and New York, I think it's imperative that we stay here and address this issue. Obviously, all of us have places we'd like to be right now, perhaps, rather than right here, but it's important. Our friends are struggling and suffering, and I think we need to get the work done.

#### HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. HOLT. *E pluribus unum*: one out of many.

We help each other. We always have. My district and many around were badly affected by one of the largest storms, by one of the most expensive storms, by one of the worst storms in history. There are thousands of people who are not going back to their homes. They deserve our help. I wish I could speak as articulately and in such a measured manner as our leader did and as others have, but I'm afraid my anger is going to get the better of me.

Some weeks ago, someone said to me, You know, you're not going to get help from the House of Representatives because these are blue States. They voted for a Democrat for President.

Now, I would like to think—and Mr. KING and Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. SMITH and Governor Christie would like to think—that this is not a partisan matter, but I have to wonder what could be going on here. Why would we not help each other as this House has always done?

#### PERSONAL REFLECTION AND WISDOM FOR INCOMING CONGRESS

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

Mr. BILBRAY. I apologize to my colleagues for changing the subject for a moment, but this will be the last chance I'll be able to address the House.

Six and a half years ago, I had the privilege of coming to the House and standing here after a special election. I'd like to paraphrase, basically, what I said then: I come from the 50th District of California—a classic coastal community. After having been out of the Congress for 5 years, they returned me here to the House as the 50th District, it being that classic environmental community, recycled Congressmen when it came to my election. I would just ask that both sides understand what a great privilege it is to represent the 50th.

In leaving, I just want to say one thing: I hear that one of the major issues you're going to address when this new Congress comes in is the issue of immigration, and those of us in California understand that. The one place that Democrats and Republicans should be able to agree on, especially with the budget crisis, is: When are we going to stop the practice of people who are committing a crime by employing illegal immigrants?

Take the tax deduction away, and require that if a business wants to claim a business deduction for employing somebody that we make sure those employees are legal—just by requiring E-Verify.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am going to miss a lot of faces around here in Washington, but as a San Diegan, let me assure you that I will not miss the weather.

God bless and thank you.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 31, 2012, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 6587. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 225 Simi Village Drive in Simi Valley, California, as the "Postal Inspector Terry Asbury Post Office Building"

H.R. 6379. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6239 Savannah Highway in Ravenel, South Carolina, as the "Representative Curtis B. Inabinett, Sr. Post Office"

H.R. 3892. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8771 Auburn Folsom Road in Roseville, California, as the "Lance Corporal Victor A. Dew Post Office"

H.R. 3869. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 East Capitol Avenue in Little Rock, Arkansas, as the "Sidney 'Sid' Sanders McMath Post Office Building"

H.R. 2338. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600

Florida Avenue in Cocoa, Florida, as the "Harry T. and Harriette Moore Post Office"

H.R. 6260. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 211 Hope Street in Mountain View, California, as the "Lieutenant Kenneth M. Ballard Memorial Post Office"

H.R. 4389. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19 East Merced Street in Fowler, California, as the "Cecil E. Bolt Post Office"

H.R. 1339. To designate the City of Salem, Massachusetts, as the Birthplace of the National Guard of the United States.

H.R. 5859. To repeal an obsolete provision in title 49, United States Code, requiring motor vehicle insurance cost reporting

H.R. 1845. To provide a demonstration project providing Medicare coverage for in-home administration of intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) and to amend the title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the application of Medicare secondary payer rules for certain claims

H.R. 4053. To intensify efforts to identify, prevent, and recover payment error, waste, fraud, and abuse within Federal spending

H.R. 6671. To amend section 2710 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that a video tape service provider may obtain a consumer's informed, written consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9000. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C): Adjustment To Asset-Size Exemption Threshold [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0049] received December 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9001. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 35 [Docket No.: 1206013412-2517-02] (RIN: 0648-BB97) received December 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9002. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Snapper-Group Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2012 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Snowy Grouper [Docket No.: 0907271173-0629-03] (RIN: 0648-XC380) received December 27, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9003. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final