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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 12, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKIE WALORSKI 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 3, 2013, 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 1:50 p.m.

LET'S GET SERIOUS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. DEFazio. Madam Speaker, today, I rise as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to talk about an important new report on climate change. Of late, the discussion over global warming has focused on temperatures in the last 118 years, when standardized record-keeping began. Primarily, the best and most comprehensive research on temperatures has gone back only as far as 2,000 years.

Climate change deniers are complaining these studies have been short-sighted, that they haven't taken into account that warming going on today could have happened naturally thousands of years ago. Climate change impacts today are a result of natural fluctuations, they say.

There is some scientific basis to that claim. Variations in how the Earth is tilted in its orbit around the Sun make for a pattern of planetary warming and cooling phases over thousands of years. During some phases the Earth heats up; in others it cools down.

Last week, scientists from Oregon State University, including two constituents of mine, Shaun Marcott and Alan Mix, joined with our colleagues from Harvard University and published a study in the journal *Science*, peer reviewed, that provides new context on today's climate and rising temperatures.

Instead of looking at temperatures from the last 118 years or even 2,000 years, Marcott, Mix, and their colleagues examined temperatures going back a little further, 11,300 years—the entire Holocene period. The findings are sobering and a wake-up call, and should be a wake-up call to the Members of this institution.

We already knew the Earth is warmer than it was over much of the last 2,000 years. That has been confirmed by a mountain of scientific evidence. But thanks to the work of Marcott, Mix, and their colleagues, we know it is warmer on Earth presently than over much of the past 11,300 years. In fact, we have experienced almost the same range of temperature change over the last 100 years, coinciding with the invention and widespread use of engines and turbines powered by fossil fuels, as over the previous 11,000 years of Earth history. I want to repeat that for emphasis. Rising temperatures over the last century have been greater than the temperature increases over the previous hundred centuries combined.

It shows that human activity reversed a cooling pattern of 5,000 years of 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit in 100 years. It is extraordinary. And their projections for the future are also very sobering.

Climate deniers are running out of excuses. They said, 118 years not enough, 2,000 years not enough. Well, how about 11,300 years of certified research? They say it is biased by region. This was done in 73 sites around the entire planet.

We have heard about solar insolation. Well, according to this claim, we should be now at the bottom of a long-term cooling trend. Whoops, that is not happening. That shows that this solar insolation theory doesn't hold up either.

In short, this confirms what those of us who believe in science already know: manmade climate change is real, it is progressing quickly, and we must take action. But that is not happening in the House of Representatives. During the last Congress, House Republicans voted 53 times to block action on climate change. Time and time again, they voted to know nothing and do nothing. They argued that science isn't settled, but they vote to cut funding for climate science.

Here are a few of my favorite quotes from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle:

Human-induced global climate change is one of the great hoaxes perpetuated out of the scientific community.

Another colleague: Media conspiracy to promote climate change.

Yet another one: Shady scientists.

And then my favorite:

Better known, however, is global warming movement's commitment to severely restrict the use of private automobiles. The rich will still have their limos, and, of course, their private jets. Carbon offsets will cede to that. The rest of us will not be able to travel by plane and will be stuck sitting at home or sitting next to a gang member on public transportation.

□ 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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Yes, that was actually said on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, it's time to stop the nonsense and the blather and get serious about climate change. The evidence is in. The only question is whether the United States House of Representatives will listen and act.

PEEKING TOMCRATS SNOOPING THROUGH THE WINDOWS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Linda Roberts from Kingwood, Texas, is one of my constituents. She received the American Community Survey and filled out only the information required by the Census Bureau and mailed it back to the Census Bureau.

Let me make this clear. The census every ten years counts the population with the census forms. But the Census Bureau also sends out a longer, larger, more intensive document called the American Community Survey to many Americans throughout the 10 years of the census.

Linda Roberts received this long form, the American Community Survey, and she did not fill out the survey. Later, she began to receive weekly calls from the Census Bureau telling her to complete the entire survey. When she refused to complete the survey, the calls increased from every week to multiple times each day. Now, this is a single mother working, trying to support her family, and she's being harassed by the Federal Government.

Finally, a Census Bureau employee showed up at her house, ringing her doorbell, and peeking through her windows to see if she was inside, trying to get her to come to the door to fill out this long survey by the Census Bureau.

The harassment didn't stop. On many occasions, Linda would come home from work and there would be a car from the Federal Government parked out there in front of her house trying to catch her as she went into her home to get her to fill out the American Community Survey. These are people from the Federal Government.

Mrs. Roberts explained that she not only felt uncomfortable providing the detailed information to the Federal Government, but she was afraid. No kidding.

Now, where, Madam Speaker, in the Constitution does it give the Federal Government the authority to do this? The Constitution does not authorize Peeking TomCrats to come from the Federal Government to snoop around our homes and get information from citizens.

Here's what she said:

Please do something about getting the Census Bureau to stop the harassment phone calls concerning the American Community Survey.

I've also received calls from other people. George from Baytown, Texas, says he refused to fill out the American

Community Survey so he started getting phone calls from all over the country from different area codes. He just regarded them as identity theft phishing scams, and so he didn't answer any of those calls.

Madam Speaker, George and Linda are just two of the many people who have contacted my office about the intrusive American Community Survey from the Federal Government demanding people fill this out. Once again, this is not the census questionnaire; this is the Census Bureau giving another questionnaire to the American public and expecting them, by law, to fill this out.

The questions are about 48 questions long. Here are some of the questions:

Do you have a flush toilet in your house?

What time do you go to work in the morning?

What time do you come home in the afternoon?

How much money do you make?

How much money does your spouse make?

Do you have a second mortgage on another home?

Where is that home?

Here is a good one:

Because of a physical mental, or emotional condition, does someone in the household have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

Now, isn't that lovely. The survey wants us to comment on the mental health of people that live in the house. I'm glad my wife didn't get this survey and fill it out talking about me.

Madam Speaker, the government has no business asking these personal questions. It infringes on the right of privacy of the American public. People are upset about this because they are forced to provide this information to Uncle Sam or pay a sanction of a \$5,000 fine. Government intimidation at its worst.

□ 1210

Yes, there may be some benefits. The government says we use this information so we can help businesses plan whether to put a store on this corner or that corner. That's fine, but the Constitution doesn't authorize this, in my opinion. So if the businesses want that information, let them pay for it. Go to a polling system.

So I think what we should do, Madam Speaker, is make this form voluntary. If people want to fill it out and give the Federal Government all this information, great, but they shouldn't be required to.

I've introduced legislation and RAND PAUL in the Senate has introduced legislation to make the American Community Survey voluntary. People shouldn't be required to fill it out.

What's next? Is the government going to start asking us how many guns we've got in our home? what kind of cars we drive, whether they're green cars or whether we're driving pickup trucks? Where's it going to stop? The

American Community Survey should be voluntary. Americans should not be required to fill it out, and we need to change the law to make it voluntary for the American public because freedom still means something in America. Keep the snoopers from Uncle Sam out of our lives.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING CINTAS STATESVILLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, congratulations are due to the entire Cintas Corporation branch in Statesville, North Carolina, and to each of the Cintas team members who worked together to earn OSHA's Carolina Star distinction for their workplace.

This past week, I was honored to join the employees and management of Cintas Statesville and take part in the celebration of their shared achievement. The environment at Cintas was so impressive and collegial, I wanted to bring their story of success to Washington.

The Carolina Star Program considers more than just exemplary safety and health standards when it designates award winners. Companies are expected to show how they've built a culture where employees and management share the duties of keeping a safe workplace.

Every Cintas employee in Statesville takes ownership of this task, spotting and diffusing hazards together and teaching others to put safety first. Statesville's Cintas has an atmosphere of open dialogue and shared responsibility among all employees that sets it apart. Where collaboration, cooperation, and inclusion were weighed by the Carolina Star Program, Statesville's Cintas branch excelled.

Those are qualities that make for more than a safe workplace. They make for a good workplace and, in Cintas Statesville's case, a workplace that not only thrives but enables other businesses to thrive by providing key support services.

Again, congratulations to Cintas Statesville and their entire team on this achievement.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor quite often to remind the Congress that we're still at war. In fact, yesterday we had seven Americans killed in Afghanistan. This year alone, we've had three situations where the Afghans that we were training turned their weapons on the Americans who were trying to help them and killed them.