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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 5, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRIS STEWART 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 11:50 a.m.

BANGLADESH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from a trip to Bangladesh where more than 1,100 garment workers died and 2,000 were injured in the Rana Plaza building collapse on April 24. Many Americans may remember the horrible pictures of workers being buried under tons of concrete from the collapsed building.

I learned a great deal about what must be done to improve safety condi-

tions in the garment industry there. Bangladesh is the second largest garment-producing nation, employing over 4 million skilled and industrious workers, mostly women, at a minimum wage of \$37 a month. I learned that many factories have continued to operate in unsafe residential or multistory commercial buildings even after the Rana Plaza collapse. I learned more about poor conditions created by a myriad of middlemen hired by retailers that pit one factory against the next, squeezing out the last few pennies per garment. I learned that Bangladesh garment workers subsidize those low prices with their lives.

I visited the hospital where there were scores of women, many with amputated legs and arms or who were suffering from brain damage from the collapse of that building where they were working and where they were locked inside. I met with a woman near Rana Plaza who was looking for her son even though the unidentifiable or the unclaimed workers had been buried in a mass grave.

And Rana Plaza is not an isolated case.

I visited with seven courageous women injured in the Tazreen Fashions factory fire that killed 112 workers last November. There were seven women who had to jump from the third and fourth floors of their factory because the factory supervisors locked the exits after the fire had started and had told them to go back to work or they would be fired, and the doors were locked. That was the policy of that factory and of many other factories. Just this week, we saw poultry workers in China locked in a factory after the fire had started; and they, too, perished in the fire. These were seven women who had to make the decision to jump from the third and fourth floors of this factory to save their lives. Tazreen produced garments for Walmart and many other American brands.

Listen to what the women told me:

Rehana jumped from the fourth floor window and was knocked unconscious. She broke her leg, and the doctors told her she will need to be on crutches for the rest of her life.

Reba was the breadwinner in her home. She jumped from the third floor. She cannot work because of the pain. Her husband is sick. She has two sons, one of whom just qualified for the military college, but she doesn't know if she can afford to keep him there; and until I prodded Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers Export Association, Reba had not received the promised stipend for those who were injured—6 months later.

Rowshanara jumped from the third floor and still has severe pain in her back and legs. She was visibly in pain after sitting too long while talking to us. She is single and gets by on loans. She has two teenage sons in school and doesn't want to force them to go to work, but she worries how she will get by.

Deepa worked on the third floor. She saw the fire, and tried to escape to the second floor. The factory manager padlocked the door and told everyone to keep working. Workers were crying and searching for a way out. A mechanic yelled to come to the east side of the building where he had created an exit. She jumped from the third floor and fell unconscious. She broke her left leg. She was 4 months pregnant, and she lost her baby.

Sumi decided to jump from the third floor rather than perish in the factory because she wanted her family to be able to identify her body, and that wouldn't happen if she were consumed in the fire. She broke her leg and arm and could not move. Her family borrowed money to pay for her medical bills before the association funds arrived. Two weeks before Rana Plaza, she came to the U.S. to urge retailers and brands to join the enforceable and

□ 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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binding Accord on Fire and Building Safety.

Nazma said she would have died if she had waited 10 more minutes to jump. She saw the manager locking the gate to the second set of stairs and grabbed him by the collar to stop him, but he ignored her. She cut her arms while trying to get through a window to reach the bamboo scaffolding. She broke her backbone. She can't carry anything or do housework. She has three children. Her stipend went to medical care and to her children's education. Her 14-year-old son has had to leave school to try to find work.

I am grateful that these women had the courage to tell me their stories.

There is widespread agreement that if the Tazreen fire and the Rana Plaza collapse workers had had the right to refuse unsafe work, they would be alive today. Nobody, not even the factory, denied that that's the case; but for too long, the Bangladesh Government has blocked new unions. Only now, in facing the potential loss of trade preferences, the government has opened the door a crack. Twenty-seven new unions have been registered recently, reversing the trend in which only one union per year was registered, and there are 5,000 factories.

I met the leaders of some of these newly formed unions—young and serious workers—but only time will tell if the government lives up to its promise of union rights. In addition, the Obama administration will soon conclude its review of Bangladesh's trade benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences. In my view, these preferences should be suspended.

The one message I have for the American holdouts who won't agree to these safety accords is: listen to the women from Bangladesh.

IN TRIBUTE TO DALE BONE

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, across this country, there are great men and women who answer the call to serve their communities. These folks are blessed with remarkable talents and success and share their success with their communities to improve the places that we all call home.

In North Carolina's 13th Congressional District, that man was Dale Bone. Dale was a man who exemplified the character, commitment, and charity of our district and who left behind a legacy of improving all things that he touched.

Born and raised in rural Nash County, Dale was a proud graduate of NC State University with degrees in agronomy and agricultural economy. After several years farming in his home community, Dale founded Nash Produce in 1977 and, within a decade, had grown it into the largest cucumber producer in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bone was a man of constant and restless energy. He served on countless State and national boards, committees and commissions, including his service as president of the National Council of Agricultural Employers. Dale also delved into his local community with characteristic resolve. He served as a trustee for Barton College, as a board member for the Salvation Army, and on the Arts Council of Wilson, North Carolina.

In addition to all of his honors and activism, Dale was also able to make a direct, personal impact in the lives of his employees and their children. Dale cared deeply for the well-being of all of his employees, many of whom were migrant workers, by providing them with the financial support necessary for them to learn English at the local community college.

Dale and his beloved wife, Genia, were also committed to improving the lives of local children. Dale and Genia endowed the Bone Scholars program at NC State University, which continues to offer significant scholarships to the children of migrant workers. In his later years, Dale was particularly proud of the involvement he and his wife had in creating and promoting Wilson Youth United, which offers direction and guidance to help local youths in the community.

Dale was a man of great ability and, as a result, of great means. He recognized the fact that our country is only as strong as its communities and that the best solutions to our problems usually come from the most local sources.

Across the Nation, members of the agricultural community sent thanks to Dale for his decades of untiring work on their behalf. In equal measure, Dale educated and prepared those around him to face the challenges of their futures. Dale was in all things a humble man, but I do believe that he would take great pride in the legacy that he leaves behind.

Mr. Speaker, America was built by people like Dale Bone; and it's that spirit, not what we do here in Washington, that will rebuild our economy.

□ 1010

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this is my 13th End Hunger Now speech this year. Thirteen times I've stood on this floor and talked about hunger in America; 13 times I've come here and defended the anti-hunger safety net, the Federal programs that provide food to 50 million Americans; 13 times I've stood here and talked about hunger as a health issue; 13 times I've said we need to set a goal to end hunger now.

People ask me all the time: Is it even possible to end hunger in America? Mr. Speaker, the answer is a definitive "yes."

The truth is we've done this before. That's right, Mr. Speaker, we nearly eradicated hunger in the 1970s. It wasn't easy, but the concept was simple. The political leadership in Washington made a commitment to end hunger in this country.

In the 1970s, Congress and the President expanded the food stamp program, created the WIC program, and expanded the school meals programs. They found the political courage to do what's right because they believed that it was unacceptable that anyone in America went hungry.

Yet that effort was lost when these programs were slashed in the 1980s. Hunger came back with a vengeance. The number of hungry people skyrocketed. In fact, it's been rising steadily since the Reagan Presidency. These programs weren't just cut; they were demonized. Food assistance became a pejorative to some, and we see the results of those years of demonizing those programs today.

The truth is SNAP works. Food assistance works. People on food assistance are able to feed themselves and their families. They're able to use money they might have had to use for food for other purposes like rent, utilities, medical costs, school supplies for their kids, and transportation costs—just to name a few—in order to be able to buy nutritious food. They didn't have to make the choice between food or rent.

But that's not all. The money spent on food from these programs is spent on food which is produced by our farmers. It is spent in grocery stores. In fact, a recent report showed that approximately \$70 billion was spent in grocery stores just from SNAP alone during our economic downturn. That's a lot of money going to our economy when our economy was damaged and needed the help.

These programs work, Mr. Speaker. But what's the response from the Republican-controlled House? Are they strengthening a program that is already among the least fraudulent and most efficient and effective in terms of our Federal Government? No.

In 2 weeks, this House will consider a farm bill that will cut \$20.5 billion from SNAP. It will take food away from 2 million Americans. It is a bill that will take 210,000 poor kids off free school meal programs. It is a bill that would reduce the monthly SNAP benefit by \$90 for another 850,000 people. And that's on top of the automatic across-the-board cuts to SNAP that will take place in November even if we cut nothing else. That's not only wrong. It is quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, beneath this great country of ours.

I will fight these cuts, and I urge all my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans alike—to stand with me in pushing back on these cuts.

We should be praising this program for keeping people from starving. We should be strengthening it and making it work better, not neutering it and