



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2013

No. 99

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 11, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK MEADOWS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Paul Binion II, Westside Church of God, Fresno, California, offered the following prayer:

Our Father and Strong God, for this day, and the privileges and opportunities it brings, we say thank You.

May this day not be typical or ordinary in any way, but one that will long be remembered because of what shall transpire in this House: decisions settled, issues resolved, progress made, partisanship minimized, and personal agendas set aside for the good of our constituency.

God, we acknowledge our need of You and Your wisdom and guidance.

Keep us mindful that we serve a people, community, and world that is looking and depending on us to do always what is best for them.

And may we live always cognizant of what You expect from us today, and that is, to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ.

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.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WITTMAN 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.

WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL BINION II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, since 1977, Pastor Paul Binion has stood at the helm of one of Fresno's most vibrant churches, the Westside Church of God,

and the wonderful congregation that he serves. From offering comfort to families during challenging times, to taking the lead on issues impacting the economically disadvantaged in our area, Pastor Binion has truly left a mark and continues to in our community.

He has urged his congregation to go beyond just knowing the Gospel, but to living them by performing good works for those in need.

Over the nearly 10 years that I've known Paul, I know that he cares. He has overseen efforts to foster interfaith and interchurch dialogue by serving at the head of the West Fresno Ministerial Alliance because he knows that our faith communities have much more in common than whatever divides them.

I'm proud to call Pastor Binion my friend and thank him for his wise words this morning.

Paul, thank you for joining us today to remind us that service, the service that we all involve ourselves with daily on behalf of our constituents, is the highest calling, and must remain the center of our work.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FURLOUNDS

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, instead of combating terrorism or working to support our troops deployed around the globe, civilian workers across the country are, instead, spending 20 percent of their workweek on a forced furlough.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H4373

Furloughed workers face personal and professional challenges, lost income and less time to get the same amount of work done.

From the Associated Press:

Civilian employees, ranging from top-level policy advisers to school teachers and depot workers, will not be answering their phones or responding to emails for 1 day a week.

There is no doubt those who wish harm upon the United States are pleased with these cuts. The administration had flexibility to make other choices and avoid furloughs.

Further, this unfortunate choice may not be over on September 30. Yesterday, Secretary Hagel suggested furloughs may continue under certain circumstances.

Compounding budget cuts are devastating military readiness. I urge the administration to make better choices and for the Congress to work the will of the American people and support our Nation's defense to the fullest.

THE IMPACT OF FURLONGHS AND SEQUESTRATION

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out once again against the sequestration-caused furloughs that are punishing workers whom I represent in Illinois.

Sequestration cuts were designed to be so painful and terrible that they would never even take place, but this week they will begin unnecessarily hurting working families across the country. I have repeatedly called on the Defense Department to use the flexibility that Congress gave it, without resorting to furloughs.

As I travel around my district of Illinois, I hear story after story of families who are impacted by these cuts: people like Tom and Michelle Vetter, who both work at the Rock Island Arsenal, and will see a 30 percent cut in their expected income. They now fear being able to pay their mortgage and even sending their son to college;

And people like Darlene Nimmers, who has worked at the Rock Island Arsenal for more than three decades, who now worries about having to put off her well-deserved retirement.

We need to get our fiscal house in order; there's no doubt about that. But it should not be at the expense and the jobs of our hardworking citizens and their ability to support their families.

Please let's come together to cut spending without harming our Nation's economy and our workers.

MR. PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT DOESN'T KNOW BEST

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, the President's decision last week to delay ObamaCare's employer mandate under-

scored how this law is far too complicated and expensive. Worse yet, it fails Michigan families and businesses.

While this will certainly help our job creators in the short term, without a delay or, better yet, a repeal of the individual mandate, the administration deliberately chose to leave the American people out in the cold. This delay creates even more confusion for Michigan families who are wondering if they will lose their current coverage, be forced into choosing different providers, or be burdened with new high costs.

It becomes clearer and clearer that, without repeal, this law will continue to destroy jobs and slow down our economy. Instead, we need to return to patient-centered care and not the government-knows-best health care system.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the House to revive our economy, create jobs, and put people first so they can make their own health care decisions.

SHAME ON THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, shame on the Republican majority. Shame on you.

The Rules Committee met last night and is sending us a rule today that has attached to it a bill that we have not seen and have not been able to read. They call it the farm bill. But it appears that, in this farm bill, they have stripped away the nutrition title from the bill.

Mr. Speaker, for years and years we have combined nutrition assistance with support for farmers and ranchers, but this is a rush job. Democrats and the Congressional Black Caucus are appalled that the Republicans are determined to defund food stamps and place vulnerable Americans in a position of not being able to feed their families.

Shame on you. You have removed food stamps, the SNAP program, from this legislation. I don't know where it's going to go. It looks like it's going to die a slow death. It is despicable.

What is it about poor people that you don't like? What is it? Tell us today.

What is it about poor people that you don't like and you don't want to feed their families?

I have the fourth poorest district in the Nation. We do not like it.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Nervous, concerned, complex, train wreck, Third World experience. These are the words used by the Democratic authors of ObamaCare to describe their very own creation.

Mr. Speaker, these aren't new concerns. These are concerns shared by

families and businesses across the Nation ever since then-Speaker NANCY PELOSI rushed the bill through Congress so we could "see what's in it."

Now that the Democrats and the President can see what's in it, they don't like it either.

As a business owner and job creator of over 42 years, I know businesses can no longer hire or take risks that would grow the economy.

The President's 1-year delay of the employer mandate isn't what businesses or the economy needs. This only delays the meltdown that this complex government overhaul will cause. Business owners, parents, young professionals, senior citizens—all Americans deserve protection from this law and its mandates, its skyrocketing premiums, and its rapidly shrinking selection of coverage plans, not for 1 year, but permanently.

Let's fully repeal the nightmare of ObamaCare. It doesn't work, and it won't work.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE FARM BILL

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, SNAP, food stamps, however you phrase it, is fundamental to the nutrition that will supplement millions of Americans: Blacks, Whites, feeble seniors, struggling mothers, disabled veterans, and hungry children.

Mr. Speaker, it was reported to me that there are seniors in my district who eat dog food when their food stamps run out. I was appalled and went to see for myself, and I was dumbfounded. I fixed the situation, but I'm sure that somewhere in America today some poor soul is relying on dog food to take them through the month.

Mr. Speaker, please do not hurt or destroy what is a mainstay in the lives of so many Americans who are just trying to get by. Do not remove nutrition, including the food stamp program, from the farm bill. It's wrong, it's punitive, and it's cruel.

□ 0915

ALL CHILDREN ARE EQUAL ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform my colleagues of an important piece of bipartisan legislation that will be introduced later today called the All Children Are Equal Act, or ACE Act. The ACE Act corrects a gross inequity in the way funding formulas are calculated under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title I was designed to improve the achievement of disadvantaged children.