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## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 16, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KERRY BENTIVOLIO 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.

### BENGHAZI INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Deuteronomy 16:20 tells us:

Justice, justice shalt thou pursue.

As we quietly mark the 10-month anniversary of the Benghazi terrorist attacks last week, I know many people wondered if there will ever be any clear resolution to this investigation, let alone justice.

There are less than 3 weeks remaining before the Congress departs for the August recess. When we return in Sep-

tember, we will be only 2 days away from the 1-year anniversary of the Benghazi attacks. This looming anniversary should stand as a stark reminder of the many unanswered questions that remain about what actually happened that night and how the administration chose to respond or not respond to the Americans under assault during that 8-hour period.

That is why, over the next 3 weeks, I will be coming to the floor regularly to remind the American people about the key questions that remain to be answered. I will also be sending a series of letters to the State Department, the Defense Department, and the CIA formally requesting responses to some of these questions. While I am skeptical the administration will be forthcoming with answers, I do hope that these questions will underscore, for the Congress and the American people, the woefully incomplete status of the Benghazi investigation.

I have long been concerned that the current investigative strategy would not yield the necessary answers. That is why, for the last 8 months, I have advocated creating a bipartisan select committee to thoroughly investigate the Benghazi attacks. My bill, H. Res. 36, has 160 cosponsors, as well as the support of many family members of the Benghazi victims, the Special Operations community, and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, which represent the Diplomatic Security agents who were at the consulate in Benghazi.

Perhaps the most telling sign of the incomplete state of the Benghazi investigation is the fact that not one of the survivors of the Benghazi attack from the consulate or the annex has publicly testified before Congress. Despite nearly a full year of multiple committee investigations, not one witness has been brought before a committee to publicly testify under oath about what happened that night.

Instead of learning the details of the attack and the U.S. response in public hearings, the American people may instead read about it in one of the books that have been announced in recent weeks. It is clear that the survivors from the consulate and the annex have worked with authors on two separate books that are scheduled to be published over the next year.

The first, "Under Fire: The Untold Story of the Attack in Benghazi," describes in vivid, minute-by-minute detail the assault on the U.S. consulate, according to an excerpt that was published in *Vanity Fair* magazine this month. This excerpt contains important new information about the level of sophistication of the attack and how the terrorists apparently had detailed inside knowledge of the American consulate. It also noted that each of the terrorists' vehicles flew the "black flag of jihad." The report makes clear this attack was the result of careful planning and intelligence-gathering by the terrorists, not some spontaneous attack on a target of opportunity.

A second, \$3 million book deal, scheduled for publication in 2014, was announced last month with four unnamed U.S. security contractors who were based at the annex and responded to the attacks that night. I suspect, given the critical role played by the contractors in responding to the consulate attack and later in defending the annex, that these individuals have important information that deserves to be heard by the Congress and by the American people. I also wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether any of the \$3 million they're earning from the book deal will be shared with Ty Woods' widow and child or the parents of Glen Doherty, who did so much to save our Americans.

I can't help but ask why the Congress has not asked—or subpoenaed—these individuals to testify before the House committees that have been investigating this over the past year. If

□ 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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these questions are not answered, the American people will never know what took place in Benghazi.

#### THE FARM BILL AND POLLINATORS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Last week's farm bill debacle in the House of Representatives highlighted a fundamental disconnect. My friends in the Republican majority felt that nutrition for poor people was not a priority because they were concerned about increasing government dependence for lower-income Americans.

Yes, there are more people receiving SNAP, or what we used to call food stamp benefits, because that's how the system is supposed to work. After our Nation suffered a near collapse of the economy, and with a much larger population of over 313 million people, we would expect that, in the face of persistent unemployment and job loss, more people would be on food stamps. We want them to get this assistance. It helps those families and it helps the economy.

Yet, by the same action, my friends passed the most expensive farm bill provisions in our Nation's history. Just like the direct payment program, which gave 75 percent of the payments to 10 percent of all farmers, the new price targets and crop insurance programs manipulate the market, concentrate wealth in the hands of the few, and fail to implement any basic reforms such as means testing and payment limits. The irony was not lost on many who watched the price tag go up and the benefits be concentrated in the hands of those who need it the least.

The bill lacked meaningful reform. The long overdue elimination of direct payments was coupled with a lavish increase in a new entitlement, shallow loss provisions of crop insurance. It locked in the currently high commodity prices as a threshold going forward. There were additional direct payments for cotton and a refusal to reform egregious sugar provisions. Subsidies for wealthy farmers are supported over innovation, research, and conservation. The bill lavished support on those that needed it the least, while stripping out nutrition support through the SNAP program, because they didn't want to foster dependence, all while a blind eye was turned to abuses in the lavish crop insurance program where fraud is 50 percent higher than in the maligned SNAP, or food stamp program.

I am hopeful that if this bill goes on to conference, we'll be able to reduce the costs, provide adequate support by reinstituting nutrition programs, and address long overdue reform for crop insurance.

At the same time, there would be some provisions that could actually

bring people together. For years, I've been working in areas of protecting the pollinators. There are 250,000 little species that pollinate our food and help create \$200 billion worth of food crops worldwide. One in every three forks of foods that we eat is due to pollination, as well as the flowers we enjoy, fruits, chocolate, and even tequila. Many of these things depend on these humble workers. Yet we've watched real threats to the critical habitat for pollinators. I'm hopeful that we can add a simple, nonpartisan provision that will make a difference for these protections.

Neonicotinoids are insecticides which have been linked to large bee die-offs. In one instance, it happened to 50,000 bees in Oregon last week. These insecticides have been banned for 2 years in Europe. I'm hopeful that as the farm bill goes forward, we can address putting a temporary ban on their sale here in the United States, taking a deeper dive on the impact they have on pollinators and, indeed, on the entire food chain for this very persistent substance that has the potential of affecting the impact not just of the health of bees but of our families as well. I'm also hopeful that we'll have a farm bill that can include low- or no-cost provisions like pollinating protection to bring people together to strengthen agriculture. These are vital parts of nature and of our food chain.

In the past, the farm bill wasn't a partisan battlefield. If we can focus on providing help for people who need it the most, rather than lavish subsidies for people that need it the least, and focus on innovation, conservation, and, yes, pollinator protection, things like this can strengthen our food supply, save money, protect the environment, and maybe enable us to make some progress in an area so far that looks embarrassingly remote.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

We ask discernment for the Members of this people's House, that they might judge anew their adherence to principle, conviction, and commitment,

lest they slide uncharitably toward an inability to listen to one another and work cooperatively to solve the important issues of our day.

Give them the generosity of heart, and the courage of true leadership, to work toward a common solution, which might call for compromise, even sacrifice on both sides. We pray that their work results not in solutions where some are winners and some losers, but where all Americans know in their hearts that we are winners.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the whole number of the House is 434.

#### JOBS REPORT MISLEADING

(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, according to Investor's Business Daily:

From the media to Wall Street, June's jobs report is being spun as a major positive, a sign the economy is back on track. Maybe the pundits should look at the actual numbers, which are abysmal. At June's pace of 195,000 new jobs a month, it will take 11 months to get back to where we were in 2007. It's even worse when you consider all of the net addition to June jobs—repeat, all—were part time. The underemployment rate shot up from 13.8 to 14.3 percent. This isn't a solid jobs report. It's a crisis.

House Republicans have passed legislation to promote jobs. Building the Keystone pipeline alone can create nearly 200,000 jobs. In the Midlands of South Carolina, the earthmover tires made by Michelin Corporation are shipped to Alberta, Canada, for oil sand recovery. At 12 feet high and \$60,000 for each tire, there are over 300 jobs in