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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. LAMALFA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 18, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG LAMALFA 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.

AIR FORCE ONE

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I have heard some criticize the President for having played golf with Tiger Woods because Woods is not a favorable role model. The President's golfing is not my business.

But permit me to tell you what is my business: the frequent use of Air Force One and the related costs thereto. President Obama was the second most traveled President of all time for a sin-

gle term, spending 95 days on 25 trips. In 2009, President Obama traveled more in his first year than any other President. President Obama spent 41 days traveling to 21 different countries.

The most updated figure, Mr. Speaker, on the cost per hour of operating Air Force One is in excess of \$179,000 per hour. This is just a tiny fraction of the President's foreign travel plans, which includes backup aircraft, aerial tankers, motor transport, security and diplomatic personnel, accommodations, and advance teams.

The First Lady also has been actively traveling, making trips to Ireland, Africa, Western Europe, and Copenhagen. When flying solo, Michelle Obama would likely use a C-40B or C with a cost per flight-hour of between \$19,000 and \$26,000, or a larger C-32 passenger jet, which has a cost per flight-hour of in excess of \$42,000.

Presidential entourage has grown quite large in the modern era as well, Mr. Speaker. President Obama was accompanied by more than 500 staff, including security, during his 2009 trip to London. At least 200 security agents alone will be involved in the President's current Africa trip.

I am not suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that we compromise safety or security, but the First Family, it seems to me, treats Air Force One and related aircraft as their personal toys—a very expensive toy, I might add. I will admit, Mr. Speaker, that Air Force One belongs to President Obama and his wife, but Air Force One also belongs to you and me and to every taxpayer in America.

I simply ask the President and his wife to exercise more prudence and discipline regarding their prized aircraft activities. When the wheels of Air Force One are up, the meter is on, and I'm talking about a heap of taxpayer dollars.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the plague of the soaring debt continues to bother

us. I respectively request that President Obama and his wife direct more attention to our soaring debt and deficit and less time on Air Force One.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from improper references toward the President.

BENGHAZI UNANSWERED

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask another question that has not yet been answered by the House. This question will be the third in a series of critical issues that have not yet been resolved. I will continue to raise additional questions for the next 9 legislative days until we depart for August recess, keeping in mind that the 1-year anniversary of the Benghazi attacks will be upon us when the Congress returns in September.

It is also noteworthy that there does not appear to be a single hearing on Benghazi scheduled in any committee between now and the 1-year anniversary. That is why, in the absence of public hearings to address these questions, I am raising them on the House floor this month.

On Tuesday, I raised the question on why none of the Benghazi survivors—whether the State Department, CIA, or private security contractor employee—have testified publicly before Congress.

Yesterday, I asked about whether there had been any intelligence failures in the vetting of the Libyan militias who abandoned the Americans at the consulate as the assault began. I also asked who provided the terrorists with a detailed understanding of the consulate property.

Today, I return again to the Benghazi survivors and other career employees and contractors working for the CIA, Defense Department, and the

□ 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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State Department who were involved in the response, or the lack thereof, to the Benghazi attacks.

According to trusted sources that have contacted my office, many, if not all, of the survivors of the Benghazi attacks, along with others at the Department of Defense and CIA, have been asked or directed to sign additional nondisclosure agreements about their involvement in the Benghazi attacks. Some of these new NDAs, as they call them, I have been told, were signed as recently as this summer.

It is worth noting that the Marine Corps Times yesterday reported that the marine colonel whose task force was responsible for special operations in northern and western Africa at the time of the attack is still on Active Duty despite claims that he retired and, therefore, could not be forced to testify before Congress.

If these reports are accurate, this would be a stunning revelation to any Member of Congress—any Member of Congress that finds this out—and also, more importantly, to the American people. It also raises serious concerns about the propriety of the administration's efforts to silence those with knowledge of the Benghazi attack and response.

So today I ask: How many Federal employees, military personnel, or contractors have been asked to sign additional nondisclosure agreements by each agency? Do these nondisclosure agreements apply only to those under cover, or have noncovert State Department and Defense Department employees been directed to sign them, too?

Later today, I will be writing the CIA, Defense Department, and State Department to ask for a list of all of their personnel or contractors who have been required to sign original or additional NDAs relating to Benghazi. Perhaps, through a list of all the employees that have signed the NDAs relating to Benghazi, we may finally develop a witness list to subpoena for eyewitness testimony to learn what happened that night where we lost four American lives.

I do not expect the Obama administration to be forthcoming with answers, but if this Congress—if this Congress—does not ask for the information and compel delivery, the American people will never learn the truth. Any Federal employee or contractor who has been coerced into silence through a nondisclosure agreement should expect Congress to speak out on their behalf and compel their voice to be heard.

That is why I, along with 159 of my colleagues, support a select committee to hold public hearings to learn the truth about what happened that night in Benghazi. I say to any colleague who is not on our resolution, if you are not on our resolution, please get on so we can find the truth for the American people.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, as fires across the West grow more intense and superstorms in the United States do more damage, it is clear that the cost of inaction on climate change is growing. The economic toll that it is taking on communities across the country is impacting the American people.

Hurricane Sandy cost the United States \$70 billion in damages, many lives, and lost economic output. In my home State of New Mexico, where wildfires have burned all summer, many communities that rely on tourism and access to our majestic lands have seen their businesses negatively impacted. Farmers and ranchers in New Mexico have had to sell off their herds because of drought conditions that made it too expensive to feed their animals.

Opponents of efforts to address climate change and to transition to cleaner fuels and renewable energy often cite the cost of these efforts. What they fail to account for is the increasing cost that global warming is having in the form of more severe droughts, more dangerous wildfire seasons, and increased devastation from superstorms.

Mr. Speaker, if we continue down this path and fail to take steps necessary to address climate change, the costs will only continue to grow and the impact on our communities will only increase.

Last week, I joined my colleagues in the Safe Climate Caucus in sending a letter to Speaker BOEHNER asking him to schedule a debate on the House floor to discuss climate change and our Nation's response to this growing threat.

The time for action is now. We must not sit idly by and ignore the facts and ignore the science while communities in New Mexico and across the country experience the negative impacts of climate change.

TRACK THEM DOWN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was September 1972. People from all over the world were gathered in Munich, Germany, for the Olympic Games. After World War II, there was a feeling of optimism and unity. But overnight, those feelings turned to turmoil and turned to terror.

The world awoke to images of a deadly terrorist attack in the Olympic Village. A terrorist group called Black September took 11 Israeli hostages and massacred them. In response, the Israeli Government did not hesitate. The Israeli policy was: you will not murder Israelis anywhere in the world.

So for 20 years, Israel hunted down the killers all over the globe, from Paris to London to Beirut to Stockholm. With its response, one thing became clear to the terrorists: if they hurt Israelis, there would be consequences, and the consequences would not be pleasant. Israel would find them, and Israel did find them.

So flash-forward 40 years. On the 11th anniversary of 9/11, there were once again attacks on American sovereign soil. In Egypt, militants stormed the U.S. Embassy. In Libya, our Ambassador, Chris Stevens, and three other Americans were brutally murdered.

There has been no accountability or action from this administration regarding these crimes. All Americans have received are grainy surveillance photos and some empty promises.

Where is the justice for these families of these four victims? The identities of some of the attackers are known. Why have we failed to go get them?

When America has been tested by terrorists in the past, we have gone after them, just like Israel has done.

In 1996, 19 American soldiers were murdered in Saudi Arabia. The United States responded.

In 2001, when 3,000 people from all over the world were murdered here in the United States, we responded. President Bush said:

The search is under way for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and bring them to justice.

Is that our U.S. policy today? Well, we don't know. We don't know what the current U.S. policy is about Americans killed overseas. All we get is a lot of words with no results from the administration.

Our enemies continue to test us because they no longer fear us, Mr. Speaker. The world no longer knows where America stands on terrorist attacks—not our allies, not our enemies, and not American citizens.

So what is our policy when a U.S. Embassy is attacked? More broadly speaking, what is our foreign policy in north Africa? North Africa is a breeding ground for terrorism, and al Qaeda affiliates are being trained and expanding across the entire African continent.

Earlier this year, on January 16, al Qaeda-linked terrorists affiliated with Mokhtar Belmokhtar took 800 people hostage at a gas facility in Algeria. One of those hostages killed was Victor Lovelady, a neighbor of mine in Atascocita, Texas. Victor's brother, Mike Lovelady, testified in front of our Terrorism Subcommittee last week. His family deserves answers from this administration about what happened in Algeria when Americans were killed.

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Who are these terrorists in Benghazi? Who are these terrorists in Algeria? Have these ringleaders gotten away with these murders? Is the massive intelligence service of the United States