

continued to fall in 2013, where 4.3 million Americans have been out of work for 6 weeks or more. The point is that we started this hour talking about The Washington Post article where the President came out and said that he is going to pivot back to jobs and the economy; and to the gentleman from Colorado's point, he should have never left the issue of jobs and the economy.

Here in the House, our majority has been working tirelessly, as the gentleman from Illinois said, to bring the other side and say look, we have these commonsense solutions. This is about my kids and yours. This is about the future of this country. And we have an opportunity as leaders here in Washington representing all of the people that we do back home—and a responsibility at that—to do all that we can to get the Federal Government out of the way so that people like your constituent back home in Colorado with the bagel stores can open another bagel store instead of having to worry about closing.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Let me just add really briefly to that.

You talk about our ideas and the fact that, you know, look, the President can—the REINS Act, for instance, that makes sense, some of those things.

I make a promise here today: if the President comes to the Republicans and says, give me some ideas, and we give him ideas and he takes them, I will not go out and say that is a victory for Republicans.

So let's get the partisanship out of this and say it's time to not be Republicans or Democrats about this; it's time to be Americans. Look, Mr. Speaker, I would say that the President has made, in his mind, a valiant attempt to save the economy. Unfortunately, I hate to say it, it hasn't worked. So come to us. Let us give you some ideas. And if you adopt our ideas, I—I personally—promise that I will not go out and say that the Republican Party just rolled the President, or we just rolled the Democrats, or anything like that. I will say America just won because we've worked together to get some big things done.

Mr. GARDNER. That's exactly, at this time, what this country needs. I'm working, in a bipartisan fashion, with a Democrat from Vermont, PETER WELCH, on an energy-efficiency measure. The President has also talked about this kind of approach, using performance contracts to create jobs, lower the amount of energy consumed by the United States Government—the largest economy consumer in the country. But we do it without government mandates; we do it without government subsidies. But we're doing something that's going to create private sector jobs, save the taxpayer dollars, and use less energy at the Federal level. The President's doing this. We're doing this here.

These are the kinds of opportunities we have to work together that are creating jobs. And they're not to bow

down or to kowtow to a certain element of an agenda. It's actually to move the country forward by doing the right thing.

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. I believe if we use our energy sources—which I believe can be a bipartisan issue and it is in my part of the world in central Appalachia—but if we use our energy resources, I am convinced that the United States of America can remain the number one economic Nation in the world well into the next century—recognizing we've just started this one—well into the next century. But we have to make sure that Washington doesn't get in the way and completely stop that economic engine.

Mrs. ROBY. Well, I just want to thank all of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, for joining us to talk about these important issues.

As we will hear from the President in his next three speeches about pivoting back to jobs and the economy, we here in the House remain focused on jobs and the economy for all Americans families. But we are also remaining focused on an all-of-the-above energy approach; repealing ObamaCare so that I can make those decisions with my doctor about what's best for me; a fairer, simpler Tax Code that we know will help all Americans. We've got to ease burdens and regulations so that businesses can create more jobs instead of having to worry about the ones that they're going to lose.

This is about making life work for Americans. This is about easing the pain that so many Americans are feeling because of this bloated government that refuses to, first and foremost, admit that we have a spending problem.

This is about refocusing our efforts here in the House and making sure that we are remembering the people that sent us here, the families that we've talked about tonight that we want to ensure that government is not hurting, but government is getting out of the way so that they can thrive in these United States of America.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials into the RECORD on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and my privilege once again to

anchor this CBC Special Order where, for the next 60 minutes, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus will have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on the important issue of race in America. Where do we go from here?

The events of the last several weeks have startled many throughout this country; most recently, the verdict down in Florida where Mr. Zimmerman was acquitted and the result that shocked many all across this country, a verdict that was viewed by many as unjust.

A few weeks prior to that, the Supreme Court struck down an important provision of the Voting Rights Act, an act that had been the most effective piece of civil rights legislation in this country which has helped to bring our democracy to life and is designed to make sure that all Americans, regardless of race, have an opportunity to participate in our democracy in a meaningful way.

The debate over the farm bill that has left many people troubled by the fact that the SNAP program, in an unprecedented fashion, was left out; and if we don't come to an agreement here, our failure to step up and help those who are hungry will disproportionately have an effect on many in the African American community.

These are just some of the recent events that have come together to put us in a position where, as the President has recently indicated, it's time for us to have a meaningful conversation on race—a direct conversation, a forthright conversation, an honest conversation. That's why the members of the Congressional Black Caucus are here today.

We have made tremendous progress in America. We've come a long way in this great country, but we certainly still have a ways to go. The road to equality is still under construction, and we're here today to try and lay out a roadmap for how we can get closer to a more perfect union here in America.

I'm pleased today that we've been joined by the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the distinguished gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), who has been such a tremendous, eloquent, forceful leader in her position as chair of the CBC.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank you, Congressman JEFFRIES, for leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour on this very important topic tonight, a topic that has once again captured national attention and sparked a dialogue in communities across this Nation.

On Friday, President Obama helped provide context to the emotion Americans—and particularly African American men—have had around the tragedy of Trayvon Martin. Over the weekend, people of all ages and races gathered at Federal Government buildings in their

cities to stand together, to rise up for justice and in honor of Trayvon.

To many, the verdict we all heard on Saturday, July 13, was a miscarriage of justice, a consistent failure of our system that we've seen in this country one too many times. But tonight, I want to broaden this conversation on race and justice in America. I want to talk about how the emotion and discontent we are seeing from the average community and people of other races in this country is about much more than the Zimmerman verdict.

Much of the emotion we are seeing is in response to the continual attack on the rights and the closing of doors to opportunity for millions of individuals in this country. I'm not just talking about African Americans tonight. I'm talking about people who come from poor families, who are trying to find their way out of a cycle of poverty. I'm talking about students who are doing all they can to pay for school, but who have to choose between being in the classroom or paying back loans that are becoming a source of profit for the government to help decrease the deficit.

□ 2015

I'm talking about thousands of students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities who had to leave school because of changes to loans their parents took out to help them get an education. These changes were made without any consideration of how they would hurt these young people. I'm talking about tonight, Mr. Speaker, immigrants of Hispanic, African, Asian, and European descent who are working in this Nation but have no rights. I'm talking about people in communities across this Nation who must now fight harder to have their voices heard in our democracy because others will use subversive, and now permissible, tactics to make it harder to vote.

And, yes, to the Supreme Court of the United States, this is still a problem. You see, what we are experiencing and talking about right now is not just about Zimmerman. It is not just about race in America. It is about a system that should be just in creating and protecting the conditions for everyone to succeed, but instead it continues to favor some over others.

Since its inception in 1971, the Congressional Black Caucus has stood against injustice in our society so that inequity in treatment and opportunity under the law comes to an end so that all people are treated equally. Today, we continue that fight and ask America to join with us, not so that one group of any particular race can win, but so that, in the end, we all win.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished chair of the CBC.

Our objective here today, as part of our mission in the Congress, is really just to make sure that all Americans, regardless of skin color, have access to the American Dream, have an oppor-

tunity to pursue life and liberty and happiness here in America, unencumbered by any barriers connected to the color of their skin. That's our hope in America. That will make America all that it can be, this great country even better, in the quest toward a more perfect Union.

I am pleased that we've been joined by the distinguished gentleman from New York, the lion of Lenox Avenue, a legendary Member of this great institution, Congressman CHARLES RANGEL.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Let me thank my friend and colleague from the great Borough of Brooklyn, city of New York, and my colleagues, for coming down to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, when we started the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971, I guess most people said: Why do you need a Black Caucus? Thirteen of you of color have been able to break the walls of racism and discrimination to reach the Halls of the United States Congress. Obviously, you don't have to say that you're Black.

What we tried to do then, and I guess we are still involved in that struggle, is to try to make certain that there's absolutely no need for any group of people to have to identify themselves for protection and for aggressiveness on programs because of their color.

I tell the gentleman from New York—I guess you were about born when we started the Caucus—I wish by the time you got here and you were looking for the Congressional Black Caucus, I would be able to say: Hakeem, that's all over. That's when we were not treated as full Americans. That's ancient times, the same way I had thought that poll taxes and things of that nature that the late—my predecessor—Adam Clayton Powell had been able to overcome.

So now comes the question where people feel so awkward to say race was a factor in the killing of young Mr. Martin. Why would they feel so awkward? It is so easy to understand if two people have a problem, one was minding his business, the other was stalking him, one had a gun and the other ended up dead, and he had already described to the police who he was following and it was a person of color. I don't think I've heard anyone challenge if the colors were reversed it wouldn't take all of the weeks, days and weeks that it took just to arrest somebody.

The reason that we are asking for the Justice Department to examine this is because the Justice Department has been successful in examining a whole lot of criminal activity where the local community somehow didn't see it. And George, as the family in Sanford calls him, obviously was a part of that family. I would think anybody would like somebody that's not a part of that family to go in and see what happened to Trayvon.

But having said that, if you want to know where do we go from here, we

don't have to explain why Blacks are killing Blacks. If we say that's an epidemic, if we say that's a sickness, if we say that's a disaster, I ask my fellow Americans: What the heck do you do when you find a disaster? I think one of the things that you do is try to stop it from spreading and find out what do these areas have in common.

First of all, why is it that members of the Congressional Black Caucus have more of these than other Members in the Congress? We don't want to talk about color. Color is not an issue, right? Right.

But are we talking about the poorest communities that we have in the United States of America? Well, what's that got to do with it? Are we talking about communities that have the lousiest education system in the United States of America?

RANGEL, I don't see why you are bringing that up. Are we talking about sick people physically, where they have mental problems they call them crazy instead of disoriented?

RANGEL, you're going way off now. Are we talking about legislation that actually, in an investment of the United States, less money goes into these communities than communities of wealth?

Listen, you put all this together, RANGEL, that doesn't explain why people shoot each other.

Well, I don't know why people shoot each other, but I know one thing: Who doesn't shoot each other? Our young kids that are inspired. They've got education. They've got families. They've got a country that's the wind behind their wings that want to make a contribution to this great country. They can walk anywhere, talk anywhere, and nobody is going to be following them talking about, "You look like someone that may hurt somebody."

Now, we can't solve the problem unless we talk about it. If you are talking about Hurricane Sandy, if you are talking about fires, if you are talking about disasters, why can't we talk about this? This is costing America human beings. It is costing lives. It is costing money. It is costing us embarrassment.

We are losing in terms of having stronger productivity. We are losing in terms of competition. It is not just the communities and their families that are losing. America is losing, the same way we would not hesitate to reach out to any village or any town or any State that has any type of an epidemic.

So don't just look at the color. Look at the economic circumstances that are in the community that has it. If you want, you might want to look up and see what Member of Congress represents this.

They say that sometimes we look to cut our districts. Well, take a look. We didn't look to cut our districts. Our districts looked for us to represent them. The day we become color blind is the day the Constitution should say we walked out of this body.

Our job here is to give this Congress sight. "Color" isn't a dirty word. It could be one of the most beautiful words that we have in the United States of America. Different colors, different cultures, different languages, different ways that we can enjoy being with each other, learning from each other.

So if we have a problem in Chicago, in Dallas, in Harlem, let's share that problem. Whenever there is a problem anyplace in these great United States, that all of us can come together and try to bring people up so that this country doesn't have to take a back seat to anybody when it comes to saying: This is the land of the free; this is the home of the brave. And when you shoot someone down, you don't have to look at the color of the victim or the perpetrator, justice shall rein and discrimination and color shall not be a cause for lack of justice.

Let me thank my gentleman from Brooklyn for giving us this opportunity. We've taken a death. I was with the family this weekend. The mother said she lost her son but will dedicate her life to make certain she does all that she can so that no mother and father would lose their son. She didn't say "Black"; she didn't say "White." The President said that you have to walk in his shoes. Anybody that's a father that loses a teenage son, the more that son looks like you, the more pain that you suffered.

I am about to take my seat, but I was just reminded when I went to Korea and we were going up the lines, we saw all kinds of dead people: South Koreans, communist Koreans, North Koreans, and our colleagues that were White soldiers that had died before we got there. But my colleague from Brooklyn, before we got up to the lines, two trucks, the catafalcos flew off them because of the speed that they were driving, and in those cars were Black dead soldiers in our uniform cross-length, like they were logs on the way to grave registration. I don't have to tell you we felt a lot different in looking at those people who looked exactly like us.

Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for his very insightful, passionate, and wonderful remarks as they relate to the situation that we in America find ourselves in today, the way forward, as well as an understanding of why we have arrived in this position.

Before I turn the floor over to the distinguished gentlelady from Texas, I just want to thank the Congressman from Harlem for mentioning the fact that we here in America do have a capacity, I think, to address multiple problems at the same time. We can multitask.

It's wrong when a child is killed in the inner city. It's wrong when a child is killed, 17 years old, walking home down in Sanford, Florida. We have an

ability to address all of these problems, but there are some in this country that criticize those of us who raise problems of injustice in America by immediately pointing out that in inner cities all across this country—in Brooklyn, in Harlem, in Houston, in Chicago—there's Black-on-Black violence. We understand that it is our children who are dying. That is why the CBC, this Friday, will be in Chicago convening a summit to discuss the problem of violence in the inner city communities in places like Chicago, Illinois. But that doesn't mean we turn a blind eye to injustices that exist in other parts of the system.

We are pleased that we've been joined by the distinguished gentlelady from Houston, Texas, who has been working hard on this issue, on many issues of concern and injustice here in America. So let me now yield to Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the distinguished gentleman from New York and let me thank our chairperson, the Honorable MARCIA FUDGE, and all my colleagues that are on the floor tonight to accept the challenge that has been given over the airways by many people.

I want to thank Mr. JEFFRIES for pointing out—as I stand here as a mother, I would make the argument of a son, of a Black son. I can affirm that any child's life is of great value. In fact, we spent the weekend in Houston reaffirming the value of a child's life.

I want to cite and compliment Bishop James Dixon and Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell, Pastors Henderson and Nash and Lawson and many other pastors that were there, who obviously joined with so many, including my colleague who is here on the floor of the House, Congressman AL GREEN. I heard nothing but an affirmation of the value of life.

I'm delighted as a lawyer and as a legislator that you reaffirm that African Americans do not coddle crime of any kind, a crime that happens to be between two African Americans or, in essence, two Caucasians. It is noted, if my facts are correct, that 84 percent of the crimes perpetrated on White Americans are done by White Americans.

□ 2030

Eighty six percent of the crimes done on Black persons, on Black Americans, are done by Black people.

It might be that it speaks again to the isolated, segregated neighborhoods that we travel in, but the one thing, Mr. Speaker, that is unique is that you can count on the fact that those African Americans who perpetrated crimes are incarcerated over and over again at a higher number than any other population in this Nation.

Their lives, the premise of much of what we are discussing tonight—and I would hope that as I finish that it will also be a pleading that we have a discussion on race. Let me just cite these numbers since I started out with the

idea of incarceration. Incarceration is not an equal opportunity punishment.

For example, incarceration rates in the United States by race were as follows: 2,468 per 100,000 are Black; 1,038 per 100,000 are Latinos; 409 per 100,000 are White. The United States locks up its Black males at a rate 5.8 times higher than what previously has been known as one of the more racist countries in the world, which is South Africa. Under apartheid in 1993, Black males were only 851 per 100,000. In 2006, Black males were 4,789.

I would say to my colleagues and to the Speaker and to my colleagues here: What are we to think when the scales of justice are unequally balanced?

As my friends have said, it is the pain that we felt at the loss of Trayvon Martin and the simplicity of an arrest and then ultimately, with a Sanford jury in a State trial, that we could not even find with much evidence to prove that there was not enough commonality of cultural connection and that they could not see that something should have valued the loss of an innocent child who simply was walking to get home.

Maybe it is the words of Frederick Douglass that he said on April 16, 1883:

It is a real calamity in this country for any man, guilty or not guilty, to be accused of a crime. We are all upset when that happens—guilty or not guilty, perpetrator or not—but it is an incomparably greater calamity for any colored man to be so accused. Justice is often painted with bandaged eyes. She is described in forensic eloquence as utterly blind to wealth or poverty, high or low, White or Black; but a mass of iron, however thick, could never blind American justice when a Black man happens to be on trial.

I would say to my colleagues that that is something we have to move beyond in America.

In an E.J. Dionne article, he said:

The dignity and grace of Trayvon Martin's family should inspire all of us to keep our eyes on the future. We should not blind ourselves either to the persistence of racism or to our triumphs in pushing it back.

It does not help when those who are not like those of us who are on the floor—members of the Congressional Black Caucus—want to push back and call those of us who raise questions of justice—which, by the way, if you impact and correct the criminal justice system, you're going to impact Whites and Latinos, and you're going to impact African Americans. If you address the question of mandatory minimums, if you address the question of rehabilitation funding, if you address the question of providing housing and opportunity for work for those who have come out of prison—no matter from where they come out, the Federal system or, in fact, the State system—you make it better for all. But every time we raise the question of improving issues of justice, we get called or get labeled as being racist.

So I want to say to America and to our friends: Can we not be called "Americans"? Because that is what the Congressional Black Caucus stands for.

In 1997, John Hope Franklin finished a report that called itself “One America in the 21st Century: Forging a New Future.” I will read one sentence:

America’s greatest promise in the 21st century—which we’re in right now—lies in our ability to harness the strength of our racial diversity.

We have not done that, and that is why the Congressional Black Caucus is here on the floor of the House to be able to accept the challenge that the President made as he indicated to America, unabashedly and without fear: that it’s not only that Trayvon may have been my son, but that he may have been me.

The President said something very powerful. He said that we must, all of us—Members of Congress and Governors and pastors and plain civilians and young people—do some soul searching, and that we must as families and churches and workplaces find the possibility of being a little bit more honest and at least ask yourself your own questions: Am I ringing as much bias out of myself as I can? Am I judging people as much as I can based not on the color of their skin but on the content of their character? That, I would think, would be an appropriate exercise in the wake of this tragedy.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, in joining with my colleagues, I’m going to stand unabashedly and ask for that kind of discussion. I want it for those who were standing on the street corners yesterday in Houston, Texas, shouting out that people were racist because they were concerned about a court decision that they didn’t think was fair. I am concerned that all of those people who were marching would be labeled across America, in all the cities in which they were—peacefully without arrest or incident—as “un-American.” That’s when we have to ring, if you will, our souls and find that we take from it the bias that we might perceive to be blocking us from understanding the richness of our diversity.

So I would argue that we are blessed because we have Asians, blessed because we have White people, blessed because we have Latinos, blessed because we have African Americans, blessed because of the diversity in sexual orientation, blessed because we have people who are short and tall, blessed because we have people who are wealthy and middle class, and blessed because as a Congress we can work on those who are impoverished, and we can stop the devastation of the SNAP and provide the opportunity for those individuals who are impoverished to do better.

Finally, let me say this. This past week, we honored an icon who moved me because of the diversity of those who were honoring—from Senator CORNYN from my State and Senator MCCONNELL, organized by MAXINE WATERS and ERIC CANTOR, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator DURBIN, and on and on and on, Leader PELOSI and CLYBURN and HOYER—and I’m sure I’ve missed many

others—our chairwoman and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. What a vast diversity of individuals who rose to honor Madiba, Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela said something that should be potent as we look to fix the inequity of self-defense laws, as many of us look at racial profiling, which exists extensively in this country, as evidenced by the heinous crime that generated the hate crimes legislation in our State of Texas—the killing of James Byrd, an individual who was dismembered, who was an African American male who was minding his business while walking along a lonely rural road. Another man was killed in Mississippi, who just came to a hotel and went out to his car, and was killed tragically just because of who he was. The numbers of cases that we’ve had are that impact that we have not yet understood—the greatness of America.

So we’ve got to change stand-your-ground laws, and I intend to introduce that legislation this week. I look for bipartisan support because, as Senator MCCAIN said, maybe we need to look and to review federally what stand-your-ground laws are doing, not the Castle laws, but the extension of those that then carry this power out into the public where you do not have to retreat.

But I read these words of Mandela’s. They say:

Our struggle has reached a decisive moment. We call on people to be able to intensify the struggle on all fronts.

He had another quote that I’d like to read:

Honor comes when you pursue and are determined in your struggle.

He mentioned the fact that, even with humiliation, even with insults and even with defeat, if you continue in your struggle, then there is honor due.

Let me thank Mr. JEFFRIES for laying out the opportunity for the Congressional Black Caucus to answer the question: the road to equality is under construction. Also, let me thank him for allowing us to rise to the floor.

I go to my seat by saying that equality will come when school districts like North Forest Independent School District will not be destroyed and closed in Houston, Texas, when we raise up education; equality will come when we focus on ridding this Nation of poverty by making sure that we have the kind of economic programs; and equality will come when we recognize that justice should roll down on all of us, and that we address the question of the criminalization of African American males and others so that justice is equally applied but, as the individuals return and have done their time, that they will come to a place that is welcoming so that they can serve their Nation.

For that reason, I yield back my time with a great hope of the same message that came in the treatise by John Hope Franklin. He chaired the

committee on race and said that America’s greatest promise is in her diversity.

I call upon my colleagues, my friends in Texas, my friends in my district: let’s sit down at the table of harmony. Let’s talk about race as we embrace each other and love each other, because that’s what America is all about. Thank you to the Congressional Black Caucus for its vision and its leadership.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from Texas for her very thoughtful and eloquent remarks.

We in the CBC simply want a justice system that is color blind. That should be our goal, our objective, our mission here in America. We can’t have a set of laws unequally applied—over-enforced with one group that looks a certain way and under-enforced with another group that looks a different way. That’s not the type of America we want.

One of the reasons so many folks were troubled with the verdict down in Florida was that it appeared that the stand-your-ground defense seemed available for a self-appointed vigilante who shot down a 17-year-old in cold blood but, apparently, was not available for a battered woman who simply fired a warning shot against someone who had had a history of abusing her. We just want a set of laws equally applied to everybody.

We are pleased that the distinguished gentlelady from New York—my neighbor back at home—who has been a fighter for justice here in the Congress over the last 6-plus years, has joined us. Let me now yield to Representative YVETTE CLARKE.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Brooklyn, my closest colleague in the New York State delegation—both of our districts being in the borough of Brooklyn—for leading us in this Special Order hour today: Race in America—where do we go from here?

For more than a year, many people have tried to give voice to Trayvon Martin and to present his perspective into the debate concerning the injustice of the criminal justice system in Black males. With his remarks on Friday, President Obama provided Trayvon Martin a voice. By sharing his experiences, he offered America a perspective on the experiences of other African American men, women, boys, and girls, and he gave voice to millions of Americans who felt the pain of the Martin-Fulton Family as their own.

When President Obama introduced racial profiling into the conversation, he held up a mirror to the faces of all of us as Americans—to a truth that some commentators have tried to ignore and that many more are in deep denial of—for, despite the promises of equality in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, our practices have been inadequate to our ideals. Our beliefs, the best traditions of our Nation, have not become a reality for millions of Americans of African descent. The tragic death of our

young man Trayvon Martin, followed by the acquittal of the man who pursued him and killed him, has reminded us that, although it may seem as if African Americans and other minorities have achieved full equality in our civil society, we are still victims of racial profiling—in violation of our laws and our morals.

The lives of Black men and women are not accorded the same value as the lives of White Americans. This is the reality for far too many Black Americans. Compounding the 21st century's divisive racial tone is the reality of knowing that our lives have been devalued, our exercise of the liberties to which Americans have been entitled have been devalued and diminished, such as the right to vote. With millions of Americans, I was deeply disappointed with the Supreme Court's decision to prevent the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act. We cannot forget that prior to the enactment of voting rights that democracy did not exist in many parts of the Nation, with the deliberate denial of the right to vote to Black people.

□ 2045

Mr. Speaker, while the Supreme Court's recent decision and the Trayvon Martin case are crucial to this conversation, they cannot fully address the problem of racial inequality without a discussion of racial profiling, the structural discrimination of our judicial system, the disintegration of the educational system, and the lack of jobs and economic opportunity, especially for the African American community.

Tonight I want to just quickly hit on the issue of racial profiling and our justice system. In a June 2013 report from the ACLU, "The War on Marijuana in Black and White" demonstrated that even as rates of marijuana usage between Blacks and Whites are comparable, Blacks are nearly four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession.

In my district in Brooklyn, and all over New York City, African American young men are harassed simply because of the color of their skin. The excessive use of Stop-and-Frisk, known in New York City as the Stop-and-Frisk program, it has been proven that this program disproportionately targets African Americans and Latinos, these two groups comprising 87 percent of all stops while only about 50 percent of the City's population.

According to the New York City Civil Liberties Union, the number of stops of young Black men neared the entire population of young Black men, 133,119, as compared to 158,406 in the population in the year 2012. That means that there were some young men that were getting stopped more than once.

Commissioner Kelly increased the number of stops 600 percent since 2002 when he became Commissioner, reaching a peak of almost 700,000 stops in the year 2011.

They have almost a 90 percent fail rate. Only 12 percent of the number of massive stops result in an arrest or a summons and have been less effective in getting guns off the street than random searches of all New Yorkers would. It is a clear violation of civil rights and civil liberties of African American and Latino men.

So where do we go from here?

Well, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have introduced and sponsored legislation on racial profiling, and that will represent a comprehensive Federal commitment to healing the rift caused by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at large.

I want to encourage my colleagues to take a look at this legislation, because this is where the conversation can begin, and this is where the healing should start. This can be done through the changing of policies and procedures underlying the practice of racial profiling and through, like the President said, working with the State and local governments on training that helps enforcement officials become more aware of potential racial and ethnic bias.

I urge my colleagues to go back to their districts and to hold town hall meetings and discussions on race. Speak to your constituents. Speak to your families and friends. Have conversations at home and in your neighborhoods.

We must not sit back and watch the progress gained by those who came before us who worked diligently and often made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and the rights that we all enjoy today, we cannot permit their sacrifices to be forgotten or erased from history. Today we must take a stand against further racial injustice of all kinds. Enough is enough.

You know, it's ironic, because when I think about my age and having come of age in the 1970s in the United States of America, there was just a lot more optimism about us becoming a more perfect Union. And to arrive in the House of Representatives in the 21st century and see the type of digression that is taking place in our Nation, to know that my nephews that are millennials are going through some of the same issues that young men in the 1950s and 1960s were facing in a desegregated Nation is extraordinarily painful.

We are an enlightened civil society, and we have an obligation to do what we can to make sure that all Americans are worthy of all that this Nation has to offer. And that means that we have to have an honest conversation about the inequities, the racial injustices that continue to persist. While not as blatant as they were in the 1950s and sixties, they still fester and continue to be a blight on a Nation that is poised for greatness.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from New York.

The conversation on race is not an easy one, but certainly is a necessary

one here in America and one that should be embraced because the diversity of our society, as the gentleman from New York, Congressman RANGEL, pointed out, is one of our greatest strengths here in America.

We've been joined by a classmate of mine, the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey, Representative DONALD PAYNE, not only one of the sharpest dressed Members of Congress, but he's got one of the sharpest minds. And so I'm pleased to yield to him such time as he may consume.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from New York. It is really an honor and a privilege to stand here with him as one of the freshmen Members in the 113th Congress to discuss an issue that has plagued this Nation for centuries.

I am here tonight to talk to you about an issue that has interested me for most of my life, and it is the issue around people having respect for one another, irrespective of their racial makeup.

I grew up in Newark, New Jersey, which is a town, the largest city in the State of New Jersey, with many suburbs surrounding that metropolis, and our travels in and out of those communities were fraught at some times with peril for young men. So that was 40 years ago.

But fast-forward to the past 18 months, and what do we have? We have the same situation still before us. A young boy armed with a bag of candy and a drink is profiled and followed. The car follows him, and then the individual gets out of the car and follows the young man on foot.

Now, at 17, I wonder how I would have felt if a car had followed me, a grown man gets out of the car and continues to follow me. It is a situation that I have thought about over the past 18 months because of my triplet children. Two are boys who just turned 15, so they're right around Trayvon Martin's age. And I wonder: Have I taught them enough to be safe? Will they find themselves in this position?

And on hearing the outcome of the verdict that Saturday evening, one of my young sons texted his mother to say what had happened and why had that happened, because we taught them in this Nation that justice prevails. And how the victim becomes the guilty party in a situation like this I still cannot understand, because it became about who and what this young man was and what he had done and what he had been doing rather than the perpetrator following him.

I was fortunate to be in New York during the time of the 100 rallies across the Nation in finding justice for Trayvon Martin. I proudly stood with Trayvon Martin's mother on Saturday, a dignified woman.

In all of this crisis and sorrow there must be in her heart, she's remained a dignified individual and only asked for justice for her son; not that people should act out in a manner in which

the masses thought that they would, but to have a peaceful demonstration about the injustices that came out of that case.

Stand your ground. Did Trayvon Martin have the right to stand his ground? He was the one that was being followed. He was the one being profiled. When did he lose the right to defend himself?

We are in a difficult time here in this country, but it seems like we always get to this point at some time and we start the conversation, but we never finish it. We need to have an open discussion about the conditions that we find ourselves in as Americans, all of us. We need to understand both sides of the issue, all sides of the issue so we can move forward with this great experiment called the United States of America.

It is the greatest Nation in the world, it is true, and many come here to live the American Dream. Many nations emulate the United States. But we have a long way to go in this Nation as well. The injustices that we're facing are widespread and threaten some of the most fundamental rights of this country.

So I ask my colleagues, let's have that discussion. I ask the citizens of the United States, let's have that discussion so we can form that more perfect Union.

I have had situations in my life where I've found myself not in the exact situation of Trayvon Martin, but issues of racism that were perpetrated on me. But I'm not bitter towards an entire population. Those were individuals. We have to come to grips with prejudging people in this country.

And I'd just like to end with something Dr. King said:

In the end, we will not remember the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

And my father, the late Congressman Donald Payne, who was a great teacher, humanitarian, and felt all people deserved the right to freedom, justice, and equality, taught me a poem very early on in my life, and I will end with that. It said:

Whether you have blonde fleecy locks or
black complexion,
It cannot forfeit nature's claim;
Skin may differ in black and white,
But it is all just the same.
Were I so tall as to reach the poles,
Or span the oceans with my hands;
I must be measured by my soul,
The mind is the standard of a man.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank Congressman PAYNE for those very eloquent remarks and for noting the conversation that he had with his young son, conversations that have been taking place in the aftermath of this verdict in households all across this country, with parents and their young sons and daughters trying to make sense of an inexplicable verdict in the eyes of many.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining in this Special Order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I'm going to now turn to the distinguished gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you for yielding.

And it's my pleasure to join the CBC for another Special Order, and thank you for bringing this issue of race in America before the American public tonight, because racism in America is so pervasive in so many aspects of our lives. Its impact, of course, was most recently and painfully felt in the killing of young Trayvon Martin, as we've spoken about this evening, and of course the insensitivity, the slow, the poor, and the racially influenced response of the justice system to his death.

□ 2100

Our prayers, our thoughts, and our support are with his parents and loved ones, and all of our families who face the same fears for their children.

But I want to speak just briefly about how race in America affects health care of African Americans, Latinos, and other people of color. According to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, despite the existence of civil rights legislation, equal treatment and equal access are not a reality for racial-ethnic minorities and women in the current climate of the health care industry. Many barriers limit both the quality of care and utilization for these groups, including discrimination.

Just in the last National Health Care Disparities Report of 2012, it reported that Blacks received worse care than Whites, and Hispanics received worse care than non-Hispanic Whites for about 40 percent of quality measures. American Indians and Alaskan Natives, worse care than Whites for one-third of quality measures. Asians received worse care than Whites for about one-quarter of quality measures. And it goes on and on and on.

But just to be very brief, I want to just show you one example of how racism affects health care of African Americans and Latinos. Because I think this is a stark example of how it happened.

This is an emergency mortality rate. It's a study done by a doctor not too far from here. You can see that whether they're insured or uninsured, African Americans and Latinos arriving at an emergency room with the exact same injuries are more likely to die. In fact, when compared with an uninsured White patient, Black patients with equivalent injuries but without insurance had a 78 percent higher risk of dying; uninsured Hispanics, a 130 percent higher risk of dying. So even if Trayvon Martin had lived, you wonder what would have happened if he had arrived at the emergency room.

And so I just wanted to add the impact of racism in American, which continues to this day, and how it affects the health care and the lives of African Americans and Latinos. The Affordable

Care Act, as we talk about where do we go from here, has begun to change this by providing coverage and access to care.

We really have to find ways to change the heart of America. And we can't do that by legislation. We thank the CBC for all of its efforts, like the efforts that will take place in Chicago and across the country.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady for those very powerful remarks and observations.

I now yield to the distinguished gentleman from Houston, Texas, a fighter for civil rights and equality prior to arriving in the Congress and during his tenure here in this great institution, Representative AL GREEN.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. I do want your constituents to know that you have been an awesome Congressperson from the awesome Eighth District. And if they are as proud of you as I am, you shall have an opportunity to continue to serve them. I wish you much success in Congress.

I would like to thank the President of the United States of America for his comments on this issue of Blacks—especially Black males—in America. I believe that the President understands that although the arc of the moral universe is long, it bends toward justice. But it doesn't bend toward justice without some assistance. It doesn't have the kinetic energy to do so without some help from mortals. I think the President went a long way toward bending the arc of the moral universe toward justice with his comments as they relate to the plight of African American males. I'm grateful and I'm thankful.

With reference to the Trayvon Martin trial, we live in a world where it's not enough for things to be right. They must also look right. And it doesn't look right when a 17-year-old boy leaves home to go to the store, and on his way back home, unarmed, encounters a person with a firearm, is killed—and it is done so with impunity. It may be right, but it does not look right. And because it doesn't look right, we have to understand that although you can have a fair trial, you may not have justice as the outcome.

I believe that this trial was fair to Mr. Zimmerman. I don't believe it was fair to Trayvon Martin. And I don't believe that we can say that this was a just decision.

Now there are people who would differ with me and say that you shouldn't say this. Many of these same people would say that O.J. Simpson had a fair trial but that he didn't get a just verdict from that court. And the same people who don't want me—us—to protest, you have to understand that if it was right for the farmers to come here in their tractors and protest the conditions related to farming, then it's right for me to protest. If it was right for the veterans after World War I to come up here and set up a tent city in protest,

it's right for me to protest. If it was right for the Tea Party to come to Congress and stand along the way across from one building to another and protest, then it's right for me to protest. And by the way, I think it was right for them to come to Congress to protest. I support their right to protest.

If you think it's wrong for me to protest, then you've got to change the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. We have the right. We must exercise the right because an injustice has taken place.

Because time is short, and there is at least one other speaker, I want to mention this as my closing remark. There's something bigger than Trayvon Martin and Mr. Zimmerman that's taking place in this country, indeed, in the world. There is something bigger than us as individuals and individual cases.

J. Patrick Kinney has appropriately put this together. He has a poem styled "The Cold Within" that addresses something that we have to confront—this coldness that's so pervasive. This is his poem:

Six humans trapped by happenstance
in bleak and bitter cold.
Each one possessed a stick of wood,
or so the story's told.
Their dying fire in need of logs,
the first man held his back
for of the faces round the fire
he noticed one was Black.
The next man looking 'cross the way
saw one not of his church
and couldn't bring himself to give
the fire his stick of birch.
The third one sat in tattered clothes.
He gave his coat a hitch.
Why should his log be put to use
to warm the idle rich?
The rich man just sat back and thought
of the wealth he had in store
and how to keep what he had earned
from the lazy shiftless poor.
The Black man's face bespoke revenge
as the fire passed from his sight.
For all he saw in his stick of wood
was a chance to spite the White.
The last man of this forlorn group
did nought except for gain.
Giving only to those who gave
was how he played the game.
Their logs held tight in death's still hands
was proof of human sin.
They didn't die from the cold without,
they died from the cold within.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas.

We, unfortunately, are approaching the close of this Special Order. To close us out in the remaining time we have Representative MARC VEASEY from Dallas, who's done a tremendous job as a Member of this freshman class.

Mr. VEASEY. Thank you, Congressman JEFFRIES. I appreciate you letting me talk about this very important topic because we need to talk more about equality and have a conversation on race and injustice in this country.

I really liked a lot what Representative CLARKE, your colleague from New York, said when she talked about the over-enforcement of African American males, particularly when it comes to stop and frisk, and other Members that

talked a lot about the verdict in the Trayvon Martin trial that really did discourage a lot of people that were really starting to gain hope in our criminal justice system and thought that things were getting better.

I'm concerned about what is going on right now with voting. Because in my own State of Texas, there's been so many laws that have been enacted, laws that have attempted to be enacted that would scale back many of the gains that African Americans have made when it comes to exercising our suffrage—discriminatory practices that I didn't grow up with when I was a young man but that many people that were before me had to deal with and thought that we had made the progress.

And so at some other point in time I do want to continue to talk about this. Because whether it's Trayvon Martin, whether it's over-enforcement of African Americans and the disproportionate number of African Americans that end up as part of the criminal justice system, or protecting our Voting Rights Act, we need to talk about it more because I, too, believe that we can do better as a country and a Nation.

I want to thank you for holding this hour and also everybody in the Black caucus that talked about this very important topic this evening.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas. We've come a long way in America. But we, of course, still have a ways to go.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the historic March on Washington, a new fight for the preservation of equal protection and justice under the law has emerged.

Just last month, the United States Supreme Court overturned a critical component of the decades-old Voting Rights Act, effectively exposing millions of Americans to discriminatory voting practices. Our inability to protect American citizens from discrimination while exercising the right to vote brings into question our ability to implement other aspects of the law without regard to race.

In fact, there is significant evidence that we have much more work to do to create a non-discriminatory justice system. The recent court decision involving Trayvon Martin's death is the latest injustice suggestive of discrimination throughout this system, which is further exemplified by the harrowing statistics as they pertain to minorities. For example, African Americans account for only thirteen percent of the U.S. population, yet they represent more than 28 percent of all arrests. Further, while more than half of all the individuals on death row are people of color, 42% are African American.

Mr. Speaker, we must reflect on our values and determine what kind of future we would like to see for our children. Do we want to leave behind a divided nation where the rule of law applies only to select groups of individuals? Or do we want to live in a nation united under equal opportunity and justice for each

and every American? I choose to support an equal and just America, one that is built upon uncompromising pillars of democracy, and I would urge my colleagues to do the same by speaking out against this blatant discrimination.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the shooting death of Trayvon Martin and subsequent acquittal of his killer by an all white jury is an echo of this nation's past that the African-American community is shocked to experience in the 21st century. It harkens back to the words of interposition and nullification, waking the ghosts of Emmet Till and Schwerner, Chaney and Goodman.

It is simply the nightmare of every parent of an African-American male. Anyone who lacks empathy for Trayvon's parents or who has never experienced the indignity of being held suspect due to his race should take careful note of what this trial will mean for the nation. That issue brings the CBC to the House floor this evening: Where do we go from here. . . .

This weekend, tens-of-thousands across the country rallied for the cause of justice for Trayvon Martin. These crowds included people from across all ages and racial lines. Following King's path of nonviolence protest, they asked for simple justice. Here in Congress, we have been advised that the Department of Justice has an open and active investigation to determine whether Federal charges will be filed in the case. Notably, two African-American men, Attorney General Eric Holder and President Barack Obama, have sought to assure all Americans that justice will be served in the case.

Some have tried to criticize the President and Attorney General for their comments, saying that they are politicizing the case or grandstanding for the black community. I would disagree. Their comments were measured and to the point, seeking to reassure a nation transfixed by the powerful images attached to the incident and trial.

The more interesting point is how a nation, led by two such powerful men, can still hold young black men as a suspect class. When you look at the stop & frisk number in New York, there really is no serious question about whether racial profiling is a reality in America. When I introduced data collection legislation during the 105th Congress, the phenomenon of driving while black was well known in the African-American and Latino communities.

However, some commentators still tried to deny the credibility of people who came forward to tell stories about their treatment by the police. But as the litigation mounted and data was collected, it became obvious that the nation had a serious problem with the use of race by law enforcement. These attitudes, however, were not a product of policing, but rather a product of society. No matter who is in the White House, it seems that race never takes a holiday.

So, where do we go? At the official policy level, we can address the suspect use of race by law enforcement through legislation. This week, I will re-introduce the End Racial Profiling Act. Based upon the work around that legislation, by September 11, 2001, there was significant empirical evidence and wide agreement among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft, that racial profiling was a tragic fact of life in the minority community and that the Federal government should take action to end the practice.

Moreover, many in the law enforcement community have acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin had eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities.

The End Racial Profiling Act is designed to eliminate the well documented problem of racial, ethnic, religious, and national origin profiling. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by declaratory or injunctive relief. Second, the bill mandates that training on racial profiling issues as part of Federal law enforcement training, the collection of data on all routine or spontaneous investigatory activities that is to be submitted through a standardized form to the Department of Justice.

Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

We should be clear, however, that legislation, like ERPA, can only go so far. After all, Trayvon's killer was not a sworn law enforcement officer. Consider legislation the starting point for societal change. His death demonstrates that racial profiling remains a divisive issue that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. Though not the result of a law enforcement encounter, the issues of race and reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct in this case were so closely linked in the minds of the public that his death cannot be separated from the law enforcement profiling debate.

Ultimately, Trayvon Martin is one of too many individuals across the country who have been victimized by a perception of criminality, simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin. These individuals are denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American. Until we address those broadly held views through important dialogues like this one, too many parents will anxiously await the safe return home of their sons.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2158

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at 9 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2397, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2610, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-170) on the resolution (H. Res. 312) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2610) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 23, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2288. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of 10 officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade rear admiral (lower half); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2289. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Report to Congress on Head Start Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2010"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2290. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting annual report on Operations of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs for Fiscal Year 2011; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2291. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-30, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2292. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting

Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-111, "YMCA Community Investment Initiative Real Property Tax Exemption Temporary Act of 2013"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2293. A letter from the Director, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-110, "Better Prices, Better Quality, Better Choices for Health Coverage Temporary Amendment Act of 2013"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2294. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-109, "Heat Wave Safety Temporary Amendment Act of 2013"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2295. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-107, "Extension of Time to Dispose of Justice Park Property Temporary Approval Act of 2013"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2296. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-108, "Foster Youth Transit Subsidy Temporary Amendment Act of 2013"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2297. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Annual Report to Congress on the implementation, enforcement, and prosecution of registration requirements under Section 635 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-248)(AWA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2298. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for summer events; Captain of the Port Lake Michigan Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0327] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received July 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2299. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Private Party fireworks; Lake Michigan, Chicago, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0462] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2300. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fifth Coast Guard District Fireworks Display, Currituck Sound; Corolla, NC [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0421] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2301. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Croatian Per Se Corporation [Notice 2013-44] received July 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2302. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Eligibility for Minimum Essential Coverage for Purposes of the Premium Tax Credit [Notice 2013-41] received July 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk