

get us to go by passing part of the farm bill, to go to conference.”

I asked the gentleman last week, I asked him again, there's nothing on here about going to conference. The gentleman's told me we're not going to conference until we pass something on the nutrition part. We want to see something on the nutrition part passed.

PETE SESSIONS said, in addition to that, when talking about why they brought the farm bill to the floor in the condition it was, dropping all reference and provisions for poor people to have nutritional assistance, said this:

We're attempting to then separate, bifurcate, offer today a rule and the underlying legislation which hopefully will pass which would go to conference and the Senate, because they've passed their own farm bill, has included in its provisions where they discuss the nutrition program.

This is PETE SESSIONS, Republican chairman of the Rules Committee speaking, Mr. Speaker.

As a result of that, that should be in their bill on a conference measure. The House simply, at this point, if we pass this part, could go to conference.

So the gentleman is not accurate when he reflects there's nothing to go to conference on. The Senate has amended their bill into the House bill. We could clearly go to conference on that under the processes.

I think the gentleman must know that. And that was the expectation that PETE SESSIONS says was the purpose of passing the farm bill.

But let me go back to the point I was making before the gentleman wanted to correct me on what I think were accurate representations on all the pieces of legislation I mentioned. Certainly that's the case on the budget. My opinion, it's the case, certainly on the budget.

I don't know what the intentions are, but the fact is we haven't gone to conference on the farm bill and we didn't go to conference on the Violence Against Women bill.

The fact is, what those bills that he mentioned did have in common, Mr. Speaker, is—and he said, we've got no Democratic votes for it. There was no work to get Democratic votes. There was no work for compromise. That's, I tell my friend, why the polls reflect of working people such concern.

The majority, Mr. Speaker, talked a lot about confidence, talked a lot about building confidence if we were going to grow the economy. I agree with him. We need to have individuals confident.

And the gentleman knows, because he talks to a lot of business leaders, as I do, every one of them says that if they had confidence that we could work together and get things done, not put the debt limit at risk, not put the ongoing operations of government at risk, not continue to have fights—I talked to a major leader of one of the health insurers in this country and said, look, we may not like some of

this bill, but we think it's the law, and we're going to work to try to make it work for all Americans.

We're not doing that, Mr. Speaker. We're trying to repeal. We're not conferring. We're not cooperating. We're not trying to come to compromise.

And we can talk about working people, as is appropriate for us to do, and that's what the President is out doing, not here in Washington, not talking to all of us. He's talking to the people and saying, look, this is my program. This is what I want to do, and I'm not getting cooperation from the Congress of the United States.

I think he's absolutely right. And he's talking to the people, not to us, not here in Washington, but he's criticized for doing that by the majority leader.

Mr. Speaker, I think that's what he ought to be doing because the American people ultimately are going to have to make a decision as to who is looking out for their interest and who is just simply confronting and not listening to the people in the last election, just a few months ago, or right now.

When the people are saying, board of directors, work together, stop obstructing, I would hope we could do that, Mr. Speaker.

Unless the majority leader has something further he wants to say, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### --- HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1230

#### --- NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is the 31st anniversary of the creation of the National Council for Independent Living. NCIL is the leading organization for persons with disability.

Thirty-two years ago, I began my career and life passion serving individuals who were living with life-changing disabilities. I'm proud to be one of the 214 cosponsors of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act. The ABLE Act will ease the financial strains for individuals with disabilities. I'm also proud to be the author of the Special Needs

Trust Fairness Act of 2013. This legislation removes the current barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from independently creating a special needs trust. What we're talking about is individual independence and making sure that public policy is a tool, not a barrier, in achieving this goal.

Once again, I want to thank the National Council for Independent Living for their leadership and service. Working with advocates such as the National Council for Independent Living, we will accomplish independence, dignity, and success for individuals living with disabilities.

#### --- CAUCUS ON BLACK BOYS AND MEN

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this time to thank Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for pulling together yesterday the first meeting of the Caucus on Black Men and Boys. Trayvon Martin's dad also participated with us yesterday. We need to do something about the violence that occurs all too often, particularly with many young African American boys, in our communities.

Black boys in our community face daily obstacles, including run-ins with the police, high rates of unemployment, racial profiling, and extreme prosecution that leads to over-incarceration in the community. As a black man, I can attest to what President Obama said in his recent speech:

Trayvon Martin could have been me.

African American men have lived an experience of being stereotyped and profiled in other ways that most people have never had to endure and can never understand.

Mr. Speaker, it is our job as legislators to create policies that create a level playing field so everyone can succeed.

#### --- PREVENTING DOD FURLOUGHS

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed important legislation: the Defense appropriations bill. This bill prohibits furloughs on employees serving our Department of Defense in fiscal year 2014. These employees are now in their third week of furloughs.

This week, we heard from Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller Bob Hale about the adverse impacts, which are expected to worsen if furloughs continue. His message made clear the harm furloughs already have on our force readiness. He echoed what I am hearing from my constituents that I talk to on a daily basis: these dedicated patriots employed by DOD are disappointed and frustrated they cannot support the warfighter and are fearful of an unknown future.

While it may be too late for the 11 days of furlough through September, Congress has the opportunity and I believe the obligation to get this important provision prohibiting furloughs signed into law as soon as possible.

I urge the Senate to join the House in passing this important measure.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF APOLOGY FOR SLAVERY AND JIM CROW LAWS

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

Mr. COHEN. Monday, July 29, will be the fifth anniversary of the passage in this House of the first and only apology for slavery and Jim Crow laws in this Nation's history. This Nation had 246 years of slavery and over 100 years of Jim Crow.

The resolution, which passed with only two Republican sponsors, Wayne Gilchrist and Phil English, said that we needed to rectify the lingering consequences of slavery and Jim Crow. Indeed, we still need to. There are many areas in the criminal justice system that show this, such as racial profiling, that the likelihood of being arrested for marijuana is four times as much if you're African American than white, and stiffer sentencing if you are African American. The need for public health and public education, and for jobs, more significant, and a much lower net worth among African Americans, are all vestiges of Jim Crow and slavery.

As we look toward the fifth anniversary of that resolution and the 50th anniversary of the march on Washington, both sides of this aisle need to look toward the least of these—people who have been discriminated against and enslaved by our Nation's laws—and rectify those lingering consequences.

#### HONORING JUDGE MICHAEL WARREN

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

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to take some time to recognize one of my constituents.

Last month, Oakland County Circuit Judge Michael Warren was honored with the Americanism Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution of Michigan. The award states that it was presented to Judge Warren "in recognition of outstanding accomplishments and contributions for his tireless work in promoting patriotism for the American people, especially through Patriot Week."

Our country is an exceptional Nation because of what happened in 1776. We need more people teaching the history of our founding and promoting patriotism. Judge Warren is doing a great job in Michigan, and he's a great example that should be followed nationwide.

#### 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of July 20, which is a special day of remembrance for the families and loved ones of all those who have suffered so greatly as a result of one of the biggest national tragedies in modern Greek history: the 1974 illegal invasion and occupation of the island of Cyprus by Turkish soldiers. It happened 39 years ago this week.

The invasion forced nearly thousands of Greek Cypriots to leave their homes in the occupied area and become refugees in their own country. Their religious and cultural sites were damaged and destroyed, their religious freedoms restricted, and their rights disrespected. In violation of international law, the Turkish soldiers remain there still, occupying more than one-third of the island. They ignore all the U.N. resolutions pertaining to Cyprus—and there have been many passed.

As the cochair and cofounder of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, I have worked diligently with my colleagues in the Caucus out of our mutual concern for the continued division and occupation of Cyprus. We continue to work to raise awareness of the Cyprus problem and the role the U.S. can play to support the negotiations.

The people of Cyprus deserve a unified and democratic country—and we are working towards that end.

#### HELPING CHILDREN WITH DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to talk about some courageous children who are changing the way that we think about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. It affects nearly 20,000 babies a year in the United States, robbing them of the muscle development they need to grow into a healthy childhood.

These children, like Gabe Griffin of Birmingham, who you see in this photo, are full of strength, spirit, and hope. They inspire all of us. As he grows into adulthood, his muscle development will be arrested if we don't make progress.

Thanks to research and advocacy by parents like Gabe's, Scott and Traci Griffin, as well as Joel and Dana Wood, here in Washington new treatments are being developed for Duchenne. But for families, the progress needs to come faster. The FDA is now considering whether to grant accelerated approval to a potential breakthrough therapy. It's a drug called Eteplirsen. While

properly taking safety into account, it is important for the FDA to make a timely decision on this drug.

When you look at this picture, you know that we must do everything possible to help these amazing young people to enjoy the happy and healthy childhood that so many of us were blessed with. Let's do everything we can to urge the FDA to research this drug and make it available to the general public.

#### RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES FAILED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BIG-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, President Obama yesterday pivoted to jobs, or so it has been reported, during another campaign-style speech at Knox College in Illinois. During his hour-long speech, we heard no new ideas. Instead, President Obama batted down the hatches on his economic policies. Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York recently reported that more than 50 percent of college graduates are either unemployed or underemployed.

Unfortunately, President Obama's economic policies have failed the class of 2013. Since he took office, President Obama has never really pivoted to jobs. Instead, he's always pivoted to Big Government. What's really grown over the last 4 years is President Obama's Washington. It's a Big Government boomtown.

In contrast, the House has passed several pieces of legislation that would enable job growth. Let me name just a few of those initiatives: the SKILLS Act, the Keystone pipeline, and expanded offshore domestic energy production.

If the President and the Senate would like to get serious about job creation, let me suggest they go to [www.gop.gov/jobs](http://www.gop.gov/jobs). Unless the President truly pivots away from Big Government, we won't see real economic recovery until the class of 2017 graduates.

#### DEFENDING AMERICAN LIBERTIES

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to be here to speak.

At this time, I yield to my friend from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD).

Mr. WHITFIELD. I want to thank the gentleman very much.

Yesterday, the President made a speech at Knox College in Illinois. And in that speech, he categorized Republican Members of Congress in three groups. He said there was a group of