

stamps to make it work. I met her because she thanked me for opposing this bill. As she told me, There are a million Lisas out there, millions of people who need assistance. Don't deny them a chance to get out of poverty and to have help when they need it.

H.R. 3102 is a dream killer. It's un-American.

A few minutes ago, we pledged to this flag behind me. Now it's time to live up to the responsibilities in that pledge of justice for all, not just for a few.

H.R. 3102 is a bad bill. It needs defeating.

DON'T CUT SNAP

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about this heartless and mean-spirited attempt by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to cut \$40 billion from the SNAP program—the food stamp program—that ensures that children, seniors, and poor Americans can put food on the table.

Earlier this year, I participated in a food stamp challenge. We agreed for a period of 1 week to limit our expenditure for food to \$4.50 a day. That's about the average amount that a food stamp recipient receives for food. And so trying to eat on \$4.50 a day was a mind expander and an eye-opener for me because it helped me see how fortunate I was to not be one of the many millions of people who rely on food stamps for their nutrition.

During that week that I was on that food stamp challenge, I went around to a number of food pantries where people were lined up, White and Black, Hispanic and Asian, awaiting the food truck or the tractor-trailer to get there loaded with food so they could get some of it. People lined up several hours before the pantry actually opened just to get some food.

So I can assure you that there are many people out there. And I spoke with many of them. I spoke with one woman who worked three part-time jobs that pay minimum wage. She was trying to take care of a family with that, and was still eligible and needed to have those food stamps.

And so people have lost their jobs and have been offered and accepted new jobs after this economic meltdown caused by Wall Street. People lost jobs. They have accepted part-time jobs—cobbling a few part-time jobs together to try to make ends meet for the entire family. And they need those food stamps.

□ 1100

But what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle plan on doing is cutting \$40 billion for this next year, 2014. They want to cut \$40 billion out of the budget.

The budget is a statement of our values. If you can give farmers crop subsidies—\$15 billion, \$20 billion per year—

and then, by congressional legislation, hide the identity of the recipients of those crop subsidy payments that you, the taxpayer, give to the insurance companies on behalf of the farmers; then what you do, you give the insurance companies, you offset their administrative and operating cost in operating that program, we pay them billions of dollars a year. So, as it ends up, over \$100 billion in a 10-year period, crop insurance for people who don't need it. And we're going to cut food stamps today \$40 billion? That's not the values that America stands for. I will be voting against that legislation.

NO MORE STEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in my district, California 14, we have about 4,000 families who are on food stamps. But some of my colleagues have thousands and thousands more; yet they somehow feel like crusaders and heroes when they vote to cut food stamps.

Some of these same Members travel to foreign countries under the guise of official business. They dine at lavish restaurants, eating steak, vodka, and even caviar. They receive money to do this. That's right. They don't pay out of pocket for these meals. Let me give you a few examples.

One Member was given \$127.41 a day for food on his trip to Argentina. He probably had a fair amount of steak. Another Member was given \$3,588 for food and lodging during a 6-day trip to Russia. He probably drank a fair amount of vodka and probably even had some caviar. That particular Member has 21,000 food stamp recipients in his district. One of those people who is on food stamps could live a year on what this Congressman spent on food and lodging for 6 days.

Another 20 Members made a trip to Dublin, Ireland. They got \$166 a day for food. These Members didn't pay a dime. They received \$50, \$100, almost \$200 for a single meal only for themselves. Yet for them, the idea of helping fellow Americans spend less than \$5 a day makes their skin crawl. The faces of families of veterans, of farmers, of the disabled, of the working poor are not visible to them, not even when they are their own constituents.

Last week, a man named Ron Shaich wrote in an article on his LinkedIn page about food stamps. Ron is the founder, chairman and CEO of Panera Bread. In his article, Ron admitted that, despite wanting to fight poverty and hunger in America, he really didn't know what it was like to be truly hungry. So this week, Ron is taking the SNAP Challenge. The millionaire food mogul is living on \$4.50 a day.

I've taken the SNAP Challenge in the past, and I can tell you it is a horrible experience. You think about food constantly. You are always hungry. But those on food stamps live on \$4.50 every

day, not for one week, for long into their future. That is soul crushing.

Historically, food stamps have been part of the farm bill. It's that same bill that 26 corporate farmers—who remain nameless—get \$1 million each in subsidies meant for real farmers. The taxpayers are giving \$7 billion per year to large agribusiness; yet Republicans feel SNAP programs cost us too much money. They want to cut it.

Mr. Speaker, I can stand here and say that my point is about saving food stamps from cuts—that's true. But my larger point is about us as a country, as a society, as neighbors. I'm a Member of the least productive Congress in the history of this country; I'm ashamed of that. To be honest, if the Federal Government shut down for a couple of weeks, as we keep hearing, would Americans even notice? When a government of the people or for the people becomes a government in spite of the people, then who are we really serving? If we refuse to take care of those who are the most vulnerable at a tiny fraction of the cost of, say, our defense budget, don't we cease to be true public servants?

Ron Shaich is putting himself in the worn-out shoes of 48 million fellow Americans. I'm ready to do the same again. I wonder how many of my Republican colleagues would want to cut food stamps if they had taken the SNAP Challenge. After all, that means no more steak, no more caviar or vodka. Based on these Members' eating habits, I wonder if they could survive.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Bishop J.W. Macklin, Glad Tidings Church, Hayward, California, offered the following prayer:

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has led us thus far along the way. For this land of freedom and the promise of America, we are thankful.

In the face of daunting tasks, monumental and complex challenges, grant this, the 113th Congress, Your sovereign wisdom. Allow this august body, like eagles, to soar above partisan disagreements and personal agendas. Grant the Members of the House of Representatives strength, that they may run for those whose legs are weak, and give them courage that they may

walk for those who have become weary through years of injustice. Give them compassion that they may speak for those whose voices have been silenced. And, God, grant them vision for those whose dreams are diminished. Now, God, empower America with a unity that defies the chaos of the moment.

Thou Who hast by Thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path we pray.

In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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

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

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CHU led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING BISHOP J.W. MACKLIN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, with this House at this moment considering such important issues for the American people, there is no better person I know than Bishop Jerry Macklin to deliver this afternoon's opening prayer. Bishop Macklin's words are inspiring. His call for national unity and wisdom during these trying times is appropriate.

Bishop Macklin knows a thing or two about trying times. He founded the Glad Tidings Church in Hayward, California, in 1978. With a big heart of compassion and a deep devotion to the Lord, Bishop Macklin turned a neighborhood overrun by drugs and crime into a community of faith. Today, Glad Tidings Church has over 1,500 members. Under Bishop Macklin's leadership, the church is not just a place to worship but a center point for care for the com-

munity, providing food, affordable housing, and health care to the most in need among us.

Just 2 weeks ago, Bishop Macklin opened his church's doors to host an Affordable Care Act forum to help educate my constituents. As the regional Health and Human Services director was explaining to the attendees where they could sign up, I saw firsthand Bishop Macklin's commitment to serve the community. He leaned over to me and said, ERIC, our church needs to be at the center of signing people up. And by the time the regional director had finished addressing the attendees, Bishop Macklin had already texted and emailed about a dozen people to make sure that happened.

Thank you, Bishop Macklin, for asking God to watch over this House and for your work to watch over our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, 5 years—that's how long the Keystone XL pipeline and the 40,000 jobs it's expected to create have been waiting for President Obama's approval. There is no good reason for this delay. Americans need these jobs.

Democrats, Republicans, and organized labor groups have coalesced in support of the Keystone XL pipeline because it will spur job creation, help us on our way to energy independence, and increase access to affordable North American oil. Ask any mom responsible for balancing the family checkbook whether affordable energy matters to her. It does.

Keystone XL is the most studied pipeline in our Nation's history. Thousands of pages prove its worth to our economy and national interest and further document its safety. On this fifth anniversary of Keystone's original application, it's time for the President to put his excuses aside. It's time to build.

SNAP NUTRITION

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

Ms. CHU. Once again, House Republicans have put struggling families on the chopping block. They're cutting SNAP, our nutrition program, by nearly \$40 billion. Millions of Americans will completely lose their assistance or see their monthly benefits drastically cut. More than 8,000 families in my

community will risk going hungry. These cuts hurt working families who struggle every day to put food on the table. They end benefits for people who want to work but can't find a job, even mothers with young children. They eliminate a vital safety net for many adults who are out of work. These cuts hurt children, seniors, and veterans, all of whom rely on SNAP to survive. Where are these millions of Americans supposed to turn for food?

It's time for the Republican leadership to stop playing games with the most vulnerable among us. They are literally taking the food out of hungry kids' mouths.

RECOGNIZING KELLY GERMAN AND HAZEL THOMPSON

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the courageous actions of Kelly German and Hazel Thompson of Watertown, South Dakota. On the night of August 6, 2013, Kelly and Hazel helped save the lives of over 40 elderly men and women at a retirement home in Watertown.

A fire started in one of the apartments late in the evening; and one of the residents, Hazel, heard yelling down the hall and immediately informed Kelly German, the night manager, that the building was on fire. Kelly promptly called 911 and immediately began knocking on tenants' doors, many of whom were sleeping. Knowing that many of the doors were locked and that many of the residents were hard of hearing and slightly immobile, Kelly ran back to her apartment to get the master key. She then resumed knocking on and opening every door to awaken the residents and rush them out of the building.

Without the quick action of Hazel, the heroics of Kelly, and the local firefighters in Watertown, many would have lost their lives that night. This story is of special significance to me because Kelly is also a member of my staff and lost everything she owns in that fire. Residents of the home, the community of Watertown, and I will be forever grateful for her selfless act.

LET'S CUT POVERTY, NOT NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to put food on the table. But H.R. 3102, which we'll consider later today, will let families in our districts go hungry. The cuts contained in the bill could leave behind about 120,000 Oregonians who are still struggling to recover from the recession. That's a huge number and will reverberate throughout our communities. Some might say that