

the nature of a country that is like ours.

We have all these voices from all over the country that should come together and that should work together; but they should find us with solutions, not getting into their life and taking things over. They need to see a government that is thinking for them, not trying to make them the servant. They see it.

□ 1015

Why did we have to vote this week about lead in fire hydrants? Isn't that a no-brainer issue? The government has become so strong and so powerful in communities that communities are not sure if they can replace their fire hydrants anymore? Why is it that Americans can't get insurance anymore? Because they are waiting on a government Web site and they are worried about what is going to happen in a month because they are waiting in line for that.

Why is it that the education outcomes continue to decline when we increase Federal control year after year after year, and yet our outcomes continue to decline? Even this week, there is another international poll coming out for that.

Why is it getting harder and harder to start a company, find a job, pay your gas bill? Why is it tougher to fill up your car with gas or pay the bill for your cell phone?

It is because of increasing regulations, increasing fees, increasing control, and Americans continue to get frustrated because they know this is not what we were designed to be. We are doing too many things. We have got to get back to trusting the American people, our State leaders, our local leaders, and we have got to set the standard for what leadership looks like in America by our rhetoric and by our actions.

We can honor people and honor each other, even in our differences, but we have got to get back to doing this Nation's business the way that the American people in their hearts know it should be done, where their voices are heard, and where they get to make the decisions.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR LABOR CONDITIONS IN BANGLADESH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, a year has passed since the 112 garment workers—mostly women—were killed in a factory in Bangladesh that produced clothing for brands like Walmart, Sears, and Kmart.

Earlier this year, I went to Bangladesh and met with women who leapt from the third and fourth floor windows of the factory to escape the fire. There is no good way to jump from

that height. The women who survived the fall were broken, crippled, and unable to support their children.

Since the Tazreen fire, several brands have stepped up with payments for survivors, and yet some of the companies that were presumably profiting quite nicely from production at the Tazreen factory have opted not to compensate a single victim.

Walmart is one of those. They have chosen not to compensate a single woman who died in the factory, was crippled in the factory, had lost their job in the factory all because of the fire in the unsafe factory.

The Tazreen factory was known as a deathtrap. Windows were barred, and the management locked the doors in the stairwells, leaving workers with no way to escape.

Walmart knew this factory was a deathtrap. The company had commissioned a series of audits in 2011. Their audits uncovered that Tazreen was an overcrowded factory without proper fire alarms or smoke detectors, that it lacked sufficient fire fighting equipment, with partially blocked exits and stairwells, and did not post adequate evacuation plans.

Because factory management failed to improve conditions, Walmart terminated the contracts with the factory. However, Tazreen factory workers continued to produce for Walmart, even though they terminated their contract.

According to documents found in the ashes, more than half of the factory's total production was dedicated to Walmart just 2 months before the collapse. So while Walmart left the factory because it was unsafe, over half of the production, according to the documents, was still for Walmart, knowing they were producing in an unsafe factory that claimed the lives of 112 women.

Walmart now claims that the Tazreen factory was an unauthorized subcontractor. Half of the work in the factory was there because supposedly Walmart, whose hallmark of efficiency is their supply chain, didn't know their subcontractor was placing these very significant orders in a factory that they abandoned and was also owned, overall, by another company that they were doing business with.

I think Walmart is trying to construct a process so that they can deny the responsibility for the deaths of the women, the responsibility to pay maybe a benefit to those families who were crushed by the loss of their breadwinner, their mother, their sister, their wife. It is time to accept that responsibility.

When Walmart terminated direct contracts at the factory, it never told the workers that it was leaving or why it was leaving.

At a recent public forum, Walmart said that its only responsibility was to notify the factory owner, but that is like notifying a criminal that you are aware of his crime while you keep his next potential victim in the dark.

Workers had no reason to suspect that Walmart walked away due to safety concerns because Walmart garments still dominated the production there. By quietly walking away and failing to tell anybody who could remedy the danger—workers, trade associations, and the government—Walmart left the Tazreen factory vulnerable to a fire that would engulf them. The Walmart actions were calibrated to evade responsibility, and they put those women at risk.

The pattern of evasion was repeated at Rana Plaza, where 1,132 workers—again, mostly women—were killed when the factory collapsed earlier this year. Walmart claims it did not permit production there, but evidence found in the rubble of that collapsed factory shows that Rana Plaza was producing jeans for Walmart less than a year before the collapse.

There is a theme here: when tragedies occur, Walmart claims production was not authorized as a way to disown responsibility. But every brand sourcing garments from Bangladesh knows that extensive subcontracting is part of the business model. That is how fast-fashion is produced.

You can cut your direct dealings with a specific factory, but there is a chance someone in your supply chain is going to subcontract right back to that factory. The ethics are not complicated.

The United Nations Principles on Business and Human Rights call upon multinationals to conduct due diligence through the many layers of their supply chains where the risks are the greatest to identify, mitigate, and prevent the problems.

Had Walmart done that, maybe 1,000 women would be alive today and not have had a factory collapse on them. Maybe 112 women would be alive today. Maybe those women who had to jump out of the third and fourth floor windows to survive the fire would not be crippled today, would be able to support their families, and live somewhat of a normal life.

Audits don't absolve companies of responsibility. If terminating a contract could lead to even greater harm, there is a special obligation, according to these recognized principles of the United Nations, to stay and remedy the problem. Brands have an obligation to both audit working conditions and to help remedy the risk of the most vulnerable in their supply chain.

Walmart, accept responsibility, and start doing business in a humane way.

WWW.HEALTHCARE.GOV WEB SITE CYBERSECURITY ISSUES

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee recently held a hearing on www.healthcare.gov cybersecurity threats. Our bipartisan expert witness

panel included Dr. Frederick Chang, a computer science professor at SMU; Dr. Aviel Rubin, a computer science professor at Johns Hopkins University; David Kennedy, formerly chief security officer of Diebold Incorporated and currently the principal security consultant for TrustedSec; and Morgan Wright, formerly with Cisco security and now CEO of Crowd Sourced Investigations.

Now, I am not a cybersecurity expert, but I can read the words of those who are. The SST committee's hearing charter informs members that, in order to fully use www.healthcare.gov, American citizens must input or verify highly personal information, such as: date of birth and Social Security numbers for all family members, household salary, debt information, credit card information, place of employment, home addresses, and the like, information that is a treasure trove for cybercriminals and identity thieves.

Further, the ObamaCare Web site interacts with the IRS and Social Security Administration databases, thereby exposing Americans to even greater risk of theft of their most private personal information. In their written testimony, these experts warn the following about the www.healthcare.gov Web site:

"There are clear indicators that even basic security was not built into the www.healthcare.gov Web site."

"The vast amount of www.healthcare.gov code also means applying industry standard security practices is a task that can have no real chance of success."

www.healthcare.gov "creates massive opportunity for fraud, scams, deceptive trade practices, identity theft, and more."

Mr. Speaker, these threats to American family finances prompted me to ask the panel of cybersecurity experts whether, under ObamaCare, Americans could seek compensation from the Federal Government for financial losses caused by their use of www.healthcare.gov. In reply, not one expert—not one—indicated ObamaCare requires the Federal Government to compensate American citizens for cybersecurity financial losses caused by their forced use of the www.healthcare.gov Web site.

If these experts are right, and if you are an American citizen who obeys ObamaCare dictates, and you suffer from identity theft or other financial losses, the White House response is essentially, Tough luck; you are on your own. Well, that is unsatisfactory and insufferable.

I next asked the bipartisan panel of experts, "Given www.healthcare.gov security issues and assuming for the moment that you would be personally responsible for all damages incurred, if any, from your advice, would any of you advise an American citizen to use this Web site as the security issues now exist?" Their bipartisan response was a stunning and unanimous, No; do not

use the Web site because the security risks associated with www.healthcare.gov are simply too great.

Mr. Speaker, the ObamaCare Web site, www.healthcare.gov, is the mother lode for identity theft, Internet fraud, and other criminal activity.

For emphasis, Mr. Speaker, a bipartisan panel of cybersecurity experts publicly warns that the www.healthcare.gov cybersecurity threat is so great that no one should use it. Based on their expert advice, I concur and encourage all Americans to avoid www.healthcare.gov, the ObamaCare Web site, in any way, shape, or form, until its cybersecurity risks are fixed.

HUMANITARIAN YANK BARRY, FOUNDER OF THE GLOBAL VILLAGE CHAMPIONS FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, with a lot of enthusiasm, I rise to recognize and to acknowledge a renaissance man, a man with a sense of humor, who, along with his wife, Yvette, was determined to help make the lives of children around the world much better. Yes, he had a sense of humor, and he was also a musician, and he visualized a day without hunger, hoping for it to be December 31, 2013. Yank Barry has many sides to him, but enthusiastically, he takes each challenge—some that he has overcome in life—and put on the boxing gloves and simply won.

I am excited that he joined in partnership with Gary U.S. Bonds and Muhammad Ali to form the Global Village Champions Foundation not just for boxing but really to take boxers and box the troubles of the world away. In the course of his work, he has served almost 1 billion meals—954 million—on his way to 1 billion. He also didn't take "no" for an answer in working to release five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian in Libya a few years ago, which was not an easy task.

So along with his 30-year music career, jamming with Jimi Hendrix, writing jingles, and, yes, singing with the Kingsmen of "Louie, Louie" fame, we can be grateful that he and his wife, Yvette, turned to a very important challenge, the Global Village Champions Foundation, which strives to become the undisputed world leader in private humanitarian delivery of nutrition to needy persons everywhere, sustaining human life and helping to eradicate hunger from the face of the Earth.

As someone who has worked with the Congressional Children's Caucus, it excites me to note that he continues to provide support for the children that we are already supplying with meals and other necessities. He spans the Global Village Champions team to include people with diverse skills and a

determination to make a difference in the world.

For more than 17 years, he has joined with his friends Muhammad Ali and Gary U.S. Bonds. They haven't boxed, they haven't sung, but they have worked to put a light in the darkness of the lives of so many.

His career has spanned many aspects. He even wrote jingles. He even was able to put forward a unique form of music. But I would say that one of his greatest challenges and greatest successes is that everywhere he goes, he takes his product that he has developed, Vitapro, and he changes the hearts and minds of those who are suffering.

He started donating some of his food products to various charities and NGOs in Canada and the U.S. Soon, Yank's dear friend Muhammad, as I indicated, joined the Global Village, and they brought food, medical supplies, clothing, and educational tools to refugee camps and orphanages in areas stricken by disaster all over the world, from Africa to Bulgaria and places beyond our imagination. As well, he worked with those like Celine Dion, Michael Jordan, Buzz Aldrin, and many others.

□ 1030

As a result of his ongoing fight against hunger, Mr. Barry has received nearly two dozen awards since 1995, including the India Humanitarian Service Award; the Bahamian Red Cross Humanitarian Award; the Cote d'Ivoire Humanitarian Award; the Juarez, Mexico, Hands of Love and Hope Award. And it goes on and on and on.

He does not do this for the awards. He does this for the simplicity of being able to go into Bulgaria, where those fleeing from the oppression of Syria were in camps that were not ready for humankind. Because of his frustration and because of his heart, he decided to look for hotels that he could lease so he could move some of these desperate Syrian refugees that were already oppressed, already having lost loved ones, into those hotels with clean water and places for their families to be.

As I chatted with him, I was moved by the story of a family of 17. He didn't think anything of moving them out of a room smaller than a classroom and giving them space in a hotel so that they could live in dignity and maybe even think of going back to a Syria that would be free from oppression and devastation.

And so it is good that—his roots being in our neighboring country, Canada—he came here to the United States to make a difference.

I am delighted today to recognize Mr. Yank Barry for his humanitarian service to all of the world and to be able to say to him, Well done in life. Continue to serve and save others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to recognize the humanitarian deeds of an icon in the music industry and a giant on the world scene to eradicate hunger from the face of the Earth. Yank Barry was born in Montreal,