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No. 109

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 14, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG LAMALFA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, being poor in America is hard work. Despite what some of my colleagues and many right-wing pundits might think, it simply isn't easy to be poor in America.

Mr. Speaker, week after week, I come to this floor to talk about how we can end hunger now. It is a simple concept. We can end hunger if we muster the political will to do so. We have the food and we know how to do it. We just need

the commitment to make it happen. Unfortunately, Congress has very consciously decided to make hunger worse.

In November, this Congress let a massive, across-the-board cut to SNAP take effect. The result was a benefit cut of \$30 per month for a family of three. Imagine living on a fixed income, relying on food stamps to put food on the table, and then seeing your monthly allotment cut, without the cost of food going down. It is hard to make those numbers work.

On top of that across-the-board cut, this Congress passed a farm bill that cut an additional \$8.5 billion from SNAP. Thankfully, a number of Governors have stepped up, covered those costs, and ensured that this cut would not impact poor people in their States. But not every State did the responsible thing, and poor people in those States will see an additional cut of \$90 per month.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this is an assault on poor people.

Part of the problem is that very few Members of Congress have even the faintest clue what it is like to be poor in America. How many Members of Congress have actually visited food banks, talked to SNAP recipients, or stayed overnight in a family shelter? How many of my colleagues have even looked at a WIC, LIHEAP, or Medicaid application, let alone tried to fill one out or gone through the approval process? The answer, Mr. Speaker, is very few.

Too many of my colleagues either turn a blind eye to the poor or go out of their way to dismiss their struggles. Many of these Members who don't take time to learn about the struggles of the poor are actually dispensing misleading information and are advocating for cuts to programs they mistakenly refer to as bloated and fraught with fraud, waste, and abuse.

Take SNAP, for example. Yes, it is a large program. We spend a lot of money

ensuring that poor people have access to food. But until we do something about wages—and the first thing we should do is to raise the minimum wage, Mr. Speaker, so that people can actually afford to live their lives—we will be forced to either let people go hungry or help them buy their food. SNAP is that lifeline that helps put food on kitchen tables.

By the way, a majority of people who rely on SNAP actually work for a living.

Opponents of SNAP continue to describe it as fraught with fraud, waste, and abuse. This is absolutely false, period. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities recently released a report explaining that the rates of both over- and underpayments have fallen considerably in recent years. In fact, the center found that less than 1 percent of food stamps go to ineligible people.

It is time we hear from people who are struggling to make ends meet. I was pleased that my friend, Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, invited Tianna Gaines-Turner to testify before the Budget Committee last week, at the request of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California.

Chairman PAUL RYAN has held five hearings on the 50th anniversary of the war on poverty, and this is the first time a poor person actually testified before the committee. It is amazing that it took so long to hear from a person who is actually trying to dig herself and her family out of poverty. That is the good news. If you want to hear the bad news, you should watch some of the questioning she endured at the hands of some of my Republican colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, we need to hear more from people like Ms. Gaines-Turner, and we need to work even harder to end hunger in America.

I will close by saying to my colleagues that the poor in America are

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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more than statistics; they are real people. It is long past time this Congress made their plight a priority.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of this people's House deliberate these days, give them the wisdom and magnanimity to lay aside what might divide us as a people to forge a secure future for our country.

We pray for all people who have special needs. May Your presence be known to those who are sick that they might feel the power of Your healing Spirit.

Be with those who suffer persecution in so many places of our world, and bless our troops who are engaged in the easing of those sufferings. Give to all who are afraid or anxious or whose minds are clouded by uncertain futures the peace and confidence that come from trust in Your goodness and mercy.

Inspire the men and women who serve in this House to be their best selves that they may, in turn, be an inspiration to the Nation and to the world.

May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

LOSS OF JOBS IS A FAILURE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, an alarming admission has shown itself in the June unemployment report. For the 49th time in 50 months, there are more people dropping out of the job search than those who have found a new job. More people are giving up than succeeding. This reveals the real unemployment rate as 11.2 percent, not the claimed 6.1 percent.

Hardworking Americans are suffering by losing jobs at the hand of a failed jobs policy—at the hand of President Obama and his pen. A sad revelation of the President's failure is that now 14 million more Americans have depended on food stamps under his failed policies since he was elected. The definition of "success" is having a job and not being forced to depend on food stamps.

House Republicans will continue working to create jobs by passing legislation that puts Americans back to work in good-paying opportunities. Over 40 jobs bills have passed the House, but are now stuck in the Senate.

When more Americans give up jobs than succeed, it is a problem. When it happens that many times in a row, it is a tragic failure.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ECONOMY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the recently revised downward first quarter GDP numbers show the economy contracted by 2.9 percent in the opening months of 2014.

We have a social safety net that is already forecasted to run perpetual deficits for decades to come, and diminished economic growth will hurt our already underfunded entitlement plans.

For as long as I have been in Congress, Republicans have been working to enact structural reforms to put our budget back in balance. The recent GDP report makes those reforms even more urgent.

These long-term reforms need to be considered. In the short run, let's hope that the recent economic contraction will spur the President and Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID to act on the dozens of House-passed jobs bills awaiting action in the Senate.

These bills will help put Americans back to work and expand our economy. Will the President act?

INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak about the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

Interstate commerce has blossomed with the wires and connectivity that the Internet has provided us for these last couple of decades, and since 1998, the Internet Tax Freedom Act has prohibited your Internet access bill from lighting up like a Christmas tree as it has on your telephone bill. It has aided those who want to access the Internet by allowing those costs to stay down, without burdensome taxes being added on.

If ever there were an invention that is truly interstate commerce, it is the Internet. We could be standing side by side and could send each other a tweet or a post on Facebook or even an email, and it could go through a whole host of States on its way, in order to get to the person who is standing right next to you.

Only two people have ever voted against the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which was originally enacted in 1998, and every 4 years, we have had to renew that. Now, Chairman BOB GOODLATTE is bringing this up again, so as to make this permanent, to add certainty and to keep costs low.

I urge the passage of the Internet Tax Freedom Act as we address it later this week.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 14, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 14, 2014 at 11:19 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1104.
That the Senate passed S. 653.
That the Senate passed S. 2056.
That the Senate passed S. 2057.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1376.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1813.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1502

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro