

I was just elected this past December. Prior to that, I was in the Alabama State Senate, and in our State, the State of Alabama, as in most States, our legislature is required to pass a budget and appropriations bills every year on time, and they have to be balanced.

So every year, the Alabama Legislature passes budgets with appropriations in them on time, and they are balanced. The United States Congress can't do that, the greatest debating body ever known to the world, the United States Senate can't do that?

I can't imagine what the people in my district would think if they saw the inaction coming from the United States Senate, but they see the results of it, and it troubles them greatly.

We have heard this song and dance before, and most of us now know how it is going to end. At some point—sooner, rather than later—the House will be forced to consider a continuing resolution to prevent a government shutdown.

The Senate can prevent this by following the House in regular order, doing the people's work, making the hard decisions, and advancing individual appropriations bills, as we have done in the House.

That is how government is supposed to work, and that is the only way we are going to be able to make serious reforms to spending programs.

I have come to this body a number of times to offer amendments to pending bills that would have cut spending, and I am going to keep pushing for these types of strategic spending reductions, but when the Senate refuses to do its part, it makes this process impossible.

The Senate's inaction is going to force those in the House to make an unfair choice, and I ask them to act differently for the people of this country, so we can get things done.

EDUCATION FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about education. A quality, affordable education is vital to ensuring that American students are prepared for the jobs of the 21st century. For West Virginians, for Americans to compete for jobs, they need to have the skills, knowledge, and training to make them attractive to employers.

Education opens doors. A diploma or degree brings with it the promise of a better future, better wages, a better quality of life, a better future for one's family. Without a quality education, the possibilities of life are truly limited, not limitless.

In the House of Representatives, we are taking action today to ensure that every American has access to quality education and an education that is affordable and understandable.

Later today, we will pass two bills to help students pay for college and better

manage the debt that they accrue. The Empowering Students through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act will better educate students about the financial implications of student loans and help them borrow the money they need, not all of the money that they are offered.

We hear time and time again of the crushing debt that our students are coming out of college and higher education with. We want to help them better manage that and understand that.

So with counseling on the front end, they will know what they are actually getting into, instead of waiting until the back end and hitting them with the hammer of this is where you are now, so you have got to deal with it.

We will also pass the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act which, very simply, makes permanent the American Opportunity Tax Credit.

West Virginians want to work. Americans want to work. West Virginia's employers want to hire at home. They want to have access to an educated workforce, and by investing in education, we invest in our Nation's future. We invest in growing our Nation's economy, and we invest in the future of generations yet to come.

DOMESTIC ENERGY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, each day, we hear about new opportunities as a result of developing our own domestic energy resources. What we hear less about is how many crises we have avoided as America has moved from energy scarcity to energy abundance.

Last week, on July 15, historian, Pulitzer Prize winner, and renowned energy expert Daniel Yergin stated that, without the recent domestic boom in oil production, the United States would be in deep economic trouble.

"I am convinced, were it not for what's happened these last few years, we'd be looking at an oil crisis," he said, according to the Pennsylvania energy news publication, StateImpact, covering Mr. Yergin's remarks.

"We'd have panic in the public. We'd have angry motorists. We'd have inflamed congressional hearings, and we'd have the U.S. economy falling back into a recession," he added.

Not only that, Mr. Speaker, we have jobs coming back to the United States that were previously headed overseas due to cheaper labor and other competitive advantages. Today, the U.S. is looking a bit more welcoming for businesses and job growth and for the American worker.

From The Wall Street Journal earlier this week, "The competitive advantage that U.S. companies will receive from the lower cost provided by shale gas . . . is attracting investment from some of the industry's bigger names.

Just last week, the International Energy Agency said some 30 million European jobs are at risk as manufacturers of petrochemicals, plastics, and fertilizers are relocating to the U.S."

Additionally, as reported in Politico earlier this week, "A strange thing happened in the past few months as Ukraine battled with Russian-backed separatists, rockets flew over Israel, and much of Iraq fell to Islamist insurgents: gasoline prices for U.S. motorists stayed pretty much flat. The price at the pump has even fallen in the past week, even after Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 exploded over Ukraine and Israel sent ground forces into Gaza . . . It's yet another sign of the unexpected changes wrought by the U.S. energy boom, which has turned the United States into one of the world's largest oil producers and the biggest producer of natural gas."

Mr. Speaker, the opportunities of domestic energy production are apparent. As a result, we have new opportunities here at home and abroad. Americans are keeping more money in their pockets due to lower heating costs and prices at the pump.

U.S. businesses are bringing operations back to the U.S. to create jobs here at home. Companies from across the globe are bringing their operations to the United States, so that they can do business at a lower cost.

American families are able to find good-paying jobs. We are helping the U.S. remain competitive, and we are becoming more economically secure.

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 10 o'clock and 39 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

Reverend Thomas Koys, St. James at Sag Bridge Catholic Church, Lemont, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I give You thanks and I ask Your blessing upon all gathered here. Lord, I beg You to enlighten us, and I ask You to be merciful to our country, as we strive to win that kind of peace that You desire.

As these people debate the best ways to order our society, give them humble hearts to seek that order that flows from Your supreme intelligence.

Help them to learn the lesson that You tried to teach Your chosen people in the time of Samuel, the prophet; that to be the most favored nation in

Your eyes, that nation must be unlike other nations.

Lord, I pray for ministers of all faiths that they may be protected from the penalties assigned to lawbreakers who find it their duty to follow their conscience, save those who think it their duty to destroy America.

Put in our hearts a desire to build a nation unafraid to follow Your commands.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOGGETT 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will remind the House that on July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At 3:40 p.m. today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

WELCOMING REVEREND THOMAS KOYS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce our guest chaplain this morning, Father Thomas Koys, pastor of St. James at Sag Bridge Catholic Church in Lemont, Illinois. Fitting for a pastor who loves American history, St. James was founded in 1833 and has a historic church building completed in 1858.

A longtime Chicagoland resident, Father Koys attended St. Mary Elementary in Riverside, Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary, and Niles College Seminary at Loyola University. He went on to receive two master's degrees from Catholic University of America and from University of St. Mary of the Lake.

Father Koys was ordained in 1985 and has become an important voice in the Catholic community. In 2002, he au-

thored "The Ashes That Still Remain" and also hosts a radio show on Winds of Change Radio in Chicago.

He learned to speak Spanish while on a 4-month mission in Guerrero, Mexico. Father Koys' Spanish is very much welcomed in ministering to the large Spanish-speaking population in the Chicago Archdiocese.

In the Archdiocese, he is also very active in advocating for life and for family issues, and is involved in leading the Catholic Professionals of Illinois.

An avid cyclist, Father Koys has participated in numerous cycling fundraisers to fight multiple sclerosis, which has affected his brother, John.

This afternoon, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Father Koys to the House of Representatives, and thank him for serving today as our guest chaplain.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on the each side of the aisle.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ANSWERS ABOUT THE IRS

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

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, for over a year, the Ways and Means Committee has led an investigation into the IRS targeting conservative individuals for their beliefs. We found that the IRS subjected Americans to harassment, going so far as to question the content of their prayers and their political beliefs, subjecting them to audits, and leaking their personal taxpayer information.

They worked on rules behind closed doors that would restrict the rights of groups to organize, to speak out, and to educate the public.

They destroyed over 2 years' worth of emails, emails that are key to the investigation.

The IRS has spent years denying, delaying, and obstructing. The American people deserve some answers, and I am committed to ensuring they know the truth of what really happened at the IRS.

THE TRAGEDY OF FLIGHT MH-17

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sympathy for all of those affected by the tragedy of Flight MH-17. It is unthinkable that a commercial airliner would ever be shot down by a surface-to-air missile, and yet, that is exactly what happened in the part of Ukraine controlled by Russian separatists.

The evidence seems to point to one perpetrator, one party intent on inflicting pain and suffering upon the innocent.

The fire of Ukraine's crisis has undoubtedly been fueled by Russia and its operatives. So let this senseless tragedy serve as a wake-up call to the international community.

This conflict could end today. It is in Mr. Putin's hands. But until then, I support the sanctions that the United States has already levied against Russia and stand strongly with the people of Ukraine in their struggle for autonomy and sovereignty.

My heart will forever go out to all those lost in this horrific act of war and the loved ones they leave behind.

GOOGLE DOES A BETTER JOB THAN THE IRS

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, did you know that Google keeps emails for 7 years?

Google, a company which is used for personal emails, keeps your emails, evidently, longer than the IRS. Well, that is, at least, what we are understanding now from the IRS.

I think it is highly doubtful that these emails simply disappeared. And seeing the other claims by the IRS that have turned out to be falsities, I believe this is also. I do not believe that they have lost them.

First, the IRS delayed in telling the American people, through their report of the missing emails. They did not even acknowledge the problem that occurred.

Second, the IRS Commissioner Koskinen was, I believe, untruthful when he referred to these emails being missing. No, not in April, as he first claimed, but actually February 2, according to the IRS deputy associate chief counsel, did he recognize that they were missing.

Madam Speaker, I would say if Google can keep these emails for 7 years, I think the IRS should have to do the same, and if they can't do their job, we are going to, as Members of Congress, find out.

AMERICA NEEDS COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, it has been 13 months, 13 months since the Senate passed a bipartisan, comprehensive bill, and yet, the Speaker has not let that bill come to the floor.

So we filed a bipartisan bill with almost 200 cosponsors, and still the Speaker will not let that bill come to the floor. And why?

Well, first they said that the Republicans were working on their own bill,