

The recent positive votes in Congress suggest that more progress is possible before we adjourn.

CHRISTIANITY IS BEING ERADICATED IN IRAQ

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, another Sunday has come and gone without mass being said in Mosul.

There is no doubt about it; religious cleansing is continuing to occur in Iraq. The churches have been seized and some turned into mosques. Every trace of Christianity is being eradicated in Iraq. The Christians' property has been seized, looted, and given to others.

Canon Andrew White, the vicar of the only Anglican church in Baghdad, Iraq, recently stated, "Things are so desperate, our people are disappearing. We have had our people massacred, their heads chopped off. Are we seeing the end of Christianity? We are committed," he said, "come what may, we will keep going to the end, but it looks as though the end could be near."

Vicar White, continuing, said, "The Christians are in grave danger. They are literally living in the desert and on the street. They have nowhere to go."

The question remains: What should the world be doing to help the Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq?

The administration has taken a small step, although it needs to do much more. The President of the United States needs to speak out on this issue.

This morning, after a 9-month vacancy, the White House announced the nomination of Rabbi David Saperstein to be the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom. Rabbi Saperstein is well-respected on these matters and has been engaged on this issue for a long time. I welcome this nomination. It is a good nomination, and I ask the Senate to confirm Rabbi Saperstein quickly.

On Friday, the House passed legislation that creates the position of Special Envoy for Religious Minorities in the Middle East and South Central Asia. This was bipartisan legislation that was introduced by Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO and myself. Our office worked closely with our former colleague, Senator ROY BLUNT.

I call on the President to sign this bill quickly and to fill this position as quickly as possible. Time is of the essence. We cannot afford to wait any longer. Christianity, as we now know it, is being wiped out before our very eyes in Iraq.

23 IN 1—KERMIT

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to continue the journey

through the 23rd District of Texas and talk about Kermit, Texas, which many people know as being one of the communities in the center of all of the action with respect to the energy economy in Texas, but I know it as the home of the Yellow Jackets, the Yellow Jackets who, for years, have been a formidable foe for my own Alpine Bucks.

Kermit started life, the town started as a local trading and supply company, or trading and supply depot, for the ranches that dotted the west Texas landscape. Kermit gets its name not from a notable green frog known for being the first frog to communicate with humans, but, instead, it gets its name from Kermit Roosevelt, the only place in the United States that is named for the son of a former U.S. President, Teddy Roosevelt.

Kermit, Texas, became the county seat of Winkler County in 1910 and was a city, like many of the other rural communities in Texas, that had a challenge staying alive.

Small towns have always had a particular challenge, and in Kermit's case, they were devastated by a drought that struck the area in 1916 that forced many homesteaders and ranchers to leave. Kermit ran dry by 1924, and the Ern Baird family was the sole family in town, with three houses, a single-student school, and a lone courthouse.

The whole town nearly evaporated into the air until that sea of oil was discovered below the surface and, in 1926, Kermit, Texas, became a boomtown. That boomtown continued into the sixties, and through the boom, the town has seen tremendous growth.

During the rapid expansion of the city, flooding actually became a problem. As with small towns that are scattered throughout rural Texas, they worked through that problem to a solution. They constructed crown streets, and the city kept growing and building additional infrastructure to support the oil boom and the growing needs of their county.

Kermit, Texas, although small in size, has displayed that same attitude reflected in many of the successes of our great Nation. They work through tough situations with creativity and resolve, and, as a result, we as a nation greatly benefit from their willingness to stick through it.

Kermit, Texas, and those who worked and lived and raised families there, they have all contributed to our energy security. They have all contributed to the energy security of our entire country. Without them, it would have been difficult to meet the energy demands of World War II and, after the war, the economic boom that the U.S. would experience.

Even today, Kermit is a mainstay of the west Texas economy, an active chamber, an active community, a wonderful place to live and to raise kids, and, of course, the ever-proud Yellow Jackets.

If you find yourself near Kermit, Texas, I invite you to visit this small

and historic town that has contributed so much so greatly to our Texas values, our Texas history, and our Texas success, Kermit, Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR. JIM FULGHUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOLF). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Carolina Representative Dr. Jim Fulghum, who recently passed away after a brief but courageous battle with cancer.

A lifelong resident of Raleigh, Jim attended Broughton High School and married his high school sweetheart, Mary Susan. They both received their medical degrees at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Mary Susan continues to serve the Raleigh community as a doctor, as Jim did for so many years.

I want to commemorate Jim for all he contributed to the field of medicine, the city of Raleigh, North Carolina, and our country. Jim was a world-renowned neurosurgeon, served his country in the gulf war, and later went on to serve in the North Carolina State Legislature.

Jim was truly a great American, a good friend of mine, and a mentor to me and so many others that he came in contact with. As a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, Jim was an exemplary statesman on behalf of his constituents. He was a compassionate man and touched the lives of many.

Throughout Jim's life, he tirelessly offered his services to the community. He was involved in numerous organizations in the State, including Edenton Street United Methodist Church, where he was active throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, Jim served his community with great honor and distinction, and North Carolina mourns his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with Jim's wife of 47 years, Mary Susan, and the rest of his family: Emily, Molly, Patrick, Jens; his sisters Peggy, Mary Anne, and Ruth; and his two grandchildren, Margaret and Kirk.

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 12 o'clock and 14 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. HOLDING) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

As we begin the final week before the August recess, we give You thanks as well for the recent progress made over the weekend and ask Your blessing on the Members of the people's House in completing their work on the important legislation that demands their attention.

May goodwill and a common love for our Nation and its people abound in this assembly. Bless the work of the Members, their staff, and all who labor to complete the unfinished work at hand.

As always, may all that is done today and for the rest of this week 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 gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COHEN 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.

EBOLA OUTBREAK

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the picture on the front page of this morning's New York Times is about the latest deadly outbreak of Ebola in Africa. This horrible disease knows no borders and has already claimed the lives of 660 people in four countries since it was first detected in March.

The White House needs to pull together the CDC, NIH, State Department, USAID, the World Health Organization, and other Western governments to stave off this outbreak before it spreads further. I am concerned that there is not a sufficient plan in place, either in Africa or in the event that it spreads to the U.S.

We live in a global world. We need a clear plan and strong leadership now. We cannot wait until a case shows up in the United States.

THE WAR ON MARIJUANA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, Sunday's New York Times editorial page—the entire page, a very unusual circumstance—was dedicated to ending our crazy and unsuccessful and expensive war on marijuana, emphasizing that the war on marijuana costs us much money in prosecuting and also ruins people's lives. It costs us more than it protects, and it has a disparate impact on African Americans and minorities, as they are much more likely to be arrested, have a scarlet M on their chest for the rest of their lives, denying them public housing, scholarships, and often jobs.

It is time we left the situation to the States, like we did with alcohol, the last prohibition we had in this country, and let the States make these decisions, as Colorado and Washington have, the laboratories of democracy. Let's make sense of our drug policies and drug laws and not have marijuana and heroin in the same class.

A CRISIS ON THE TEXAS BORDER

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows now, there is a crisis on the Texas border. And what is the proximate cause of that crisis? It was the President's decision to defer adjudication for childhood arrivals a little over 2 years ago. When the President issued his memorandum, stating that deferred adjudication was now possible, the floodgates opened.

To make that call was irresponsible. But once again, we heard evidence this weekend that the President is, again, thinking of overstepping his authority.

Mr. Speaker, this would only throw gasoline on a fire. We need legislation that will allow for more sensible solutions to be put in place. The executive overreach effectively called for no-holds-barred at the border and has caused great strain on our system.

No one but the President has the power to remedy this legislation. By issuing the order 2 years ago, the President opened the floodgates. It is up to him to quench the bleeding.

FIREFIGHTING BUDGET

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the end of this week begins the August recess, or district work period. Some of us will go home working—and I am going home to a State that is on fire. We have four major fires, and many dozens of other fires are burning in Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, and Utah.

The Forest Service and the BLM have about exhausted their budget for fighting fires. They can't stop fighting fires. So they are going to have to gut their other budgets, including budgets that would mitigate future fire risk,

fuel reduction, and other programs. They will also cut recreation and other things that people really care about. Congress has not seen fit to give them adequate money.

There is a bipartisan, bicameral proposal, supported by the President—that is about the rarest thing in Washington, D.C., these days—to give the Forest Service and the BLM the tools they need, an adequate budget, and for these extreme fires—the 1 percent that cost 30 percent of the budget—treat those like emergencies, like we do floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes.

What have the Republicans done with this? Nothing. Nada. Zip. Not one hearing. Not one mention, except in the Ryan budget, where he said he didn't support that approach; they should just gut their budgets, or we should kill some other program to pay for fighting fires.

HOLD THE PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is not too late to do the right thing, and that is hold the President responsible for his immigration policies.

His ignoring immigration laws and weakening immigration laws through executive orders has caused the border crisis. It has encouraged tens of thousands of illegal immigrants to undertake a dangerous journey north.

The burden rests on the President to enforce current immigration laws. Otherwise, he will continue to reap the whirlwind of displaced families and an unsecure border.

To those who say, "We have to do something," the answer is, "Yes, tell the President to uphold the Constitution and faithfully execute the laws."

The President doesn't need more power. He doesn't need more money. He just needs to keep his oath of office.

THE MANY ISSUES FACING THE CONGRESS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me welcome the young African leaders that are here from all over Africa. They came because they view America as a working government, a government of democracy and collaboration and coalition. So I welcome them. But I also ask my colleagues to show them that government and pass the emergency supplemental now.

The issues at the border, the unaccompanied children, are not the fault of President Obama or any of us who believe in immigration reform. They are the fault of people fleeing violence, prepared to flee from losing their lives.

Just like the unfortunate circumstances in Nigeria, where Boko