

their coverage will end if Congress fails to act, causing the sort of uncertainty that hurts economic growth.”

Those are 45 of your Members, your colleagues, our colleagues who have made the observation. I think, therefore, for all the reasons they articulated, they are right. I have said that just now.

They also indicate, Mr. Leader, that there are at least, therefore, in this Congress, over 230 votes to pass a TRIA extension with a 5-year window. I say that because every Democrat will vote for a long-term TRIA extension. Forty-five of your Members have written a letter clearly indicating they support that. That gets you well over 230 votes. I think a majority of your party would vote for that as well. So I think we would probably get closer to 300 votes. But I would hope that we would do that because I think that is in the best interest of our country.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman was correct in my announcement, I did announce that we will have legislation on TRIA on the floor next week. And I take what the gentleman said prior, about not wanting to shut the government down, and I am glad that you feel the same way. I just, at times, get concerned with the news reports that I hear from your leader—I don’t know if they are true or not—from inside your own conference about trying to withhold votes. I hope that we can continue the working relationship that we have developed and, into the new Congress as well, work together, because no one on this side of the aisle ever wants to shut the government down. That is why we will bring forth legislation that will not shut the government down and protects it at the same time.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comment.

Very frankly, I am convinced that the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY)—Mrs. LOWEY being the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee; Mr. ROGERS being the Republican chair—could agree today and could bring a bill to the floor on Tuesday that would get overwhelming support.

The gentleman knows that in accommodating some in your caucus either for legislative additions to the appropriation bill for which you need a waiver—as you know having served on the Appropriations Committee, legislating on appropriation bills is not consistent with the rules, and therefore you need a waiver to accomplish that—and the, what we hear, unwillingness to fund the Homeland Security agency, which, as the gentleman from South Carolina, Senator GRAHAM, said just the other day was a bad idea and would undermine national security because of the duties of the Homeland Security Department, what the leader on our side of the aisle, the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. PELOSI), was saying is that we cannot commit to something that, A, we don’t know what is happening fully, that hasn’t been decided yet, but, secondly, that is inconsistent with the agreement that we have on a bipartisan basis with the Ryan-Murray funding caps and that we think Mr. ROGERS and Mrs. LOWEY have agreed upon and can report out a bill that will be one that we can support fully. That, I think, is what the leader is saying. I agree with her on that.

I am, therefore, hopeful that the bill will be in a fashion that will reflect, A, the Ryan-Murray agreement on numbers, and, B, not have in it “poison pills,” as we refer to them, that will make it difficult, if not impossible, for us to support. Both of us want to keep the government open. That is the responsibility of the appropriations bills. Other extraneous legislative actions that may want to be taken which would put that at risk I would hope would not be taken; and that was, I think, what the leader was saying.

If the gentleman has nothing further, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, December 8, 2014, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

MARIA CORINA MACHADO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Maria Corina Machado who is being unjustly accused, intimidated, and dragged into court under bogus charges by the regime of Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela. She has been stripped of her seat in Congress, been barred from leaving her country, and is being denied due process.

In May, the House passed my legislation aimed at denying visas, blocking property, freezing assets, and prohibiting any financial transactions to members of the Venezuelan regime who are responsible for human rights abuses against the peaceful citizens of Venezuela.

The U.S. must no longer stand still as these abuses are repeated in our own hemisphere. There are 72 students, 2 elected officials, 12 military officers, and democracy activist Leopoldo Lopez still in prison under politically motivated charges. Maria Corina must not join them, and all political prisoners in Venezuela must be freed immediately.

I CAN'T BREATHE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Black men and boys killed by police.

I can't breathe.

Impunity for the killers. No justice, no peace.

I can't breathe.

Militarized police met peaceful protesters on their knees.

I can't breathe.

Weapons of war, a show of force on our streets.

I can't breathe.

Disenfranchised youth driven to violence as speech.

I can't breathe.

Cynical media think this makes great TV.

I can't breathe.

This cowardly Congress afraid of losing our seats.

I can't breathe.

Half-hearted reform when there is more that we need.

I can't breathe.

Just thinking about the despair that it breeds.

I can't breathe.

Black lives matter. Hear my pleas.

I can't breathe.

□ 1500

LNG EXCISE TAXES

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

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to briefly highlight an issue that I wish had been resolved this week, but unfortunately the President's veto threat of an unfinished tax extenders compromise caused this bill to remain fallow.

Under the current outdated Tax Code, LNG, liquefied natural gas, is applied the same excise tax as other fuels despite producing different energy outputs per gallon. This results in LNG users facing disproportionately higher excise tax rates than their diesel counterparts, creating a perverse inequality that artificially hinders the attractiveness of LNG as a transportation fuel.

So a truck fueling with domestic clean natural gas at Sellersburg, Indiana's LNG truck stop pays 70 percent more tax than its diesel counterpart across the street. An LNG-powered river tug fueling up at one of Ohio's river ports will, instead of paying the proposed 29 cents per gallon fuel tax for inland waterways, pay nearly 50 cents per gallon. This disparity needs to be addressed.

There has been some constructive movement by Representative THORBERRY. I applaud that effort and hope we can address this matter next year during the debate on the highway trust fund.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, our troops, our country, and our communities deserve far better than the defense bill that passed today. The hidden provision in the amended H.R. 3979 to authorize training and arming the so-called moderate Syrian rebels for the next 2 years with no limit on how much money can be spent has seriously polluted this critical piece of legislation.

I could not in good conscience vote to support the so-called moderate forces who often work hand in hand with al Qaeda or ISIS and whose personnel and weapons often end up in the hands of those terrorists. This bill continues the same failed practices of undeclared war, regime change, and nation building that have held us mired in the Middle East for over a decade.

FUNDING THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, columnist Roger Simon wrote the following in one of the Capitol Hill newspapers several weeks ago:

If you spent 13 years pounding money down a rathole with little to show for it, you might wake up one morning and say, "Hey, I am going to stop pounding money down this rathole."

Unfortunately, the U.S. Government does not think that way. The U.S. Government wakes up every morning and says, "The rathole is looking a little bit empty today, let's pound a few more billion dollars down there." And when that rathole is Afghanistan, the billions are essentially without end.

He added that we have spent several billions trying to stop opium production there but that during U.S. occupation, drug production in Afghanistan has actually increased.

By one very conservative estimate, we have spent \$753 billion on the war in Afghanistan since 2001. The defense bill today contains \$63.7 billion for the overseas contingency account, meaning many billions more for the rathole in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, when will we come to our senses?

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2673, United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act.

S. 2673 includes language from the Israel QME Enhancement Act. The Israel QME Enhancement Act is a bill that I sponsored and was supported unanimously by this body. Israel's qualitative military edge is the ability to maintain quality arms against numerically superior odds.

My bill provided for a review of Israel's QME at shorter intervals, from 4 years to 2 years, and I am honored the review language made it into the Strategic Partnership Act. Both pieces of legislation recognize Israel's residence in a neighborhood of bad actors.

Over the decades since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, it has endured several extended armed conflicts with its neighbors. From the Israeli War of Independence in 1948 through Operation Protective Edge, the latest conflict with Hamas, Israel has endured constant threats.

Another constant is that Israel has been able to depend upon the U.S. for military assistance. During the Yom Kippur War in 1973, the U.S. conducted one of the largest airlifts in U.S. history to assist Israel.

Today, we stand on the floor of the House in support of a bill to increase its military assistance and to increase the help to our friend Israel.

DAN RAAB RETIREMENT

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize a good friend and a very important member of my hometown community of Taylorville, Illinois.

Dan Raab, the president and CEO of Taylorville Memorial Hospital, is retiring after 34 years in the healthcare industry. Dan started with Taylorville Memorial Hospital in 1995, when it was known as St. Vincent Memorial—it was also where my wife worked—and has served the community as CEO for 19 years.

With Dan's leadership and dedication, TMH has remained a staple in the Taylorville community. It is Taylorville's largest employer, and TMH has given so much back to the community. As a matter of fact, it spent \$4.9 million in community benefits just in the year 2013 alone.

TMH is one of nine critical access hospitals located in the 13th District of Illinois, and they play a vital role in ensuring that rural communities are served so that our citizens get the health care they deserve.

As Taylorville and central Illinois continue to thrive, I know that TMH will be part of that success, and that is a direct result of Dan Raab's leadership. I want to thank Dan for his 34 years of service and congratulate him on his retirement.

My wife, Shannon, and I wish him and his wife, Mary, and their two children, Joe and Emily, the best of luck in the future and with his retirement.

THE ABLE ACT

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, also known as the ABLE Act, I rise today to commend the House for yesterday passing this important piece of legislation that will help millions of Americans reach their full potential.

As the brother of a physically disabled sister who has lived with the challenges associated with being physically handicapped—over a dozen surgeries, hip and knee replacements, walking with crutches or walkers and sometimes reliance on a wheelchair—I know how difficult it can be for millions of Americans with disabilities and their families.

I also know from my sister, who graduated from college, went on to seminary, married her college sweetheart, adopted a beautiful little girl, and now serves others as a priest in the Episcopal church, that the challenges associated with being handicapped can be overcome.

The ABLE Act will help ease financial strains faced by millions of Americans with disabilities and their families and help them save for the future by creating tax-free savings accounts available to cover disability-related expenses. This provides families with a severely disabled child some peace of mind by allowing them to save for their child's long-term disability expenses.

We are better off as a Nation when disabled Americans are given tools like the ABLE Act to not only achieve self-sufficiency but to contribute and give back to our society.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, briefly on the floor of the House today I mentioned how many times I voted for the defense authorization bill and appreciated the underlying principles in that legislation, which is to wholly support the United States military and their families. Today, unfortunately, layered down with poisonous pills on the floor of the House, the majority did not give this Congress the opportunity to debate the questions of war and peace.

So I ask my colleagues and the leadership to let us debate this issue next week, or come back, or, as we begin 2015. Whenever we put our sons and daughters in harm's way, it is extremely important to do so.

Let me change to another topic very quickly and acknowledge and give my