

more than a fifth of personnel are furloughed.

The Republican Congress would end the Federal Emergency Management Agency's training activities with local law enforcement for weapons of mass destruction.

The Republican Congress would cut off pay to thousands of Department of Homeland Security employees who are personally tasked with protecting our homeland.

The Republican Congress would stop research and development work on countermeasures to protect us against devastating biological threats, on nuclear detection equipment, and on cargo and passenger screening technologies.

The Republican Congress would shutter the Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, meaning there will be no alerts or coordination efforts with local law enforcement agencies if a nuclear event occurs.

This is so utterly irresponsible. In an era of amplified global threats, brutal terrorist attacks throughout Europe, and escalating tension throughout the Middle East, to cut off funding for the Department tasked with ensuring our homeland security is safe and secure is truly dangerous.

This sort of behavior throws sand into the gears of a great society, of a great country, the oldest Republic on the face of the Earth. The American people surely are looking for reassurance that their government will offer them the security and dependability they expect.

We have a responsibility to protect their security, even if it means we no longer can indulge in political brinksmanship.

Mr. Speaker, we have a working bipartisan majority here in this House that holds the power to govern this Nation. All it needs is the will.

Let's bring the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill to the floor today. Let's stop playing political games with the safety and security of the American people.

We owe it to them to govern and to do the job we were elected to do.

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 17 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 Tierian Cash, National Chaplain for the American Legion,

Longs, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, in whose name we trust and pray, it is fitting to pause, if but momentarily, to recognize You, the One in whom does finally reside all authority and power and by whose grace we are allowed to exercise that which You have committed to us.

Accept our homage, O Lord, and hear us when we pray for wisdom to lead with integrity, compassion, and conviction.

We are mindful that around the world today our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen are standing the watch to safeguard our peace and liberty.

Grant to all who serve and their families Your blessings.

Accept, O Lord, these prayers, and may we perceive and know what things to do and receive grace and power to fulfill what is expected of us. We commit our best efforts and our Nation to Your keeping.

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.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND TIERIAN "RANDY" CASH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming to the House of

Representatives today our guest chaplain, my constituent and fellow resident of Lincoln County, North Carolina, Reverend Randy Cash.

A native North Carolinian, Reverend Cash was commissioned as a Navy chaplain in 1980. During his 26 years of Active Duty, Reverend Cash has done tours supporting both the Navy and Marines with time in Liberia, the Congo, and Albania and supporting Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and, most recently, Operation Enduring Freedom.

Additionally, Reverend Cash has served as deputy chaplain to the U.S. Marine Corps and multiple roles for the Naval Chaplaincy School, including commanding officer.

Reverend Cash is visiting Washington this week for the 55th annual conference of the American Legion, for which he currently serves as national chaplain for that fine organization.

Please join me in welcoming Reverend Cash to the House of Representatives, and thank him for his years of dedicated service to our Nation, our Nation's men and women in the military, and our veterans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

EDUCATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I believe in an opportunity society where hard work, education, innovation, and risk are rewarded and we empower individuals, not government.

Unfortunately, Washington's broken reflex these days is: when in doubt, regulate. That type of thinking must cease if we are to reach this Nation's full potential. One of the clearest examples of unnecessary and unsuccessful Federal intervention is the law currently governing our K-12 education system.

This week, the House will consider the Student Success Act, which empowers the people closest to students with the authority to make education choices in their respective States and communities.

Local control always delivers programs and services more efficiently and effectively. By scaling back Washington's one-size-fits-all micromanagement of classrooms, this legislation takes positive steps toward ensuring local educators have the flexibility required to meet the diverse needs of their students.

FUNDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security is charged with safeguarding our Nation from acts of terrorism, drug trafficking, and many other serious threats.

Whether they serve in the Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, or elsewhere, the men and women who work for the Department of Homeland Security in my home State of New Hampshire and across this country play a vital role in keeping our families safe; yet Congress is poised to shut down DHS this Friday for partisan political reasons.

This would undermine our security and impact hardworking men and women from across my district, like Darrell, from Groveton, New Hampshire, who serves in the Coast Guard, and Lee, another Granite Stater, who works for Customs and Border Protection. She wrote to me recently and said: “No one wins if this political standoff continues.”

I agree. We were elected to work together in the best interest of those we represent, not to play partisan political games.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department of Homeland Security open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

FEDERAL TEXAS JUDGE IMMIGRATION RULING

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my constituents and a majority of Americans oppose President Obama’s executive amnesty. His amnesty is unconstitutional, which is why I am pleased that U.S. district court Judge Andrew Hanen has blocked Obama’s amnesty from going into effect. Not surprisingly, the administration is now appealing.

As the legal process works its way through the courts, Congress must continue to stand strong and fight the President’s unlawful amnesty. Just this month, I exposed Obama’s empty words that illegals getting amnesty would be paying taxes. The IRS Commissioner confirmed that Obama’s amnesty will, in fact, allow the IRS to give illegals thousands of dollars.

These tax refunds aren’t refunds in the usual sense but amnesty checks from the IRS. This is wrong. I am

working on legislation to stop it. Law-abiding and hardworking American taxpayers deserve nothing less.

COUNTING DOWN TO GOP SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are playing politics with the security of the American people, and the American people deserve better.

What was absolutely laughable a few days ago, it now appears that they are prepared to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. They won’t budge, even though they have known all along that the House version of the bill will never pass the Senate, and if it did, the President would surely veto it, as he should.

They are willing to burden this entire country with all the dangers and disruptions that a funding lapse would bring. They are willing to shut down funding for the security in the New York City rail system, communications equipment in Los Angeles, bomb-sniffing dogs in Massachusetts, and firefighter positions across this Nation, just so that they can put on another hollow, pointless political show.

This legislation is failure by design. I find it scandalous that the Islamic terrorists are fully funded; yet the Department of Homeland Security that protects our citizens may not be.

I urge a vote on a clean Homeland Security bill for the protection of our citizens.

THE PRESIDENT NEEDS TO CHANGE COURSE

(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, during the Presidents’ Day break, I served on a delegation meeting with the leaders of Afghanistan, Jordan, and Iraq. Each was grateful for the support given in their fight against terrorists who seek mass murder of innocent civilians.

Daesh, the Arab translation of ISIL, has spread as a cancer across the region and threatens to attack the American people. President Obama’s failing policies are weakening defense, and he needs to change course, as he did with the 2009 Afghan surge.

In Syria, the President’s strategy has set the stage for Daesh to expand. In Iraq, his failure to achieve a status of forces agreement has led to instability. The attack on Libya has led to a failed state. The pitiful negotiations with Iran puts America at risk. His claimed success in Yemen has proven inaccurate.

Radical Islamists have declared war on the West, intend to exterminate Jews, and seek to destroy modern

democratic civilizations. The first mass slaughters have been of fellow Muslims at mosques, at soft targets, but safe havens anywhere are a threat to American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THREE DAYS UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, there are only 3 days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, forcing thousands of TSA, Customs, Border Patrol, and Secret Service agents to put their lives on the line to protect American citizens without being paid.

This has gone on far too far. We have taken weeks of time on the floor of this House, waiting for what we know ultimately would be passed, and that is a clean Homeland Security bill.

Every Democrat has cosponsored legislation to fully fund this Department, without trying to overreach and get through the appropriations process that which the majority is unwilling to do legislatively.

If you were so interested in immigration policy, the majority would long ago have brought comprehensive immigration reform to the floor of the House. Have we seen that? No—neither have we seen any legislation that the American people are really looking for, legislation that would put America back to work, build new infrastructure, and create jobs in this country.

This has gone on far too far. We have got to get this essential function of government fully funded and get back to the business that the American people sent us to.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its essential mission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

PRESIDENT OBAMA VETOES KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, despite overwhelming bipartisan support from my colleagues in both the House and the Senate, the President vetoed the Keystone XL pipeline project in the name of political expediency; rather than listening to a majority of the American public, the President’s veto kowtows to a