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No. 7

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 16, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

We pray that Your spirit will be upon the Members of this people's House, giving them the richness of Your wisdom.

Bless the Members of the majority party as they gather these next days. May they, with those who accompany them, travel safely and meet in peace.

Bless also the minority party as they prepare for their own gathering. May these days be filled with hopeful anticipation.

May the power of Your truth and our faith in Your providence give them all the confidence they must have to do the good work required for service to our Nation. Give all Members the strength of purpose and clarity of mind to do those things that bring justice and mercy to people and maintain freedom and liberty for our land.

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

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 Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ELLISON 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 entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AMERICANS BENEFIT FROM LOWER ENERGY PRICES

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

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, compared to last summer, hardworking Maine families are saving \$20 with every fill-up of their vehicles. The \$1,000 annual savings is buying almost 2 months of groceries for a family of four.

This winter, many of our families are saving an additional \$1,000 because the cost of heating oil has plummeted. That is another 2 months of groceries.

Last week, I was proud to join House Republicans and Democrats to finally approve the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. Our families will have more money, have more jobs, and

enjoy more freedom when America increases the production and transportation of all forms of domestic energy and do it in an environmentally sensitive way.

Increase production, and drive down price.

Now, the House has done its job to approve the Keystone pipeline. I respectfully ask the Senate to do the same; then together, we must ask the President to do his part.

It is the right thing to do for more jobs, fatter paychecks, and more security.

DON'T DEREGULATE WALL STREET AGAIN

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to remind my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are about to cast votes on a bill that I believe will make Wall Street a little freer to make risky bets for a few more years: Where were we 6 years ago?

Well, let me just give you a blast from the past with some headlines. From The Wall Street Journal, on January 7, 2009, "ADP Reports 693,000 Private Sector Jobs Lost"; CNN, January 9, 2009, "Worst Year for Jobs Since '45"; Bloomberg, January 8, 2009, "December's Job Loss Was Bad. But How Bad?"; in The New York Times, February 14, 2009, "Job Losses Pose a Threat to Stability Worldwide."

President Obama hadn't been in office. This was other stuff, mistakes

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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that had happened in the past connected to deregulation of Wall Street.

We were staring down the worst recession since the Great Depression. Today, we are about to embark back down that path to deregulate Wall Street again. Don't do it.

REMEMBERING ROBERT JORDAN

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to honor my friend, lifetime Fayetteville resident and entrepreneur, Robert Jordan, who passed away on December 16, 2014.

In 1952, Robert got his first job in retail at the age of 17 at the old Travis Hardware store in downtown Fayetteville. During his visits to various warehouses around town, Robert noticed items seemingly not for sale and placed off to the side. Eventually, he realized he could cheaply buy some of those discarded items, take them back to downtown Fayetteville, and sell them for a profit, while still offering his customers a good deal.

By the early 1970s, Robert was giving full-time attention to buying and selling salvage merchandise and became well-known for his wheeling and dealing. If you wanted to know anything about the community in Fayette County or if you wanted to win an election, you went to see Robert Jordan. Robert was the guy to go to.

Jordan Sales and Salvage became popular and profitable, and it is a fine example of what American entrepreneurship is all about. The way Robert ran his business and treated customers as his friends is a true statement of the compassion and faith involved in all the aspects of his daily life, especially the big love he had for his family.

Joan and I send our condolences and prayers to the Jordan family, especially his wife of 60 years, Nellie, during this difficult time, and I am thankful to have met Robert and to have visited his store from time to time, but I am especially lucky to call him my friend.

Robert, until we meet again, we miss you.

DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand against the tactics used by the House Republicans for their partisan fights. I find it unconscionable that the House Republicans would threaten the funding of the Department of Homeland Security over the President's executive action on immigration.

We just saw what happened to our friends in France, and now, they are

going to play games with our national security and threaten its funding. This executive action isn't an election strategy or a scheme to grow the Federal Government; it is a moral imperative.

The President acted because this House refused to even vote on the bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill. It was widely expected that a vote on that bill would have succeeded.

Our broken immigration system has forced millions to live their lives in fear. The President's action is the right thing to do, is the humane thing to do.

I oppose the defunding of this executive action, Mr. Speaker, and I oppose the threatening of the funding of the Department of Homeland Security and, by extension, our national security.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PENN STATE WORLD CAMPUS

(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, I rise today to recognize Penn State World Campus on being ranked number one in the Nation for the best online bachelor's programs in the country.

The recognition was given by the U.S. News & World Report's 2015 Best Online Programs and marks the highest ever ranking for the university; further, Penn State ranks in the top 10 for the best online graduate programs in business, engineering, education, and computer information technology.

The assessment criteria included student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, student services, and technology.

Penn State World Campus, which provides high-quality online education to meet the needs of busy adults who want to advance their careers, currently has 10,805 students enrolled in 119 degree and certificate programs.

The third year that U.S. News & World Report has ranked online degree programs, almost 300 institutions that offer online bachelor degrees are included in the rankings.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my alma mater for this esteemed recognition, including the talented staff and the innovative educators at Penn State University.

DON'T PICK POLITICS OVER COUNTRY

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of our Nation's continued safety and national security. Recent world events vividly remind us of the importance of supporting and maintaining a strong and robust homeland security policy.

Today, we are going to vote on H.R. 240, the Department of Homeland Secu-

rity Appropriations Act, and it provides for critical, important funding to the Department, including vital support for essential law enforcement activities and programs.

I had hoped that my Republican colleagues would bring this bill, a clean bill, to the floor; instead, we have more politics as usual. A bill that would actually be signed into law by the President is what this country needs; however, what we have is not that case today.

It is unfortunate and extremely upsetting that the Republicans are now threatening to shut down the Department of Homeland Security, endangering the security of our entire country and appeasing the most extreme anti-immigration reform fringes of their party.

This is simply politics over country and should not be a part of the debate surrounding our critically important appropriations bills for Homeland Security.

The five amendments that the Republicans plan to attach to the bipartisan Homeland Security bill represent some of the most extreme anti-immigration legislation.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject these amendments, reject this partisan gamesmanship that threatens our national security, and call on the majority to vote on and pass the original version of H.R. 240.

MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE HOMELESS

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the wind chill in Buffalo, New York, was 20 below zero. Dead of hypothermia was Ronald Hunter. He was 21 and had untreated schizophrenia.

A third of the Nation's 750,000 homeless are so severely mentally ill that they cannot take care of themselves. They starve, they freeze, they live in their own squalor.

Had Ronald had some other brain disease like Alzheimer's, he might very well be alive today, but because he had a mental illness, the system refused to help.

Ronald's father told The Buffalo News:

"When he was living with us, I found him curled up in a ball in the corner of the bedroom," and I said, "What is wrong, baby?"

He replied to his dad, "I am hearing voices telling me to kill myself."

Ronald's parents called Crisis Services, but as his stepmom said, "Because he was 18, it was up to him if he wanted help." In other words, we let him die with his rights on.

Don't you understand, America, that this is a brain disease; it is not a choice?

I will soon be reintroducing the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis