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House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 19, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this final day of session before our Nation celebrates Thanksgiving, we give You thanks for all the blessings we enjoy.

The problems facing the Nation, the concerns of its citizens will not be settled with simplistic solutions. The light of truth is sought in every corner of darkness, yet we stand humbly before You, admitting our limitations.

Lord, give the Members of the people's House the ability to listen intently to differing opinions and respond creatively. May their faith in You be strong enough to stretch every self-interest to the broader vision of the common good, expecting Your intervention in ordered routine, and Your radical twist to basic intent.

Thus may all seek Your wisdom to guide this government and this Nation now and forever.

May all that is done this day 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.

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

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. 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 pro tempore. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANCE 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SAFETY OF AMERICAN FAMILIES

(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, the first value of American leadership is the safety and security of our citizens.

While it is important to support those fleeing conflicts across the globe, the CIA Director's recent statements on the distinct possibility of additional attacks and the national security implications surrounding Syrian refugees at this point are too great to ignore.

The FBI has also indicated that it is next to impossible to appropriately screen refugees. For this reason, I have called upon the President to place a hold on admitting refugees into the country.

Additionally, I have joined with members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation in requesting that Governor Tom Wolf also place a moratorium on accepting refugees into the Commonwealth.

The House today will consider legislation that suspends refugee admissions until we assure that adequate screening security for threats is in place.

We must not take any chances that could put our country at risk. This is the first in many steps that will provide Americans security, while also supporting our long-term humanitarian tradition in this country.

I encourage my colleagues to support the SAFE Act that will be on the floor later this morning.

JAPANESE INTERNMENT AND REFUGEES

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, 70 years ago my parents and grandparents were

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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stripped of their possessions and placed in Japanese American internment camps. They were not guilty of espionage. They did not commit treason. They simply looked like our enemy, and that cost my family their freedom.

Yesterday the mayor of Roanoke, Virginia, suggested that this country's treatment of Japanese Americans during the 1940s is a model for how we should address today's global refugee crisis.

It does not take courage to condemn such disgraceful comments, nor does it take wisdom to say our World War II policies were a product of fear and hysteria.

What takes wisdom is recognizing that history is now repeating itself. What takes courage is sending a message to the world that America will protect innocent people regardless of their nationality or religion.

That is what my mother and father deserved 70 years ago, and that is what these refugees deserve today.

LOCAL PRIORITIZATION OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Committee on Natural Resources considered a bill that restores the original intent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund: support of State and local projects.

The LWCF State program has supported many recreation facilities across the country, including in my district, such as a municipal pool in Susanville, boat launches on the Sacramento River, and city parks and playgrounds in Chico, California.

However, for every worthwhile local investment of \$20,000 or \$30,000, this administration now disproportionately spends millions on land acquisition for the Forest Service, which already can't manage what it owns.

Sixty-one percent so far of the program during its existence has gone for this sort of land acquisition. That is not local. The result is catastrophic fires across the West each year with nonmanaged forest lands.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman BISHOP's bill will rectify this problem and send more funding to the State and local projects that need it and help end the destructive cycle of the Federal Government purchasing and owning land it doesn't manage, only to have it burn.

I urge all my colleagues to support this measure when it comes up.

THE REPUBLICAN SYRIAN REFUGEE BILL

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ex-

press my concern and opposition to the Republican Syrian refugee bill.

This restrictive and misguided legislation would immediately shut down the current refugee resettlement and cripple our refugee programs for the future.

I represent Orange County, California, one of the historically known areas of resettling refugees from all around the world. We are ready. We are ready.

Once this administration has taken a look at the backgrounds, has done the extensive research that they do with respect to somebody's background, we are ready to help resettle these refugees.

Refusing to resettle any Syrian refugees would inadvertently empower Daesh and boost their recruitment abilities among vulnerable populations struggling to survive. We cannot let Daesh push us to succumb to fear and to prejudice.

These Syrian refugees are fleeing the same violence that we have seen in Paris and Beirut and Baghdad this last week. Three-quarters of them are women and children. A quarter of them are over 60 years of age. Refugees are not the enemy.

So remember the words on our Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

QUOTES TO REMEMBER

(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, as the world faces mass killings by ISIS, Daesh, of Russian, Lebanese, and French citizens, as Daesh has announced plans to target Washington and Rome and New York, we need to review how we got here and together change course.

President George W. Bush on July 12, 2007, declared: "To begin withdrawing before our commanders tell us we are ready would be dangerous for Iraq, for the region, and for the United States. It would mean surrendering the future of Iraq to al Qaeda. It would mean that we'd be risking mass killings on a horrific scale. It would mean we allow the terrorists to establish a safe haven in Iraq to replace the one they lost in Afghanistan."

President Barack Obama on December 14, 2011, claimed: "Everything that American troops have done in Iraq . . . all of it has led to this moment of success. We're leaving behind a sovereign, stable, and self-reliant Iraq."

I agree with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani that the President's failed policies created the development of Daesh, leading to the Syrian refugee crisis, resulting in children drowning at sea. The President should change course.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions,

never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CRS REPORTS SHOULD BE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, this week Americans for Tax Reform joins the chorus of advocacy and good government groups calling for Congressional Research Service reports to be available to the public.

In its letter of support, Americans for Tax Reform said that opening CRS reports to the public is a commonsense proposal that will increase transparency, give taxpayers greater access to important information, and enrich public knowledge.

The taxpayer advocacy group pointed out that the rules casting CRS reports into secrecy are outdated and unnecessary, and these reports belong in the public domain.

U.S. taxpayers support the work of the Congressional Research Service to the tune of more than \$100 million a year. It is fiscally responsible and good public policy to allow educators, students, members of the news media, and everyday citizens access to these taxpayer-financed reports.

I urge my colleagues to join Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY and me in our bipartisan support of H. Res. 34, which will open CRS information to the public. These reports are paid for by taxpayer funds. Taxpayers should get to see them.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Samaritan's Purse, an organization headquartered in Boone, North Carolina, that brings spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world.

This week is the national collection week for the organization's Operation Christmas Child ministry, which puts empty shoe boxes to good use by filling them with gifts for needy children.

In order to participate, one needs to start with a shoe box, then decide whether to pack a box for a girl or a boy, and pick the age category: 2 to 4, 5 to 9, or 10 to 14. Finally, one fills the shoe box with gifts, including fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.

This year I packed a shoe box for a girl between the ages of 5 and 9. It is a simple concept that brings so much joy to the children who receive these special packages. I urge everyone to consider participating in this worthy program.