

I thank you for allowing me to share my views.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, Senator ELIZABETH WARREN sought to bring to the attention of the Senate some material about an Attorney General nominee, Senator Jeff Sessions. She was silenced. She persisted. Ultimately, the RECORD of the Senate does not reflect the remarks she was trying to give.

In particular, Senator WARREN was trying to bring to the attention of the Senate a statement and letter of Coretta Scott King from 1986. In 1986, then Jefferson B. Sessions was a U.S. Attorney, a Federal prosecutor who had been appointed for a position as a U.S. district judge.

At that time, Coretta Scott King wrote to the then-chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Strom Thurmond. While the Senate may not entertain these remarks and while the Senate may stifle a United States Senator, this is the people's House and it is appropriate that the RECORD of this House, at least, reflect the comments of Coretta Scott King.

So I would like to use the time remaining to read her cover letter from March 13, 1986, and to read excerpts from the statement she attached to it.

“Dear Senator Thurmond:

“I write to express my sincere opposition to the confirmation of Jefferson B. Sessions as a federal district court judge for the Southern District of Alabama. My professional and personal roots in Alabama are deep and lasting. Anyone who has used the power of his office as United States Attorney to intimidate and chill the free exercise of the ballot by citizens should not be elevated to our courts. Mr. Sessions has used the awesome powers of his office in a shabby attempt to intimidate and frighten elderly black voters. For this reprehensible conduct, he should not be rewarded with a federal judgeship.

“I regret that a long-standing commitment prevents me from appearing in person to testify against this nominee. However, I have attached a copy of my statement opposing Mr. Sessions' confirmation and I request that my statement as well as this letter be made part of the hearing record.

“I do sincerely urge you to oppose the confirmation of Mr. Sessions.”

The statement attached to that letter is fairly long and very convincing, and I will read parts of it here:

“Mr. Sessions has used the awesome power of his office to chill the free exercise of the vote by black citizens in the district he now seeks to serve as a federal judge. This simply cannot be allowed to happen. Mr. Sessions' conduct as U.S. Attorney, from his politically-motivated voting fraud prosecutions to his indifference toward criminal violations of civil rights laws, indicates that he lacks the temperament, fairness and judgment to be a federal judge.”

“A person who has exhibited so much hostility to the enforcement of those laws, and thus, to the exercise of those

rights by Black people should not be elevated to the federal bench.

“The irony of Mr. Sessions' nomination is that, if confirmed, he will be given life tenure for doing with a federal prosecution what the local sheriffs accomplished twenty years ago with clubs and cattle prods.”

“The actions taken by Mr. Sessions in regard to the 1984 voting fraud prosecutions represent just one more technique used to intimidate Black voters and thus deny them this most precious franchise.”

“In these investigations, Mr. Sessions, as U.S. Attorney, exhibited an eagerness to bring to trial and convict three leaders of the Perry County Civic League including Albert Turner despite evidence clearly demonstrating their innocence of any wrongdoing.”

“In fact, Mr. Sessions sought to punish older black civil rights activists, advisors and colleagues of my husband, who had been key figures in the civil rights movement in the 1960's.”

“Therefore, it is my strongly-held view that the appointment of Jefferson Sessions to the federal bench would irreparably damage the work of my husband, Al Turner, and countless others who risked their lives and freedom over the past 20 years to ensure equal participation in our democratic system.”

Clearly, if these criticisms set forth in this statement—the entirety of which will be made part of the House Record—indicate, as they did to the United States Senate in 1986, that Mr. Sessions should not be a district court judge, they also argue that he should not have been confirmed as Attorney General of the United States.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 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. SMITH of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

During this Black History Month, we are made aware again of the history that has formed our Nation and affects us still. With the craft of mass communication and the skill of good teachers and of artists, You have brought to life again powerful stories of African-American heroes, scholars, artists, and outstanding leaders throughout our Nation's history.

Much of this artistry, delightful spirit, strong determination, and hard work, was inspired by religious faith in You and the promise of the Holy Bible and, in recent decades, for many, the Holy Koran. Their witness to undying hope and peaceful resolution carry the hope of forming a better United States forever.

Lord, we praise and thank You for the African-American communities across this landscape who have shared our past, bless our present, and endow our future with hope, laughter, memorable music, and other contributions to our common good. Bless them, and bless our Nation with peace and reconciliation.

And here, in the people's House, may all that is done 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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE 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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 10, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: In order to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in President Donald J. Trump's administration, I hereby resign my seat in the United States House of Representatives effective 9:00 AM on February 10, 2017.

Please see the enclosed letter to the Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of the State of Georgia.

Yours truly,

THOMAS PRICE, M.D.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 10, 2017.

Hon. NATHAN DEAL,
Governor, State of Georgia,
Atlanta, GA.

DEAR GOVERNOR DEAL: In order to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in President Donald J.

Trump's administration, I hereby resign effective 9:00AM on February 10th, 2017, from the United States House of Representatives.

The opportunity to serve the citizens of the Sixth District of Georgia has truly been one of the greatest honors of my life. This job and my passion for serving would not have been possible without the support, love, and friendship of family, constituents, community, colleagues, and staff throughout the years. It has been a blessing to work with such talented and bright minds to advance real solutions to some of our nation's toughest issues and challenges.

My first professional calling was not that of an elected official, it was to care for patients—following in the footsteps of both my father and grandfather who were also physicians. The caring relationship a doctor has for their patients is what brought me into public service, and it is that caring approach I wish to continue at the Department of Health and Human Services.

With the remarkable challenges that lay ahead for our great nation, I am enthusiastic for the opportunity to be a part of solving them on behalf of the American people. There is much work to be done to ensure we have a health care system that works for patients, families, and doctors; that leads the world in the cure and prevention of illness; and that is based on sensible rules to protect the well-being of the country while embracing its innovative spirit.

It will be my honor to continue working with you and every other Governor of these great United States to ensure that that our health care system becomes one that is more patient-centered, innovative, responsive and affordable for all Americans. Thanks to you for your service, friendship, and support.

Yours truly,

THOMAS PRICE, M.D.,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE), the whole number of the House is 432.

NO TRAFFICKING IN OUR CITY, OUR STATE, OR OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Houston recently hosted the exciting Super Bowl LI. As Texas welcomed people from across the United States, the message was clear: no trafficking, not in our city, not in our State, not in our country.

As exploiters and buyers roamed the streets looking for prey, Mayor Turner, the Department of Homeland Security, and local law enforcement were prepared to jail traffickers and rescue victims.

Well, Mr. Speaker, 183 sex buyers and nine traffickers were arrested; 76 victims were rescued. The local news showed the faces of the arrested traffickers and buyers across the bottom of Houston television screens. The days of hiding in plain sight are over.

I am proud of all the work by Houston, the NFL, local law enforcement,

all worked together to track down traffickers and buyers during the Super Bowl, making the game a huge success.

As the game moves to Minnesota next year, those in the slave trade need to know the law will be ready to capture them.

And that is just the way it is.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S REPORT CARD

(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, here is President Trump's report card after less than a month in office:

The President wants to stop terrorist attacks by conducting background checks on refugees from countries that are considered security threats.

The President wants to prevent criminal immigrants from being released into our neighborhoods where they continue to prey on innocent Americans.

The President wants to lower the cost of health care and let individuals choose their own insurance plans.

The President wants to reduce our \$500 billion trade deficit and export goods and services, not jobs.

The President wants to eliminate unnecessary regulations which are a drag on the economy.

Mr. Speaker, the President's critics oppose all these actions. Only the people are on the President's side.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 13, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 13, 2017, at 10:11 am:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 18.

Appointment: National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1629

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky) at 4 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ABIE ABRAHAM VA CLINIC

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 609) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs health care center in Center Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the "Abie Abraham VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 609

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Abie Abraham of Lyndora, Pennsylvania, was stationed during World War II with the 18th Infantry in New York; 3 years with the 14th Infantry in Panama; 15th Infantry, unassigned in China, while the U.S.S. Panay was sunk; 30th Infantry, Presidio, San Francisco; and the 31st Infantry, Manila, Philippines, for 9 years.

(2) During World War II, Abraham fought, was captured, endured the Bataan Death March and as a prisoner of war for 3½ years, was beaten, stabbed, shot, survived malaria and starvation to be rescued by the 6th Rangers.

(3) Abraham stayed behind at the request of General Douglas MacArthur for 2½ more years disinterring the bodies of his fallen comrades from the Bataan Death March and the prison camps, helping to identify their bodies and see that they were properly laid to rest.

(4) After his promotion in 1945, Abraham came back to the United States where he served as a recruiter and then also served 2 years in Germany until his retirement with 30 years of service as a Master Sergeant.

(5) Abraham received numerous medals for his service, including the Purple Heart, and had several documentaries on the Discovery Channel and History Channel.

(6) Abraham wrote the books "Ghost of Bataan Speaks" in 1971 and "Oh, God, Where Are You" in 1977 to help the public better understand what our brave men endured at the hands of the Imperial Japanese Army as prisoners of war.

(7) Abraham was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Purple Heart Combat/Infantry Organization, the American Ex-POWs, the Disabled American Veterans, and the American Defenders of Bataan.

(8) Abraham was a volunteer at Veterans Affairs Butler Healthcare for 23 years from