

Dorothy Lynch, and from the Oregon Trail to the Homestead National Monument, there is an endless list of unique reasons for Nebraskans to be proud.

I am honored to represent some 65,000 square miles of the Cornhusker State in Congress, and I will continue working every day to uphold our legacy of opportunity.

In celebration of Nebraska's 150th birthday, it is only fitting to close in true Nebraska fashion: Go Big Red.

DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, this morning, the President is being lauded for a speech that stayed on message and was optimistic. Those accolades would be deserved if his actions bore any resemblance to his words. But, instead, we were subjected to a barrage of third grade sound bites, falsehoods, and half-truths, just like always.

The President condemned the vandalism at the Jewish cemeteries. Yet, earlier the same day, he suggested that these anti-Semitic acts were a "false flag" operation possibly committed by Jews themselves; which is very similar, by the way, to what White supremacist talking points circulated by David Duke are all about.

The President also condemned the racist hate crime murders in Kansas of an Indian engineer.

But why did it take him nearly a week to break his silence? Didn't this act of domestic terrorism deserve a tweet?

He didn't commit to doing anything about it until he was nudged by a tweet by Hillary Clinton.

The President says he wants to fix health care, but all the House Republicans can agree on is to kick 30 million people off their insurance.

Yes, Mr. Trump, we already knew that health care was complicated. It is good to know that you finally understand it as well.

The President said he wanted to invest in women's health, but his own party is committed to defunding Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood offers health care to one in five women in this country.

The President said he supports democratic ideals, but he won't advocate them around the globe. He says he supports diplomacy, but his budget cuts the State Department by 37 percent.

The President says he wants to invest \$1 trillion in infrastructure, but congressional Republicans have already implied they won't give him the money.

The President said he supports the rule of law, but he is violating the Constitution's Emoluments Clause every single day.

And worst of all, the President says he supports the troops. Then he blames the military for his own botched raid. This disgraceful abandonment of re-

sponsibility makes a mockery of the grief of Chief Petty Officer Owens' widow, who wept in front of all the American people watching the speech on TV last night.

His comments earlier in the day blaming the military are really indescribable. I agree that we must never forget Ryan Owens' sacrifice, and that is why we must understand the circumstances that led to his death and follow through with his parents' request for an independent investigation.

This speech demonstrates that the President can read from a teleprompter that he so derided during his campaign. Last night, he showed a calm and civilized face to the Nation. Was this a one-night stand or a changed man who recognizes the ominous responsibilities of being President of the United States?

We have seen the President's Mr. Hyde face in his tweets and his unhinged press conferences. I think the question before us now is: Will a single night of soothing platitudes be sufficient?

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is something we read. What we do know is that Dr. Jekyll could not suppress his dark side. The question is: Can the President?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker:

"Delegates of the People of Texas in General Convention at the town of Washington on the 2nd day of March, 1836.

"When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people, from whom its legitimate powers are derived, and for the advancement of those whose happiness it was instituted, and so far from being a guarantee for the enjoyment of those . . . inalienable rights, becomes an instrument in the hands of evil rulers for their oppression.

"When the Federal Republican Constitution of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism, in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army . . . both the internal enemies of civil liberty, the everready minions of power, and the usual instruments of tyrants."

"When, in consequence of such acts of malfeasance, and abdication on the part of the government, anarchy prevails, and civil society is dissolved into its original elements. In such a crisis, the first law of nature, the right of

self-preservation, the inherent and inalienable rights of the people to appeal to first principles, and take their political affairs into their own hands in extreme cases, enjoins it as a right towards themselves, and a sacred obligation to their posterity, to abolish such government, and create another in its stead, calculated to rescue them from impending dangers, and to secure their future welfare and happiness."

"The Mexican government, by its colonization laws, invited and induced the Anglo-American population of Texas to colonize its wilderness under the pledged faith of a written constitution, that they should continue to enjoy that constitutional liberty and republican government to which they had been habituated in the land of their birth, the United States of America.

"In this expectation they have been cruelly disappointed, inasmuch as the Mexican nation has acquiesced in the late changes made in the government by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who having overturned the constitution of his country, now offers us the cruel alternative, either to abandon our homes, acquired by so many privations, or submit to the most intolerable of all tyranny, the combined despotism of the sword and the priesthood."

"It has suffered the military commandants, stationed among us, to exercise arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny, thus trampling upon the most sacred rights of the citizens, and rendering the military superior to the civil power."

"It denies us the right of worshipping the Almighty according to the dictates of our own conscience, by the support of a national religion, calculated to promote the temporal interest of its human functionaries, rather than the glory of the true and living God.

"It has demanded us to deliver up our arms, which are essential to our defence, the rightful property of freemen, and formidable only to tyrannical governments.

"These, and other grievances, were patiently borne by the people of Texas, until they reached that point at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. We then took up arms in defence of the national constitution. We appealed to our Mexican brethren for assistance. Our appeal had been made in vain. . . .

"The necessity of self-preservation, therefore, now decrees our eternal political separation.

"We, therefore, the delegates with plenary powers of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid world for the necessities of our condition, do hereby resolve and declare, that our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a free, Sovereign, and independent republic, and are fully invested with all the rights and attributes which properly belong to independent nations; and, conscious

of the rectitude of our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit the issue to the decision of the Supreme arbiter of the destinies of nations.”

181 years ago, the Republic of Texas was born. God bless Texas.

□ 1045

MITTANY THEATRE AT THE BARN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true treasure in central Pennsylvania, actually in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, the Nittany Theatre at the Barn. This one-of-a-kind theater has a storied history which started in the late 1800s as the service barn on a working farm.

The Boal family settled the region for which the town Boalsburg is named. This town was on the main road for travelers from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. The Boal Mansion estate, which dates to 1789, is a national registered landmark.

The fourth generation of the Boal family, Colonel Theodore Davis Boal, married a descendant of Christopher Columbus and brought the Columbus Chapel to the Boal Mansion from Spain in 1909. This included an admiral's desk said to belong to Columbus himself. By the 1930s, the estate's aging barn was retired from farm use, but it would eventually take on a whole new life.

Pierre Boal retired from the diplomatic service for the country following World War II. He wanted to make the family's estate into a regional museum to display the family's vast collection of treasures and artifacts. Mr. Boal hired Lillian Dickson-Major, an English stage and film actress and lover of history, to be the first curator of the new Boal Mansion Museum. She arrived in 1953 and immediately began preparing the estate for museum service. Lillian looked at the emptied barn and saw its potential as the site for a “most unusual theatre.”

At the same time, theater professionals throughout the country and at nearby Penn State University wondered how theater would continue to survive in a world that was captivated by television and Technicolor motion pictures. Pierre and Lillian invited several Penn State professors and theater specialists to make their plans. To close the deal, Pierre Boal leased the old barn to the newly formed Centre County Theatre Association for the generous sum of zero dollars as a means to invite and encourage culture and theater in Centre County. Entrusted to oversee the construction of a state-of-the-art arena theater, the Centre County Theatre Association brought life to Lillian's vision of the barn as a “most unusual theatre.”

After several years of preparations and construction, the theater opened at the barn in the summer of 1959 and

was a tremendous success. Many audiences enjoyed the summer performances in the old barn for decades. After a long run, the community theater company let the old barn go dark, but it was only for a brief time before Nittany Theatre at the Barn took up the cause to breathe new life once again into the historic community treasure. State-of-the-art advancements were made at the barn, merging the latest technologies with good, old-fashioned summer stock theater.

The house is stocked with 99 seats, retaining all the charm and intimacy that made the barn legendary. In addition, to enhance audiences' experiences, brand-new, state-of-the-art LED lighting and Broadway quality sound systems were installed. Nittany Theatre also partners with Penn State's School of Theatre to allow Penn State's young actors to share the stage with local seasoned actors.

Mr. Speaker, this theater is full of history and full of life. For nearly 60 years, audiences in Happy Valley have enthusiastically embraced summer theater in Pennsylvania's oldest arena barn theater. I congratulate all those who have kept this community gem open for business throughout the years. As they say in the business, “break a leg” this summer.

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 48 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

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

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

Send, O God, Your healing grace upon those torn nations and upon the Members of this assembly who struggle to see the shared hope for a better future in those with whom they disagree.

For many Americans, the holy season of Lent begins tomorrow, and foreheads are marked this day in recognition of our limits as men and women and as a reminder of Your power to forgive and heal the harms done through our failures.

All this day and through the week may our Representatives do their best

to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all peoples and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BILIRAKIS 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 laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2017.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I would like to bring to your attention the attached resignation letter I have sent to Governor Steve Bullock of Montana.

I have enjoyed my tenure as Montana's sole Congressman, and I look forward to continuing my service to Montana and our nation as Secretary of the Interior.

If I can be of any assistance during this transition, please let me know. I would be glad to help however I can.

Sincerely,

RYAN ZINKE.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2017.

Gov. STEVE BULLOCK,
Office of the Governor,
Helena, MT.

DEAR GOVERNOR BULLOCK: I would like to inform you that I am resigning from my position as the United States Congressman for Montana's At-Large District on March 1, 2017, in order to assume the Secretary of the Interior position. Thank you for the support and partnership that you have provided my office during these last few years.

I have enjoyed my tenure as Montana's sole Congressman, and I look forward to continuing my service to Montana and our nation as Secretary of the Interior.

If I can be of any assistance during this transition, please let me know. I would be glad to help however I can.

Sincerely,

RYAN ZINKE.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the