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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 25, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

WISHING ARNOLD HIGH SCHOOL AMERICAN GOVERNMENT STUDENTS GOOD LUCK ON UPCOMING ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Mr. Ryan Ziem's American Government students at Arnold High School the very best luck in their upcoming advanced placement exam. I visited these students last fall, and I was impressed by their articulate questions and commitment to understanding our system of government.

Of course, understanding our system of government means understanding the U.S. Constitution. It is the greatest gift left to us by the Founders, and it has stood the test of time.

The success of the Constitution is due to its carefully designed system of checks and balances. By separating the powers of government into separate but equal branches and guaranteeing individual rights, the Constitution has been, as James Madison suggested, "the guardian of true liberty."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing these bright young students good luck on their AP exam and in their college applications.

CONFRONTING TRUMP ON ANTI-SCIENCE AGENDA AND TAXES

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday was Earth Day, and tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions of people across this country had to march in favor of science because, not since Galileo was condemned by the Inquisition for asserting that the Earth orbits the Sun, not since Galileo was condemned by the Inquisition have science deniers had such powerful friends.

Our species went 1,000 years without science. We call those years, in retrospect, the Dark Ages. My time in this Congress has convinced me that we should be guided by scientific consensus, by scientific facts, not alternative facts.

Scientific fact: Climate change is real and predominantly man-made, and if we don't reduce our emission of greenhouse gasses, then we are going to lose our ports, our beaches, our health, and entire countries like the Maldives.

Another scientific fact: Donald Trump can't stop global warming just

by emitting an unprecedented volume of hot air.

Now, a week earlier we had tax day, and millions of Americans across this country, including in Los Angeles, needed to demonstrate to try to get Donald Trump to reveal his tax returns. Every President since Richard Nixon has released their tax returns. Donald Trump told us in May of 2014: If I decide to run for office, I will produce my tax returns. And he said it again a year later. And then he said it during the Republican debate in 2016. He said: Oh, I will release my tax returns, but they are under audit.

Well, according to Donald Trump, his 2011 and 2012 returns aren't under audit. He ought to release those. But he ought to release all of his tax returns. And this idea that they are under audit is absolutely absurd.

The IRS has made it clear: Any taxpayer can release their tax return, whether they are under audit or not, and everyone in the tax world—I headed the second largest tax agency in this country for several years, I am a CPA—knows that you can release your tax returns whether you are under audit or not.

Now, I understand that you don't want to release information to your adversary, and if you are being audited, the IRS is your adversary. But Donald Trump knows that the IRS already has his tax returns, so who is the adversary from which Donald Trump is withholding information? The American people are the adversary that cannot see his tax return that the IRS already has.

But it is not enough to just see Donald Trump's Form 1040, because he tells us that he has 532 private businesses, secret businesses in the sense that they do not report their financial information to the SEC, over 532 of those business entity investments. We need to see the tax returns of every business entity that Trump controls. Over 100 of

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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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those investments are in foreign countries. We need to see the tax returns of Trump Panama Hotel, LLC; Trump Korea, LLC; DT Dubai Golf Course, LLC; and all the business entities that he has that are doing business in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and China.

Finally, Donald Trump ran as a populist, especially on corporate issues, but now he wants to allow corporate inversions that provide tax benefits to corporate Benedict Arnolds who betray our country and incorporate in some foreign country. He refuses to designate China as a currency manipulator, even though he pledged to the American people during his rallies that he would do just that, and he refuses to do anything about Chinese requirements for coproduction agreements.

Donald Trump: His rallies sounded like BERNIE SANDERS, but he is governing like Goldman Sachs.

DELIVERING FOR THE AMERICAN WORKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, for generations our Nation has celebrated the American Dream. I call it the American promise, the simple idea that if you work hard, you will be rewarded.

The American promise means that, if you show up for work every morning and play by the rules, you will be able to take care of your family and, over time, your life will improve. Unfortunately, for many Americans, that promise no longer rings true today.

Before the election of Donald Trump, more than 50 percent of Americans saw our economic conditions worsening, and 50 percent of millennials think the American Dream is dead. When it comes to economic security for low- and middle-income workers, we flatlined: paychecks have frozen, and American families are having a harder and harder time making ends meet. As an uncle of mine used to say: When it came to the end of the month, it seems like you got more month than money to pay your bills.

We need a renewed focus on improving the lives of everyday working Americans. That is why the Republican Policy Committee, which I chair, launched a task force for the American worker, and our first hearing is today.

It is time to start delivering for the American worker and restoring the American promise.

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. POLIQUIN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

The House returns from a long recess meeting with constituents as concerns about budget, taxes, and immigration, among others, reveal the considerable divisions both in Congress and among the American populace as well.

As opinions and emotions surge loudly and with little indication of easy solution, we take this quiet moment to ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House.

Give each Member peace and quiet discernment to work toward common solutions that might ease our divisions and open the way to new hope and confidence that we as a nation will continue to shine as an example for all the world to emulate.

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.

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.

NORTH KOREA

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my deep concern regarding the dangerous and irresponsible actions of the Kim Jong-un regime in North Korea on behalf of the people of Orange County and the Korean Americans I represent.

This week marks the 85th anniversary of the founding of the North Korean Army. The North Korean military marked the occasion by conducting a large scale artillery drill in the coastal region of Wonsan on the Sea of Japan.

Make no mistake, this was a direct message to our ally, South Korea,

where millions, including nearly 30,000 U.S. troops, are within range of the North Korean artillery. This drill comes on the heels of North Korea's threat to destroy U.S. aircraft carriers.

Mr. Speaker, North Korea is the top threat facing the American people. North Korea's efforts to extend the range of their ballistic missiles, while working to miniaturize a nuclear warhead, will eventually place the West Coast of the United States under direct nuclear threat. Intelligence experts estimate that the regime will be capable of striking the West Coast in less than 4 years.

That is an unacceptable risk for U.S. national security and an intolerable threat facing the residents of Orange County. I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning the recent North Korean provocations, demanding comprehensive sanctions on the North Korean regime, and supporting all actions necessary to secure the safety of our Nation and allies.

REMEMBERING RUBY ARNOLD

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, while it is widely known that Horace Peterson of Kansas City was the visionary and sole founder of the Black Archives of Mid-America, it is little known who saved the institution from vanishing years later.

During the spring of 1998, Ruby Arnold, a diehard board member, began a personal crusade to secure a new home for the organization she held dear. One Monday morning, during a heavy rainstorm, Ruby Arnold appeared at the front desk of the 29th floor of city hall.

The security guard asked her if she had an appointment with anyone in particular. "I don't have an appointment," she said, "but I have come to see Mayor Emanuel Cleaver."

The assistant to the mayor replied: I'm sorry, but the mayor is not in.

A week later, Ruby came by again to see the mayor and waited two hours for an appointment that she did not have to discuss a home for the Black Archives.

And then, at a public event the next week, she asked again: Mayor, have you found a place for the Black Archives?

Ruby Arnold died before the opening of the new archives in the summer of 2010, but former mayor, EMANUEL CLEAVER, now the U.S. Representative from the Fifth District, said this location for the Black Archives was not secured by wishing or hoping but by the merciful harassment I received from one determined Ruby Arnold. May God bless her remarkable spirit.

CELEBRATING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CAROLANN GARAFOLA

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