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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 24, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TREY HOLLINGSWORTH 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 11:50 a.m.

TRUMP BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Trump released the most reckless and heartless budget I have ever seen in my life. It slashes virtually every worthwhile program: programs that help the middle class, seniors, and veterans. But what I find particularly offensive and troubling is that his budget is a radical assault on people living in poverty or right on the edge. It guts Medicaid, housing assist-

ance, and Social Security disability insurance benefits.

The Trump budget also decimates the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, our Nation's first line of defense against hunger. It cuts the program by \$193 billion over 10 years. That is a 25 percent reduction. President Trump makes these ruthless cuts by cutting eligibility and reducing benefits. He also adds a new requirement that States pay 25 percent of the cost of the benefits.

It may be a nice sound bite to suggest that States should share the cost of providing SNAP benefits to their residents, but the reality is that State budgets are already stretched incredibly thin, and communities are already suffering from a decrease in Federal investment in States. The Trump budget compounds this problem by eliminating dozens of programs that families in States across the country rely on. This will only exacerbate the stress on State budgets to deliver basic services to their residents.

If that isn't bad enough, President Trump would allow States to cut benefit levels to manage the costs they would incur under this cruel budget. This means that families living in certain States would see their already too-modest benefits drop through no fault of their own.

At the same time, President Trump is proposing new fees on retail stores applying to accept SNAP benefits. We know access to food is a huge concern, especially in rural areas and in cities, and such a wrongheaded approach will further limit the ability of families on SNAP to shop for nutritious food.

In addition, President Trump's budget makes it even more difficult for able-bodied adults without dependents to receive modest food benefits. Current law allows States to waive the time limits imposed on these vulnerable adults, which include veterans, by the way, but President Trump wants to

severely limit the ability of States to request these waivers. Estimates suggest that in any given month, this proposal would restrict access to SNAP for up to 1 million Americans struggling to find work. Mr. Speaker, kicking people off of SNAP doesn't help them find a job. It only makes them hungrier, weaker, and even less likely to qualify for work. It is simply a rotten thing to do.

Now, quite frankly, I was a little surprised by the magnitude of these cuts given the fact that President Trump's Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, testified before the House Committee on Agriculture last week in strong defense of SNAP. He said: "... we have no proposed changes. You don't try to fix things that aren't broken."

How are we to trust this administration's promises on anything when they tell us one thing on Wednesday and release a budget that does the exact opposite not even a week later?

During the past 2 years, the House Committee on Agriculture has held 21 hearings on SNAP. As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Nutrition, I have participated in each one of them. What we have learned from our witnesses, both Democrats and Republicans, is that SNAP works. It is one of the most effective and efficient programs run by the Federal Government. It expands in times of economic hardship and contracts as our economy recovers.

With a modest food assistance benefit of about \$1.40 per person per meal, SNAP alleviates hunger and reduces poverty. It supplements the food budgets of families and helps them make ends meet. Innovations in the program have helped to spur the consumption of healthier food. I would like to remind my colleagues that two-thirds of the people on SNAP are children, seniors, or disabled. The majority of people on the program who are able to work do work.

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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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If you want to talk about reforming the program and how do we look to the future, we need to focus on how to make the program even better. We need to make sure that anyone who needs this benefit has access to it. We need to support and expand innovative programs that help increase the purchasing power of SNAP. We need to increase SNAP benefits so that families that are helped by the program can actually access more nutritious food that lasts through the month.

Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump is used to dining with billionaires at Mar-a-Lago and Trump Tower, so I am not at all shocked by his lack of knowledge about our antihunger safety net or by his lack of interest in helping the most vulnerable in our society. It is clear from his budget that he does not have a clue.

I urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting this reckless and heartless proposal that will devastate so many families that we represent. We must, instead, support efforts to strengthen SNAP and end hunger now. We are supposed to end hunger now, not make it worse.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

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 speak about an organization that is near and dear to my heart, the Lions Clubs International. I am a member of my hometown organization, the Howard Area Lions Club. I am proud that for many years it has been the largest Lions Club in Pennsylvania, despite being in a very rural area. Last year marked our club's 40th anniversary.

The Howard Area Lions Club has consistently earned the recognition as the largest Lions Club in Pennsylvania. There are probably many factors that have led them to this title, but none more significant than their commitment to the Lions Club motto: We serve. The members of this club have served as the chartering organization for the Howard Scout Troop 353. I have been honored to serve as a Scoutmaster of that troop since they first assumed this responsibility.

The idea of the Lions Club began 100 years ago in Chicago. A 38-year-old businessman named Melvin Jones told members of the local business club that they should reach beyond their business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world, and they agreed. Three years later, the Lions Club became an international organization. Melvin Jones inspired generations of people to become civic-minded individuals dedicated to using their talents and their ambition to improve their communities without financial reward. Melvin Jones had a personal code: "You can't get very far

until you start doing something for somebody else."

Well, the Lions Club redoubled its commitment to help others when a young advocate for the disabled spoke at the 1925 Lions Clubs International convention. This woman challenged the Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Of course, this woman was Helen Keller.

Helen Keller developed a fever at 18 months of age that left her blind and deaf. After working with an exceptional teacher, Helen Keller learned sign language and braille, and a few years later she learned to speak.

The Lions accepted Helen Keller's challenge and ever since have worked on several projects to prevent blindness, restore eyesight, and improve eye care for folks all around the world. Sight became one of the Lions' defining causes. Many are familiar with its eyeglasses recycling program where individuals can donate reading glasses they no longer need.

Mr. Speaker, service to others is what makes Lions Clubs International such a powerful force of good in the world. I am grateful that Lions Clubs around the globe serve millions annually. I am so proud to be a member of an organization that not only lives up to its remarkable ideals but exceeds them time and time again.

Congratulations to the Lions Clubs International on their centennial anniversary.

BROKEN PROMISES OF THE TRUMP BUDGET

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Trump laid out his budget request for next year. It represents the most draconian disinvestment in our country by any President in modern history, and it is littered with broken promises and fundamental errors in simple math.

It is a budget that makes very clear that this President is not fighting for working Americans and their families, and, in fact, he is breaking his promises to make their lives better. It is shockingly devoid of the basic policy details necessary to back up its deficit-cutting bravado. It includes an accounting discrepancy so large—over \$2 trillion—that it can only be characterized as willfully hiding the ball from the American public, an exercise in extreme incompetence, or both.

The purpose of a budget is to lay out the most complete description of a President's governing vision for the country. By that measure and many others, this budget is an embarrassment. It is no wonder that it has already been panned by Members on both sides of the aisle in this House. My Republican friend, Representative MIKE SIMPSON, was absolutely right when he said of proposals like this one that the House can't pass this budget. Nor will

it. It is dead on arrival in Congress because Democrats and Republicans both understand that we can't provide economic security to the American people and keep them safe from threats if we gut our investments in doing both. That is what the President's budget would do.

As The Washington Post eloquently pointed out, the Trump budget "is fundamentally at odds with what Trump told voters." President Trump promised middle class American workers he would fight for them and their families. If implemented, his budget would make it harder for them to send their kids to college, access job training to get ahead, or even just stay in the middle class, and devastate seniors' long-term care. The dramatic cuts he makes to nutrition assistance, elimination of heating assistance during the winter months and Meals on Wheels will hit low-income Americans and seniors hard, particularly in rural communities.

And those, Mr. Speaker, are just a selection. He is breaking his campaign promise not to cut Medicaid and Social Security, taking \$1.4 trillion out of Medicaid over the next 10 years, without offering a policy to achieve those cuts, and slashing funds for the Social Security disability insurance programs that serve 10 million Americans. Frankly, the President made fun of those with disabilities during the course of the campaign, and now he cuts billions of dollars from the ability of the disabled to maintain some degree of dignity and health.

President Trump also pledged that the American taxpayer would not pay—would not pay—for the border wall he wants to build. Of course, his budget asks the U.S. taxpayer to pay for that wall. When it comes to keeping Americans safe from threats overseas, President Trump's budget fails miserably as well, cutting the budgets for diplomacy and foreign aid that complement the work of our military in combating ISIS and other terror groups. Additionally, it punishes middle class Federal employees in every congressional district in our country for choosing to serve their country by cutting their pay and retirement benefits.

One after another, the budget breaks the President's promises. At every turn, it undermines our long-term security and prosperity by ignoring the critical lessons from past Republican administrations when it comes to basic economics. Like past Republican budgets, the Trump budget relies on discredited theories of how economic growth would result from tax policies. Unlike past attempts, however, the Trump budget double counts its fantasy supply side boost in an accounting error so large it could pay for the Pentagon 3 years over.

Mr. Speaker, we know this budget will go nowhere in Congress. I believe there will not be a Republican in the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker,