

this idea. It has come down to every single American should end up with a better healthcare system than one that was designed that they could not explain and still leaves some 30 million people uninsured in America, and that is called ObamaCare. We should not have a system that demands that a person be on that system or have to pay a huge fine. No. We would want a system where people gleefully came to it, liked their healthcare system, became a consumer, were proud of what they got, and perhaps more importantly, could go to the doctor of their choice instead of calling a number and being assigned or take the person that they were given.

Mr. Speaker, there are lots of ways to get things done in this country, but Republicans have, for years, had better ideas. The idea on health care is one that Republicans are eager—eager—not only to accept this challenge, but eager to say that we are going to work together. Speaker RYAN has pledged himself to our Conference. We have Members of the United States Senate, MITCH MCCONNELL—the other body—and there are a number of Members, including Dr. BILL CASSIDY and Dr. RAND PAUL who have come out with their own healthcare bills, ways to attract not just other cosponsors, but their colleagues who are Democrats also.

So I would say tonight to my colleagues: I would like for you to take just a minute to look at the world's greatest healthcare plan. I would like for you to be concerned, instead of the some 12 to 20 million people across the country—everybody has their own congressional district, and there might be a large number in some of their districts. But by and large, the vast number would not be on ObamaCare, and each of our Members owe them a better healthcare system also.

But if we all get together, every single person can have the opportunity to have a nondiscriminatory system where virtually every hospital would take your coverage instead of only a few. ObamaCare is only a few, only a few doctors. And if we work together and form larger team sizes, we can make health care even better for all Americans.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity tonight to talk about not only better ideas to fix health care, but it would be done through a deliberate, disciplined approach, one in which every single Member of this body should be able to describe what they want. If they want to be for ObamaCare and say that only 24 percent of physicians and only a few hospitals will take their plan, then let them stand on that.

But I want to be for a system where virtually every hospital and virtually every doctor would take the healthcare plan that I would like my family to be on and them, also. That is why I stand up tonight and speak favorably about the Republican advantages of where we will head, specifically about the world's greatest healthcare plan that

Senator BILL CASSIDY and I have co-sponsored and, more specifically, that the American people can be sold by every single one of us to make health care work and be better for each and every American.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### A RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS AND NEW DEAL FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), who is the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman PLASKETT.

Mr. Speaker, the CBC has led the charge in proposing solutions for the underserved and disadvantaged communities throughout this country.

In his first remarks as President, Donald Trump claimed to champion this cause in his remarks, which proved to be petty and beneath the Office of President of the United States. On day one, in his first official acts in the office, one of his first official acts was to remove from the whitehouse.gov Web site a page detailing a broad set of civil rights commitments and accomplishments under President Obama.

It is fitting that President Trump, as one of his very first actions in office, would take down the public pledge to defend the civil rights of all Americans. This is a continuation of the divisiveness that defined his campaign where he proposed a Muslim ban, mass deportation, and a nationwide stop-and-frisk program. This is consistent with a President who would nominate JEFF SESSIONS, a man unanimously opposed by the civil rights community, as Attorney General.

President Trump didn't stop with changing the Web site. It has been reported that the Department of Justice is seeking to delay a hearing meant to focus on the relief required for Texas' discriminatory voter identification law. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled last year that the law had a discriminatory effect and that provisions must be made to allow those who lack the specific ID that the law requires be able to cast a vote.

Every judge who has considered the Texas law found it discriminatory, but it still has been used in elections there.

Unfortunately, President Trump has given no indication that he is willing to stand up to protect the voting rights of all Americans. Since being elected, he has ignored proven instances of intentional voter suppression and chosen instead to spread alternative facts about voter fraud.

As one of its first substantive acts, the Trump administration suspended a mortgage insurance rate cut put in place by the Obama administration to give relief to homeowners. According to the Federal Housing Administration, the cut would have saved the average homeowner \$500 this year. This reversal will make it more difficult for middle class Americans trying to purchase a home and eliminate relief for homeowners struggling to make their mortgage payments.

According to the National Association of Realtors, this will prevent 30,000 to 40,000 new home buyers from purchasing homes in 2017. This move will disproportionately affect African American homeowners who are more likely than White homeowners to rely on FHA mortgage insurance.

Mr. Speaker, we know exactly who Donald Trump is and have an inkling about what he intends to do, but what we plan on doing is educating the President about the needs of underserved communities. So I will just take a moment to address a few of his points in his new deal for the African American community, which is truly a bad deal in terms of economic equality. It is a raw deal in terms of public education, and it is a hollow deal in terms of voting and civil rights.

On behalf of the caucus, the CBC, the Congressional Black Caucus, I would like to inform him that 39 percent of African Americans actually live in suburbs compared to 36 percent who live in inner cities. The remaining 25 percent live in small metropolitan areas or rural communities.

For more than 45 years, the Congressional Black Caucus has worked to improve conditions for African Americans from all walks of life. Collectively, our members represent 78 million Americans, 17 million of whom are African American. Our districts are rural as well as urban. Some of our members represent majority minority districts, while others do not.

Mr. Speaker, tonight you will hear from several members of the Congressional Black Caucus who will point to specific pieces of legislation that we have championed and that we have authored that would address many of the issues facing inner-city communities, facing poor communities, and facing communities all across this country no matter the race or makeup of those communities.

What I would like to reiterate and stress is the fact that we don't just talk about a problem, but we offer solutions. We have sent to you, Mr.

President, a letter outlining all of the 10 points in your new deal with concrete solutions and legislation that we have authored that we think will go further and is a more comprehensive way of approaching the problems in those communities.

We also sent you another document that details more than your 10 issues, but highlights issues that are faced by American families all across this country and our policy proposals that will solve them. We would just encourage you to step out of the White House and to listen to people who have done this for a long time and who live in those communities and who have offered viable solutions.

So I would just say that we don't need more talk or more rhetoric. What we need is action, and we need action from 1600 Pennsylvania. We need action from the White House, and we would urge you to look at the proposals that we have that offer a better solution.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, my friend and colleague, the Honorable CEDRIC RICHMOND, for his leadership in our caucus as well as his continued fight on the issues impacting Black Americans and other minority communities in underserved American communities in this great Nation.

I would also like to thank my colleague, the Honorable MARC VEASEY of Texas, for joining me and sharing this evening's Special Order hour and my many colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus who are here to speak on this most important issue. Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight as Representatives of America's minority communities to respond directly to President Trump's inaugural address, and specifically to his new deal for African Americans.

During President Trump's campaign, he promised to address issues confronting African Americans, and he gave a 10-point plan outlining that. We have studiously reviewed the issues outlined in the plan and have concrete suggestions for him in accomplishing those goals.

While I acknowledge President Trump's willingness to confront these issues, I find the points in his new deal do not go far enough in substance to adequately address the needs of African American communities and rely heavily on assumptions that African American communities are primarily in the inner cities. Just as the chairman spoke of earlier this evening, let's not continue with this fallacy and stereotyping of the dynamic diversity of African Americans in this country. African Americans live in the Rust Belt. They live in rural areas across this country, in suburbs, and they live in territories.

My home district of the U.S. Virgin Islands has a population of 100,000 American citizens and permanent residents. It is a majority minority, and it, too, has experienced the same slow recovery as many of the economically

dispossessed communities across America. The issues of African Americans cannot be solved in just 10 bullet points directed to a small portion of the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, we are here this evening, in large part, to send a message, suggestions, thoughts, ideas, and support to President Trump that, if he is serious about addressing the issues in disadvantaged communities, it would be wise to tap into the decades of experience held by the members of this caucus. The answers to those 10 points are very nuanced, and we have been working on them for decades, and we are happy to support positive improvements in our underserved communities.

For almost a half century, this caucus has advocated to improve the lives of millions of Americans in both rural and urban communities—African Americans and all Americans. The 49 members of this caucus who sit in both Houses of Congress and the members before us tonight have offered policy solutions for decades that would help not only those African American communities, but underserved areas nationwide.

#### □ 2030

We will continue to lead by offering solutions to improve the lives of all Americans in search of a better opportunity. We are hopeful to give you an idea of some of those this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), my able colleague, for his remarks on this matter.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands who is helping to lead tonight's Special Order hour.

I again want to highlight how President Trump's inaugural address served as a preview of what the African American community can expect over the next 4 years.

This past Friday, thousands of Americans from all over the country traveled to Washington, D.C., to witness the new President and what type of message he was going to deliver. Unfortunately, instead of starting his Presidency with a bold, new agenda that would benefit all Americans, what we heard was an inaugural address that reminded us that the America he wants to build will leave many of the constituents of those of us who serve as members of the Congressional Black Caucus behind.

In his speech, President Trump said that a nation exists to serve its citizens. But for far too many, a different reality exists. He also painted another grim picture of mothers and children trapped in poverty in inner cities and rusted out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape of our Nation; an education system flush with cash, but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of knowledge; and crimes and gangs and drugs that have stolen the lives of too many and robbed the country of so much of its unrealized potential.

Those are problems that need to be addressed. I don't think that anybody will disagree with that. We need to make sure that our children have access to good public schools and good, quality education. We need to make sure that, as the nature of work changes in this country, people are ready to get those new jobs. We must make sure that we invest in our communities so that they prosper.

But yet, very little of what President Trump proposed would actually address the root cause of any of those problems. Not even his new deal for Black Americans provides real solutions for the problems that he outlined in his inaugural address. Instead, we see the same recycled, broken promises.

Since the creation of the Congressional Black Caucus, we have been fighting to uplift our communities. We have bold ideas to help transform the lives of those individuals that were mentioned and real ideas that can get going.

I thank the gentlewoman as we prepare to have other speakers from the Congressional Black Caucus share their remarks.

Ms. PLASKETT. I appreciate the remarks that the gentleman has given, particularly about the grim view that was given of African Americans during the inauguration that didn't really expound on the great diversity that is here.

We have someone from another part of our country who is now going to speak. I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), one of our senior great leaders of the Congressional Black Caucus, former chairwoman of the Caucus from California, who is going to give us her remarks and her thoughts on this topic this evening.

Ms. LEE. Let me first thank Congresswoman PLASKETT for her tireless leadership to protect our progress, but also for her vigilance and hard work on behalf of her district and the territories. I thank her and Congressman MARC VEASEY for cosponsoring our Special Order, making sure that the drum is being beat very loudly throughout the country with regard to what is taking place here in Washington, D.C.

For more than 45 years, the Congressional Black Caucus has been the conscience of the Congress. Since its founding, we have fought for robust legislative action to lift our constituents and the African American community, I guess, in a way, to ensure equal justice under the law so that everyone, including African Americans, will be able to live the American Dream.

Now, make no mistake about it: we will continue to fight for justice and equality under President Donald Trump.

The President's inaugural address, quite frankly, was appalling. In my nearly 20 years in the House, I cannot recall a darker, more pessimistic view of our Nation from an incoming President.

The President's inaugural address distorted the truth about our communities. He used dog whistles to paint a frightening picture of our neighborhoods and stoke fear.

Let me be clear: America is not the downtrodden, helpless Nation President Trump described. Yes, we have much more work to do to ensure equal justice under the law and to address the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow, and segregation. But this means public investments in housing, education, jobs, not budget cuts and corporate tax breaks that just do the opposite and also dismantle the safety net.

Within hours of taking office, the President already began to unravel the progress of the last 8 years. With the stroke of a pen, the President stuck a dagger in the heart of the Affordable Care Act that will take away health care for millions and pull the rug out from under low-income families seeking to buy homes.

These destructive policies are an attack on the most vulnerable in our society. It is clear that these executive orders will disproportionately harm communities of color, the African American community, and the poor.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act is just the tip of the iceberg. We have seen the Trump administration planning a full scale attack on the most marginalized community in our society.

Last year, after continually insulting the African American community, Trump's so-called new deal for Black America really did just add insult to injury. Rather than helping struggling families, this agenda would gut Social Security, repeal the Affordable Care Act, and abolish the safety net. We know that these cuts now will just lead to more poverty. This approach is dead wrong.

Instead of stepping on the most vulnerable to benefit special interests, President Trump should follow the CBC's lead by supporting a national strategy to eliminate poverty and extend economic opportunity to all Americans.

He can start by supporting our Half in Ten Act, which would reduce poverty in half over 10 years. And if the Trump administration really wants a new deal to benefit African Americans, they should look to our assistant leader JIM CLYBURN's 10-20-30 antipoverty plan, which would direct at least 10 percent of funds in designated accounts to spent in communities experiencing persistent poverty—those with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent over the last 30 years.

These are just a few of the proposals that we have to address poverty and lift up our communities. What we won't do is allow President Trump to roll back progress or push more families over the edge into poverty.

We should be identifying the root causes of poverty and developing policies to lift Americans up. Instead, President Trump has shown he would

rather line the pockets of billionaires and advance those failed trickle-down economics.

In President Trump's new deal for African Americans let me just read you very quickly what he said with regard to illegal immigration. He said: "We will restore the civil rights of African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and all Americans, by ending illegal immigration."

Our response is that the CBC will not buy into the divisive rhetoric that blames immigration for the social and economic problems in African American communities. Our members support comprehensive immigration reform. President Trump will not roll back the clock on our progress or doom another generation to the crippling effects of poverty.

Let me be clear: this 10-point plan really is a slap in the face to African Americans everywhere. As co-chair of the CBC's Working Group on Poverty and the Economy, along with Congressman CLEAVER and chair of the Democratic Whip Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality and Opportunity, we will continue to work to make sure that the vital resources for low-income Americans, African Americans, and those struggling to make ends meet are there.

We will make sure that the country understands that the Congressional Black Caucus continues to fight for a real deal for the African American community, for our entire Nation, and that means lifting people out of poverty, creating good-paying jobs, and moving forward on the progress that has been made.

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I was really very interested in the discussion the gentlewoman had and about the work that you have done to alleviate poverty both in the Democratic Caucus as well as the Congressional Black Caucus, particularly her words about not allowing immigration to be divisive and used as a means to separate Americans and not being able to realize the American Dream. America is big enough to have immigrants under a comprehensive immigration plan that will allow all of us to be able to lift it up.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on that and particularly the fight that she has been fighting for so many years when it comes to alleviating poverty in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), but more specifically from the great city of Detroit, where she has been a strong voice for the people of Detroit, a strong voice for surrounding areas, and her work on Flint, Michigan, and its water crisis, and other areas of people who are in the inner city that need support in so many areas, to speak on the issues that are the topic for today.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. I thank the Congresswoman, my colleague, for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the conscience of the Congress, stands strong to promote unity and fight against divisive rhetoric.

Trump's inaugural speech included a lot of pledges and promises: pledges of "allegiance to all Americans," promises to the American people, saying, "I will never let you down."

He even quoted the Bible, saying: "... how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity."

But pledges and promises fall flat when tweets, speeches, and now actions are followed by reckless executive orders, thoughtless nominations for our Nation's leaders, and attacks on the American healthcare system.

The American people were let down when President Trump nominated unqualified and out-of-touch candidates such as Senator JEFF SESSIONS, Betsy DeVos, and TOM PRICE.

How can you pledge allegiance to all Americans while threatening to leave so many without options and access to healthcare coverage? This is not unity. It is hypocrisy. We need to focus on facts and not "alternative facts."

I have a question: Do we have a replacement for the Affordable Care Act? Is it a fact that a repeal without a replacement will leave over 30 million people uninsured? Yes, that is a fact.

Is it a fact that Betsy DeVos, if confirmed, will be the first Secretary of Education without any prior experience in public schools, including early childhood education and higher education?

Is it a fact that JEFF SESSIONS has been nominated as the Attorney General but was denied Federal judgeship over accusations of racism?

I support efforts that will bring more jobs to the American people. I fully support efforts to improve our country's transportation and infrastructure. But only time will tell if President Trump will follow through with the promises he has made to the American people on inauguration day. Only time will tell if he will continue to act, speak, and tweet in a manner that builds walls and not bridges.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus intends to be a voice to create bridges and work toward real solutions to the real challenges that face African Americans, minorities, and the unheard and disenfranchised. We will be watching, and we will be listening. We will continue to fight for equality, liberty, and justice for all.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentlewoman for those words and thoughts on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), who has been a stalwart for social justice, a stalwart on the Judiciary Committee, and is going to speak on the issue that is here before us this evening, the CBC Special Order hour, "A Response to President Trump's Inaugural Address and New Deal for African Americans."

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands and the gentleman from Texas for their service to the Nation and for leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order. It is always important for the voices of the Congressional Black Caucus and the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. RICHMOND of Louisiana, to be heard. Both Ms. PLASKETT and Mr. VEASEY have accepted the challenge and the call. I want to express to them my greatest appreciation for the leadership that they are showing.

□ 2045

I want to start my remarks again by saying that it may be hometown pride, but I like the headline of the Houston Chronicle that says “Powerful Together.” The numbers have not yet been fully calculated, but we know upwards of a million and maybe over a million persons around the Nation, and then they added individuals from foreign countries far and wide. I would take by this title that represents, Mr. Speaker, the peaceful protests—I want to say that again; in fact, I might want to say it two times: peaceful, peaceful protests, nonviolent protests—that occurred on Saturday, expressing the view of what America is really about.

I say that to my colleagues, they are about what the Congressional Black Caucus is about, and I believe our chairman made the point that we come from very diverse districts, representing people of many racial backgrounds, religious backgrounds, as well as economic backgrounds, that we are the voice of reason and the conscience of this Congress. We fight against poverty, but we have Ph.D.’s, lawyers, judges, and we have businesspersons. They, by and large, Mr. Speaker, are charitable individuals who believe in social justice.

That is why we come with a sense of privilege, if you will, to be able to speak about what America truly is. Yesterday at the Community of Faith, under the leadership of Bishop James Dixon, I gathered for a prayer for the Nation. Mr. Speaker, I did not dissect it. I did not eliminate the White House. I did not point out Members of Congress, call them by name. I said a prayer for the Nation, and that included the White House and individuals in the Congress and the Senate. We had international representation. We had the Consulate General of Pakistan. We had imams. We had individuals who worship on Saturday Sabbath. We had people who spoke Spanish, people who spoke, obviously, English. And we gathered to pray for the nation. That is what I think is represented in the message or the title of the “New Deal for Black America,” it needs prayer because it is not reflective. Although well-intentioned, I am not sure who may have advised the administration, but it does not speak to the wideness of diversity of the African American population, African American communities in this Nation.

So I want to speak very briefly on questions of health care and justice. I would like to say that in the safe communities of which the administration or the President has offered his new deal, he says: “We will make our communities safe again. Every poor African-American child must be able to walk down the street in peace. Safety is a civil right. We will invest in training and funding both local and federal law enforcement operations to remove the gang members, drug dealers, and criminal cartels from our neighborhoods. The reduction of crime is not merely a goal—but a necessity.”

In that there is no mention of ending gun violence or looking at sensible gun safety regulations or laws, of which we have asked. I introduced Gun Violence Reduction Resources Act, which really answered Republicans’ cry for enforcing the law, to add to the ATF, to enforce the penalties against those who use guns wrong. In particular, the perpetrator in Mother Emanuel should not have been able to get the gun, but he was because the gun dealer was so easy and quick to sell it, even though he had not gotten an affirmation by ATF, that is the one. I would argue it was because they did not have enough personnel.

He also seems to categorize that every poor child has to walk down the streets. We want every child to walk down—as I said, our community is very diverse. He then says: “Equal Justice Under the Law. We will apply the law fairly, equally and without prejudice. There will be only one set of rules—not a two-tiered system of justice. Equal justice also means the same rules for Wall Street.”

So I quickly want to offer these points before I yield the floor. Number one, we are not all impoverished, but I join my colleagues in ending poverty. African Americans want the same thing as Barbara Jordan said when asked, “What do your people want?”

“It is the same thing that all America wants.”

Yes, we do want opportunities, but we do have to be more forceful for issues that are relevant.

We have seen nothing in Mr. Trump’s statement of a new deal for Black America to deal with sentencing reduction and ending mandatory minimums. We see nothing about working with police departments that have found themselves falling upon bad times and having a plague of bad actors, even though we respect and honor police. And so the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act that JOHN CONYERS and myself introduced has to do with correcting the issue of training and the improper inaction of police and community.

I would offer to say that the nominee for the Attorney General is completely opposed to addressing any questions of bad behavior on behalf of bad actors and bad officers. In fact, he opposed consent decrees like the one in Ferguson and Baltimore that were only positive, welcomed by the police de-

partments to help them do a better job at policing the community.

Prison reform to change the matrix of prison, gun violence prevention that I have already mentioned, and healthcare access that are truly crucial to all of us.

Let me also indicate a changing of the matrix of juvenile justice. We want to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program Reauthorization Act, but, more importantly, we want to change how we are dealing with juveniles. We want to change from the idea of them being, if you will, punished versus incentivized.

Finally, let me offer to say that two Senators in the other body have offered a new matrix on health care. I understand there are some proposals here. I would say that we see that we can’t have unity. We don’t have any replacement. What is being offered by the Senators is health savings accounts, which we know are not realistic. So I would offer to the President that there are many ways of looking at serving all of America, including African Americans. It is not listening to your own voice. It is helping us change the matrix for juveniles, changing the matrix for those who are incarcerated, mandatory minimums, the way police and community work, at the same time respecting them, but, more importantly, it is listening and working with Members who have real life experiences in some of the issues that will make this country continue to be the greatest country in the world.

I thank the gentlewoman for her courtesies.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the Congresswoman from Texas. I want to thank her for all the work she has been doing not just in terms of incarceration reform, but pointing out to us that the safety of children also includes gun violence in their communities. That is so very important. And, of course, the real tireless work that she has done in terms of juvenile justice.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE has been at the forefront of changing the dynamic in how we see juveniles and the things that lead them into incarceration or lead them into problems with the law, and the solutions that are on the table. This is what we are speaking about this evening, giving real solutions and concrete legislation that has already been drafted and worked on by members of the Congressional Black Caucus that President Trump can use in carrying out the 10-point plan that he has.

I yield to the Congresswoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), who also would like to speak on this topic and who has been doing tireless work in her district of Wisconsin and throughout the United States for communities, for children, for working mothers, for women who are attempting to move ahead, to receive a part of the economic justice, who has really been concerned about so many of the things that we are talking about this evening.

I yield to her to speak to us this evening.

Ms. MOORE. I thank the Delegate and the Congresswoman from the Virgin Islands and her counterpart, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), for really supporting this Congressional Black Caucus hour so that we can discuss the pledges and proposals that President Trump has made as the new deal within the Black community.

Mr. Speaker and Madam Chairwoman of this Special Order, I would like to engage in a kind of colloquy with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), who has been a State appropriator before he joined this body for some 25 years. I hate to date him. He has been a member of the prestigious appropriations committee. So, therefore, he was tasked with taking Federal funds and making those appropriations and those decisions at the State level. I wanted him to help evaluate some of the proposals that now President Trump has made regarding his new deal for Black America.

One of the proposals that President Trump has made is to allow the conversion of funds for poverty programs to be converted from those programs into microloans that he would then provide to the poor. I am feeling a little confused and perplexed as to how this would work. I fear that this is part of kind of the double speak or alternative facts about the roots of and the solutions to poverty.

As the gentleman now serves on the Committee on Small Business here in the House, and he has been an appropriator, I am wondering, number one, if converting funds from, say, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Act, which is comprised of mostly poor women and children or Social Security disability insurance, which is set aside for those folks with significant disabilities, or perhaps SNAP and food stamps, those people who are temporarily out of the workforce waiting to go back, find another job, but need to sort of eat that month—I am wondering how, in his experience, converting programs set aside for poor people would a poor person use a microloan.

I have two questions. I want the gentleman to sort of respond to what poor people would do. Presumably they would create their own jobs with these microloans. How big, perhaps, would these microloans have to be in order for them to establish their own businesses so that they would be off welfare?

In fact, on any given day, there are 3 million children who live in extreme poverty, off of less than \$3 a day. So I guess I would wonder how converting those funds—what those children who are not capable and eligible to work would do with such a proposal.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I think that the points that the gentlewoman is raising are very legitimate in terms

of the experience that I have had. And the experience that I have had, always the question is: Is there enough availability of capital in any startup of any particular business?

The experience has shown that this idea of microloans hasn't been sustainable or sufficient in terms of what it would mean. And as a result, Mr. Speaker, I think that this is like kind of a pig in a poke, giving people some sense, but really it doesn't give them a sustainable sense of whether you have the necessary long-term investment that is necessary. So I think that this is like smoke and mirrors. And the gentlewoman is correct in what she is saying in terms of this is not something that will give them a sustainable effort.

Ms. MOORE. I thank the gentleman for that because I thought maybe it was just me who thought that. Here we are, we live in a country with the largest economy, with arguably the strongest, greatest technological economy, and I wonder what these poor women who are on welfare would do?

He says he wants to get them off of welfare. Would they sell fruit on the street? How would that work in Detroit or Milwaukee?

We are not talking about women who live in countries where microloans may work very well in those limited economies.

□ 2100

I am also wondering how those people who are structurally unemployed would benefit from these microloans.

What this does, Madam Chairperson of this initiative, is that what this really is saying is that this is really perpetuating the persistent myth of people who are poor as the shiftless, lazy welfare queens of poverty pimps, and that the solution is to take away the safety net and force them to do some kind of work, whether that work is sustainable enough for them.

And so I would say, as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, that we ought to have welfare reform that really honors our commitment as Americans to make sure that we provide some kind of safety net for the majority of the poor who are, in fact, children. There are, in fact, people who are not capable, or should not be responsible, for providing for themselves through our very sophisticated economy.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that if we really want to help get people off welfare, we should not start the debate by taking away reproductive freedom from women. One of the major reasons that women fall into poverty is the lack of access to birth control, health care, that would enable them to plan their families, plan their pregnancies. And to say that you are going to help people get off welfare and to snatch away funds from Planned Parenthood or their ability to control their reproduction is a nonstarter in truly helping the truly poor.

I think that President Trump's quest to help those who are truly poor will only come if the President and his team will actually listen to the voices of the poor, actually listen to solutions that have been tried and tested, like providing educational opportunity and upward mobility to poor people; by respecting women's reproductive rights to choose; by really creating a sense of Congress that any goal of welfare reform ought to be to protect children; that any welfare reform ought to make sure that women are free from domestic violence, sex trafficking, and human trafficking, and that they be protected; and that during these periods they not be cut off from public support.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. PLASKETT for this opportunity to speak to the American people.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) and ask if he has additional thoughts on this after having that colloquy with Ms. MOORE.

Mr. EVANS. Yes. And, Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. PLASKETT for the opportunity to offer some comments. The fact that the Congressional Black Caucus has taken this lead, I applaud our leadership, Chairman RICHMOND.

I join with my colleagues this evening to speak to the plan our new President has penned as the "new deal for African Americans." This plan, unfortunately, does not meet the needs of our communities and focuses on the same assumptions that have not worked for our communities over the years.

In his inaugural address, President Trump stated: "The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country. Their victories have not been your victories; their triumphs have not been your triumphs; and while they celebrated in our Nation's Capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land." That was stated by President Trump.

Well, while individuals were celebrating last week, actions were taken for people all over our Nation to lose their healthcare coverage, and the Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance rate was cut an hour after President Trump took office, which would have reduced insurance premiums for borrowers each year. This does not help the men, women, and children of our great Nation.

In the new deal for Black America, President Trump asserts that there will be tax reform to create jobs and lift up people and communities. Just in my community alone, Mr. Speaker, at Temple University Hospital, which has 8,000 jobs, there are jobs that will be lost due to the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which President Trump signed an executive order to dismantle the day he was sworn in as our President. This is counter to any notion of job creation.

As our chairman so eloquently stated in the letter expressing the views of

the caucus on January 19, the new administration should target investment to those communities that need it the most and support programs that support small- and medium-sized businesses and address the access to capital crisis in the African American entrepreneur community.

In President Trump's inaugural address, he stated "a new national pride will stir our souls, lift our sights, and heal our divisions." I assert that we already have a national pride. It is the pride that those in our communities feel when there is unity when they understand that individuals here in Congress are fighting for them. It is the pride that communities feel when they understand that groups such as the Congressional Black Caucus zealously represented and advocated to improve their lives over the course of the existence of the caucus, those in rural and urban communities.

An additional point in the new deal for Black America asserts financial reform to expand credit to support new job creation and specifically calls out the Dodd-Frank reforms set forth and protected through the leadership of Ranking Member WATERS. These financial reforms and protections are absolutely essential to protect our communities.

With the racial wealth gap reaching an unfortunate and historical level, with White households maintaining 13 times the wealth of African American households, we must work to ensure the protections of Dodd-Frank remain in place. Additionally, as Representative RICHMOND shared, programs such as the Small Business Administration's Microloan Program, which provides capital and assistance to minority-owned business, must be bolstered.

I have spoken directly with my constituents about the need for access to capital; thus, my statement is not hypocritical or speculative in nature. There is an actual need in our communities so that our small businesses can grow and flourish.

Our new President asserts:

We are transferring power from Washington, D.C., and giving it back to you, the American people.

I assert that the American people have always had the power. I see this power as I walk through my district as through my community, as I walk through Ogontz Avenue in West Oak Lane, part of my district, down Girard Avenue in North Philadelphia, Lancaster Avenue on the Main Line, and Baltimore Avenue in West Philadelphia. The faces in my community let me know that the power has always belonged to the people. It is now up to all of us to do what is in the best interest of our communities, to work collectively and address the issues that plague our communities.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, DWIGHT EVANS. I know that he is new to this Congress, but he has worked for so many years on the issues

that we are talking about today. I look forward to our continued collaboration in supporting so many communities throughout our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who has been a stalwart voice on so many of the issues that the Congressional Black Caucus has brought here this evening and is here, Mr. Speaker, to share some of her thoughts on the things that have been spoken about earlier today.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman STACY PLASKETT, for leading tonight's Special Order hour, joined by her cochair, Congressman MARC VEASEY, and also my classmate.

Let me say to our chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND for bringing this Special Order hour here tonight. So much has been said already. But let me say how honored I am to join my colleagues as we address and talk about "A Response to President Trump's Inaugural Address and New Deal for African Americans."

Like so many of my colleagues tonight, Mr. Speaker, and the countless Americans who are watching at home, I remain deeply concerned and troubled about several of the statements that Mr. Trump made and also about the stances of Mr. Trump's Cabinet members, comments about minorities and women and immigrants, and, of course, comments about our own colleague Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in Trump's inaugural address, he did nothing to ease those concerns or to unite us. On the contrary, all I heard on Friday was another campaign speech of more of the same divisive rhetoric and recycled ideas from his campaign trail, ideas like the new deal for Black America that he mentioned on the campaign trail, a proposal that you have heard a lot about tonight that embraces the same trickle-down economic assumptions that didn't work for African Americans in the past and certainly won't work today.

Mr. Speaker, during his campaign speech, Trump talked about gangs roaming the streets and how African American communities are being decimated by crime. He went so far as to say, overwhelmingly, the majority of Black people living in inner cities in the United States are "living in hell."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I want President Trump to know that I am Black. I grew up in the United States inner city, but I didn't live in hell. And here I stand now, educated in the public schools, attended a historically Black university and college, and I am a Member of the United States Congress.

Mr. Trump said: "We are one Nation—and their pain is our pain. Their dreams are our dreams, and their success will be our success."

He was referencing mothers and children strapped in poverty in our inner

cities. He was referencing rusted out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape of our Nation, and an education system flush with cash but leaving our young students deprived of knowledge.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to see his plans for public education. I want to see his plans for inner-city students. I want to see his plans flush with all that cash that he talked about going into our public schools. I want us to unite to help eradicate the cycle of poverty and eliminate the too-often traveled pipeline from underperforming schools to overcrowded prisons.

I want to see Mr. Trump's plan on criminal justice reform. I want a fair Attorney General vetted and confirmed because they will stand up every single day for equal rights of all Americans, for freedom of speech, for freedom to vote, and much more—not an Attorney General who lacks the ability to represent disenfranchised groups, not someone who fails to champion the least of us.

□ 2115

I have not seen those things in nominee SESSIONS.

Lastly, I want Cabinet members who will be champions for our seniors—people like my 92-year-old mother. I want Cabinet members who will stand up for minorities and minority businesses. See, we need greater assistance in minority businesses and funds for minority business. I want Cabinet members who will build on and strengthen our healthcare system—yes, to make it greater, not to take away health care from 30 million people. Let me just say that I want to plan for workforce development programs and reentry training programs for those laid-off factory workers. I want to see plans for mothers and families because we certainly know, when women succeed, America succeeds.

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I dare ask that women get equal pay for equal work. I don't want recycled, failed policies that will do nothing to heal our communities. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. We are the conscience of the Congress.

Let me end by saying that there are so many programs. We have a task force on poverty, led by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE. I won't repeat the program that Assistant Democratic Leader CLYBURN has already introduced—the 10-20-30 plan.

Let me again thank my colleagues for bringing their powerful voices to this floor.

Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon all of us to join the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the entire House Democratic Caucus, and all Americans of every color—in standing up to President Trump and continuing to let him know, as our preamble of the Constitution says—to form a more perfect Union for all Americans.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I was struck by some information that I just received. This is a summary of the new deal for Black America. Nowhere in the new deal for Black America is a commitment to protecting voting rights. One of the Achilles heels of the nominee for the Attorney General is he does not have a history of protecting voting rights.

Particularly, I want to acknowledge President George W. Bush because the Congress—both the House and the Senate—worked extensively with him in the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, including section 5, which is preclearance. Lo and behold, the Shelby case imploded section 5. We no longer have it in a potpourri—a flourishing, a garden of weeds—of voter ID laws, one by which my colleague Mr. VEASEY, who was a plaintiff, was promoted.

The last point that I want to make is, in addition to not having anything on voting rights, we just had breaking news that the White House has indicated that the President would have had the popular vote if he had not had happen to him 3 to 5 million illegal votes cast. This is being reported. Likewise, what is being reported is there is absolutely no evidence that there were 3 to 5 million illegal votes cast in the 2016 election. I think we need to have focus on voting rights and on the protection of those who vote.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of the Members who have participated tonight. We are about to run short on our time here, but there are just so many other areas that need to be addressed, and the Congressional Black Caucus is going to continue to address those when we talk about safe communities; when we start talking about great education and some of the issues that we see with the nominee for the Secretary of Education that threaten to really cripple and hurt our public schools; when we talk about equal justice for all. How are we going to work with the Justice Department to try to foster some of the good initiatives that President Obama put forward in dealing with community policing? It is all of those things, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. PLASKETT. And education and workforce development.

Mr. VEASEY. Absolutely. Education and workforce development with our changing workforce—STEAM jobs and STEM jobs.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, within hours of taking the oath as President of the United States, Donald Trump signaled that his much touted “New Deal for Black America” is just

the same “old deal” of discrimination, voter suppression and establishment entitlement. In politics, as in life, actions always speak louder than words. And the speed of his repudiation of the inclusive agenda of the Obama administration shouts his intention to turn back the clock on civil rights for a broad swath of our nation.

Since the Supreme Court suspended the application of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act in the Shelby County Case, African American communities around the nation have fought the passage of discriminatory voter identification laws as part of a scheme to suppress the vote. The states of Texas and North Carolina have been particular battlegrounds, where important victories were achieved in the federal courts. The work of civil rights advocacy groups received important support from the Voting Section of the DOJ Civil Rights Division in reversing some of the most aggressive state-passed voter suppression plans.

As many have feared, the election of Trump threatens to produce a radical change in support for voting rights from the White House. Unlike even President George W. Bush, who signed the reauthorization of Section 5 of the VRA, Trump has exhibited an hostility to voting rights not seen since the Civil Rights era.

By Friday afternoon, lawyers for the Department asked for a delay in the hearing scheduled for tomorrow on the Texas voter ID case, citing the change in presidential administrations. The motion noted that “Because of the change in administration, the Department of Justice also experienced a transition in leadership, . . . and requires additional time to brief the new leadership of the Department on this case and the issues to be addressed at the hearing before making any representations to the Court.” It is generally expected that DOJ will reverse course in the case.

This case is a bellwether of what can be expected from a Trump DOJ on civil rights. Given the size of Texas and the precedential impact of the case, the stakes in this litigation could not be higher for the minority community.

The voting law at issue in the case, known as SB 14, set strict requirements for permissible ID to vote. While it included such identification as a driver’s license, passport and a concealed handgun license, it excluded identification like federal government or student IDs.

In July, the Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in New Orleans ruled that the law violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act because it disproportionately affected minorities. The Department of Justice had previously argued that the law violated the Voting Rights Act and was intended to directly impact the abilities of minorities to vote, as more than 600,000 minorities lacked the ID necessary under state law to vote.

The belief that the Civil Rights Division will change position and will be under attack is well founded. Last Thursday, it was reported that the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Violence Against Women Grants and the Legal Services Corporation would be target for elimination and the Civil Rights Division would have its funding cut as part of Trump plan for reducing the size of the federal government.

Most troubling, it was also reported that John M. Gore, an attorney who led the legal teams on several key cases attacking civil rights, would be the head of DOJ’s Civil

Rights Division as the Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Gore was one of the defense attorneys who argued in court on behalf of North Carolina’s legally dubious and discriminatory anti-transgender bill HB2. The bill blocks transgender people from using public bathrooms that align with their gender identity. The bottom line here is that Gore was on the side of discrimination in the country’s most high-profile LGBTQ rights case of the past year. (Many will recall that this legislation generated a huge economic backlash against the state, including the relocation of major sporting events).

His record of being a legal champion for discriminatory causes appears to be a highlight of Gore’s legal career. One of his main areas of expertise appears to be defending redistricting plans against claims of civil rights violations, with his online bio boasting of a number of successful such defenses.

One of the most high-profile civil rights cases Gore has litigated in recent years is the Florida Purge case. This case brought many of us to the floor to denounce yet another attempt at voter suppression that was designed to alter the balance of state politics. The state of Florida was found to have violated the National Voter Registration Act with a systemic purge of voters it suspected of being non-citizens. As the New York Times wrote of Florida’s voter restriction attempt:

The program to identify and remove non-citizens from the rolls prompted a national outcry and several lawsuits in 2012 because it was riddled with mistakes and was being pushed through months before the election. A number of people on the lists, which were sent by the state to county election supervisors, were, in fact, citizens (including the two lead plaintiffs in the lawsuit).

Just as we opposed the nomination of Sen. JEFF SESSIONS to serve as Attorney General, we must similarly build a record against John Gore to head the Civil Rights Division. We simply cannot entrust our legacy civil rights statutes to any person who has shown a lack of sensitivity and balance in protecting the interests of justice in our society.

Though Trump’s inaugural speech invoked an image of my home City of Detroit, I fear what his vision will mean for my community and vow to continue the struggle for jobs, justice and peace. He stated that “the time for empty talk is over. Now arrives the hour of action.” I take him at his word and his actions send an unmistakable message: His action is to appoint a defender of discrimination to head the Civil Rights Division. His action is to retreat from an agenda on Community Oriented Policing. His action is to undermine affordable healthcare. His action is to appoint cabinet officials who fail to represent the mosaic that is America.

The Congressional Black Caucus took to this floor tonight to outline our response to the President’s Inaugural Address & New Deal for African-Americans. While our views may not find much in common, I believe we can agree on this: the time for talk is indeed over and the hour for action has arrived. This caucus will not stand idly by while an administration attempts to turn back the clock. The greatness of America is found in its diversity, inclusiveness and empathy. That is why we are the beacon on the hill. Whether we fly, walk or crawl, we are committed to moving this nation forward and will not turn back.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, President Donald Trump addressed the nation during his inaugural address by laying out his priorities for the new administration and his future vision for our country. Among his priorities is to incentivize private investments in infrastructure through tax incentives and public-private partnerships.

Tax incentives and public-private partnerships are simply two elements that I believe should be part of a larger, more comprehensive infrastructure plan. A truly comprehensive plan will include direct spending and invests real dollars in both rural and urban communities. So far, the only portions of President Trump's infrastructure plan that have been made public include \$100 billion in tax breaks to private investors. I believe that President Trump is deeply misguided in relying solely on tax breaks to miraculously spur investments in our decaying transportation network. We need to include a healthy mix of direct spending, tax incentives, public-private partnerships, and sensible public policies if we are to sufficiently address the infrastructure needs across the country.

Our highways, railways, and airways serve as the arteries that drive the U.S. economy. As our nation's population continues to grow and become more diverse, the growth of our transportation infrastructure needs to keep pace. Texas is projected to account for nearly fifteen percent of all the national population growth through 2030. Yet, it has become increasingly difficult to make the investments that we need to properly maintain and build up the state's infrastructure due to dwindling federal funding for transportation projects. President Trump's plan in its current form falls drastically short of the necessary steps that we must take in order to modernize our crumbling infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, it has been and continues to be my intention to give President Trump a fair chance at proving to the American people that he is serious about bringing real solutions to our nation's problems to the table. I strongly encourage this administration to present a well-rounded infrastructure plan that goes beyond merely hand-outs to corporations, and also includes the direct spending that is so desperately needed.

#### 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,  
Washington, DC, January 23, 2017.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This letter is to inform you that I have sent a letter to Kansas Governor Sam Brownback informing him that I am resigning my position as the United States Representative for the 4th Congressional District of Kansas effective upon my confirmation as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In November, I was nominated by then President-elect Donald Trump to serve as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and have now been confirmed to have the privilege to serve in that role. I am truly

honored that President Trump has given me the opportunity to lead an amazing organization filled with men and women who put their lives on the line for the safety and security of every American.

I want to thank you for all you have done to make the House of Representatives live up to its constitutional duty to represent all Americans. Thank you too for your personal assistance in working with me on the issues that impact all Americans, but, especially, those who I have had the privilege to represent from South Central Kansas. There is much work to do legislatively; I will miss working to be part of this historic opportunity now laid before us.

I look forward to continuing to work with all of you as we strive to keep America safe. My commitment to keeping you and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence fully informed on important intelligence matters is sincere and continuing.

Sincerely,

MIKE POMPEO,  
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, January 23, 2017.

Hon. SAM BROWNBACK,  
Governor, State of Kansas,  
Topeka, Kansas.

DEAR GOVERNOR BROWNBACK: I have now been confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I am hereby resigning my position as the United States Representative for the 4th Congressional District of Kansas effective upon my confirmation as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I have genuinely been privileged to represent the people of South Central Kansas in Congress. Kansans are inspiring, compassionate, and hard-working. To serve them in this fashion has been a true honor I will always cherish.

The opportunity to lead the world's finest intelligence warriors was a call to service I could not ignore. I am truly honored that President Trump has given me this opportunity. The men and women of the CIA are the world's finest intelligence professionals the world has ever known. Their integrity, passion, and commitment to keeping our nation safe is unquestionable. I am excited to lead them during this dangerous time around the world.

Sincerely,

MIKE POMPEO,  
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 Kansas (Mr. POMPEO), the whole number of the House is 434.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Member of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. HURD, Texas

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. KAPTUR (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of bad weather affecting travel.

Mrs. LAWRENCE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of bad weather affecting travel.

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medical appointments.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 24, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

303. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a letter reporting a violation of the Antideficiency Act, in the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Chief Information Officer during Fiscal Year 2013, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1254(n)(3); June 30, 1948, ch. 758, title I, Sec. 104(n)(3) (as amended by Public Law 95-217, Sec. 6); (91 Stat. 1567); to the Committee on Appropriations.

304. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Food and Drug Administration's Fiscal Year 2016 Performance Report to Congress for the Animal Drug User Fee Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

305. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Food and Drug Administration's Fiscal Year 2016 Performance Report to Congress for the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

306. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins; Biennial Review of the List of Select Agents and Toxins and Enhanced Biosafety Requirements [Docket No.: CDC-2015-0006] (RIN: 0920-AA59) received January 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

307. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Revisions to the Vaccine Injury Table (RIN: 0906-AB01) received January 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

308. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Import and Export Requirements for Controlled Substances, Listed Chemicals, and Tableting and Encapsulating Machines, Including Changes To Implement the International