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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. FITZPATRICK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 7, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK 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 8, 2018, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

WHAT FAMILY VALUES?

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to hear another Republican Member of Congress come to this microphone to speak about family values ever again. I don't want to hear about protecting families or honoring families or putting families first, because each and every time a Republican invokes family values on this floor, it will be a lie, and a cruel lie at that.

If you want to run on the President's record to keep your job so you can feed your family, part of the price is that you have zero credibility when it comes to family values from now until forever.

Along the southern border, hundreds of children have been taken from their parents and hundreds have been held in border stations without sleeping rooms or adequate bedding for several days in violation of Federal laws that safeguard children.

We are told that the number of children in the care of the agency we put in charge is now above 11,000 children, but we don't know for sure, because the government, our government, your government, is not telling us what is really going on, and an oversight hearing with the Secretary of Homeland Security scheduled for today was canceled at the Judiciary Committee.

Hundreds of children in the care of Border Patrol, most of them under the age of 12, and 11,000 total in the system.

The White House thinks Latinos are not really human beings, so we can treat them however we want and it doesn't matter; after all, it is not like they are coming from Norway.

The President and the Attorney General say they are "illegals," which is also a lie, and they know it. People fleeing violence and systematic rape and murder can come to the U.S., can ask for political asylum, and it is 100 percent legal under the laws of the United States.

Every one of us knows that taking a child from a mother is morally wrong except in the most extreme cases.

In this country's history, we sold millions of Black children because they were considered property during slavery, and we stole Native American children from their families to strip them of their culture and heritage because we labeled them as savages.

Most people think these are among the most shameful chapters in Amer-

ican history—most people. But we all know how the President feels about Latino children. He says they are "not so innocent," so I guess he thinks they are programmed to turn into the people he calls animals and rapists because of where they were born.

According to the White House Chief of Staff, the children at the border will be "put in foster care or whatever." And the Attorney General says he believes the children will be well taken care of "for the most part."

Forgive me if I don't put much stock in national leaders whose concern for children includes the terms "or whatever," or "for the most part."

So, Republicans, do not ever come to this floor and claim that your party supports families and defends children. You have lost all your family values privileges.

This afternoon, I will meet with families that were broken up because the meat packing plant where their parents work was raided in April by ICE and the Tennessee State Troopers.

Please tell them about your family values.

We don't provide legal ways for their parents to come here because Republicans oppose legal immigration, but employers need the workers, and those parents are under constant threat of arrest, deportation, and never seeing their children again.

The owners of the plant that employed the workers, as far as we know, nothing has happened to them, and they are probably going to enjoy dinner with their families again tonight.

Last week in Chicago and this morning in Ohio, a few hundred more working people were rounded up and their children, most of whom are U.S. citizens, are left without their parents. In Pennsylvania, it was restaurant workers; in Iowa, it was concrete plant workers.

Tearing apart Latino families is an election year strategy for this White

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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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House designed to energize Republican voters for primaries and midterms this year to reelect Republican Members of the House and the Senate.

And let's not forget that, while almost 5,000 Puerto Ricans were dying—yes, dying, and are still dying today—your President was giving himself an A-plus and saying there had been no real catastrophe, all while families were telling us of the loved ones they were losing because they didn't have electricity or medicine or a hospital.

So to my Republican colleagues, some of whom I love dearly, please don't you ever come to the well of this House and tell the country that you support family values. Don't you dare. Your time talking about family values is over.

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

U.S. MUST TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I met with Victor Cuadras and Zayda Hernandez, two young Nicaraguan student leaders who bravely protest the abuses and violence of the Ortega regime.

Knowing that they could face trumped-up charges upon their return to Nicaragua, Victor and Zayda feel a unique sense of responsibility to come here to Washington to advocate for justice and liberty for their homeland.

They represent the voice of the Nicaraguan people, old and new generations, who desire nothing more than a free and democratic country where one can be prosperous and live without fear of repression. What a concept.

And we must listen to their pleas, Mr. Speaker.

Countless Nicaraguans are on the front lines, as you can see on this poster, confronting the brutality of the Ortega regime day after day.

Over 120 Nicaraguans and one U.S. citizen have been killed at the hands of this murderous regime in just the past weeks. Over 1,000 Nicaraguans have been injured, hundreds continue to disappear.

Mr. Speaker, I was on the floor yesterday, and here I am again for the fourth time since the regime's crack-down on the Nicaraguan people began on April 18, because I believe that it is vital—now, more than ever—for the United States to support the people of Nicaragua in its fight to reestablish democratic order. We must let the people know that they are not alone.

Earlier this week, I was joined by Republicans and Democrats, Representatives and Senators, in urging the administration to sanction two of Ortega's many thugs: Francisco Lopez,

head of ALBANISA, for money laundering and corruption; and Francisco Diaz, who leads the National Police, for orchestrating the repression and the killings of Nicaraguans.

But there are so many others who must be sanctioned, including Gustavo Porras, head of the National Assembly; Sonia Castro, Minister of Health; Roberto Lopez, president of the Social Security Institute; and Tirso Celedon, a real estate developer profiting from the Social Security Institute.

Each of these individuals is part of Ortega's inner circle and is responsible for those acts of corruption and human rights violations, all of which have been widely reported.

I urge the administration to not delay any longer and to take swift action to freeze assets, to cancel visas and to sanction to the full extent of our laws those who are responsible for so much corruption and so many murders in Nicaragua.

We have a moral responsibility to lead the way and help bring to justice those responsible for the atrocities that they see happening in that country. We need to send a clear message that the United States is paying attention and that those terrible acts will not go unpunished.

Mr. Speaker, this Chamber has known for a while about how troublesome the Ortega regime is, to say the least, and we have been able to lead on this issue, and I thank my colleagues for that.

In October 2017, this House passed my NICA Act, which seeks to leverage America's influence by conditioning our vote at any of the international financial institutions until Nicaragua takes significant steps to uphold the rule of law and strengthen democratic institutions.

Unfortunately, our colleagues in the Senate have been silent—silent. I urge them to quit stalling and to take meaningful action by finally passing the NICA Act so that we can keep the pressure on that awful regime until democracy, freedom, and prosperity return to beautiful Nicaragua and these young people will be free once again.

THANKING SUE SMITH

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, Massachusetts was bracing for a brutal blizzard bringing extreme life-threatening cold. Families were bundling up; schools canceled class; first responders prepared for a long, long night of calls. And one woman, Sue Smith, was opening the doors to Faith Alliance Church in Attleboro to welcome the city's homeless population into her warm embrace.

It was an extraordinary act of compassion and community service. But for Sue, it wasn't. It was just one more day of fiercely protecting her neigh-

bors, one more night of caring for the most vulnerable among us, one more family given a roof over their heads, one more life saved from hypothermia.

A few months after that snowy, freezing night, I was humbled to invite Sue to be my guest to the State of the Union Address.

Sue has never asked for recognition or praise, but few are more deserving than she is. She has never asked for a helping hand when facing her own personal battles.

But this week, I learned that Sue has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. And although I know she would never ask her neighbors to return her immense gratitude, we do have a message for her.

Sue, we are by your side in your fight. We know this cancer won't stop you or even slow you, but we are here with you for whatever you need.

Thank you for being our better angel.

PROMOTING COMPUTER SCIENCE AT DUBOIS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Monday marked the last day of school for students at the DuBois Area Middle School. It was a last day like probably none other.

In addition to celebrating the long-awaited start of summer vacation, the sixth grade students finished off their school year with a special visit from Silicon Valley.

Representatives from Google traveled to Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, to deliver a CS First Roadshow, a computer science education presentation. Google specifically developed this event for fourth through eighth graders.

□ 1015

Two Google employees delivered the hour-long presentation which focused on teaching students both problem-solving and technical coding skills through a series of interactive activities.

They encouraged kids to develop an interest in computer science education by giving real-life examples of how coding and STEM education can lead to educational opportunities and exciting careers.

Mr. Speaker, the presentation was incredible, and it was clear that the students truly enjoyed it. These are the kinds of skills that students everywhere need to be exposed to at a young age to get them interested in the STEM fields.

I was excited to kick off this event at DuBois Area Middle School. I told the students that technology is constantly changing, and America needs the next generation of computer scientists ready for any opportunities that might come our way.

We need more people in this world who can help build the future or invent