



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019

No. 17

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 28, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL T. KILDEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

EXASPERATION/FRUSTRATION

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this morning about 800,000 Federal employees from the 25 percent of the government that had been shut down for the last 35 days finally were allowed to go back to work and perform the amazing service that they do for the American people in a whole host of different agencies.

All of us heard from such great Americans coming from our districts,

and certainly in the Second District of Connecticut, in eastern Connecticut, was no exception.

So, for example, Clark Chapin, who is the head of the Farm Service Agency at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who, again, for 35 days was unable to work on the different farm programs that are so important to eastern Connecticut farmers, particularly in the dairy sector with the new dairy insurance program, his frustration in terms of not being able to get that program up and running, again, was palpable when I talked to him about a week or so ago.

We also have the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, where, again, that was the one branch of the military that was shut down because they don't reside in the Department of Defense. They are in the Department of Homeland Security.

Even though, as Admiral Carl Schultz, who is the Commandant of the Coast Guard, pointed out on national television, there are Coast Guard cutters serving in Bahrain in the fifth fleet side by side with the U.S. Navy patrolling the territorial waters of the Persian Gulf in the Straits of Hormuz in about the most hazardous waters in the world. Their Navy counterparts were certainly being paid, but the Coast Guard sailors and officers were not.

In addition, we have got Coast Guard cutters over in the Indo-Pacific region doing work in the Straits of Taiwan, again, highly contested waters. The unique skills that coastguardsmen and -women bring to that particular type of patrol is essential to our country's national defense and national security policy.

They, again, are just a couple of examples.

Constituents in the State Department serving overseas in hazardous duty areas—the FAA, the TSA, the IRS, Commerce—this morning, I heard

from one of the Commerce employees. She went to work this morning. The payroll system was flooded with folks trying to submit their timecards, and the system crashed. They are still trying to sort that out so that people will get not only their paycheck on Friday, but also retroactive payments.

Last Thursday, again, hours before the settlement finally was reached and the announcement was made from the White House, I held a telephone townhall meeting. We had 8,000 listeners from all across the district and, again, a very vigorous debate, and there was definitely disagreement about whether there should be a wall on the southern border or no wall.

But what there was universal agreement about was that shutdowns are wrong, that shutdowns should never be used as a tool or leverage to force a policy provision and cripple, again, the working lives of people who, again, are patriots for this country, but also the taxpayers who rely on the programs and services that they provide. That is why, again, it was astonishing to see in The Wall Street Journal, over the weekend, that President Trump gave an interview where he said another shutdown is "certainly an option."

Mr. Speaker, if we have learned anything as a nation over the last 35 days, it is what those 8,000 folks who participated in my telephone townhall articulated over and over again: This should not be used as leverage to force an issue through the Congress. It should go through normal and regular order.

We have a conference committee from the House and the Senate, from both parties, that will begin their work over the next couple of weeks or so to resolve the dispute. There is overlap. There is agreement in terms of boosting border security.

But no one should be putting down as markers that we are going to again disrupt the lives of these Americans once again just as they are starting to finally get back into the office and get

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

the work done for the American people. Instead, what we should be doing is voting, as we are tomorrow, on H.R. 790, which is to overturn President Trump's executive order of December 28 canceling the pay increase for non-DOD employees.

Again, some of the very same people whose lives were turned upside down over the last 35 days are also going to lose their pay increase based on the President's executive order. The bill we are going to vote on tomorrow, H.R. 790, is going to overturn that executive order and give those folks the same pay raise as folks in the Department of Defense: 2.6 percent. These are people who, again, provide essential public services for the people of this country.

If nothing else, it was a learning experience over the last month about how vital that work is in terms of air travel, national defense and military policy, as well as agriculture and processing of tax returns at the height of the tax season.

Let's vote on measures that are going to restore and heal this country over the damage that was done over the last 35 days and take shutdowns off the table. It is time for shutdown politics to come to an end.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

As the people's House returns, we give You thanks for those most responsible for the resolutions reached this past week and for the reopening of government, which has meant so much to the families of those who have chosen to serve their Nation by their work in government.

Bless all those engaged in negotiations now toward a full funding of government for the current fiscal year, that the unfortunate suffering of so many in the past month might remind them of the sacred trust they have: "to provide for the common defense" and "promote the general welfare," successive phrases in the same sentence of the Preamble to the Constitution.

Doing these both has always been the challenge of political science. Grant the Members the wisdom to do their best to fulfill this awesome responsibility.

May all that is done here in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

U.S.-QATAR STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this month, Qatar and the United States completed the second annual Strategic Dialogue. The State Department cited the many successes of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The Strategic Dialogue highlighted the strength of the relationship to deepen the cooperation to benefit both countries.

The United States welcomed Qatar's generous offer to expand critical facilities at bases used by U.S. forces in the country, enabling expansion at Al Udeid Air Base.

Both sides intend to strengthen their security and counterterrorism partnership to eradicate terrorism and violent extremism.

There was continued support for a strong and united Gulf Cooperation Council promoting a peaceful and prosperous future for the region. Our GCC allies should work together to resolve their differences for the sake of the success and security of the region.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the family of Robert Adams, VI.

HONORING DR. C.H. CHARLTON ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. C.H. Charlton, affectionately known to all of us at home as "Rev," for his 43 years of faithful service as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Johnson City, Tennessee.

A native of southwest Virginia, Dr. Charlton was previously pastor of several Baptist congregations near his hometown of Radford, later moving to Johnson City, where he found his home at Friendship Baptist Church.

Dr. Charlton is also a dedicated public servant. He served as the first African American mayor in southwest Virginia and is recognized by the Virginia Historical Society as contributing significantly to the State's history.

Dr. Charlton continued to serve in Johnson City by sitting on the city's Regional Planning Commission and Board of Education while working as a professor at Northeast State Community College.

Furthermore, I am proud to have served with him on the City Commission, where he served 2 years as vice mayor of Johnson City.

Rev is a shining star on the hill. For nearly six decades, Dr. Charlton has dedicated himself to serving the Lord, his wife, his family, and his community.

I wish my friend the best in his retirement.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled joint resolution was signed by the Speaker on Friday, January 25, 2019:

H.J. Res. 28, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1647

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE) at 4 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.