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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. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 29, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

BORDER WALL

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I believe the President's decision to temporarily resolve the shutdown was the correct one. The Democrats' refusal even to discuss a path forward had created a crisis of governance, in addition to our ongoing crisis on the southern border.

The President had offered many compromises to the Democrats. He reduced

his funding request, altered the design, and added nearly \$1 billion of humanitarian aid. Yet, the Democrats spurned all of these good faith overtures.

When the President invited congressional Democrats to the Oval Office to hear their views, they refused to go. They had plenty of time to vacation in Puerto Rico with 100 lobbyists during the shutdown, but they couldn't seem to fit a simple meeting with the President into their busy schedules in order to resolve it.

Based on their past behavior, I am skeptical their position will change over the next 3 weeks.

They tell us there is no crisis. Well, the facts speak for themselves. Between 16 million and 29 million people now are living illegally in the United States, costing American taxpayers well over \$100 billion a year to support. Sixty thousand more are illegally crossing our border every month. In 2017, illegal aliens murdered 1,800 Americans and violently assaulted 48,000 more.

The congressional Democrats who oppose the President's wall insist that they support border security, but they say a wall is a costly and ineffective way to stop illegal immigration. Well, it is hard to take either of their claims seriously.

These same politicians have long advocated for providing a wide range of services for illegal immigrants, ranging from healthcare and legal counsel to education and housing, all at taxpayer expense. It is hard to believe they want to discourage illegal immigration while they reward those who illegally immigrate.

The Democrats long ago ceased to call illegal immigration what it is: illegal. Many have gone so far as to advocate abolishing the agencies that defend our borders and enforce our immigration laws. They have enacted sanctuary laws that protect dangerous criminals from deportation. They have

opposed mandatory employment verification to hold employers accountable for hiring illegals. And they have opposed visa tracking of foreign nationals entering our country.

They tell us that walls are medieval and what we really need are sophisticated cameras. Well, we don't want to watch them crossing our border; we want to stop them.

Walls have been used for thousands of years to impede unauthorized entry for one reason: They work, and they still work. When Israel built a 143-mile wall to protect its southern border, illegal immigration fell 99 percent. The cost of building a wall is a fraction of the cost incurred by American citizens every year to support the illegal population already in our country.

It doesn't address the whole problem, but a wall would be a tremendous force multiplier for border enforcement agencies. It would protect them from the violent attacks to which they are constantly subjected and allow them to apply their slender resources more efficiently and effectively.

If the Democrats continue to oppose serious measures to defend our borders and enforce our laws, I urge the President to use the authority Congress granted in 1976 to reprogram already appropriated but unobligated military construction funds for the defense of our Nation. What is more fundamental to national defense than the security and integrity of our own borders?

Some argue that this would divert money from other Defense Department projects. Well, it is an odd logic that argues that defending the Iraqi border is more important than defending our own.

Others have worried that a Presidential order would provoke a protracted legal challenge. Isn't that true of any course the President could take?

Others worry that leftist activists would misuse this precedent. Well, let me ask you: When have such activists

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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ever relied on precedent to expand their power?

Using this authority would not only build the wall, it would avoid the need to meet any demands to further diminish or dilute our current immigration laws.

If the next 3 weeks produce the unreasonable demands and intransigence that we have come to expect from the Democratic leadership, I strongly urge the President to use his existing authority. Countries that either cannot or will not enforce their borders simply aren't around very long. Let that not be America's epitaph.

UPCOMING HUNGER CRISIS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the President, finally, ended the longest government shutdown in our Nation's history.

For 35 days, activity at several government agencies halted. The wages of hardworking public servants were being used as bargaining chips to push a medieval solution to what should have been a modern discussion on how to protect our borders.

The President seemed tone deaf to all the devastation that came with the government shutdown. At one point, he said that he would keep our government shut down for "months or even years." In a speech on Friday, he stunningly said that Federal workers were encouraging him to continue the shutdown.

I would love to know who he was talking to, because that is the opposite of what I was hearing from my constituents and Federal workers all across this country. There aren't many people out there who can afford to work for free, much less people who are willing to forego their paychecks for a stupid, ridiculous campaign promise. No one should be expected to work for weeks without pay. What the President did, by shutting down our government, was disrespectful to our Federal workers.

If the government shutdown continued for a few more weeks, programs like SNAP and WIC, and child nutrition programs, would have run out of money, putting millions of families at risk of food insecurity.

Last week, I heard from one of my constituents in Ware, Massachusetts. She is a single mom who is disabled, and she depends on programs like Social Security and SNAP every day to help put food on the table for her two children. She was worried about a lapse in SNAP funding because, for a while now, she has been going without meals so that her kids can eat. She is barely able to provide for herself, but she is making sacrifices that any parent would make to provide for her children.

If the President decides to shut down the government again in a few weeks,

he could provoke a full-blown hunger crisis in this country.

Low-income families should not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from just because the President wants taxpayers to pay for his wall. In fact, government employees might need SNAP benefits themselves, if their pay is cut off again.

In the past 4 weeks, I only can say how grateful I have been to the American people who have demonstrated incredible compassion to those impacted by the shutdown. Countless businesses provided free meals and resources to help families through rough times.

Yesterday, I was at Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen's Chefs for Feds initiative, where he is feeding Federal workers who have not been paid. As of yesterday, they still have not been paid.

While many families have accepted help, they still took on expenses that couldn't be recovered. Many families went into debt, just to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. Others took on interest, late fees, penalties, and payment deferrals, not because they did anything wrong, but because their President thought he could strong-arm Congress.

These are people who have jobs, show up, and work every day for their country. The least we can do is pay them and keep their government running.

This administration might not understand why families need resources like food banks, but I think the rest of us do. Unlike the President, we don't all have a rich family who can loan us money. Unlike the Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, not all of us have investment fortunes to fall back on. While living paycheck to paycheck might not be a reality they understand, it is a reality for millions of families who depend not only on their jobs, but also on programs like SNAP and WIC to survive.

Government shutdowns and spending gaps have real consequences for real American families. They cause confusion, backlogs, delays, and discord. It could take months and years for us to fully recover from the past 35 days.

What is particularly ironic about the shutdown, Mr. Speaker, is that all of this could have been avoided if the President signed the bipartisan bills we sent him back in December.

The President should never again hold the American people hostage to get his way. I will do all I can to fight against using public servants as bargaining chips. I will do all I can to help protect programs like SNAP and WIC, and child nutrition programs. They need to keep running.

Three weeks of funding is just a patch on the hunger crisis that this country will soon face if we don't pass another comprehensive spending bill. SNAP, WIC, and child nutrition programs matter to people's lives.

Families, children, farmers, and food businesses don't deserve this, and there is no time to waste. There is no time like the present. Let's end hunger now.

RECOGNIZING GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

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

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, on January 14, 2019, at a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly that was held on the campus of Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, the Honorable Brian Kemp was inaugurated as the 83rd Governor of the State of Georgia. Upon taking the oath of office, Brian Kemp became the third Republican to occupy the Governor's mansion since reconstruction.

Even before taking the oath of office, Brian was already making history, receiving more votes than any gubernatorial candidate in State history.

As with many of Georgia's Governors, Governor Kemp comes from a humble background. He was a small business owner, building his first construction business with a pickup and a shovel. With hard work and personal sacrifice, he grew that business and eventually became one of Georgia's successful entrepreneurs, responsible for several successful businesses.

When Brian became frustrated with the mismanagement of State government, he determined that, instead of just complaining, he would do something about it. He ran for a seat in the State senate, and in 2003, this young businessman from Athens was sworn in as a freshman senator from the 46th District.

Two years after Brian took office, I was elected to the State house of representatives and had the honor to work with him on several key legislative initiatives. I could always count on Brian, not only to be an ally, but to help perfect legislation as it moved through the State senate.

Brian was, and still is, a strong conservative with the ability to reach across the aisle to get things done for Georgians. During his time in the senate, Brian was instrumental in fighting to cut taxes, fees, and mandates on job creators and Georgia families.

In 2008, Brian left the State senate and returned to the private sector, but his heart never left serving his State and his community. In 2010, Governor Sonny Perdue called on Brian to return to public service, appointing him to serve as Georgia's secretary of state. Brian easily won reelection as secretary of state that same year and remained in that post until he resigned in November 2018.

As secretary of state, Brian wanted to ensure that Georgia elections were secure, accessible, and fair. In 2016, being a member of this body's Committee on Homeland Security, Brian asked me to work with him to ensure that Georgia's election data was secure from cyber threats.

During his tenure as secretary of state, Brian utilized technology and innovation to cut bureaucratic red tape, reduce spending, and streamline Georgia's government.