



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019

No. 82

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 16, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE 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.

COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Community Action Month.

This year marks the 55th year since the Community Action Network was established to help American families and communities overcome obstacles to poverty. There are more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies across the country that reach children and fami-

lies in 99 percent of America's counties to help provide life-changing services that create pathways out of poverty.

Every year, these agencies help tens of thousands of children and youth with before- and after-school programs; more than 165,000 unemployed people get a job; almost 220,000 families find safe and affordable housing; and about 6.5 million people, including seniors, make their homes more energy efficient and lower their utility bills.

Earlier this spring, I was proud to introduce H.R. 1695, the Community Services Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2019, with Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM.

This bill renews our Nation's commitment to reducing poverty through locally driven, comprehensive approaches.

Madam Speaker, the Community Services Block Grant traces its roots back more than 50 years ago to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. This act established local Community Action Agencies to help identify why people were in poverty and how to address it using public and private resources, a great public-private partnership.

These agencies act as a safety net for low-income individuals and families. Even more importantly, they help create opportunities for people to move from poverty to independence. That is the true measure of success as we look at these Community Action Agencies.

The Community Services Block Grant is the only Federal program with the explicit goal of reducing poverty, regardless of the cause. Unfortunately, this program has not been reauthorized in more than 20 years.

Our bill makes important updates that will strengthen the Community Services Block Grant and the network it supports, including:

A new federally administered Community Action Opioid Response Grant that will enable Community Action Agencies to fill service gaps and re-

spond to unmet needs of low-income individuals, families, and communities affected by the opioid or substance abuse crisis;

A provision requiring Federal approval of State applications and plans, with provisions to allow direct Federal funding of local agencies if a State plan fails to meet Federal requirements; and

A renewed commitment to streamlining the program's stated purpose to reduce poverty through support for Community Action Agencies that improve economic security for low-income individuals and families and create new opportunities in the communities where they live.

This bill will help more than 15 million low-income Americans and provide resources necessary to help lift individuals and families out of poverty.

Madam Speaker, it is time to reauthorize the Community Services Block Grant, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, especially during Community Action Month.

NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized by you for this 5 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I rise, and still I rise, because I love my country and because I believe that no one is above the law.

We say that quite religiously here in this institution: No one is above the law.

I have in my hand the "Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election." This document, known as the Mueller report, has been released to the public for some 29 days now.

Since its release, we have had many persons, many of whom are Members of

□ 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.

H3845

this august body, say that they have concluded that the President has committed impeachable acts. Some have gone so far as to say that he should be impeached. I am one of them.

We have also had hundreds of lawyers, many of whom are prosecutors and former prosecutors, say that if anyone else committed the offenses outlined in this document, the Mueller report, that person would be arrested and prosecuted. That person would be prosecuted. That person would not be above the law.

Hence, since this document addresses acts by the President, since the President is not being prosecuted, and since the House of Representatives has not moved to impeach the President, one can conclude that the President is indeed now, for some 29 days, above the law.

No one is above the law, unless you are the President.

No one is above the law. The House of Representatives has a duty to enforce the law.

The President of the United States of America, it has been said by constitutional scholars, by Members of this august body, and by lawyers—hundreds—that he is subject to the law and that he should be properly prosecuted.

It is not happening.

The prosecution of the President in the House of Representatives will take place once impeachment is initiated. Until impeachment is initiated, this President is above the law. He continues to obstruct. He is above the law.

I am using this refrain because it is important for the American public, the people who understand that no one is above the law, to at least see that we have a problem. We have a President who, by most standards, has committed impeachable acts, yet we have not started the impeachment process.

If the President is not impeached, one of two things will happen: one, he won't be impeached; or, two, the Congress of the United States of America would become a toothless paper tiger, not only as it relates to this President, but also as this relates to future Presidents.

We cannot allow the perception of the Congress to be toothless when it comes to our constitutional responsibilities. We have a duty, a responsibility, and an obligation to bring the President to justice.

The bar of justice for this President and any other President is this House of Representatives, and each Member of this House has the responsibility to make sure that justice is served.

I will now start a process that will commence on the second anniversary of my initial call for the impeachment of this President, which will be tomorrow. Tomorrow will be the second anniversary, and I will start a process tomorrow of bringing to this floor a display.

We will display the number of days since the Mueller report was produced and the number of days that this Presi-

dent has gone above the law because until the President is impeached, those who say that he should be impeached, those who say there is evidence enough to impeach, until this President is impeached, we who say this must conclude that he is above the law.

I love my country. I stand on the law. I believe in the Constitution. As such, I believe that this House has a duty and a responsibility to take up impeachment.

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

AMERICA LEADS THE WAY

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the warnings to not mention the President, but you know what? They are going to continue to come. They won't be heeded.

People say they have respect for the rule of law. Do they even have respect for the House rules and the dignity that we have as leaders of our country to follow those rules?

How can we ask the American people to follow rules we pass when we don't follow the rules even on the House floor?

Madam Speaker, I know you understand this. My heart is heavy because I sit here, prepared to speak about one thing, but I feel like I have to say that I am very concerned for my country when my colleagues on the Democratic side speak of socialism as if history isn't littered with examples of failure, of destitution, of destruction of not only the economies of countries that go down that road of ruin but what it does to their people.

We see this in the most recent example of Venezuela. How can we be talking about these big-government, socialist ideas like the Green New Deal? Even Speaker PELOSI calls it a fantasy.

When colleagues on the other side aren't talking about giving Washington more control over the American people's lives, they are talking about party over country, unpatriotic rhetoric, in my opinion, and political theater.

That is the agenda. That is what they have. That is the bold vision of where they want to take this country. Not me, and not the people of west Texas. I can promise you that.

I mentioned the Green New Deal as the Democrats' signature legislation to steward the environment. They want to eliminate airplanes, ladies and gentlemen. They want to eliminate cows.

They want to give everybody a paycheck, guaranteed income whether you work or not. Whether you are capable of working or not working, everybody ought to get a paycheck, guaranteed, full faith and credit of the United States of America.

That is where this country would go if we didn't have a Republican Senate,

if we didn't have a Republican President, and if we didn't have Americans with better sense.

Look, is the climate changing? Yes, it is changing. What are the factors? What are the variables? How serious? Which variables are contributing over the others?

Let me tell you what is real. What is real is the responsibility we have to steward our environment.

I want clean air and water for my three children. I think, as leaders of this great country, we ought to be responsible for providing not only a land of opportunity for the future of our children but a clean land of opportunity.

Let's just get the facts straight for the American people. America has been leading the way in this regard. The Clean Air Act is one example.

We had six key pollutants that we identified, in a bipartisan way, that had an impact on our health and well-being in this country. We have reduced those pollutants by 73 percent since 1970. At the same time, we have grown this economy 230 percent.

America is leading the way. In greenhouse gases, from 2005 to 2017, U.S. energy-related emissions fell by 14 percent when the rest of the world increased their emissions by 20 percent.

Folks, through American innovation, through reasonable regulations, we have been able to lead the world and provide for a cleaner environment and steward God's great Earth, a gift to us.

We do have a stewardship responsibility. We have a calling to our creator and our children.

I don't want the American people to be misled, certainly not at a \$93 trillion cost and a plan that eliminates cows and airplanes. Give me a break.

The committee of jurisdiction, the Energy and Commerce Committee, hasn't even taken up that legislation. But that is what they have.

I hope we can work in a balanced way. I hope we can find ways to continue to do what we are doing, which is to steward our resources, provide for a cleaner environment for our children, and at the same time, make sure that we have opportunities for our kids to pursue their dreams and dream big and do better for their families because just talking about dirty fossil fuel is not enough of a plan.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SEYMOUR "SY" KAPLAN

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Seymour Kaplan, known as Sy, a local hero and World War II veteran who passed away on April 19 at the age of 95.

Sy was born on February 28, 1924, to Morris and Fannie Kaplan. At just 17 years old, Sy enlisted in the U.S.