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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

THE SPEAKER. 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.

THE PRESIDENT IS NOT 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, and still I rise. I rise because I love my country, and I rise today because we are celebrating and commemorating, to a certain extent, Juneteenth, when General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to alert, announce to the slaves, if you will, that they had been freed pursuant to the Emancipation Proclamation.

I am pleased that General Granger did this. I am pleased because liberation is a wonderful thing. Nobody should be enslaved. But I am also concerned that that liberation has not completely obliterated the bigotry that ensued after the liberation.

In this country, we still suffer from bigotry, hatred, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, Islamophobia, all of the various ugliness that can cause some people to receive less than the American Dream that others receive.

And here in this country today, we, in the House of Representatives, have a

unique opportunity to do something about bigotry in our country. We have an opportunity to do something about

a President who has now been above the law for some 63 days, 63 days since the Mueller report was presented to the public, 63 days above the law since the Mueller report.

My contention is he has been above the law since he fired Mr. Comey some 2 years plus ago. But the President being above the law is something that can be remedied.

Babies shouldn't be separated from their parents. I read a story just yesterday about the youngest person to be separated, a 4-month-old baby, separated from parents for approximately 6 months. The baby was separated for such a prolonged period of time that the baby did not recognize the parents when the unity took place with the parents, the reuniting took place.

I am so saddened by these kinds of incidents, but the truth is, the House of Representatives can do something about bigotry emanating from the Presidency. The House of Representatives can impeach a President for bigotry emanating from his Presidency.

And I believe that this House should do this, but I am also saddened by the fact that we appear to be a House that is driven by polls.

Polls direct us, snapshots in time, about the opinions of the public. I am saddened by the fact that we seem to be driven by polls because I can only imagine what would have happened had they taken a poll before crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday.

I can only imagine what the poll would have said if Rosa Parks had taken one before she took that seat in a racist southern town on that bus.

I can only imagine what the polls would have said if Lincoln had decided to poll the country before moving forward with the Emancipation Proclamation or the 13th Amendment.

Polls should not drive a righteous cause; a righteous cause should drive the polls.

It is time for this Congress that has the authority to move forward with impeachment to do so. We have not served our country well by relying on polls. Polls are wonderful, but not for righteous causes.

With a righteous cause, you take a stand, and you move forward. When you don't take that cause, you are not serving a righteous cause well.

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

INTRODUCING THE FEED EMERGENCY ENHANCEMENT DURING DISASTERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, it is wet in farm country. In fact, our corn planting is so far behind that many South Dakota producers aren't quite sure how they are going to feed the 5 million cattle that are in our State.

Now, these producers don't want a new government program. They cannot feed their cattle dollar bills. What they want, what they need, is the flexibility to help themselves.

That is why Congresswoman ANGIE CRAIG and I introduced the FEEDD Act. It would provide the USDA the flexibility needed so that producers can go in and hay, graze, or chop cover crops that are on prevent plant acres and do that before November 1. Moving that date from November 1 to September 1 could make a real impact. The forage we need will come from those acres. It will come from that flexibility.

Already this bill has received 27 co-sponsors and has been endorsed by 17

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national ag groups. I look forward to working with them, to working with the Agriculture Committee, to working with House leadership to move this concept forward.

We also have another option. USDA could do this administratively, and we continue to discuss with them the opportunity to get this success in that way.

INVESTING IN GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge action to end the public health crisis of gun violence.

Every day, nearly 100 people are killed in suicides, homicides, and accidents involving guns, but we have not invested nearly enough in preventing these deaths. Of the top 30 causes of death, 29 received more research funding than guns. But today, this body will vote to invest in gun violence research at the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health.

I recently visited the Centers for Disease Control Injury Center which is in my district. With this critical funding, they will learn how we can prevent gun tragedies. This investment is long overdue, and I was proud to lead my colleagues in asking for this funding.

We have the responsibility to pursue life-saving research, and today we vote to end gun violence.

As a survivor of gun violence, I could not be more proud of the measures that we have taken to save the countless numbers of lives that may be affected by gun violence in the future. The time has passed for my son. The time has passed for others like my son who was killed unnecessarily due to gun violence, but I am so grateful for this day.

I am so grateful for the funding for the research that will save many, many lives for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING HONDA MANUFACTURING

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Honda Manufacturing of Indiana for reaching the milestone of 2 million vehicles built in Indiana. This accomplishment is a testament to Honda's commitment to Indiana, the Sixth District, and to Greensburg. It is also a testament to the strength and capabilities of our workforce in the Sixth District and across Indiana.

With employment of more than 2,500 Hoosiers and investment exceeding \$1 billion, Honda Manufacturing of Indiana now has the capacity to produce 250,000 vehicles a year. In 2018 alone, Honda purchased more than \$2.2 billion in parts from 51 suppliers located in Indiana.

On behalf of the people of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, I want to congratulate Honda in Greensburg on achieving this incredible milestone.

RECOGNIZING HOOSIERS ATTENDING MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Hoosiers who are answering the call to serve. The Sixth District of Indiana has an outstanding history in our Nation's Armed Forces.

Today, we take a minute to recognize a few young men and women from the Sixth District who are continuing that tradition of service.

This year, the Sixth District of Indiana will be sending 10 students to the military academies across the country.

Noah Algee of Columbus, Christian Hunt of Yorktown, Zachary Kuhn of Shelbyville, and Caroline Swenson of Columbus will be attending West Point Military Academy.

Finn Anderson of Columbus, Nathan Dickman of Richmond, and Sam Russell of Columbus will be attending the Naval Academy.

Sam Horak of Columbus, Michael McGaha of Hope, and Emma Smith of Columbus will be attending the Air Force Academy.

Congratulations to these 10 young Hoosiers who make all of us proud. I thank them for choosing a path of service to our country.

BIODIESEL TAX CREDIT HELPS HOOSIERS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass the Biodiesel Tax Credit Extension Act of 2019 so that Hoosier biodiesel producers and farmers can operate with some certainty.

Biodiesel is a big market for soybeans in my district. Biodiesel companies and their employees are facing an uncertain future because the biodiesel tax incentive has been expired for 15 months.

The economic pressure is threatening the future of the industry, putting good-paying jobs and production of domestic fuel at stake. It is adding economic pressure to farmers, especially in our home State of Indiana, who are already being hit hard by unfavorable weather conditions.

If enacted, this bill will provide agriculture economy certainty and relief for 2018 and 2019. The fact that it has expired has put the brakes on the development of new biodiesel plants, and it has curtailed biodiesel production.

The biodiesel tax incentive helps Hoosier producers and farmers continue to invest in our future for growth, creating jobs and economic opportunity.

REINVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate my commitment to reinvesting in our infrastructure. As a businessman with experience in transporting goods, I understand the critical role of infrastructure in our economy.

We must put our partisan differences aside and explore every avenue to upgrade America's infrastructure. Of course, we must be transparent and de-

liberate. The plan must be cost effective with tangible returns on our investment.

In Indiana, we have a website where you can see the dollars being dedicated to infrastructure, and you can track each taxpayer-funded project, its progress towards completion, and we need to do this at the Federal level.

As the crossroads of America, the rest of the Nation can look to Indiana for guidance on how to get something done to upgrade America's crumbling infrastructure.

SUPPORTING PROUD VENEZUELAN PATRIOTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House approved an amendment I offered to the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2020, and I wanted to take this opportunity to explain the amendment.

There is a humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, and it is man-made. In my view, the people of Venezuela will not prosper as long as the regime of Nicolas Maduro remains in power. The regime has proven itself to be cruel, incompetent, and anti-democratic. It is driving what was one of Latin America's most vibrant nations into the ground.

The United States cannot be passive. We must stand behind the proud Venezuelan patriots who are struggling to reclaim their country from the regime that is destroying it.

Like last year's bill, this year's State-Foreign Operations bill provides \$17.5 million for USAID and State Department programs to promote democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela. This funding is drawn from the nearly \$2.2 billion in economic support funds that the bill provides for countries around the world. That is good, but we can and we should do better.

Because the situation in Venezuela has significantly worsened in recent months, our amendment would increase the \$17.5 million for Venezuela by \$3 million for a total of \$20.5 million. This enhanced funding will be used for five main purposes in Venezuela: to defend human rights, strengthen civil society, improve governance, support independent media, and promote fair and transparent elections.

Currently, USAID programs in Venezuela are being conducted through several U.S.-based implementing partners who, in turn, work with over 35 Venezuelan subpartners. The respected organization, Freedom House, ranks Venezuela as not free. According to Freedom House, conditions have grown sharply worse in recent years due to the continued concentration of power in executive and harsher crackdowns on the opposition.

As a result, USAID programs to support human rights defenders in civil society groups are critical. U.S. support