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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,
July 25, 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.

PROCEED WITH IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise because I love my country, and I also rise because I believe that we are currently in a constitutional crisis.

The executive branch of the government is refusing to honor subpoenas lawfully issued by committees of the Congress. The executive branch of the government does not respect the judiciary.

We are in a constitutional crisis. We have a duty, an obligation, and a responsibility to do something about this.

So I rise today, Mr. Speaker, some 99 days after the Mueller report was made public. The Mueller report has been thoroughly vetted by the Members of Congress to the extent that we have talked about it and have proclaimed that there are impeachable acts that are clearly indicated within the Mueller report. The Mueller report has been discussed ad infinitum and ad nauseam by Members of Congress.

I am not saying that everybody knows what is in it, but I do know that there is a notion that there is a Mueller report and that that report has information in it—evidence, if you will—that is antithetical to the President and would, in some circumstances, be such that we would bring Articles of Impeachment.

I would also indicate that we are now 1 day since Mr. Mueller testified before the Congress of the United States of America, the Judiciary Committee and the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. Mueller has written his report. He has testified before Congress, and now the question really becomes: What are we going to do? Will we seek additional testimony? I am not opposed to it, but I do believe this: At some point, we will start to see evidence of what Dr. King called the paralysis of analysis. I believe that we are now seeing the initial evidence, if we haven't seen it before, of the paralysis of analysis.

This paralysis is something that will stall us to the extent that someone will move forward and say, rather than impeach, let's defeat.

I am not one of them. I believe that, if we violate Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, then we ought to enforce that law. No one is above the law in the United States of America.

We must honor Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, which deals with

impeachment. If we do not, history will not be kind to us. It especially will not be kind to those of us who are in control of this House.

We decide what comes to the floor. We decide what the agenda is. History will not be kind to us if we don't take up our duty, responsibility, and obligation pursuant to Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, we are at the crossroads of accountability. Either we will hold the Chief Executive accountable, or we will be held accountable. I pray that we will do that which the Framers of the Constitution fully intended, and that is to proceed with impeachment when you have a Chief Executive who is causing harm to society.

This is a seminal moment in time for those of us who are in charge of this House. Either we will act, or we will be acted upon.

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

CALLING FOR REJECTION OF THE BDS MOVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the failure of some Members of the House of Representatives to condemn the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, BDS, movement that seeks to sabotage and undermine the State of Israel is appalling to me.

Instead of empowering a movement that seeks to isolate Israel, we should be supporting our greatest ally in the Middle East.

I have seen firsthand that BDS efforts violate the core goals of universities, which thrive—or should thrive—on open exchange and debate. And I reject the rationale of some Members

□ 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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who voted against the resolution under the guise of free speech.

H. Res. 246, voted on this week, echoes many resolutions that I have broadly supported. In February, House Republicans put forth one such measure to reject anti-Semitism in all forms.

Astonishingly, some House Members expressed dissent during the voice vote on this motion. However, once a recorded vote was called, the motion passed 424-0.

This week, the majority leadership took the path of least resistance from its far-left Members by putting on the floor another resolution to condemn anti-Semitism but refusing to debate legislation with the teeth necessary to push back against the hateful BDS movement.

Support of Israel has long enjoyed bipartisan consensus, and real action against the BDS movement must be taken. I and 195 other Republicans signed onto a discharge petition for H.R. 336, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act, to bring this legislation before the full House for an up-or-down vote.

H.R. 336 imposes direct and concrete penalties on the BDS movement by allowing State and local governments to adopt laws to divest public funds from groups or organizations that boycott Israel.

S. 1, the Senate companion to H.R. 336, passed with strong bipartisan support, 77-23. By passing H.R. 336, this House would send a clear message that the BDS movement's anti-Semitic messages and actions will be met with firm consequences in the United States.

It is important that we stand in opposition to the BDS movement and stand with our strongest ally in the Middle East.

We must reject the BDS movement with the full force of law and continue to support Israel as the major strategic partner that this body has long enshrined in our laws, our policy priorities, and our hearts and minds.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS HURTS ECONOMIC GROWTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Oregon, like much of the country, is facing a housing affordability crisis that is hurting families and the economy.

I recently held six listening sessions in the district I represent. In every community—urban, suburban, and rural—I heard from individuals, employers, local officials, and nonprofits that told me the lack of affordable housing is having serious consequences around northwest Oregon.

Over the last several years, housing costs have gone up significantly, but wages have not. Available housing stock has not kept up with demand, driving prices higher and higher. Much

of the new housing that is being built is unaffordable for middle- and low-income households.

To afford a modest one-bedroom unit at fair market rent, someone earning minimum wage in Yamhill County, Oregon, for example, would need to work 65 hours a week. In Multnomah County, someone would need to work 81 hours a week to pay for a modest one-bedroom apartment—81 hours a week.

Housing is foundational. It forms the bedrock of a family's stability and security, and it is vital to each person's full participation in society.

The toll of this crisis on families and communities is devastating, and it is also hampering economic growth. I heard time and again from employers who are struggling to attract workers in areas where housing was unaffordable or unavailable, employees commuting long hours because they cannot afford to live closer to their jobs.

In Columbia County, for example, I heard how the lack of affordable housing for just one individual negatively affected the whole community. The county government recruited a highly qualified new finance director from another State, only to have that person struggle to find a permanent place to live. After staying in an RV for 4 months, she finally had to quit in the middle of budget season because she could not find a place to live.

Federal policies and resources are a vital part of addressing this true national crisis. Unfortunately, Federal support for cost-burdened individuals and families is severely insufficient and declining.

According to the Oregon Center for Public Policy, more than one-third of Oregon households are cost-burdened. That is 530,000 households spending more than 30 percent of their income on shelter, with some spending more than half of their income for a place to live.

Despite that tremendous need, only one out of every five eligible families receives any Federal housing assistance. Wait lists at public housing authorities often stretch into years.

At the Federal level, we have many tools to help address these problems: tax incentives, voucher programs, public housing, and grants that empower nonprofits and communities that implement local strategies. But the resources Congress provides are woefully insufficient.

We need to do much more if we honestly want to make sure that every person in our communities has the dignity and stability of a roof over their head.

Mr. Speaker, this crisis is why I support transformative legislation like the American Housing and Economic Mobility Act. It would invest \$445 billion to create 3 million deeply affordable homes and cut rental costs by 10 percent.

I also strongly support the Ending Homelessness Act to comprehensively

address chronic homelessness by providing a surge of resources that will drastically expand access to housing and case management that integrates healthcare and other supportive services. Our communities are better and families will thrive when everyone has a home.

Ultimately, any solution will require a determined and coordinated effort by all stakeholders, including community activists, developers, lenders, nonprofit leaders, and elected officials at every level of government.

Congress must step up and be part of the solution. I ask my colleagues to join me today in committing to bold action to address the housing affordability crisis in Oregon and across the country.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HIRE A VETERAN DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize today, July 25, as National Hire A Veteran Day.

In 2017, the nonprofit Hire Our Heroes established the day to highlight the many talented men and women who served our country and are now seeking civilian employment.

Hire Our Heroes serves as a resource bank for veterans to seek professional advice, discover new training opportunities, and search for new job opportunities.

Our Nation's veterans are some of the most dedicated and selfless individuals who call this great Nation home. While we may never be able to repay them for their sacrifice fully, the very least we can do is to help ease the transition back into civilian life.

A big part of that transition is ensuring there are well-paying, family-sustaining jobs available for our men and women in uniform when they return home.

The most recent numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show veteran unemployment at 3.2 percent, the lowest rate since 2011. That is great news, but that does not mean our work here is done.

As a proud father of an Army infantryman, I am proud to have supported legislation throughout my time in Congress that ensures our Active Duty servicemembers and their spouses have the tools they need to defend our country successfully. But it is critical that we also support legislation that prepares our veterans for adjusting to life after combat.

There are more than 7 million open jobs across the country. Our veterans want to work, and service is in their veins.

□ 1015

They want to make an honest living and provide for their families. They