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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 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,
September 30, 2020.

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 7, 2020, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 10:50 a.m.

MADE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest lessons that the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us is the importance of the phrase “Made in America.”

In my home State of North Carolina, we are a national leader in textile manufacturing, and we have a rich history of producing high-quality products. That is why North Carolina has been at the forefront of helping our first re-

sponders and frontline medical personnel get the protective equipment that they need to effectively battle the virus.

For these reasons, I want to see our protective equipment made in the United States and not in a country controlled by the Chinese Communist Party.

For the last two decades, most observers have predicted that either the United States or China will lead the world in the 21st century. In the early 2000s, we saw China as a friendly competitor that we could work with economically. However, in recent years, the actions of the Chinese Communist Party have revealed the true colors of an authoritarian force. They are not our friends, and they are not a force for good in this world.

Given the fact that it was China that mishandled the virus, and China that allowed it to spread, and China that lied to the world about it, how acceptable is it that the American people should be reliant on China for the essential personal protective equipment that we need to fight the virus? That would be like having to beg the arsonist to help you put out the fire that they started.

That is why I introduced the Make PPP in America Act, along with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. This bipartisan legislation requires the Defense Logistics Agency to issue longer term contracts to make personal protective equipment in the United States.

We have to boost our domestic supply chains and make sure our most important products come from our shores and not from our adversaries like Communist China.

Bottom line, we need to ensure that Made in America is more than just a slogan. Made in America needs to be a guiding principle as we move into the 2020s and beyond.

ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, in the name of liberty and justice for all. I rise to call to our attention that we saw last night evidence of what happens when one party comes to debate and another party comes to disrupt.

We saw a President who did any and everything that he could to avoid debating. And we saw a Vice President who did any and everything that he could to debate.

But something more important happened than the disruption. We saw a President who refused to denounce white supremacy and the supremacists. This is not the first time this has happened. A President who refuses to denounce white supremacy and white supremacists should not hold office.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud of the Vice President. He indicated that the President of the United States is a racist. Some things bear repeating: The Vice President, former Vice President, indicated that the current President is a racist.

By the way, he is not the first person to say so. Many members of the leadership of the House have said so. Other prominent Americans have said so. So it should not surprise anyone that the RECORD should reflect what has been said.

The Vice President went on to say that he wants to do something about racism in this country. That, if elected, he will convene a meeting of persons, prominent persons, law enforcement, and others, to do something about racism, and I am going to add systemic racism.

I believe that the Vice President's heart is in the right place, but I also know that convening is not enough.

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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Mr. Vice President, whom I happen to like very much, convening is not enough.

It is time for us to turn the talking points associated with racism into action items, and we have done much of that here on the Hill. But there is one thing that we need to do that we have not done in this country that goes back to 1619, and that is, we have not reconciled. We have not reconciled the differences that we have, the racial differences. It is time for reconciliation.

To turn this talking point into an action item, Mr. Vice President, I beg that you would establish a department of reconciliation with a secretary of reconciliation who wakes up every morning with the job of eliminating invidious discrimination in all of its forms in this country.

It is time for us to deal forthrightly, to deal in an open and notorious manner, with racism and invidious discrimination in this country in all of its various forms.

It is time, Mr. Vice President. You are the man. You are the man in the sense that you are the man running for President as the nominee of the Democratic Party. In that sense, you are the person to be more appropriate who can make this happen.

We saw a President declare a war on poverty, President Johnson. It is time to declare a war on racism. It is time to end what we are seeing occurring almost on a weekly basis in this country to African Americans, minorities, and women. It is time to have a department of reconciliation.

To this end, I will send the Vice President a letter asking him to consider a department of reconciliation. To talk about it is not enough. We have to have the action item.

There are many other things that can be done. I don't oppose a task force. I don't oppose opportunities to look at other forms of reconciliation. But a department of reconciliation is the means by which we can formalize and actualize reconciliation in this country.

It won't be easy, and it won't happen right away, which is why we need the department of reconciliation. Call it anything that you want, as long as it is about reconciliation.

I will contact you, Mr. President.

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

PUTTING AN END TO POLITICAL ROBOCALLS

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we are in the height of robocall season, and the American people are beyond fed up.

The recent 6–3 ruling by the Supreme Court that upholds a Federal ban on

robocalls warrants a serious conversation that is long overdue.

Under the 1991 Telephone Consumer Protection Act, TCPA, prerecorded voice messages and the use of automatic dialing systems were effectively banned. The prevailing argument was that the American people would no longer face intrusive nuisances that we have now come to recognize as robocalls.

In retrospect, the TCPA was a novel endeavor, but the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 introduced setbacks that compromised the progress that had been achieved in the fight against robocalls. Debt collectors received a special carve-out that allowed them to place automatic calls to Americans who owed money to the Federal Government.

Though the Supreme Court eliminated this carve-out on the basis that it was a violation of the First Amendment, bountiful opportunities to enact meaningful reform remain on the horizon.

Unwanted robocalls have become the bane of many, and with phones ringing off the hook in households across the country, Americans are wondering when they will get a reprieve from these nuisances. Imagine you are sitting down for dinner with your family, and within seconds of the meal starting, your phone begins ringing. It is yet another robocall.

Now, magnify the scene to households across the country. It is an enraging scenario that all of us have been affected by, but I have a blueprint that can set things right.

Since 2005, I have introduced the Robo Calls Off Phones Act, legislation that directs the FTC to revise its regulation for the National Do Not Call Registry and allows politically oriented messages to be added to that list.

In fact, the genesis for this legislation came from my constituents. Many were livid that they had been bombarded with unwanted calls during the 2004 election year. They demanded that Congress act to end these nuisances, and I took it upon myself to carry the mantle.

Ever since I have reintroduced this legislation to address the cyclical issue, and I remain adamant that Congress must address this immediately. For years, politicians in Washington have told their constituents that they would fight against robocalls. Now it is time to hold ourselves to account and be part of the solution.

H.R. 805, the bipartisan Robo COP Act, is the vessel by which we can achieve meaningful reform.

The simple truth is that no American is immune to receiving robocalls. It is becoming a nagging problem that has evolved to the point where we now believe it is commonplace to receive them at any point during the day.

The answer to this problem is right before our very eyes, and Congress finds itself in an opportune moment to enact meaningful reforms that have been overlooked for far too long.

RECOGNIZING THE DIOL FAMILY

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, in the early morning hours of August 5, five Senegalese immigrants, including an infant and a toddler, died in an arson fire in their Denver home. The victims deserve to be recognized.

Djibril Diol, who was 30 years old, immigrated to the United States from Senegal 10 years ago to make a better life for himself and his family. He graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in civil engineering and was an outstanding student with a bright future ahead of him.

He was well loved by his family and friends. His brother described him as “a good person, a good worker, and a good Muslim.” A coworker said that Djibril “was a way better man than I will ever be.”

Djibril’s wife, Adja, and 2-year-old daughter, Khadija, also died in the fire, as did Coumba Diol Hassan, Djibril’s sister, and Hawa Beye, her 10-month-old son.

We don’t know what motivated this attack, but it has deeply shaken our African immigrant community and left them feeling unsafe. While this was a tragic incident, and we mourn for the family, I want to emphasize the strength and resilience of our African immigrant community.

As a case in point, the African Leadership Group, ALG, a local nonprofit that provides a wide variety of vital services to our immigrant neighbors, has consoled and supported the Diol family and kept pressure on law enforcement to solve this horrific crime. Led by Papa Dia, who is a native of Senegal himself, I thank them for their service.

RECOGNIZING STANLEY MARKETPLACE

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Stanley Marketplace, a community-focused urban market in Aurora, Colorado.

Located in northwest Aurora on the border of Denver’s Central Park neighborhood, Stanley Marketplace is a community of businesses and people who believe in doing things differently—sustainably, creatively, and with more than the bottom line in mind.

The marketplace’s 22-acre site was once the site of the Stanley Aviation factory. It is now a community gathering place, home to 50 independently owned Colorado businesses.

Today, the same innovative spirit that once filled Stanley’s building has been harnessed to offer our community an urban marketplace featuring goods and services from local independent businesses.

The property includes a 30,000-square-foot sustainable greenhouse and an urban farm. Under construction is an inclusive playground where children of all abilities can play.