



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

No. 133

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 29, 2021

I hereby appoint the Honorable KATHERINE M. CLARK 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 4, 2021, 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 11:50 a.m.

### INFLATION IS A TAX ON EVERYONE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, across my district, Michigan families are having to pay more for gas, for groceries, for cars.

You name it, there is sticker shock everywhere you look. In fact, inflation attacks on everyone increased every month since President Biden took office.

As Americans are struggling to pay for skyrocketing costs of daily neces-

sities, we should be doing something to address these pocketbook challenges. Instead, this week, we are considering another round of massive spending bills that will make matters worse on top of massive spending bills that we have already expended.

Unparalleled and unchecked government spending is not the solution. It is a root cause of rising inflation—and did I mention that is a tax on everyone?

Again, this reckless spending and subsequent inflation are effectively attacks on the American people, their families, their workplaces, and, in fact, their livelihoods. We can't afford to continue down this path. It is hurting too many families and their financial security.

It is time we return to proven economic policies that create jobs, increase wages, and do not prolong an inflationary crisis that—did I mention?—is a tax on everyone.

### RECOGNIZING GENOCIDE OF ASSYRIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARDER OF California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask if this body cares more about the hurt feelings of a dictator than the legacy of 300,000 innocent men, women, and children murdered in the only place they had ever called home.

In 1914, the Ottoman Empire slaughtered more than 300,000 innocent Assyrians. Yet, 108 years later, this body has still not recognized that slaughter for what it was—a genocide.

Growing up in the Central Valley, I was surrounded by our Assyrian community. I ate handmade dolmas with my Assyrian neighbor, Nana Bitpera, who was like a grandmother to me. She told me about the contributions of the Assyrian community to the modern

world and explained the weight that her people have carried since that brutal massacre in 1914.

Madam Speaker, that is why, today, I am leading a resolution to finally recognize the genocide of the Assyrians in the Middle East. My resolution commemorates August 7, Shova b'tabakh, as Assyrian Genocide Memorial Day. It asserts that Turkey, the inheritor of the Ottoman tradition, must recognize the genocide. It recognizes the resilience of the Assyrian people, who, after they taught the world how to build cities, how to domesticate crops, endured the cruelest kind of event history can provide only to spread out across our globe and keep their traditions alive today.

This body should stand for the right of all people to live freely and in safety, and that starts by recognizing the history and perseverance of the Assyrian people.

Madam Speaker, today, I urge our House leadership to bring this resolution directly to the floor. Anything else is unacceptable.

### OBSTRUCTING DHS AT BORDER

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, our Nation is facing a security crisis on our southern border.

As a record number of migrants are apprehended on American soil, we have seen a staggering increase in the amount of fentanyl that is being confiscated not only at ports of entry but also in the desert. So far this year, there have been over 1 million illegal crossings along our southern border.

Right now, liberals in Congress are attempting to obstruct the Department of Homeland Security from working to keep Americans safe. How many Americans have to be poisoned by fentanyl

☐ 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.

H4253

before we stop the flow into our communities?

In Pennsylvania, over 5,000 people lost their lives in drug overdoses last year. We have seen fentanyl is easy to get, and it is fast to kill. We must put an end to the crisis and refuse any attempt to stop the Department of Homeland Security from enforcing our laws and ending this crisis on our southern border.

#### HONORING MARGIE RICE

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the Honorable Margie Rice, former mayor, council member, and community leader of Westminster, California, who passed away this past Sunday, July 25, 2021, at the age of 92.

Margie had dedicated her entire life to public service, including 22 years on the Westminster City Council, with 12 of those years as the city's elected mayor. She also served as a Westminster School District trustee for 17 years.

Up until her passing, Margie served on the Midway City Sanitation District, ending her 30 years of service on that board this past Sunday. Madam Speaker, in 2019, I was honored to join Margie and other board members in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Midway City Sanitation District.

As an active community leader and a public servant, Margie Rice was passionate, dedicated, focused, hard-working, and, above all, outspoken.

Margie achieved many results for the residents of Westminster and among her legacy is the building of the Westminster Rose Center Theater, a performing arts center for the whole community to enjoy.

Margie was born in Alabama, but she called Westminster her home for more than 60 years. She is survived by two of her four children, 19 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

I will always remember Margie Rice as a pioneer and a leader who loved and cared for the Westminster community with all her heart.

She will be missed.

#### PRESIDENT BIDEN'S SURGING CRIME CRISIS

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

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, crime is up across the country.

Cities that defunded their police are now facing the consequences. Police chiefs have gone on national TV to literally beg for more support and assistance. What started as a far-left political slogan ended up impacting real-world policy in numerous Democrat-run cities.

Now, crime is surging across America. Just the other day, there was a

brazen shootout a mile away from the White House.

The facts and the numbers do not lie. This is President Biden's crime crisis.

Rather than face the radical elements of their own party, the Democrats are deflecting responsibility.

Defunding the police means less law enforcement officers on the streets, less crimes getting solved, and less criminals getting arrested. The only people who benefit from defunded police are the criminals themselves.

We are a nation of laws and law and order. We owe it to the American people to do what we can to keep them safe, even if the Biden administration won't.

#### HONORING JOHNNY VENTURA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and work of the most prominent merengue artist in the world who, sadly, passed away yesterday, the great Johnny Ventura.

Johnny Ventura started his career in the 1960s with his Johnny Ventura El Combo Show. His career quickly flourished both nationally and internationally with his contagious music.

He also embarked on a life of public service as the mayor in Santo Domingo and a member of the Congress of the Dominican Republic.

Just last February, we honored him here in Washington, D.C., as part of the yearly event, Dominicans on the Hill.

He prided himself in being the ambassador of merengue and, as such, of the Caribbean and the world.

We will always remember him for his contagious songs, including "I am the Merengue," "If I am born again," "Tobacco," and "Patacon Pisao"; "Yo soy el Merengue," "Si vuelvo a nacer," "El tabaco," y "Patacon Pisao."

(English translation of the lyrics spoken in Spanish is as follows:)

The sound of the bass drum stops today

The sound of the saxophone rests

The guira also rests today.

El sonido de la tambora para hoy

El sonido del saxofon descansa

La guira tambien descansa hoy.

We will always remember him for his great service to people, and for his music and dedication to music. He will always be present in our hearts through his songs that often were funny and sometimes melancholic as he sang to the diaspora.

Madam Speaker, as you know, folks from all over the world find themselves in an economic exile and, at times, think of the family they left behind. They think of the wonderful beaches, rivers, and mountains that they left behind, and they could only claim that feeling through songs like the songs that Johnny Ventura often played for all of us.

He had a contagious smile and a wonderful rhythm of music with African bass instruments.

Adios, Johnny Ventura.

Good-bye, "Merengue Artist to the Bass Drum"; adios, "Merenguero Hasta la Tambora."

Good-bye, "Oldest Horse"; adios, "Caballo Mayor."

#### WORSENING FENTANYL CRISIS

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about a recent trip to McAllen, Texas, where I had the opportunity to tour the southern border. What stuck out to me most was hearing from border agents about the sheer volume of fentanyl that is being seized right now.

In fact, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that 1,053 pounds of fentanyl was seized at the southwest border in June alone. That is more than the last three Junes combined.

□ 1015

Following my trip, I introduced an amendment at a Judiciary Committee markup to ensure that penalties are maintained for criminals convicted of fentanyl possession. This amendment should have been a slam dunk, but it was not adopted.

I question or challenge my colleagues who voted against this. We must find a way of stopping the flow of fentanyl. However, I suspect because most do not want to confront this issue at the border, that they are not going to address this issue.

In the absence of action, there is going to be no winners on this issue, only families who continue to grapple with the consequences firsthand.

#### SPENDING BILL WITHOUT THE HYDE AMENDMENT

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the appropriations package we will pass this week because this document respects the dignity and humanity of women in this country and around the world.

For the first time in over 40 years, the Appropriations Committee passed a spending bill without the Hyde amendment. For decades, the Hyde amendment has prevented women of color and low-income people from receiving basic healthcare. Hyde forces one in four women under Medicaid to carry a pregnancy to term.

Twenty percent of the women in this country rely on Medicaid, including half of all American people living below the Federal poverty line, and millions of women of color. Yet, they are denied their constitutional right to healthcare, including an abortion.

This is discrimination. The legal right to an abortion is meaningless if