



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

No. 8

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 10, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM McCLINTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, 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.

WORKFORCE VERSUS LABOR

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, words matter, and ideas have consequences. That is why House Republicans are once again changing the name of the committee I now chair to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Every time Democrats take control of the House, they swap out the word “workforce” for “labor.” This back and forth is at the core of Republicans’ and

Democrats’ differing views on the concept of work.

The Bible tells us that when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them the garden to cultivate and animals to name. This was work. Being made in the image of God means that we, like Him, have the capacity to build, create, and bring order from chaos.

Using our God-given gifts, mankind has done just that. This ability to work and create is something to celebrate, not lament.

Influenced by Marxism, the left prefers to call work labor. This is a mistake. I reject the idea that work freely done is toil. I reject the idea that work freely done is a curse. I embrace the idea that having the opportunity to provide for one’s family is a blessing.

Even those who do not adhere to a Biblical worldview can see empirically that men and women are at their best when they get to work.

Work is fundamental to a lasting sense of fulfillment. As a small business owner myself, I know there is nothing better than the feeling you get when you look at something you have built with your own hands and ingenuity.

I also prefer the word “workforce” over “labor” because all work is of equal value. When the left refers to labor, they aren’t talking about the work of lawyers and doctors but the work of mechanics and welders. Why? For several decades now, our culture has made a distinction between blue-collar and white-collar work that denigrates the former. This is wrong. Calling the men and women who keep our homes heated and our cars running “laborers” degrades their contribution to society.

We must recognize that there is more than one path to the American Dream. Working in a high-rise office building is not of greater value than the window washer cleaning that building. Each plays a pivotal role in keeping our economy running.

“Labor” also implies that workers do not have a choice in who they work for or what conditions they work in. In the United States, we live in a free society, and workers have freedom to choose for whom they work. If an employer is unfair or unjust, workers have the freedom to find a different employer and to seek recompense.

Yet the left uses the word “labor” to pit workers against employers, all in the hopes of bringing about more government control and a radical redistribution of wealth.

The United States is the most prosperous country in history because of our free market, but embracing socialist policies and views would destroy that.

Democrats also insist on using the word “labor” because they are beholden to Big Labor. Democrats have made it clear that they wish to force all Americans into unions, regardless of their preference.

When Democrats oversee this committee, their efforts focus on bolstering union bosses at the expense of employee free choice. This myopic view serves only a small spectrum of the workforce, as the majority of workers choose not to be in a union.

On the other hand, Republicans are committed to supporting the entire workforce. We do not support a one-size-fits-all work model and understand that work is as diverse as the people doing it.

So when I talk about the workforce, I am talking about all the men and women who take pride in their work. When I talk about the workforce, I am talking about all the men and women who work hard to provide for their families. When I talk about the workforce, I am talking about all the men and women who have gained the skills necessary to be productive and self-sufficient citizens.

Under my leadership, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will

□ 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.

H115

serve the entire workforce, no matter what color their collar is, how dirty their hands get when they work, or whether they work independently.

The end of Big Labor, in our hearing room, is over.

FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we will take historic steps to reverse the crises created by President Biden's administration and fulfill our Commitment to America.

For the past 2 years, the Biden administration has chosen to appease the radical left that continues to undermine American families. Now, it is time to turn the page. It is time to return to serving the American people.

Pennsylvania families need results. They do not need empty promises. That is why on day one we voted to stop IRS agents from going after small businesses who are simply trying to follow the law. That is why we will vote to keep American oil from being sold to the Chinese Communist Party. That is why we will vote to support our law enforcement and send the clearest message yet that Republicans will never allow the far left to defund the police. And we will vote to save the lives of unborn children by finally passing the Born Alive Survivors Protection Act.

These pieces of legislation are the beginning of enacting our Commitment to America. It is time to build an economy that is strong; it is time to fortify a Nation that is safe; and it is time to deliver a government that is accountable. That is our commitment to Pennsylvanian families. That is our Commitment to America.

HELPING THE RICH AND POWERFUL AVOID TAXES

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, after 4½ days and 15 votes to find a Speaker, we started with our business by passing rules. The Republican rules and first day's activities were to help the rich and the powerful avoid taxes.

The government, like any entity, just like any business, has to have revenue. When people don't pay their fair share, they are cheating. They are committing crimes. They are defrauding their fellow citizens because their fellow citizens either have to pay more money to make up the differences or they don't get services that they otherwise would be provided through the government.

By revoking all of those monies to the IRS to hire new employees, they are giving wealthy corporations and

wealthy individuals, like Donald Trump, who had only one auditor looking at his return, which was not looked at within the time period it was supposed to be looked at under the law, the policy of the government at the time, they are giving those people an open door to continue to make their IRS payments—really not payments but their first offers. That is what they do. It is not filing your return. It is filing your first offer.

So if they get away with that, which I don't think they will in the Senate, they are depriving the middle class who they said they are trying to support, services and fairness, and the middle class will have to pay more money because it is the wealthy and the higher corporations that get away with fraudulent returns.

Then they are talking about banning or protesting, through H. Con. Res. 3, violence against pro-life centers, anti-abortion centers. I hope everybody in the House is against violence against those facilities. But there is nothing in there about violence against Planned Parenthood or abortion provider facilities. Both are equally as anti-American and wrong as the other, but there is nothing about that.

So we are seeing a very slanted agenda, and there is no opportunity to amend that resolution. Even though they talked about an amendment process to give everybody an opportunity, it is really kind of transparency-ish but not transparency and not open. It is not openness; it is open-ish.

You have got to look closely at what is going on here. There are a lot of things that look good on the front but really aren't fair and right to the majority of the people. Much of what is projected here is to try to maintain the status quo in the name of freedom. It is the freedom of people not to comply with Federal Government laws and regulations. It is the freedom to basically live independent of the law and independent of the Federal government and attempts to starve the Federal Government of the revenue it needs.

The bill yesterday would increase the debt by over \$100 billion. That is not fiscal conservativeness. That is trying to starve the Federal Government.

HONORING WALTER RAYMOND BOWERS

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a 95-years-young Walter Raymond Bowers from Jacksonville, Florida.

Walter was born March 16, 1927, in Dayton, Ohio. He moved to Jacksonville, Florida, as an infant and was raised by his maternal grandmother, Sadie Perry.

When he was 17, Walter joined the United States Navy and served in the Pacific theater during World War II

where he earned the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, one star; the World War II Victory Medal; the American Campaign Ribbon; and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, five stars.

After the war, Walter was assigned to the USS *Pine Island* and participated in Operation Highjump, which established the Antarctic research base known as Little America IV.

At the rank of boiler technician III 3rd class, Raymond Bowers was honorably discharged from the Navy on July 19, 1948. Just one week later, on July 26, 1948, he married Mary Dopson, the love of his life and mother of their three children: Walter, Jr., Margaret, and Paul.

Walter returned to Jacksonville and enlisted in the Naval Reserves where he served for 8 more years. He then began working for the city of Jacksonville road department where he spent 20 years of faithful service.

Walter and Mary both surrendered their lives to Christ in 1950, which led him to a new calling, one of a real ministry.

Walter joined A.B. Wainwright, and for 18 years they were planting and pastoring Pentecostal churches all across Jacksonville. Even after his professional retirement in 1968, Walter continued this ministry by planting a new church in Jacksonville's Dinsmore community. He started Wayside Assembly of God in 1973 where he served as senior pastor for more than 32 years.

His commitment to our Lord Jesus, his family, his community, and his country have contributed to this incredible legacy. May God continue to richly bless Walter for his amazing life of selfless service.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDA FLANSBURG

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

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my mother, Freda Flansburg.

My mom was born on March 5, 1944, and peacefully passed away last week, last Monday, January 2, 2023, at 12:20 a.m.

She was truly a fighter. She lost a child, my older sister, Kimberly, just after birth. She fought the loneliness of being a mom of two boys while my dad was away on multiple deployments to Vietnam. When the weariness of war destroyed our family, she started a new journey in life that traversed many unplanned hardships.

Life was truly tough as we grew up. My siblings, Jeff, John, Jayme, and Kia, knew from an early age that our life was different from those around us. We had no running water, no indoor plumbing. Times were tough.

My mom worked to do the best she could to provide for us. She never backed down from the challenges that came before her.