



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

No. 45

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 9, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY E. MILLER 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.

SAD ANNIVERSARY FOR UKRAINE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, as we reflect on the 1-year anniversary of Putin's war against Ukraine, it cannot help but remind us of why we fought in the Second World War and that the fight in Ukraine embodies the very same principles we fought for in the Second World War.

First: Preventing authoritarian regimes from wiping out sovereign democratic countries.

Ukraine is a sovereign democratic nation. They have held free and fair elections since 1991. They have freedom of expression, press, and speech, while Russia is an autocratic nation led by an authoritarian dictator who represses personal expression, the free press, and free speech. He invaded Ukraine expressly to expand his sphere of autocratic control and subvert the will of the free people of Ukraine.

The second principle: To prevent further genocide.

Putin's invasion has been characterized by the commission of war crimes. One year ago this month, Russian forces deliberately targeted a civilian shelter. That same month they struck a children's hospital and maternity ward. The next month, over 400 bodies of civilians were found in mass graves in Bucha after the city was liberated. In September, 450 bodies, mostly of civilians, were found in mass graves in Kharkiv.

I visited Ukraine last summer, where I met with President Zelenskyy and traveled to Bucha and saw the mass graves firsthand.

In the Second World War, we vowed, "Never again." Removing ourselves from this effort would be an egregious breach of that commitment and would demonstrate that we have not learned the lessons of those who gave their last full measure of devotion in the Second World War.

The third principle we defended in World War II was the preservation of a liberal world democratic order.

As we have seen in history, the actions of one autocratic nation can inspire the actions of others. Allowing Russia to conquer Ukraine will send the message to other autocrats that their expansion to free nations will not be opposed. This cannot be the future we allow.

President Biden's recent historic trip to Kyiv highlighted these reasons, but it also recalled the words of FDR in his

last inaugural address in the months leading up to the end of that great conflict. He said, "We have learned that we cannot live alone, at peace; that our own well-being is dependent on the well-being of other nations far away."

"We have learned the simple truth, as Emerson said, that 'The only way to have a friend is to be one.' We can gain no lasting peace if we approach it with suspicion and mistrust or with fear."

Just as the world has borne witness to Putin's relentless violence, we have seen the resilience and determination of the Ukrainian people. Their fight is the reason we formed the United Nations and NATO in the first place. Quite simply, they have earned that support.

As President Zelenskyy said:

Aid is not charity, it is an investment in the global security and democracy.

He is right.

Our efforts to defend Ukraine are to protect Ukraine's right to self-determination and protect the future of democracy around the globe.

We are, indeed, facing a turning point in this war, and I am reminded of Winston Churchill's words after Britain's victory in the second battle of El Alamein: "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

We are today at the end of the beginning of Putin's campaign in Ukraine and his efforts to recreate the Soviet Union. We must be united in our efforts to defend Ukraine and democracy.

FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I thank the Ways and Means Committee

□ 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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H1211

for taking up my bill, H.R. 187, the Default Prevention Act, today.

Similar bills I introduced passed this House in 2013 and 2015, and I am gratified the committee would take it up in this session. The bill simply provides that even if there is a fiscal impasse in our deliberations over the debt limit, the debt of the United States will always be paid in full and on time.

Frankly, that is already the law. Our revenues vastly exceed our debt service costs. As every family knows, if you are living off your credit cards, you better make the minimum payment first. The law and the Constitution require it.

The organic act that established the Treasury Department in 1789 is clear on this point: “. . . it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to digest and prepare plans for the improvement and management of the revenue, and for the support of public credit. . . .”

I repeat: The management of the revenue and the support of public credit.

The Constitution is also crystal clear. The 14th Amendment commands that the public debt is not to be questioned. The GAO spelled it out so there would be no doubt when they answered the Senate Finance Committee in 1985, “The Treasury is free to liquidate obligations in any order it finds will best serve the interests of the United States.”

Yet, over the years, various Presidents have threatened to default on the debt as a way to roil markets and pressure lawmakers to bend to their will. This President, sadly, is no different.

Even while the Obama Treasury Department was denying it had the ability to prioritize payments to pay the debt first, we later discovered it was making preparations to do exactly that. We also discovered documents that revealed that Federal Reserve officials were appalled that the administration would ever suggest defaulting because such statements ran a severe risk of panicking credit markets. We are hearing those same statements today from some Democrats in this Congress and in this administration.

The Default Prevention Act simply takes this threat off the table. Amendments being offered by the committee also require priority be given to Social Security, Medicare, and defense to assure no President can threaten to hold seniors or servicemembers or veterans hostage, as well.

Nor is this unusual. Most State constitutions provide that first call on any revenues is to maintain and protect their sovereign credit. Indeed, several years ago, in testimony to the Senate, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke praised these State provisions for maintaining confidence in State-issued bonds.

This is not to endorse a prolonged impasse over the debt limit. Postponing prompt payment of other bills is not a good thing, but the full faith and credit of our country is funda-

mental to paying all of those other bills, and that is why we should prevent any President from threatening to default on that credit.

The most preposterous claim we hear is that this prioritizes paying China before other obligations. The fact is, most debt is held by Americans, including most likely your pension fund. China holds about 3.2 percent of our bonds.

The debt limit is there for a reason. If your family is living beyond its means and needs to seek an increase in its credit limit, it had better sit down around the kitchen table and have a very serious discussion over the circumstances that have gotten it into this predicament and what steps it needs to take to get out. That is why we have a debt limit, to have exactly that discussion as a nation.

That is why it is so disturbing when the President says he is not even willing to discuss the subject. Well, considering the fact that he has added \$3.7 trillion to the national debt in just 25 months in office, that is irresponsible.

Not discuss it? Why in the world does he think we have this building with the dome on top at the very center of our Capital City?

It was built exclusively to have these discussions, to talk out our differences, and to reach a wise and satisfactory conclusion for our public policy questions.

Not discuss the biggest fiscal threat our Nation has ever faced?

He can't be serious.

However, serious or not, no President should have the ability to threaten to default on our debt, to destroy the full faith and credit of the government, or to take hostage our seniors, our veterans, and our other servicemembers. This bill prevents him from ever threatening to do so again, and it needs to be enacted.

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN NATIONAL MUSEUM PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum in Detroit for securing \$500,000 in grant funding for its pilot training program from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Tuskegee Airmen National Museum was originally founded to record and honor the unsung but substantial contributions of our Nation's first Black military airmen.

Madam Speaker, the museum has grown to operate from three different locations across the city of Detroit, including the Charles H. Wright African American History Museum, historic Fort Wayne, and the Coleman A. Young municipal airport, where it offers career training programs for young people interested in aviation and aerospace science.

The museum takes particular pride in its community engagement around aviation training, which has been in operation for more than 30 years. \$500,000 will go a long way in their flight training program which is offered to young people age 14-19 in the metropolitan Detroit area and puts students on the path toward obtaining a private pilot's license. I wish you could have seen the excited faces when I went to one of their events for young people, again, learning to fly.

The museum works in partnership with many of our local organizations and universities to connect the many interested students with training and resources.

I say this wholeheartedly, I am so proud that our own government, the Federal Aviation Administration, sees the gem that the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum is. Their training program and the unique opportunities they offer to our young people is truly a huge contribution to Wayne County, Michigan. Again, I am pleased to see the FAA see a tremendous value in their work.

WAR IN YEMEN

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to uplift the Yemeni people who have been suffering from the inhumane and violent war. We are approaching the eighth anniversary of the start of the war in Yemen.

We must stop U.S. participation in this war. It is far past time for us to reiterate our support for ending U.S. ties to and support for the Saudi coalition.

After over 10 months now without airstrikes in Yemen, the Yemeni people want to ensure that these airstrikes never resume.

Indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets, including hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, as well as blockading Yemeni ports—committed largely with U.S. weapons and logistical support—have resulted in what the U.N. has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis with millions of Yemenis pushed to the edge of famine.

Again, the United States must stop any participation in this horrific war.

Over 11,000 children have died of hunger or been maimed as a result of the conflict in Yemen, according to UNICEF, an average, Madam Speaker, of four a day since the escalation of the conflict in 2015. Across Yemen, 23.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

The Yemeni-American families in my district are devastated to see their families, their native cities, the neighborhoods they all grew up in completely ripped apart with death, famine, and violent attacks.

“May Allah cure you.” “Allah yshfeekom.”

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Women's History Month. I cannot think of any better way to recognize and honor women than to take active steps in protecting them.