



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023

No. 64

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 18, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE CAREY 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.

RECOGNIZING ARTS EDUCATOR DEBORAH BOWERS KIPPLEY

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise to recognize Deborah Bowers Kippley for her years of dedicated public service in the State of Nebraska. As an arts educator, Debbie's leadership, skills, and initiatives have benefited the minds of our youth for decades.

Debbie had a strong interest in the arts from an early age. In 1974, she

graduated from Omaha Burke High School where she participated in band, orchestra, and art. She continued her education, obtaining a bachelor's degree in art education and elementary education from Hastings College.

After college, she toured with a Christian repertory theater company before being hired as an elementary arts teacher for Omaha Public Schools. During her time with OPS, Debbie participated in several Nebraska art-based programs. After 13 years with OPS, she wanted to start the elementary art program at Papillion La Vista Community Schools.

After obtaining her master of science from the University of Nebraska Omaha, she earned her doctorate in administration, curriculum and instruction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, concentrating on the variation of people's ability to create mental images and the effect this has on learning.

As someone who struggled with math, reading, and spelling during her elementary years, Debbie believes her inability to create mental images at that age was the cause of her struggles. Her conclusion was to enhance the five senses by using art in learning in her elementary teachings to better help students learn.

For the last nearly 40 years, Debbie has consistently given back to the community. Just a few of her accolades include Elementary Educator of the Year, president-elect and president of the Nebraska Art Teachers Association, and the Nebraska Art Teachers Association Roscoe Shields Award for her continued service to art education. She also assisted with the writing and creation of hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money for the arts.

As a now-retired educator, Debbie continues to promote the arts by her work with the Congressional Art Competition for the Nebraska congressional districts, founded in 1998, and still

manages the Papillion La Vista Arts Network, providing a theater experience for elementary and middle school students. Supervising art student teachers for the University of Nebraska Omaha is another task that she loves, and she is the president of the Papillion Downtown Business Association.

Debbie has always believed in the power of the arts to heal, encourage, and empower. This has been her mantra for all her years of educating young minds.

I salute and thank Debbie for her impression upon the community, a tremendous impact, which will be felt for many years to come.

LARGEST NUCLEAR SCANDAL IN AMERICAN HISTORY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Ohio, the largest nuclear scandal in American history has been perpetuated on our public.

Ohio's only nuclear power is generated in northern Ohio, along Lake Erie by plants owned by Energy Harbor, previously known as FirstEnergy. For decades, FirstEnergy's customers have unknowingly paid for the outfall of this criminal company's nuclear malfeasance, careless management, and costly outages, and now criminality.

When a hole in the nuclear reactor head at Davis-Besse proved to be the size of a pineapple, jaws dropped too late here in Washington at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Where were they?

When a switch failure triggered by FirstEnergy shut off power for 3 days across the entire Midwest; Northeast; and Ontario, Canada, costing our economy \$10 billion and nine lost lives, those in the commercial nuclear power world should have understood there was a big problem at FirstEnergy.

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.

H1763

Where were they?

Neither the private sector nor the Federal Government did their jobs.

Nuclear power production requires excellence and vigilance. No excuses. No passing the buck.

FirstEnergy's business plan started to fail due to its huge repair costs resulting from its own mistakes. As the company sank into debt, rather than aspiring to excellence, it resorted to bribery, wire fraud, conspiracy, and racketeering. Thus, the largest commercial nuclear crimes in U.S. history are being litigated in Federal court in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Convictions for accepting FirstEnergy bribes have been levied against Ohio's former house Republican Speaker Larry Householder and former Ohio Republican Party chair, Matt Borges. They led a criminal scheme in which FirstEnergy bribed them with \$61 million in dark money. Householder used it for personal expenses, reflecting himself, and a slate of willing Republican and Democratic legislators, to bend the law to serve FirstEnergy's financial interests.

Once in office, Householder led his handpicked politicians in a legislative bailout of FirstEnergy, foisting \$1 billion plus in corporate nuclear energy and coal losses on Ohio's ratepayers. Never did Householder or his associates express any concern about FirstEnergy's nuclear mishaps, its awesome nuclear responsibility, and what really was required to restore operational excellence.

If FirstEnergy's plan had exploded and fried everything in its radius in northern Ohio, including my house, Mr. Householder would not have been affected. He lives too far south, as do most coconspirators to the bribery scheme. Even prevailing winds generally don't blow in their direction, but an explosion would have completely polluted Lake Erie.

FirstEnergy itself avoided fraud and criminal indictments by admitting its corporate guilt. Of course, nuclear malfeasance is not on trial, but it should be. Thus far, the court has ordered FirstEnergy to pay a historic \$230 million settlement, the largest public fine in Ohio's history, although there were no fines for bigger crimes against the public interest by multiple nuclear endangerments.

FirstEnergy's management made huge blunders in nuclear operation. Were it not for the skilled union laborers who three times put their lives at risk for our region, a nuclear catastrophe along Lake Erie was indeed possible. At least three major nuclear incidents have occurred during my lifetime: 1985, 2002, 2003.

Davis-Besse plant records document the second and third as the worst nuclear incidents since Three Mile Island.

The ongoing criminal litigation ignores these massive nuclear close calls. Each major nuclear blunder translated into real threats to lives, safety, and health.

At what point does our Nation say no to a pattern of persistent commercial plant nuclear negligence and abysmal nuclear management?

The time is now as our region tries to pick up the pieces and rebuild advanced nuclear—but not by past standards.

The starting point to get effective safety monitoring in these two Ohio facilities begins by requesting the Federal Government's Government Accountability Office to perform thorough and independent nuclear safety audits of its aging nuclear facilities.

The next step is to require the Nuclear Navy, with independent experts, to complete a thorough engineering analysis of the plant's remaining physical infrastructure.

Next, specific individuals who were responsible for criminal activity at FirstEnergy must be identified and barred for life from working or contracting with the U.S. commercial nuclear industry, and we must also identify legal means to restore to ratepayers compensation for their losses.

As Admiral Hyman Rickover, father of the Nuclear Navy, said: "Success teaches us nothing; only failure teaches."

Let Ohio learn and let America learn, and let's do it right.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE OPPRESSION OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS BY THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Vietnamese Government's oppression of political opponents.

Last week, the Communist Party Government of Vietnam sentenced Nguyen Lan Thang to 6 years in prison for documenting protests and human rights abuses in Vietnam. Thang is a well-known advocate for freedom and democracy. He is a renowned blogger and contributor to Radio Free Asia. He should not be punished for criticizing communism.

This violation of the basic human rights of free expression is unacceptable and shows a worsening human rights situation in Vietnam.

According to Human Rights Watch, Vietnamese authorities have convicted at least 163 people since 2018 for exercising their rights to freedom of association or freedom of expression against Vietnam's Communist Party Government.

I have and will continue to call out the Communist Party of Vietnam for imprisoning journalists, human rights defenders, religious figures, and dissidents in Vietnam. The Chinese Communist Party has expertly influenced their neighbors, like Vietnam, hoping we will be silent in the face of these heinous acts.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in condemning Vietnam's continued hor-

rific targeting of anyone who dissents from the oppressive Communist regime, and I urge Vietnam to release its political prisoners, including Mr. Thang and journalists like Pham Doan Trang.

We must come together, proclaim Communism as the evil that it is, and show the world that we will defend freedom.

TAX DAY

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, today is tax day, the deadline for over 200 million Americans to file their taxes.

Over the past year, responsible, hard-working families across the Nation created a budget, sacrificed to stick to that budget, and paid what they must by law to the government.

Meanwhile, their government spent taxpayer dollars recklessly, resulting in a national deficit that is over \$31 trillion. That is approximately \$250,000 per taxpayer.

My friends on the other side of the aisle claimed that they would close the gap by raising taxes and hiring an army of 87,000 new IRS agents to increase audits, especially on hard-working families making less than \$100,000 a year.

Collecting more taxes from hard-working Americans will not fix the Federal Government's irresponsibility.

While California suffers from the highest income tax rate in the country, the State's reckless spending resulted in a deficit of \$22.5 billion.

High taxes and reckless spending will not solve our Nation's problems. That is why the House of Representatives passed my bill with Representative ADRIAN SMITH to defund the IRS's plan to hire 87,000 new agents. The IRS exists to serve the American people, not target them.

More taxes and more spending will only result in a higher deficit and a broken economy that will weigh on the backs of our children and grandchildren.

□ 1015

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY CAREER OF JUDGE U.W. CLEMON

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of a legal giant and civil rights activist, Alabama's first Black Federal judge, the Honorable U.W. Clemon, who celebrated his 80th birthday on April 9.

A native of Alabama, Judge Clemon was born in 1943. Despite spending much of his childhood in the segregated school system of Jefferson County, Clemon broke down barriers, graduating as a two-time valedictorian, first at Westfield High School in 1961 and then Miles College in 1965.

As a college student, Judge Clemon was a leading voice for civil rights. He marched in countless student demonstrations under the direction of Dr.