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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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 1:50 p.m.

END RECKLESS ATTACKS ON ENERGY PRODUCERS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 20 days from now, the Homer City Generating Station in Pennsylvania will power down its turbines and close its doors. Since opening in 1969, the plant has reliably utilized the coal that has been mined in Pennsylvania communities for generations.

After years of continual operation, Homer City's closure will leave just four operational coal plants functioning in the Keystone State. The closing of this plant is not only a symbolic loss, but one that will have real-world consequences for energy production.

What President Biden, liberals in Congress, and green energy supporters across the United States fail to realize is that technologies like wind turbines and solar panels lack the capacity to keep the lights on.

These alternative methods of production simply cannot produce enough power to meet the needs of our families

and businesses. Without the capacity to store enough energy to be used in peak hours, green technologies are unable to support our electric grid.

Eliminating coal power will have disastrous consequences, including rolling blackouts for families across America. We have seen the warning signs. Look to Europe, as Austria, Germany, and Italy announce that they are reopening coal plants and admit that the green technologies have failed to produce the energy that those countries need.

Let's face it, Americans have always led on innovation, and now countries around the world will rely on America to build the carbon capture systems that will make coal plants safer and more reliable. That will not be possible as long as the Biden administration continues to force the shuttering of these facilities here at home.

We need to return to the energy resources that are underneath the feet of my constituents in Pennsylvania. We need to return to American energy dominance. It is time for the Biden administration to end its reckless attacks on our energy producers.

INDICTMENT IS DEEPLY TROUBLING

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow former President Donald Trump will be arraigned in Federal court in Miami. He has been indicted on 37 different felony charges, including false statements and representations, scheme to conceal, concealing a document in a Federal investigation, corruptly concealing a document or record, withholding a document or record, conspiracy to obstruct justice, and 31 counts of willful retention of national defense information.

Mr. Speaker, I read the incredibly detailed and evidence-based indictment,

and it is deeply troubling and disturbing, to say the least. These charges show a complete and total disregard for the national security of the United States. The former President's actions compromised the lives and safety of U.S. military personnel around the world.

No one is above the law, and anyone who undermines U.S. national security must be held to answer for their actions. Mr. Speaker, he had our nuclear secrets stashed away in boxes in his bathroom.

Listen, I am here on the floor today because prodemocracy Republicans in North Carolina's 13th District rejected extremism and sent me to Washington because I ran to protect our democracy and our rule of law. This is about our rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, as the American people try to make sense of these indictments, I think we should listen to the comments from Republicans who served in the Trump administration and other leading Republicans.

John Bolton, who served as National Security Advisor in the Trump administration said: "The indictment is devastating. Those who defended Trump before the charges were made public or those who have not yet spoken, should very carefully weigh how history will consider their statements."

Mick Mulroy, a senior Pentagon official in the Trump administration, said: "The classified documents described in the indictment are some of the most sensitive information we possess. . . . This type of information should never be removed from a secured facility and once discovered should have been immediately returned."

Bill Barr, who served as Attorney General in the Trump administration said: "If even half of it is true, then he is toast. It's a very detailed indictment, and it's very, very damning. And this idea of presenting Trump as a victim here, a victim of a witch hunt, is ridiculous."

□ 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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“He is not a victim here. He was totally wrong that he had the right to have those documents. Those documents are among the most sensitive secrets the country has.”

Asa Hutchinson, former Bush administration official, former Governor of Arkansas, said: “Donald Trump’s actions—from his willful disregard for the Constitution to his disrespect for the rule of law—should not define our Nation or the Republican Party.”

MITT ROMNEY, the junior Senator from the State of Utah said: “Mr. Trump brought these charges upon himself by not only taking classified documents, but by refusing to simply return them when given numerous opportunities to do so.

“These allegations are serious and if proven, would be consistent with his other actions offensive to the national interest, such as withholding defensive weapons from Ukraine for political reasons and failing to defend the Capitol from violent attack and insurrection.”

Mr. Speaker, we are a nation of laws. No one is above the law in the United States of America. No one is entitled to keep top secret national security documents. The documents in this case are among the most secret we have in this country—nuclear secrets. We need to know just how much the careless and cavalier storage of these documents has compromised our Nation’s national security.

I came to Congress to get things done for the people in my district, and I have been glad to build relationships with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We should work in a bipartisan way whenever we can, but if we are going to truly heal as a country, we need to hold people accountable.

As a lawyer, I know allowing this process to play out in a court of law and ensuring a fair and impartial trial is critically important. However, this is already a sad and somber moment in our Nation’s history. Democracy should never be taken for granted. We must be vigilant and proactive to protect it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, history will remember those who defend this lawless behavior, and it will not be kind.

MARGARET CAVANAUGH HAS BEEN A GODSEND

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the dedication to service and what it means to be a true public servant by recognizing my constituent services director and service academy coordinator, Margaret Cavanaugh.

For nearly three decades, Margaret has served thousands of Minnesota’s citizens, having worked for three different Members of Congress from the great State of Minnesota.

It is devoted staff like Margaret who work behind the scenes solving dif-

ficult issues for individuals back home, that so many people receive the help they need from their Federal Government.

Public servants like Margaret are seldom recognized for their persistent efforts yet are crucial to the deployment of many Federal programs such as VA and disability benefits, Medicare, Medicaid, passport issues, and all too often, the IRS and refunds.

Dedicated caseworkers like Margaret are often a godsend to so many constituents who are often overwhelmed or far too often ignored by our massive bureaucracies right here in Washington.

Margaret is up there with the best of them, mentoring other caseworkers in the State and region with advice, contacts, and problem-solving techniques.

I thank Margaret for all she does for the people of the great State of Minnesota. With people like her, our constituents get the best assistance, and they deserve it. Once again, I thank Margaret.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Reconcile us to You O God. We stand before You in our imperfection, keenly aware of our shortcomings, asking You to bridge the gap between our realities and our intentions, our best efforts and Your desires. In Your perfect mercy recreate us that as individuals, as a body, and as a Nation, we would find restoration in Your righteous plan.

Even as You have reconciled each of us to Yourself, call us to be reconciled one to another. Acknowledging Your divine regard for us, may we regard no one from a human point of view, but see in each person the reflection of Your redeeming love for all of Your creation.

Entrust us this day with this message of reconciliation. May we prove worthy of Your trust in our response. So may the past have no claim on us, the things of old not hold us back. May we find renewed purpose, assured of Your blessing on the work You set before us.

In Your merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REIMPOSE SANCTIONS ON IRAN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian regime continues to enrich weapons-grade uranium, oppress its people, and export missiles and terrorism.

Yesterday, the regime threatened that the West could not stop it from a nuclear arms program, fulfilling the chant of death to Israel, death to America. Iranian drones murder innocent Ukrainians every day.

In a Wall Street Journal column last week, John Bolton, former National Security Advisor, wrote, incredibly: “During Mr. Biden’s term. . . his administration still seeks to resuscitate the Iran deal.”

President Donald Trump was correct in pulling the U.S. out of the Iran deal as Iran shamefully continues ICBM development to kill Americans.

I am grateful to have joined a bipartisan group of 35 House colleagues in sending a letter to leaders of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, encouraging them to reimpose sanctions on Iran.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with open Biden borders.

Our sympathy for the family of beloved civic leader Lottie Gregg.

RECOGNIZING TERESA SHYMANSKY

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teresa Shymansky of Solon, Iowa, for her incredible work with her nonprofit foundation, Something Beautiful.

Teresa operates a floral design and art studio in her home in Johnson