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No. 124

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

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

God and ruler of all the Earth, from Your holy throne You reign over all the nations. Show Your greatness and Your holiness to the peoples. Make Yourself known in the sight of all the nations.

In the confusion of conflict and the ravages of war, make Yourself known in the sight of Ukraine, to her leaders, and to all her people.

In the prosperity of 75 years of trade and commerce and amid the polarization of its politics, make Yourself known in the sight of Israel, to her leaders, and to all her people.

In the hubris of aggression and the arrogance of imperialism, make Yourself known in the sight of belligerent nations, to their leaders, and to all their people.

In the certainty of our convictions, as well as in the discord of our discourse, make Yourself known in the sight of these United States, to our leaders, and to our compatriots.

For Your hand, O Lord, is not too short that it cannot save those who seek You, nor Your ear so dull that it cannot hear the prayers of those who call on You. Do not let the noises of this world so confuse us that we cannot hear You speak.

In Your sovereign name we pray. Lord, hear our prayers.

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 of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Monday, July 17, 2023, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1037

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY ISAAC HERZOG, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentleman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON);

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN);

The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER);

□ 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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The gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN);

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER);

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING); and

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MOSKOWITZ).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST);

The Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES);

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY); and

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Her Excellency Mathilde Mukantabana, the Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for her.

At 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable William P. McFarland, announced His Excellency Isaac Herzog.

The President of the State of Israel, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President HERZOG. Madam Vice President, Mr. Speaker, on November 10, 1987, I was sitting at home with my wife, Michal, expecting our first child. We were watching the first Israeli President invited to address a joint session of Congress in honor of Israel's 40th independence day. That President was my father.

Standing here today representing the Jewish Democratic State of Israel in its 75th year at the very podium from which my late father, President Chaim Herzog, spoke is the honor of a lifetime, and I thank you wholeheartedly for it.

I was born and raised in Israel, but my father's diplomatic post at the United Nations brought my family to New York in the 1970s.

During high school, I volunteered with the Legal Aid Society for the Elderly in Brooklyn, New York. I volunteered with the impoverished and the underprivileged elderly, including war veterans and Holocaust survivors, who gave their best years to the country they loved.

My mentor at the organization was a subtle, reserved professional. She was strictly business. The moment she broke character has remained with me for almost 50 years. It was the day she told me the love of her life died fighting for Israel. Her fiancé, a tall, bright-eyed American Jewish boy, was inspired by the Zionist dream and the Jewish people's desire for independence. He voluntarily boarded a ship to Haifa, fought in the Israeli military, and fell in the battle for Israel's independence, just weeks before their wedding. Although decades had gone by and she rebuilt her life, the cracks in her heart remained.

That moment, in which I learned of the life he gave for the State of Israel, spoke to the very core of the bond forged between the people of the United States and the people of Israel, how the nations we built overcame loss, how deeply our stories complement each other's, and how far we have all come together.

Speaker MCCARTHY, I thank you for hosting this festive joint session of Congress celebrating the first 75 years of Israel's independence. Just a few weeks ago, during your first trip abroad as Speaker, you honored the Israeli people by addressing the Knesset in Jerusalem, the capital of

the State of Israel, and the Jewish people. Your sincere expression of friendship on behalf of the United States of America truly resonated with the Israelis. Thank you.

Vice President HARRIS, it is such a great pleasure to see you again. I vividly recall hosting you at the Knesset a few years back. Your stirring remarks at the Israeli Embassy's Independence Day reception a few weeks ago reflect both yours and President Biden's decades-long, ironclad friendship with Israel.

A special thanks goes to former Speaker NANCY PELOSI who first invited me less than a year ago, together with Senator CHUCK SCHUMER.

Special thanks to dear friends, Senate Minority Leader, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, and House Minority Leader, Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES, for this bipartisan, bicameral invitation. My thanks also to the distinguished members of the escort committee for greeting me so beautifully.

Mr. Speaker, dear friends, in Jewish weddings, a glass is placed on the ground and intentionally stomped on. This ritual evokes the destruction of our temple in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. Only after the glass is broken, the celebration can truly begin.

Amidst the most joyous occasions in the lives of two individuals who have come together to build something whole, we recall what was once broken in our Nation. Thus, the bitter blends with the sweet.

Today, the Hebrew calendar points to the first day of the month of Av. In Jewish tradition, this is a somber period in which we mourn the loss of our sovereignty. Jewish communities all over the world lament the beginning of our national exile where throughout two millennia we continuously expressed a spiritual connection to our ancestral homeland, a longing to return home and regain our independence.

Yet today, at this moment in my people's history, gathering on Capitol Hill to celebrate 75 years of Israeli independence with our greatest partner and friend, the United States of America, my soul is overflowing with pride and joy.

The people of Israel are grateful to no end for the ancient promise fulfilled and for the friendship we have forged.

In 1949, the President of the United States of America, Harry S. Truman, met with the Chief Rabbi of the newly established State of Israel, my grandfather, Rabbi Yitzhak Isaac Halevi Herzog, in the Oval Office.

This was just a few years after each of them pleaded and campaigned for the rescue of Europe's Jews being slaughtered in the Holocaust by the Nazis.

In speaking to President Truman, Rabbi Herzog thanked him for being the first world leader to officially recognize the State of Israel, 11 minutes after its foundation. He spoke, Rabbi Herzog, of the divine providence that

destined President Truman to help bring about the rebirth of Israel after 2,000 years of exile. Witnesses of the encounter recalled tears running down President Truman's cheeks.

We are honored to have President Truman's grandson, Clifton Truman Daniel, with us here today.

When the State of Israel was established in 1948, the land which the Almighty promised to Abraham, to which Moses led the Israelites, the land of the Bible, of milk and honey, evolved into an exquisite land of democracy.

Against all odds, the Jewish people returned home and built a national home, which became a beautiful Israeli democracy, a mosaic of Jews, Muslims, Christians, Druze, and Circassians, secular, traditional, and orthodox, of all denominations and all possible views and lifestyles; a land which welcomed the ingathering of exiles from over 100 nations; a land which became the start-up nation, a bustling hub of innovation and creativity, social action, and intellectual discovery, spiritual awakening, business ventures, scientific ingenuity, and lifesaving medical breakthroughs.

We built a nation-state which has faced relentless war, terror, and delegitimization since its birth, a country fighting to defend itself from enemy and foe yet whose citizens continue to greet each other with the word "peace," "shalom"; a country which takes pride in its vibrant democracy, its protection of minorities, human rights, and civil liberties as laid down by its parliament, the Knesset, and safeguarded by its strong Supreme Court and independent judiciary; a state founded on complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants, irrespective of religion, race, or gender, as stipulated explicitly in Israel's Declaration of Independence; a country which is ever-evolving, a diverse amalgam of accents, beliefs, backgrounds, and customs. Truly, a modern-day miracle—this is the sweetness in which our country has been blessed.

However, dear friends, the bitter casts a dark shadow on our country, on our region, and on the world.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the greatest challenge Israel and the United States face at this time together is the Iranian nuclear program.

Let there be no doubt: Iran does not strive to attain nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Iran is building nuclear capabilities that pose a threat to the stability of the Middle East and beyond. Every country or region controlled or infiltrated by Iran has experienced utter havoc. We have seen this in Yemen, in Gaza, in Syria, in Lebanon, and in Iraq. In fact, we have seen this in Iran itself, where the regime has lost its people and is suppressing them brutally.

Iran has spread hatred, terror, and suffering throughout the Middle East and beyond, adding fuel to the disastrous fire and suffering in Ukraine. Iran is the only nation on the planet

publicly calling, plotting, and developing means to annihilate another nation, a member of the family of nations, the State of Israel.

Israel has no border with Iran. Israel has no resources contested by Iran. Israel has no conflict with the Iranian people. Yet, the Iranian regime, together with its proxies throughout the Middle East, is aiming and working toward destroying the State of Israel, killing the Jews, and challenging the entire free world.

Allowing Iran to become a nuclear threshold state, whether by omission or by diplomatic commission, is unacceptable.

The world cannot remain indifferent to the Iranian regime's call to wipe Israel off the map. Tolerating this call, and Iran's measures to realize it, is an inexcusable moral collapse.

Backed by the free world, Israel and the United States must act forcefully together to prevent Iran's fundamental threat to international security.

I am here to reiterate what every Israeli leader has declared for decades: The State of Israel is determined to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapon capabilities.

We are proud to be the United States' closest partner and friend. We are grateful to the United States for the necessary means you have provided us to keep our qualitative military edge and to allow us to defend ourselves by ourselves. This reflects your ongoing commitment to Israel's security.

We are also tremendously proud that ours is a two-way alliance in which Israel has been making critical contributions to the national security and interests of the United States of America in numerous ways.

Thank you, dear Members of Congress, for your support of Israel throughout history and at this critical moment in time.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that the peace which the United States brokered between Israel and its neighbors has revolutionized the Middle East.

The historic peace treaties with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have demonstrated the many blessings of opting out of the cycle of war. Both Jordan and Egypt have contributed tremendously to solidifying the precious peace and enhancing our region's stability and well-being.

Three years ago, the Abraham Accords realigned our imaginations, our nation, and our region. Israel eagerly welcomed the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Kingdom of Morocco into an exclusive, warm peace between our peoples.

Since signing the accords, over 1 million Israelis have visited the Abraham nations, a clear expression of our will to become integrated in the region. This is a peace anchored in trust, hope, and prosperity, a true game changer.

Each of these historic agreements, which have altered the trajectory of

the Middle East, was facilitated by our greatest friend, the United States of America.

Israel's hand is extended and our heart is open to any partner in peace, near or far. Israel thanks the United States for working toward establishing peaceful relations between Israel and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a leading nation in the region and in the Muslim world. We pray for this moment to come. This would be a huge sea change in the course of history in the Middle East and the world at large.

Mr. Speaker, my deep yearning is for Israel to one day make peace with our Palestinian neighbors.

Over the years, Israel has taken bold steps toward peace and made far-reaching proposals to our Palestinian neighbors. However, true peace cannot be anchored in violence. Notwithstanding the deep political differences and the numerous challenges that surround the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and relations—and I do not ignore them—but it should be clear that one cannot talk about peace while condoning or legitimizing terror, implicitly or explicitly. True peace cannot be anchored in violence.

Palestinian terror against Israel or Israelis undermines any possibility for a future of peace between our peoples.

Israelis are targeted while waiting for buses, while taking a stroll on the promenade, while spending time with their family. At the same time, successful terror attacks are celebrated, terrorists are glorified, and their families are financially rewarded for every Israeli they attack. This is inconceivable. It is a moral disgrace.

Terror is not a bump in the road. Terror is hatred and bloodshed. It contradicts humanity's most basic principles of peace. Israel cannot and will not tolerate terror, and we know that in this we are joined by the United States of America.

Two Israeli officers, Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin, and two civilians, Hisham al-Sayed and Avera Mengistu, are being held hostage by Hamas for years for the sole purpose of torturing the families they left behind.

Lieutenant Hadar Goldin was abducted in violation of a U.N.-sponsored humanitarian cease-fire negotiated by the United States. His family has been fighting for 9 years to bring him home. I asked Hadar Goldin's mother, Leah, to be with us here today. We pray for her son's return, as well as the three other Israelis'.

We pray for the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: "Nation shall not take up sword against nation; neither shall they know war anymore."

The younger generation of Israelis and Palestinians deserve better. They are all worthy of a future to look towards, a future of peace and prosperity, and a future of hope. I am wholeheartedly committed to this vision, a vision of hope and peace—true peace—without any terror.

Mr. Speaker, dear friends, the sacred bond we share is unique in scope and

quality because it is based on values that reach across generations, across administrations, and across governments and coalitions, carrying us through times of turmoil and elation.

One hundred sixty years ago, it was President Abraham Lincoln who spoke of the dream to restore the Jews to their national home as one shared by many Americans.

The inscription on Philadelphia's Liberty Bell articulates the Hebrew Bible's code of ethics: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

This verse from Leviticus, shining through the crack of the Liberty Bell, underscores the principles that fuel the American Dream. These words have bound our nations through the ages. Coming together today in this Chamber of liberty and freedom, we are all realizing the hopes of our founding fathers and mothers.

We are very proud—so very proud—of the true friendship we have forged. It is a mutually beneficial partnership that has withstood challenges and weathered great disagreements because it is based not on uniformity of approach but on the ultimate currency of trust. It is not dependent upon operating in harmony, but on the history we share, on the truths we cherish, and on the values we embody.

This partnership is based also on similarities and the affinity between our peoples, the courageous immigrants and the trailblazing pioneers.

It is rooted deep in our respective Declarations of Independence. In the American Declaration of Independence, the Founders appealed to the Supreme Judge of the World. In the Israeli Declaration of Independence, influenced by America's, our founders placed their trust in the Rock of Israel, Tsur Yisrael.

The revered American Jewish spiritual leader, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, embodied the bridge between our peoples and the story of American Jewry. After escaping from the Holocaust, Rabbi Heschel publicly advocated interfaith dialogue. He fought for civil liberties in America and marched alongside Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery in March of 1965.

Rabbi Heschel wrote: "To be is to stand for."

"To be is to stand for."

I am so pleased to have his daughter, Professor Susannah Heschel of Dartmouth, join us here today. Thank you, Susannah.

Susannah, your father reminds us that the principles we defend make us what we are.

Ultimately, Israel and the United States stand—and, indeed, have always stood—for the same values. Our two nations are both diverse, life-affirming societies that stand for liberty, equality, and freedom. At our core, both our peoples seek to repair the cracks in our world.

Having said this, I am well aware that our world is changing. A new gen-

eration of Israelis and Americans are assuming leadership roles. They are a generation that was not privy to the hardship of Israel's formative years, a generation that is less engaged in the roots that connect our peoples, and a generation that, perhaps, takes for granted the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Yet, at this moment I am optimistic because to me it is clear that the shift in generations does not reflect changing values, nor does it indicate changes in our interests. When the United States is strong, Israel is stronger, and when Israel is strong, the United States is more secure.

Today, my dear friends, we are provided the opportunity to reaffirm and redefine the future of our relationship. Each of us here has a decisive role in the future we are building.

Many of the challenges Israel and the United States face are similar. We are all experiencing a tumultuous shift in balance evident in countless areas: geopolitical unrest, big power competition, catastrophic war in Ukraine, pandemics, climate crisis, the unknown of artificial intelligence, energy shortages, food insecurity, scarcity of water and desertification, global terror, social polarization, and the attempts to destabilize democracy.

Each of these challenges presents an opportunity to seek out solutions together which will benefit the global community. Israel has the ability to contribute in a unique and significant fashion to addressing these challenges. Israel and the United States are world leaders in aiding countries whose peoples have suffered. Our collaborative capabilities, coupled with our mutually beneficial partnership, are the key to the future of our children.

To us, it is clear that America is irreplaceable to Israel, and Israel is irreplaceable to America. It is time to design the next stage of our evolving friendship and our growing partnership together.

So let's do it together, ladies and gentlemen. Let's elevate our partnership to new levels.

Mr. Speaker, I am not oblivious to criticism among friends, including some expressed by respected Members of this House. I respect criticism, especially from friends, although one does not always have to accept it.

However, criticism of Israel must not cross the line into negation of the State of Israel's right to exist. Questioning the Jewish people's right to self-determination is not legitimate democracy. It is anti-Semitism. Vilifying and attacking Jews, whether in Israel, in the United States, or anywhere else in the world, is anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitism is a disgrace in every form, and I commend President Joe Biden for laying out the United States' first ever National Strategy to Combat Anti-Semitism.

Dear friends, it is no secret that over the past few months the Israeli people have engaged in a heated and painful debate. We have been immersed in

voicing our differences and revisiting and renegotiating the balance of our institutional powers in the absence of a written constitution.

In practice, the intense debate going on back home, even as we speak, is the clearest tribute to the fortitude of Israel's democracy.

Israel's democracy has always been based on free and fair elections, on honoring the people's choice, on safeguarding minority rights, on protection of human and civil liberties, and on a strong and independent judiciary.

Our democracy is also 120 members of Knesset comprised of Jews, Muslims, Christians, or Druze representing every opinion under the Israeli Sun working and debating side by side.

Our democracy is also late Friday afternoon, when the sound of the Muezzin calling to prayer blends with the siren announcing the Sabbath in Jerusalem while one of the largest and most impressive LGBTQ Pride parades in the world is going on in Tel Aviv.

Our democracy is also reflected in protesters taking to the streets all across the country to emphatically raise their voices and fervently demonstrate their points of view. Our democracy is the blue and white Israeli flag waved and loved fervently taking part in the debate.

I am well aware of the imperfections of Israeli democracy, and I am conscious of the questions posed by our greatest of friends. The momentous debate in Israel is painful and deeply unnerving because it highlights the cracks within the whole.

As President of Israel, I am here to tell the American people and each of you that I have great confidence in Israeli democracy. Although we are working through sore issues, just like you, I know our democracy is strong and resilient. Israel has democracy in its DNA.

I am deeply mindful of the challenge which this moment presents to Israeli society, and I have made it the priority of my Presidency to play a leading role in this critical and emotional public discussion.

I will say to you, dear friends, in English what I have said to my people, my sisters and brothers, in Hebrew back home.

As a Nation, we must find a way to talk to each other, no matter how long it takes. As Head of State, I will continue doing everything to reach broad public consensus and to preserve, protect, and defend the State of Israel's democracy.

Dear friends, for so many Israelis, this very public debate is also very personal. It is now a little after 6 p.m. in Israel. They will soon sit down to dinner, together, beside family or friends, with whom they may severely disagree, but they are and they will always remain family.

Israel and the United States will inevitably disagree on many matters, but we will always remain family.

Our evolutionary societies have so much to give to the world and so much

to learn from each other. Our bond may be challenged at times, but it is absolutely unbreakable.

The Israeli national anthem, "Hatikva," is a song of hope. The late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks wrote that in Judaism, hope is an active virtue, which requires a great deal of courage.

Hope is the belief that together we can make the world better, that we can overcome any setbacks and heal the fractures in our world.

Israel's first 75 years were rooted in an ancient dream. Let us base our next 75 years on hope, our shared hope, that we can heal our fractured world as the closest of allies and friends.

Thank you, Members of both Houses, for celebrating Israel's independence. "Am Yisrael Chai." "The people of Israel Live." God bless the State of Israel, and God bless the United States of America.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m., His Excellency Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1236

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

#### SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3935.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 597 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3935.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1238

##### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3935) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes, with Mr. GARBARINO in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act, is a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration and the Nation's aviation safety and infrastructure program for the next 5 years.

I thank Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member RICK LARSEN, Aviation Subcommittee Chairman GARRET GRAVES, and Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member STEVE COHEN for working with me to develop and introduce this legislation.

For over a century, the United States has led the world in aviation safety and innovation. Unfortunately, our gold standard status is being threatened by increasing global competition, by rapid developments in technology, a shortage of aviation professionals, and the inefficiencies and lack of leadership in the FAA.

H.R. 3935 is critical to keeping America a global leader in aviation. It is vital to our economy, to millions of American jobs, and to the 850 million passengers that depend on our National Airspace System every single year.

If Congress fails to act on a new long-term aviation measure by September 30, when the current FAA law expires, key aviation programs will cease to function.

H.R. 3935 provides the necessary long-term certainty that is demanded by both the civil aviation system and the aviation community to guarantee its safety and prosperity for decades to come.

This bill not only improves FAA's efficiency through reasonable organizational changes but makes the agency more agile while simultaneously prioritizing safety each step of the way.

The FAA is simply too slow in everything it does, from rulemaking to aircraft registrations and from certifications to just simple paperwork.

This bill ensures robust investment in infrastructure for airports of all sizes, including the thousands of smaller and general aviation airports that make up the bulk of our aviation system.

I am proud to say our bill includes the first ever General Aviation title in the FAA reauthorization bill. GA is the foundation to our civil aviation system. It is where many of our pilots, mechanics, and other aviation professionals begin their careers, gaining valuable experience along their journey in the aviation industry.

This bill recognizes the importance of GA and protects the freedom to fly for every American.

As previously mentioned, growing shortages across the aerospace workforce are a true threat to the future of American aviation.

H.R. 3935 addresses workforce challenges head-on by removing barriers to entry for individuals and veterans interested in pursuing careers in aviation, such as through the CAREER Program.

Bottom line, our bill encourages growth in the aviation workforce through meaningful reforms, the most meaningful in decades.

What is more, H.R. 3935 maintains American leadership when it comes to the development and integration of new and emerging technologies into the airspace, such as drones and Advanced Air Mobility.

Specifically, this bill requires the FAA to stop endless testing and pilot programs that go nowhere to integrate innovation, such as drones and AAM into the National Airspace System.

As air travel recovers from the COVID pandemic, renewed growth in air travel has come with some difficulties, obviously, for the traveling public. Our bipartisan bill includes an entire title dedicated to improving the flying experience for the traveling public, an issue that each of our offices hear about from constituents probably on a daily basis.

Finally, and most importantly, the bill recognizes that while our aviation system is safe, we must continue to raise the bar for safety. As such, this