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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 2, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST 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 1:50 p.m.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, it is Monday morning, and the Federal Govern-

ment is open for business. We came just hours away from a shutdown this weekend, with 209 House Democrats and 125 House Republicans voting to put people over politics.

A government shutdown would have been a disaster for the American people, and I am glad Democrats and reasonable Republicans were able to come together to get a short-term funding package through the House, the Senate, and onto the President's desk with just hours to spare.

This short-term funding package includes an extension of FAA authorization, funding for flood insurance programs, and \$16 billion for disaster relief. Most importantly, it will keep the lights on for the over 6,500 Federal employees in North Carolina's 13th District.

Looking ahead, this short-term funding package gives us more time to come together, find common ground, and pass bipartisan spending bills for the full year.

For Democrats, that means funding for Ukraine. Our support for Ukraine cannot waver. I wish we didn't have to spend any money in Ukraine, but if Vladimir Putin wins, we will have to spend a thousand times more trying to contain an aggressive and emboldened Russia around the globe. If we abandon Ukraine, Russia will win. Putin will win. Support for Ukraine is in our national interest, Mr. Speaker.

For Republicans, that means securing the border and taking up immigration reform. As a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus and a member of the New Democrat Coalition's Immi-

gration and Border Security Task Force, I remain focused and committed to working across the aisle to secure our border and advance comprehensive immigration reform.

I believe that the best path forward is through the Bipartisan Keep America Open Act that I have cosponsored and is being led by the Problem Solvers Caucus. This legislation upholds the top-line numbers agreed to in the bipartisan budget agreement. It includes funding for Ukraine, which is desperately needed. It includes title 42 reform legislation that I helped introduce with a bipartisan group of Members earlier this year that will help secure the southern border while giving us more time to enact meaningful, long-term reforms to our overburdened immigration system. It also includes bipartisan reforms to increase transparency and address long-term spending, an area where I agree with my Republican colleagues.

The path to 218 votes on the budget won't come from the far left or the far right. It comes from the center, with proposals just like this one. The reality is that we have only 44 days to get this done, or we are right back to where we started over the weekend.

We never should have been in this situation in the first place. A short-term CR is a Band-Aid on a long-term problem. That is why I have introduced the bipartisan No Budget, No Pay Act. My bill would withhold Members' pay if both Houses don't agree to a concurrent budget resolution by April 15 for the fiscal year starting October 1, or if

□ 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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both Houses haven't passed all the regular appropriations bills by September 30 for the fiscal year starting October 1.

We could have been in a situation this morning where our entire Federal Government workforce was getting no pay, but Members of Congress still would have been getting their paychecks, and that is wrong. This bill will incentivize Congress to get it done and prevent future government shutdowns. This brinkmanship is no good for our economy.

I came to Congress to get things done. I will continue to set aside the noise, find common ground wherever it exists, and deliver for the people of North Carolina's 13th District.

NO MORE EMPTY PROMISES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last month, more than 400,000 illegal immigrants crossed the Darien Gap into Central America on their way to our southern border, nearly double the number that had arrived in all of 2022.

Let's put that number in perspective. Mr. Speaker, 400,000 is more than double the populations of Altoona, Johnstown, Chambersburg, Lewistown, Breezewood, Gettysburg, Waynesboro, Mifflintown, Newport, McConnellsburg, Greencastle, Huntingdon, Shippensburg, and Bedford combined.

It is clear that President Biden's border policies, which welcome illegal immigration, have created a national security crisis, a public health crisis, and a humanitarian crisis, all due to the porous southern border.

Since Joe Biden took office, there have been a total of 7.6 million encounters at our southern border, and for the third year in a row, Americans are now on track to see the worst border crisis in our Nation's history.

This year, we have seen public schools used as holding facilities for illegal immigrants instead of being used for American students who are already suffering from historic learning losses following Biden's prolonged school shutdowns.

While an influx of illegal immigrants has strained the food banks, the shelters, and the hospitals along our southern border, this administration continues to turn a blind eye and refuses to assist the communities that are threatened and in need.

It is time for the Senate to pass the Secure the Border Act, which would: first, force the Biden administration to restart construction of the border wall; second, increase the number of Border Patrol agents; third, end catch and release; and, finally, deploy the new technologies that our Border Patrol agents have requested in order to help secure our southern border.

President Biden's failure to address this crisis is simply unacceptable. Re-

port after report from Eagle Pass, San Diego, and McAllen shows that this crisis will only continue to worsen each and every day.

We can't afford business as usual from Washington, and we cannot abandon our Border Patrol agents who deal with this problem. It is time for Democrats in Congress to join us and deliver real solutions and not more empty promises to the American people.

AMERICA'S DAMS ARE TICKING TIME BOMBS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we are going to pick up where we left off over the weekend, sort of the high school drama about governing the House of Representatives.

We have some people who are playing with fire. We have watched them work to the brink. It happened earlier in the spring where we were dealing with the debt ceiling, and we are back at it now, dealing with what we are going to do in terms of funding the government going forward.

We know where this ends. There will be an agreement in November or December or January that largely follows the outline of what we all agreed to do in the spring. Democrats, Republicans, and President Biden had an agreement that set the top-line numbers to be able to move forward with the budget.

Ultimately, I think the governing wing of the Republican Party will come around and work with a unified Democratic Caucus to be able to fulfill the commitment that we made in the spring. Whether or not KEVIN MCCARTHY is Speaker or not is largely irrelevant in terms of this larger issue. The governing wing of both parties will come together and, I think, will do what is right for the American people based on what we agreed to do months ago.

In the meantime, we actually have work to do. There are issues that need our attention. In *The New York Times* 2 days ago: "It's Only a Matter of Time Before More Dams Fail." We watched two dams in Libya collapse, killing more than 11,000 people. This should be a wake-up call for those of us in the United States.

There are more than 91,000 dams in the United States. The average age is 61 years. For about one-third of those, the failure would result in loss of life and significant economic loss and environmental damage.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act included hundreds of millions of dollars for dam safety, which was welcome, but a minuscule amount of what we need to do when there is about \$76 billion of immediate need dealing with dam safety.

There are some very cost-effective solutions. One of them we pioneered in the Pacific Northwest, which is just re-

moving the dam. In 2012 and 2014, we transformed the ecosystem of the Elwha River in Washington, the largest dam removal in American history, and we are currently working on an even larger project, with four dams being removed on the Klamath River in southern Oregon and northern California.

Dam removal is much more cost-effective. I have worked on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to try to have a system where anytime a dam removal was more cost-effective than trying to renovate it that it would be authorized.

We are looking at the changing landscape, the problems with the Colorado River, where the dams no longer have intakes where they will be able to get the water out. We are looking at dead pools being formed along the Colorado River.

We have to rethink the way that hydrology works, the dam works. Climate change has radically adjusted our notion of what we can and should do with them for the future.

This is but one example of a simple, commonsense, direct effort that we should take that will save lives, save money, and regenerate the environment, as we are going to see in the Klamath River Basin.

Working with Native Americans on nature-based solutions for climate challenges, we are all going to be better off, and then we can perhaps stay away from the sideshows here that are entertaining but don't get us anywhere.

SELF-INFLICTED CALAMITIES

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin described the limitations of any deliberative body in his closing speech to the Constitutional Convention. He said: "When you assemble a number of men to have the advantage of their joint wisdom, you inevitably assemble with those men all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests, and their selfish views. From such an assembly can a perfect production be expected?"

We have certainly approached these limits in our deliberations in recent days, and I pause for a moment to assess where we are and where we are going. The Roman Empire fell for many reasons, but the two most prominent were that it destroyed its economy by overspending and failed to secure its borders.

Clearly, these two self-inflicted calamities are converging right now upon our country, and we are fast running out of time to avert them. For this reason, House Republicans have sought, with the most slender of majorities, to reverse these policies, albeit imperfectly.

A few weeks ago, we passed H.R. 2, the strongest border security bill in a