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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 5, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL CLOUD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

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.

POLITICAL VINDICTIVENESS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, many years ago there was a rule adopted called the Holman rule. It allows the arbitrary and capricious cutting of a salary if you don't agree with what the person does. It is somewhat like if the Speaker of the House, who didn't like a vote of one of the Members, could cut their salary to \$1. Now, there are a number of citizens who would probably like that, but in fact it would be un-

fair, capricious, and undermining of our democracy.

Punishing someone for a difference of opinion is the antithesis of American democracy. For years, however, Republicans have made it their policy to vilify Federal workers. The Holman rule is their tool of choice. They use it as an instrument of political vengeance to cut the salaries of specific Federal officials who don't share their partisan agenda; not for misfeasance or malfeasance, but because they didn't agree.

In the past 2 months, Republicans used the Holman rule to advance 64 amendments targeting individual Federal workers. Fifty-five of those were voted on. Two were withdrawn, and all 53 were defeated. What it is essentially pandering to their rightwing, to allow their rightwing to pretend that they are doing policy. Every one of them has been defeated by over 250 votes.

They have wasted over 9 hours of floor time on these pointless amendments, time that we could have and should have spent funding our government, time that we should have spent funding Ukraine, our ally, which is under siege from a dictator who has broken international law. Yet, we vote on reducing salaries to \$1. How capricious.

They are about settling political vendettas. It is sheer, petty, and irrational political posturing.

Among those Federal officials singled out were the FDA officials tasked with ensuring the safety of America's medicine and food. There was no finding that they weren't doing that properly. It was just because they didn't like the policy.

Others were Federal employees who administer crucial food assistance programs and other services upon which American people rely.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans also took aim at DOD, Homeland Security, cybersecurity, and infrastructure secu-

rity agencies. These men and women are in charge of promoting military readiness, gathering vital intelligence, and protecting our national security. There were no arguments that they weren't performing those services. It was that Republicans didn't like the policies.

Trying to eliminate their pay signals to America and to the world that their essential work, their services don't matter. It also gives the answer to what Texas Congressman CHIP ROY said, that the Republicans have not done anything. CHIP ROY, a Republican, a conservative.

Republicans attack Federal employees only to advance extreme policies that are out of step with the American people, from restricting reproductive care to undermining diversity and inclusion efforts. Their vindictive behavior is nothing new.

In 2017, House Republicans tried using the Holman rule to eliminate one-third of the Congressional Budget Office's staff, a nonpartisan, impartial agency. Why? It was because they didn't like the scores their bills were receiving. They didn't say they were wrong, but they said they didn't like them, and they had a way to go beyond them to fund projects they wanted to fund or policies they wanted to pursue.

The people responsible for government oversight and transparency should not have to face reprisals for their thorough and objective work. That is no way to run a country. No business on Earth would conduct itself in this way. No employer that threatens to cut its employees' pay to \$1 on a whim can expect to recruit and retain top talent. They would simply walk out the door, and properly so.

The Holman rule is not only vindictive, as I said, but it endangers our democracy and our separation of powers. It is part of the politics of vindictiveness, the so-called revenge tour President Trump promises to unleash on

□ 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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America. It is just another way he and his followers can, in his own words, and I quote Mr. Trump: "root out the . . . radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country."

What kind of rhetoric is that? What kind of objective is that for somebody who might responsibly be the head of the greatest government on Earth?

Though these amendments have no chance of becoming law, we must not ignore them.

They force our Government to serve the political interests of their authors.

Instead, we must allow our Government to serve the people.

Thank you, and I yield back.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LAURA LYNN MCCORKLE MILLER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Laura Lynn McCorkle Miller of Shellman Bluff and Savannah.

Laura Lynn was raised in Valdosta and graduated from both Valdosta High School and Valdosta State University.

She began her career as a social worker with the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services but left for the joy of being a mother. While raising her daughter, she began working part time with Eldercare of Valdosta, providing home care to the elderly and physically disabled.

Within 2 years of starting with Eldercare, she and her husband purchased the company. They rapidly expanded it into all corners of the State as well as the Southern region. The Miller family's impact on the home healthcare industry cannot be understated. Through her work with the elderly community, she led the charge for State licensing of home healthcare in 1993.

She remained active in the community by serving her synagogues in Valdosta and Savannah.

Laura Lynn is survived by her husband of over 50 years, Martin Miller; her daughter, Maura Miller; and two grandchildren.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Miller family during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING KEVIN EXLEY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Kevin Exley, who was recently elected city councilman for the city of Rincon on September 21, 2023.

The city of Rincon opened polls up for a special election to fill an empty city council seat following Damon Rahn's departure in June. Now, thanks to Kevin Exley, that seat is occupied.

Exley has made it known that he wants to focus on updating ordinances, adjusting term limits, and adding some neighborhood safety measures.

Rincon's special election was indeed special. September 19 started out with only a few voters but quickly grew to hundreds showing up to cast their ballots.

This is a story of redemption for Exley. He served on the council from 2019 to 2020 but vacated his post soon thereafter. The road back to city council was just the beginning. Exley plans to run for mayor in the 2025 election again.

I congratulate Kevin. I know he will serve the city of Rincon well.

REMEMBERING HUBERT GINN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Hubert Ginn, who passed away on September 21 at the age of 76.

Hubert played college football at Florida A&M University, and after a successful career was drafted into the National Football League. He was a two-time Super Bowl champion, playing as a running back for the legendary 1972 undefeated Miami Dolphins as well as the Baltimore Colts and Oakland Raiders.

His family and friends remember him as an amazing father, brother, son, and man with so much love for his community and people around him. Hubert will be remembered by many for being an upstanding role model and for his talents on and off the football field.

My deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends.

GUYTON ELEMENTARY AWARDED LITERACY LEADER BANNER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Guyton Elementary on being awarded the Literacy Leader banner. Guyton, an Effingham County elementary school, has been recognized for their strides in increasing literacy among its students.

To be awarded the banner, a school's literacy test scores must be above 90 percent, or it must rise by more than 15 percent. Only around 200 of Georgia's 2,300 schools are being given this award.

One of the main drivers of Guyton's increased literacy rates comes from its third graders, whose reading scores jumped by more than 16 percent. We are so proud to see such a great improvement for the students at Guyton Elementary, and I cannot think of a more deserving group.

I look forward to seeing continued growth and more accomplishments from our amazing students at Guyton Elementary.

HONORING UCLA CHANCELLOR CHARLES YOUNG

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of UCLA Chancellor Charles Young, who passed away at the age of 91.

For 29 years, Chancellor Young led UCLA, America's premier research institution. He transformed UCLA from a regional collegiate university to the powerhouse that it is today.

He took over at UCLA at the age of 36, making him the youngest chan-

cellor in University of California history. He was the first UCLA alumnus to hold that top position on campus. Under his leadership, UCLA's annual operating budget grew tenfold, to \$1.7 billion, and undergraduate enrollment exploded.

Chancellor Young was a staunch supporter of making higher education accessible to all. He championed diversity at the university and led UCLA through a very difficult social unrest period.

We will forever remember Chancellor Young for his contribution to this country. Go Bruins.

CELEBRATING ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Enrique Hernandez, a beloved member of our Orange County community.

Enrique was born in 1937 in Jalisco, Mexico. He worked as a construction laborer, specializing in concrete and asphalt. He was a man who took pride in his work. Enrique didn't know how to do less than his very best every day.

Enrique loved watching lucha libre matches and telling stories about his time in Jalisco, Mexico, and the small ranch where he grew up.

He also loved to talk about his love life. He was married to Edelmira for 65 years. Their legacy includes 7 children, 22 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. Enrique's five siblings carry on his tradition of being great storytellers.

We honor Enrique for his service to our community and to his beautiful family.

□ 1015

PROTECTING OUR ELECTIONS

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Confidence in Elections Act, the most transformative election integrity bill to be considered in the House in decades.

Over the summer, the American Confidence in Elections Act, or ACE Act, passed out of the Committee on House Administration.

The ACE Act equips States with election integrity tools, implements key reforms in D.C., and protects political speech.

In examining history, precedent, the Framers' words, debates concerning ratification, the Supreme Court, and our Constitution, we know the division of power between States and the Federal Government provides Congress with a limited oversight of Federal elections.

With this responsibility, we created the American Confidence in Elections Act to help ensure that States are best equipped with the tools they need to perform successful election administration.

As Florida's former secretary of state, I oversaw elections as our State's chief election official.