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No. 60

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 9, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE EZELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, 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.

GREEN NEW DEAL POLICIES HURT AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as I travel throughout central

and western Pennsylvania, I hear from constituents about the struggle to find electric vehicle charging stations and how they are often forced to wait hours for a charge when traveling long distances.

Situations like this highlight the fact that our electric grid infrastructure is not prepared to handle President Biden's reckless electric vehicle mandates. These mandates would force more than two-thirds of new vehicles sold by 2033 to be electric.

Despite more than 75 percent of Americans' strong opposition to EV mandates, the Biden administration is continuing its brutal attempts to force Pennsylvania families to purchase cars that they do not want to purchase and vehicles that they cannot afford.

Last year, 92 percent of vehicles purchased were gas-powered cars, trucks, and SUVs. Complying with these backward regulations would require a 600 percent increase in the sale of electric vehicles within the next 8 years.

We know that these vehicles cannot handle the rugged terrain and the harsh winters that we see in Pennsylvania. It is time to put a stop to Green New Deal policies that will strain our electric grid, make travel unaffordable and unattainable, and ultimately hurt all American families.

HOLD SECRETARY MAYORKAS ACCOUNTABLE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will send impeachment articles against Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to the Senate.

By failing to follow the law and by failing to secure our borders, Secretary Mayorkas has put Pennsylvania families at risk and jeopardized our national security.

Since Secretary Mayorkas was sworn into office, we have had 9 million encounters nationwide with illegal immigrants, 1.8 million known got-aways, and over 340 encounters with individuals who we know are on the terrorist watch list.

This continued security and humanitarian crisis is the result of the open-border policies implemented by Secretary Mayorkas using his parole authority, which should only be used on a case-by-case basis to grant parole for millions of illegal immigrants, including entire nations and classes of people.

By Mayorkas ending the remain in Mexico policy and returning to catch-and-release procedures, the Secretary has failed in his duty to protect the United States of America.

It is time for the Senate to hold a full and complete trial. The American people deserve accountability for these reckless actions that have put all American citizens in harm's way.

CONNECTICUT IS WORLD'S BASKETBALL CAPITAL

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise with an enormous sense of pride today. April 9 is my mother Pauline Nolan Larson's birthday. She would be 99 today, and I am sure she is smiling down on this magnificent day when we also celebrate Connecticut being the basketball capital of the world with Connecticut's UConn Huskies now winning back-to-back national championships and both the men and women going to the Final Four.

I won't go into the call on Friday night, but I will just say that Geno Auriemma and the women's team were outstanding, and Dan Hurley and the men's basketball team deserve all the credit in the world.

When you see JOE COURTNEY on the floor, Mr. Speaker, recognize his district in Storrs, Connecticut, as the basketball capital of the world.

I especially commend Dan Hurley for the shout-out he gave to all the former

□ 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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players and former coaches, from Dee Rowe to Dom Perno and Kevin Ollie, and, of course, the house that Jim Calhoun built, bringing those initial championships to Connecticut, and nobody has won more basketball championships than Geno Auriemma and the women's team, as well.

Connecticut rightfully deserves that. We are so proud of everything that they have done, and we commend and congratulate them.

ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am also here to discuss Social Security.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, more than 70 million Americans are on Social Security and receive it. Yet, Congress, Mr. Speaker, has not acted since 1971 to enhance and improve anything about Social Security.

For the people in our audience today, they have to be scratching their heads and saying: What is this? Why is it that for 40 percent of all people on Social Security, it is the only pension benefit that they have, and every day 10,000 fellow Americans become eligible for Social Security, but Congress has not voted to enhance Social Security in more than 50 years?

It is long overdue. We have a proposal not to cut Social Security and not to raise the age. For every year you raise the age for Social Security, Mr. Speaker, that is a 7 percent cut in benefits.

Does it make any sense to say people are living longer, so we ought to raise the age so they can receive less the older they get? That makes no sense.

It is long overdue for Congress to take the steps and do what it should do. All the American people are asking is that we vote on their interest to increase Social Security, which hasn't been done since 1971.

We need to make sure that teachers, firefighters, and police officers see that WEP and GPO is repealed and paid for, that they get the benefits that they have been denied, and to make sure that people who are working currently and receiving Social Security don't pay tax on that Social Security.

Those are the things that we need to do to improve this program, which is the number one insurance program in the country. It is the number one program that prevents both the elderly from being impoverished and children from being impoverished.

Only in Congress do people sit here day after day and not take up the most important thing they can do on behalf of the American people to improve their lot in life.

As important as basketball championships are, Americans are having kitchen table discussion about: "What are we going to do, honey? Why hasn't Congress voted to make sure that we get a cost-of-living increase that actually reflects the cost of things today that we have to account for?"

Mr. Speaker, 1971, when Richard Nixon was President of the United

States, was the last time that Congress voted to enhance the Nation's number one insurance program. It is long overdue that Congress step up and make sure that we take these votes that will help every single American.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, while Women's History Month was in March, the impact that the women on the Education and the Workforce Committee have can be felt every day. I would like to take this time to highlight the accomplishments and legislative wins that Congresswomen on the Education and the Workforce Committee have secured.

When Congresswoman STEFANIK was elected in 2014, she was the youngest woman ever elected to Congress and is currently the youngest woman to serve in top House leadership. This Congress, she coauthored the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, which will tackle workforce gaps and equip students with transferable skills.

Congresswoman STEEL was the first Korean American to be elected to Congress and has continued to pave the way ever since. Her bill, the DETERRENT Act, passed the House and will prohibit foreign adversaries from using monetary incentives to infiltrate U.S. universities.

Congresswoman LETLOW is the first woman to represent Louisiana in the House in more than 30 years. As a former education professional, she saw the need to increase transparency and expand school choice options. She authored the Parents Bill of Rights Act to restore parents' presence in their children's education and the Empower Charter School Educators to Lead Act to aid the charter school application process.

Congresswoman HOUCHIN has been a leader in her community for years and served in the Indiana State Senate for 8 years before her time in Congress. Language from her Students Bill of Rights Act, which codifies free speech protections on college campuses, was recently passed by the committee.

Congresswoman MILLER of Illinois is a conservative champion, local farmer, and vice chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Her work on the Parents Bill of Rights Act was vital to its passage and enshrines parents' right to make decisions for their children. Additionally, her work to protect women's sports has been instrumental. She will lead a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the Biden administration's dangerous and unfair Title IX policies that allow biological males to compete in women's sports.

Before her time in Congress, Congresswoman McCLAIN spent more than 30 years growing her own successful

business from the ground up. She currently serves in House leadership and authored legislation to save taxpayers from Biden's \$559 billion student loan transfer scheme.

Prior to her time in Congress, Congresswoman CHAVEZ-DEREMER served as Happy Valley's first female and Latina mayor. She is the first Republican woman from Oregon elected to Congress. This Congress, her Health DATA Act was passed by the House to increase transparency in the health insurance marketplace.

This committee is dedicated to advancing opportunities for women both in the workplace and throughout their education. The remarkable women who serve on the committee play an indispensable role in that mission, and I thank them for their tireless work on behalf of the American people.

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OUTDOOR LEGACY PARTNERSHIP

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will consider the EXPLORE Act. It is a bipartisan bill that will improve outdoor access and recreation opportunities for Americans.

This legislation includes my bill, the Outdoors for All Act, which updates the Outdoor Legacy Partnership program and codifies it into law.

I am proud to lead this bipartisan bill with my House colleague, Representative MICHAEL TURNER. With Outdoors for All, we protect the urban park funding in the Outdoor Legacy Partnership program. We modernize the program to include Tribes, smaller cities, and to fully account for the benefit parks provide.

Access to urban parks and the outdoors is a bipartisan issue because every community wants parks for its residents. Urban parks are good for our economy, our environment, and our physical and mental health.

However, not every community has access to parks, especially low-income communities and communities of color. This is a challenge in my district in Los Angeles, where far too many kids cannot walk to a park.

Now, this disparity is personal. When I was a kid, I grew up in the Harbor Gateway. I had to take a bus to go to baseball practice because there was not a field I could walk to.

My district also includes the L.A. Harbor community of Wilmington, which has the highest concentration of refineries throughout California. Close to 20 percent of the total land area in Wilmington is occupied by refineries. For context, that is 3½ times more than is available for parks and outdoor space.

With passage of the Outdoors for All Act, we can fund new trails, parks, green spaces, and playgrounds to bring