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No. 106

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 25, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLIFF BENTZ 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, 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.

### NO AMERICAN CAN AFFORD THE COSTS AND RISKS OF AN OPEN BORDER

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 170,000 illegal immigrants crossed at our southern border.

More than the populations of the Pennsylvania counties of Mifflin, Perry, Juniata, Fulton, and Bedford combined crossed last month.

Instead of securing our border and protecting our sovereignty, President Biden has systematically destroyed the border security measures put in place by President Trump.

By ending the remain in Mexico policy, by instituting procedures to allow for mass asylum, and allowing those with suspected connections to terrorism to enter into our country, President Biden has put every American family at risk.

Pennsylvania families and no American can afford the costs and the risks of an open border.

It is time to pass legislation that fully funds our Border Patrol and equips them with the personnel, the tools, and the training that they need to confront the crisis that continues to this day at our southern border.

WE CANNOT PROTECT OUR NATION WITH FAILED LEADERSHIP

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as adversaries like Russia and North Korea continue to forge new relationships and as Iranian-backed terrorists continue to attack our ships in the Middle East, it has become clear that President Biden's weak and ineffective foreign policy has failed the American people.

From the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan to the inability to stop Chinese-led cyberattacks, President Biden has shown time and time again that he is not able to do the work that is required of the Commander in Chief.

We know that weakness only invites aggression, and under President Trump's leadership, our Nation was respected on the world stage. It is time to fulfill our commitment to creating a Nation that is safe and to provide our military with the support needed to protect, to train, to equip, and adequately pay our servicemembers.

We cannot protect our Nation with failed leadership, and we cannot keep Americans safe while President Biden continues to fail in his duty to deter our adversaries.

### IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for our Nation's children, which is Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to talk about why we need to vote in this Chamber and why we need to take action. Astoundingly, Congress hasn't taken action in over 53 years, which may surprise the members in the gallery and you as well, Mr. Speaker.

Richard Nixon was President of the United States the last time Congress enhanced Social Security. Congress is the only body that can do this. The President can't do it through executive order, and it is nothing that the Supreme Court is going to take up. Only Members of this institution can help out people.

There are more than 70 million Social Security recipients in the country today, Mr. Speaker. More than 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and we haven't enhanced a benefit for them in over 53 years.

Now, the Republican Study Committee has come up with a plan. They say what we need to do is cut \$1.5 trillion out of Social Security over the next 10 years, and they say they want to raise the age.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, for every year you raise the age, that is a 7 percent cut in benefits. Raising the age to 70 is a 21 percent across-the-board cut to people that haven't had a benefit enhancement since 1971.

I don't know how that makes any sense, given the needs of our senior citizens and also, quite frankly, given

☐ 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 needs of our children. Also, more veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA.

That is why we have proposed Social Security 2100, which will enhance Social Security across the board for everyone. Let no one work all their lives and retire into poverty.

Currently, more than 5.5 million people who have paid into Social Security and worked all their lives get below-poverty-level checks from the United States Government. That is unfair. That is unjust. That is wrong, and Congress needs to take action.

If you just want to say how much you like Social Security, but you don't have a plan and you don't want to vote, then you are not doing anything for Social Security and you are content with its cuts.

If you want a study commission as some have said, what is it that you are going to study? What is it that you don't know about the last 51 years? People at home at their kitchen tables pretty clearly know that Congress needs to act and enhance Social Security and increase the benefits that haven't been given to them in more than 53 years. It is outrageous.

More Americans need to know about it, but Congress needs to act. The Ways and Means Committee has cognizance over Social Security. We should be taking this up.

If you have got a better idea than our plan to enhance Social Security, by all means bring it out. By all means, let's have a debate on it. For God's sake, don't we owe the American people a vote? Aren't they entitled to know where their Members of Congress stand and what their plan is?

Mr. Speaker, it might amaze you to know that over 193,000 recipients of Social Security are in your district, and that brings in \$324 million monthly to your constituents.

Where do they spend that money? They spend it right back in the district at the local pharmacy, at the local grocery store, paying for their rent, their mortgages, putting gas in their automobile. This is one of the best economic development programs that every Member of Congress benefits from and their constituents as well.

It is long overdue for the United States Congress to act. All we are asking for is to put out your plan and have a vote.

#### RECOGNIZING KERMIT WOMACK, A LEGEND IN ARKANSAS BROADCASTING

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a legend in Arkansas broadcasting who has decided to retire after more than 70 years of outstanding service to the industry, and the last nearly 45 years as the owner and operator of KURM Radio in Rogers, Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, he is not just a career broadcaster, he is my father, Kermit Womack, or "The Colonel," as we all know him.

Kermit grew up in rural Arkansas just outside the small town of Danville. It should be noted that on that little farm in the Ranger community, he didn't enjoy the modern conveniences of life: no electricity, no indoor plumbing, no car.

He picked cotton for mere dollars a day to earn money to buy school clothes. My dad knew what it was like to be poor.

Dad was a great speaker. Through the FFA organization, he competed in public speaking. It was that gift that gave him an opportunity to go to college, and it was in college that he joined the Army ROTC program.

Commissioned in 1957, the year I was born, my dad began a 36-year career in the National Guard. He also worked at the local radio station in Russellville to help support his family.

His broadcast career took him to Lexington, Missouri, for 5 years, then to Moberly, Missouri, for 11 years. It was there at KWIX/KRES in Moberly that he became the broadcast voice of the local junior college basketball team.

The Moberly Greyhounds, under Cotton Fitzsimmons, won two national titles during that time, both in 1966 and '67, with Kermit providing the description for the fans unable to make the trip. As sales manager, he practiced and he perfected the kind of radio that reflected the interests of his area.

In 1973, Kermit returned to Arkansas and became the general manager of the station where it all began: KXRJ, now KARV. There he brought true community involvement radio to that region. He was even the play-by-play voice for my high school football games. I cherish those recordings.

Soon Kermit began to yearn for his own station and in 1979, we founded KURM Radio in Rogers, Arkansas. On November 9, 1979, at noon, KURM took the air for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, in the last nearly 45 years, KURM has been the regional voice of northwest Arkansas, southwest Missouri, and northeast Oklahoma with its booming AM signal. In the early years, he added FM service as well.

Local talk shows like a free want-ad program "Dial-A-Trade," his personal talk show "Party Line," and his unique style of broadcasting covering local events, daily news, weather, and sports, with a special emphasis on production agriculture, has been so vital to our local economy. You would hear him, live weekly, broadcasting from the local cattle auction.

KURM was unique. No other station did what KURM did, but it was hard work and required dedicated people to perform such a unique service.

Mr. Speaker, times have changed. The habits of consumers have changed. As time has marched on, the respon-

sibilities fell more and more on The Colonel and very recently at 89 years of age, health issues have begun to catch up with him.

So, come Monday, this Monday, July 1, The Colonel will sign off for the final time, and KURM, the last of a vanishing breed of stations, will retire with him. It will mark the end of an era, and it will most certainly leave a void for his listeners.

Today, Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but a grateful heart that I recognize and congratulate my dad, Kermit Womack, for his contributions to the broadcast industry and the communities he has called home. It will be sad not to hear his signature signoff: Agree or disagree, we are still going to be friends. You take care. Have yourselves a great day. We love you.

The Bible says in the Book of Matthew: "Well done, good and faithful servant." That is a fitting Scripture for a man who has given more than 70 years of his life to his community and Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I will say to my dad: Colonel, we are proud of you. We are going to miss your service to your country and your fellow man. May God richly bless you in retirement.

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#### FAIRNESS IN REDISTRICTING

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, last week, I joined the All Veteran Group to raise awareness and draw attention to my bill, the FAIR MAPS Act, by skydiving from 14,000 feet in Cumberland County, North Carolina, just outside of Fort Liberty. I was proud to elevate the issue of partisan gerrymandering to new heights and call out the need for fair maps in North Carolina and across the country.

My bill, the FAIR MAPS Act, combats partisan gerrymandering by establishing independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions in every State. The FAIR MAPS Act has the potential to double the number of competitive House seats. If signed into law, that is a big deal.

In North Carolina and across the country, partisan gerrymandering has been used as a tool by politicians to manipulate the outcomes with surgical precision. Gerrymandering disenfranchises voters and leads to hyper-partisanship. It is the main reason we are on track to be the least productive Congress in our Nation's history.

It is simple. Voters should choose their politicians, not the other way around. While my name won't be on the ballot this year, I am not giving up or going out quietly. I am going to do everything I can to fight for fair maps, end partisan gerrymandering, and protect the right to vote for every single North Carolinian.