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No. 6

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 11, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRANDON WILLIAMS 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 11:50 a.m.

### WASTEWATER SEWAGE IS AN EMBARRASSMENT

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address an issue that may not be on the top of the agenda for most politicians in Washington but could very well be the greatest ongoing environmental disaster in the United States today. I am referring to the billions of gallons of raw wastewater sewage, industrial waste, and other pollutants that flow from Mexico down the Tijuana River into San Diego and onto our beaches.

Those flows sicken our communities, they shutter our local businesses, they harm our tourism industry, and they threaten our servicemembers and Border Patrol agents stationed in San Diego.

The solution is simple. The United States owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant on our side of the border that in the past decades has not been maintained and is in desperate need of repair and expansion to handle the flows. President Biden included \$310 million in his supplemental funding request that would make those repairs and upgrades possible. It is not a small price, but is there any more worthy investment than in the health of our constituents?

Air quality monitors that were recently installed in the region have confirmed what residents have felt for years—that unhealthy levels of pollution are present not only in the ocean, but sewage that washes up on land dries up and is sending dangerous levels of hydrogen sulfide into the air around people's homes.

Many of the communities hit hardest by this are low income and communities of color. I can't help but think that if this was happening somewhere that wasn't 3,000 miles from here like the Chesapeake Bay or even the Great Lakes, it would already have been taken care of.

The public health disaster alone should be enough to force action. The harm it causes our local small businesses alone should be enough to force action. But in addition to all of that, the cross-border pollution poses a grave national security threat.

Coronado, which is in my district, is home to the Naval Special Warfare Command where Navy SEALs train in waters polluted with human feces. I am proud to represent these brave warfighters, but I am ashamed that we have not done more to protect their health.

Everyone expects this training to be tough and uncomfortable, but it should not pose potential long-term health problems.

Some former SEALs who now serve in Congress—all Republicans, by the way—have told me about the disgusting waters they had to train in, and I am thankful to have their support to get this funding.

Now, we know that Mexico must also do its part, and much of their infrastructure has also fallen into disrepair. The good news is that Mexico is bound by a treaty we signed in San Diego in 2022 to spend nearly \$150 million to fix their pipes and their treatment plant. That is on top of the \$2 million plus that Mexico pays the United States annually to treat these contaminated waters.

Mexico, to its credit, has made great strides in the last year on their side of the border. They have repaired and replaced key infrastructure like sewage pipes that redirect the contaminated water. And just today, January 11, they are breaking ground on replacing the wastewater treatment plant on their side of the border that has been broken, as well.

We should be embarrassed—embarrassed—that Mexico is acting with more urgency than we are.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this is an urgent public health, business, and national security disaster. The more we delay in addressing cross-border pollution, the more costly and difficult it will be to fix it in the future.

I urge all my colleagues to support this funding, and I ask that congressional leadership and appropriators include this funding in any upcoming spending package.

### KANSAS COLD

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

□ 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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Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the farmers and ranchers whose work does not stop. Even in the face of extreme freezing temperatures and abnormal snowfall, Kansans are standing strong and getting the job done.

The Big First District of Kansas is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the country. It is home to more than 60,000 farms and ranches and is made up of farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, nutritionists, ethanol producers, ag lenders, millers, and agribusiness owners who feed, clothe, and fuel the world.

I grew up in the Big First, and I spent thousands of hours on a tractor in fields and on horseback doctoring cattle in our family's feed yard. I know well agriculture's working conditions are demanding on a good day but especially so when our business partner, Mother Nature, is as unforgiving as she has been lately.

In the past few days, parts of Kansas have seen 15-plus inches of snow, electricity outages for days, and road closures that stretch from every corner of the State. But those who stand with snow up to their knees in the depths of winter or haul water in the drought of summer know agriculture does not take days off. In fact, in weather like this, producers work even harder to keep livestock and commodities safe and secure. No matter the temperature, they go to work long before most of us are awake and stay out until many of us have already laid down our heads at night.

They are the people volunteering their time to move snow at nearby feed lots so cattle can continue to be fed and watered. They are the people hauling new cows on their truck floorboards out of snowbanks and onto dryer ground. They are the people breaking ice at all hours of the day. They are the men and women staying up through the night so a baby animal gets a shot at life, a piece of equipment is ready to go early the next morning, the neighboring producer has the help they need to milk their herds, and so people like you and I have a safe and secure food supply.

As many across the country have learned in the past few years, our food does not come from a grocery store shelf. The importance of agriculture in the food supply chain cannot be overstated. This supply chain represents millions of people working every day in the U.S. It begins with farmers, ranchers, and growers, and it includes food processors and manufacturers, millers, shippers, transportation workers, and, finally, those working in grocery stores and restaurants all across the country. Each of these people are vital in ensuring we have food on our plates.

While most of us in the Big First of Kansas know how important agriculture is, I know that message can sometimes get lost on the way to the grocery store. So on behalf of all of Kansans and Americans, I sincerely

thank the farmers, ranchers, and producers who supply our food, fuel, and fiber. I thank them for pulling the baby calf out of the snowbank and nursing it back to life. I thank them for busting ice early and feeding hay late. I thank them for putting the needs of their livestock before themselves. I thank them for their never-ending, back-breaking days. I thank them especially on cold days for working so hard for the extra hours and extra strength. Their efforts keep all of us warm and fed.

It is an honor to represent them in the House of Representatives on the House Agriculture Committee. May God bless them and keep everybody safe.

#### COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day and honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This is an important day to Michigan's 12th District Strong. It is a reminder of the legacy of a man who dedicated his last breath to the pursuit of equality and justice for all.

I am honored, Mr. Speaker, to represent the most beautiful, Blackest city in the country, the city of Detroit, where we birth movements, where every corner reminds us of the civil rights movement, of the labor movement.

Dr. King knew the struggles to end racism, poverty, and war were all interconnected, as well, and 2 weeks before he was assassinated, Dr. King speaking to sanitation workers on strike said: "All labor has dignity . . . You are reminding the Nation that it is a crime for people to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages."

As we strive to make Dr. King's dream a reality, may we continue to fight for justice for all.

#### SOUTH AFRICA'S GENOCIDE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today South Africa will present its case against the Israeli Government at the International Court of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the link for the case: <https://d12t4t5x3vyizu.cloudfront.net/tlaib.house.gov/uploads/2024/01/192-20231228-app-01-00-en.pdf>

It is incredibly powerful to witness people who defeated apartheid in their own country hold the Israeli apartheid regime accountable for its crime of genocide in Gaza.

Today, I am thinking of Nelson Mandela's powerful words: "We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."

In the past 3 months, Israeli forces have killed over 23,350 Palestinians, including more than 9,600 children. They have injured more than 59,400 Palestinians. More than 8,000 Palestinians are still missing under the rubble.

This week, Secretary of State Blinken called the case meritless. Let me read directly from the case file starting on page 59: "Expressions of Genocidal Intent Against the Palestinian People by Israeli State Officials and Others" so you can hear directly from the Israeli officials in their own words, not mine.

President Herzog said: "It's an entire nation out there that is responsible. It's not true this rhetoric about civilians not aware not involved. It is absolutely not true. . . and we will fight until we break their backbone."

He is one of the many Israeli officials to have handwritten messages on the bombs to be dropped on the children of Gaza.

Netanyahu said in his own words: "A struggle between the children of light and the children of darkness, between humanity and the law of the jungle." And he continues to say: "This is a battle not only of Israel against these barbarians, it's a battle of civilization against barbarism."

Israel's Minister of Defense said: "imposing a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals . . ." Again, that is a direct quote from the Minister of Defense.

He continues on to say: "Gaza won't return to what it was before. We will eliminate everything."

Israeli Minister for National Security—again, an official within the Israeli Government—speaking of those living in Gaza said: ". . . they're all terrorists, and they should also be destroyed."

Israeli Minister of Energy and Infrastructure said: "All the civilian population in Gaza is ordered to leave immediately. . . . They will not receive a drop of water or a single battery until they leave the world."

Israeli Minister of Heritage said: "The north of the Gaza Strip, more beautiful than ever. Everything is blown up and flattened, simply a pleasure for the eyes . . . we will hand over lots to all those who fought for Gaza over the years."

I am not done. The Israeli Minister of Agriculture said: "[w]e are now actually rolling out the Gaza Nakba."

Deputy Speaker of the Knesset said: ". . . we all have one common goal—erasing the Gaza Strip from the face of the Earth. Those who are unable will be replaced."

Israeli Army Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories speaking of the Palestinians living in Gaza said: "Human animals are dealt with accordingly."

The Israeli Army Reservist said: ". . . don't leave anyone behind. Erase the memory of them. Erase them, their families, mothers and children. These animals can no longer live. . . . Let them drop bombs on them and erase them."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the entire South African genocide case