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No. 23

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 4, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NICHOLAS J. BEGICH, III 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 3, 2025, 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.

AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, throughout the last years, the Biden administration waged war on our domestic energy sector, raising prices for each and every American.

This week, House Republicans will vote on the Protecting American Energy Production Act to ensure that States keep control of hydraulic

fracking and that our energy resources continue to flow.

Following President Trump's flurry of executive orders to secure our domestic energy production, my colleagues and I in the House will continue to unleash American energy so that we can lower prices, attain energy independence, and create good-paying jobs for Americans.

HONORING WINELL ZAITZ FARM

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Winell Zaitz Farm for being recognized as one of Pennsylvania's Century Farms.

The Zaitz Farm, purchased in 1875, spans 129 acres and is now being passed down to the family's fifth generation. Carol and her family continue to farm the land, which includes a historic farmhouse built before the Civil War and a barn from 1880.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Carol Winell Zaitz and her entire family on their family farm's designation as a Century Farm. I thank them for their enduring commitment to one of our State's most vital industries, and that is agriculture.

HONORING PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE'S CENTENNIAL

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Founded as a Presbyterian home, doors were opened in 1925 to 22 women and quickly expanded over the following decades to include men, women, and couples.

Having treated residents at this facility, I have seen the dedication of the entire staff who ensure accessibility to the services and the resources that are essential in our seniors' lives.

Always showing our fellow community members love and respect, I congratulate the Presbyterian Village for

a century of commitment to the Blair County community.

FBI DESERVES OUR SUPPORT

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, it is evident to me that 2 weeks into the new administration, we no longer have a Congress and that we no longer take care that laws be faithfully executed.

We passed a law that says TikTok must either be sold or be shut down, but that doesn't matter. It will not be shut down. The Constitution of the United States says that birthright citizenship is a fundamental constitutional right, but that doesn't matter. Apparently, it is not.

We have happily given up the power of the purse. USAID is a legally established organization, whatever you may think of it. We have given up the power of the purse.

Mr. Speaker, what we cannot give up in this institution is our obligation to keep the American people safe, safe from terrorism, safe from gang violence, safe from fentanyl. What concerns me as the ranking member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, much of what I am seeing out there is the attack, the purge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI, which Americans know is the premier law enforcement agency on this planet. Thousands of FBI agents go to work every single day, going after fentanyl dealers, going after violent crime, uncovering terrorist plots. I tell you this as a person who represents a district that was badly hurt on 9/11.

It is now part of the catechism of the Republican Party in the House and the Senate that the FBI is a corrupt and evil organization that must be turned on its head and that people who have dedicated their lives to the service of keeping Americans safe must be fired.

□ 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. Speaker, the list is unbelievable: Executive Assistant Director Tim Dunham, 22 years of service; EAD Bobby Wells, 21 years of service; EAD Mike Nordwall, 22 years of dedicated service; Jackie Maguire, 24 years of dedicated service; Ryan Young—I could go on for my full 5 minutes of senior people who have been told that they must either resign from the FBI or be fired.

We hear that the FBI is being told that anyone who worked on the January 6 prosecutions, when this building was attacked and 140 police officers were assaulted, that they must be on a list, undoubtedly for retribution.

What does the FBI actually do? In June of 2024, the FBI arrested several people with suspected ISIS ties; October 2024, the FBI arrested an Afghan national for plotting a terrorist attack in the name of ISIS on election day. This goes on and on. The FBI investigated the assassination attempt on President Trump. Every day, all day, FBI agents are out there keeping us safe.

Why this attack on the FBI? I heard my colleague, JIM JORDAN, just this weekend on Fox News once again promoting the conspiracy theory that the FBI was somehow involved in the attack on this Capitol on January 6. That is false.

Yes, there were 26 confidential human sources. These are people who know drug dealers and terrorists that the FBI talks to. Not one of them was authorized to break any law or to participate in January 6. There were no undercover FBI agents here in the Capitol on January 6. Yet, this continues because Donald Trump insists that that conspiracy theory animated rage against the FBI.

I am the ranking member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and we can get away with a lot of foolish things in this institution, but keep up the attacks on the FBI, keep it up, because there will be terrorist attacks. There will be an increase in drug deaths. There will be an increase in violent crime, and I promise you, Mr. Speaker, I will stand right here to hold those accountable for the attack on this storied American institution and the carnage it will visit on the American people if this keeps up.

The FBI deserves our support. They are not perfect, but they go to work every single day to keep our people safe. It is time for the majority in this Chamber to stop their attacks on these patriotic Americans.

HONORING GROUNDHOG DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Groundhog Day, a special tradition spearheaded in my district and celebrated not just nationwide but world-

wide, having folks who attended from over 120 different countries and every State in the Nation.

This past Sunday, February 2, I was proud to join over 50,000 people, families from across the country, as we eagerly waited to see if spring was on the way or if 6 more weeks of winter awaited. Each year, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, crowds gather at Gobbler's Knob on the night of February 1 awaiting the appearance of our famed weather predictor, Punxsutawney Phil.

I recognize and thank one of the hardest-working, most reliable job producers in my district, Phil himself. Year after year, his dedication to forecasting the end of winter brings joy not just to the Pennsylvania 15th Congressional District but to people across the country.

For more than 130 years, this beloved tradition, rooted in Pennsylvania's strong German heritage, has captured our imagination. As the legend goes, if Phil sees his shadow, we are in for 6 more weeks of winter. If not, spring is right around the corner.

The excitement begins the night before, as visitors gather to wake Phil with chants of his name in the early morning hours of February 2. When our esteemed seer of seers emerges, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle President interprets Phil's forecast and shares the news with the eager crowd. Despite some naysayers who suggest replacing Phil with an animatronic groundhog, a gold coin, or even worse, a cake, he remains a cherished figure.

Phil actually has a condominium, so to speak, in the Punxsutawney Library where he lives with his wife, Phyllis, and their two children, now teenagers, who were born earlier this year.

I believe in creating jobs, not eliminating them, and that includes our most famous furry forecaster. I will always stand up for the hardworking men and women, and, yes, rodents, of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

Beyond the fun and folklore, Groundhog Day is an event that brings people together, strengthens community spirit, and serves as an economic boost for the region. It is a celebration of tradition and a source of great pride.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Phil for sharing his wisdom and bringing smiles to so many. However, standing on stage with the inner circle and looking out over the 50,000 people when he announced 6 more weeks of winter, maybe people weren't smiling quite as much this year.

ELIMINATING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, NBC News is reporting that President Trump plans to eliminate the Department of Education with an executive order. This is an assault on every

young American who went to public school like me.

This is an assault on every American family who has someone who is disabled and needs the IDEA program to provide education. This is an assault on every neighborhood in America that has a public school that gets title I funding. This is an assault on every child who gets school lunches in America.

This is an assault on our public teachers across this country. This is an assault on every American who has gotten any Federal financial aid to go to vocational school or to go to public college or to get an education like I did.

The President does not have the Constitutional authority to do this. It is cruelty. It is taking away the bedrock of education in this country.

Thomas Jefferson said that you can't have a democracy without an educated citizenry. What built America, what made us exceptional, is that we allowed Americans to go and finish high school before World War II while the Europeans didn't. Mr. Speaker, America had a record of 80 percent high school graduations compared to 20 and 30 percent in the European nations.

President Trump wants to take all of that away, snatching money from our public schools, snatching money from our teachers, and snatching money from our families who have kids who need the help.

Mr. Speaker, we need to rise up and oppose this blatantly unconstitutional executive order. We need to stand up for public education in America.

□ 1215

OPPOSING TARIFFS ON FOOD PRODUCTS

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose Donald Trump's reckless tariffs on food products.

I am for strategic tariffs to protect our strategic industries in steel, aluminum, and semiconductors and our national champions.

We know, from Hamilton to Paul Krugman, that tariffs work for infant industries and important national industries, but who thinks we need tariffs for Corona beer? Who thinks we need tariffs for vegetables?

Here is what we get from Mexico. We get 85 percent of our strawberries from Mexico. Donald Trump put a 25 percent tariff on it. We get 86 percent of our tomatoes from Mexico. Donald Trump put a 25 percent tariff on it. We get 69 percent of vegetable imports from Mexico. We get 90 percent of our avocados from Mexico. Donald Trump put a 25 percent tariff on it.

So much for lowering grocery prices, Mr. Trump. You want Americans to pay 25 percent more for their avocados, for their strawberries, for their beer. In what world does this economic nonsense make any logical sense?

Then, you caved to the President of Mexico, President Sheinbaum and caved to Prime Minister Trudeau because you saw the stock market dip.