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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON DC,
February 10, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH 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.

FOSTERING A PROSPEROUS AMERICA

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during the last 5 months of President Biden's term, he imposed more than 1,500 regulations on the American people. Our policies should be focused on fostering economic growth for small businesses, not weighing them down with more regulations.

This week, the House will vote on the Midnight Rules Relief Act. This legis-

lation gives Congress the ability to overturn multiple regulations in one action.

Immediately after President Trump was sworn in, he got to work. He got to work improving government efficiency, and now it is time for my colleagues in the House and in the Senate to follow suit so that the American people can once again prosper.

PROTECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the last 4 years, our Nation saw millions of illegal aliens stream across our borders. In recent weeks, my colleagues and I in the House passed legislation to crack down on criminal aliens to better protect women and girls and to fight back against the fentanyl crisis.

Today, it is time to protect the brave law enforcement officers working to clean up our disastrous borders. H.R. 35, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, creates new criminal offenses for those who flee law enforcement at our borders and includes mandatory prison time for chases that cause the loss of human life.

This is commonsense legislation that will save the lives of our law enforcement officers and make the streets safe for all Americans. I look forward to supporting its passage here in the House and the positive impact that this legislation will have on all of America.

HONORING SHATZER FRUIT MARKET AND ORCHARDS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shatzer Fruit Market and Orchards in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, for their exceptional showing at the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Owned by fourth-generation growers Dwight and Lisa Mickey, the Shatzer Fruit Market won two best-of-class awards, in addition to more than three dozen first-place awards. Over the years, Shatzer's has won over 3,000 ribbons and prizes for its fruit entries.

Having personally visited Shatzer Fruit Market and Orchards, I have seen their enduring commitment to this industry and why they are a favored stop in Franklin County for delicious peaches and apples.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Shatzer Fruit Market and Orchards on their impressive showing at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, and I look forward to seeing their continued success in the orchards and in the marketplace.

TARIFFS AND ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the first week of President Trump's Presidency, he announced with great fanfare that he was imposing 25 percent tariffs on our neighbors, Canada to the north and Mexico to the south. The Wall Street Journal, hardly a Democratic newspaper, described this effort as the dumbest trade war ever.

It was dumb because, number one, it violated the trade agreement that President Trump himself signed into law in 2020, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Again, tariffs like that are completely violative of that agreement.

Number two, Canada and Mexico made it crystal clear that they would retaliate with tariffs of their own aimed at U.S. businesses and sectors of all sorts.

It is mostly dumb because it is going to raise prices for Americans, which I think most of us in this Chamber who were on the ballot last November can still remember that that was the number one issue that Americans had.

It is going to raise prices not just because I am saying it. The American

□ 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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Farm Bureau, which represents a cross-section of American food producers all across the country, warned the minute that proposal came out that it was going to raise the cost of fertilizer input costs that was going to end up in the grocery stores in terms of higher prices.

American Home Builders, hardly a Democratic group, warned that those tariffs were going to raise the costs of building materials, whether it was wood or metal materials. That is going to translate into higher prices for new homes, the last thing we need in the middle of a housing crisis.

Predictably, February 1, the first day the markets were open, the markets tanked in response to this proposal. Within hours, the President engaged in a face-saving measure to delay those tariffs for 30 days. They are still out there and pending. We will see what happens.

Yesterday, right before the Super Bowl, the President came out with another proposal of a 25 percent tariff on steel and aluminum indiscriminately across the globe to any and all countries who do business with the United States of America.

I want to talk about one Nation in particular, Australia. I co-chair the Friends of Australia Caucus. Today, the U.S. economy has a trade surplus with Australia. We export more into Australia than they export back to us. They have been a signatory with a free trade agreement with no tariffs going back to 2002.

Again, as Secretary of Defense Hegseth stated yesterday at the Pentagon, when he met with the Australia Deputy Prime Minister, our alliance between our two countries, going back to World War I, is probably the most deep and strong of any other Nation in the world.

At that meeting he was also there to receive word from the Australian Government that they are making the first payment on AUKUS, the Australia, U.K., and U.S. security agreement.

Australia is putting \$500 million into the U.S. industrial base to help our shipbuilding sector build more submarines, which is part of the AUKUS deal. It is a total of \$3 billion. Again, the first check was delivered on Friday by the Australian Government for \$500 million.

Two days later, what do we see? We see a 25 percent tariff on steel and aluminum products coming from Australia into the U.S. at a time when we have a surplus with Australia.

Australia is a key strategic ally for our country. They are positioned in the Indo-Pacific at a place where, again, tensions are sky-high. We need their input and their help in terms of making sure that we are going to rebalance that security environment and protect the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific.

Instead, what we are seeing is a completely needless insult to the people of Australia by raising tariffs on Australian products coming into this coun-

try at the same time we are working with them and they are buying three nuclear submarines, cash on the barrel-head, full price, no gimme, no give-away.

Again, by all the measurements that President Trump talks about trade issues and that we are being ripped off by other countries, in this case every one of those arguments fails. The Friends of Australia Caucus is a strong bipartisan caucus that actually understands the importance of Australia.

Again, we will do everything we can to make sure that this administration changes course and treats our friends and our allies with the respect that they deserve in terms of the contributions that they are making to their national security in a critical part of the world and our national security.

CONGRATULATING PHILADELPHIA EAGLE COOPER DeJEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, from 712 to 205 to the Super Bowl, former Iowa Hawkeye and current Philadelphia Eagle Cooper DeJean is now a world champion.

The rookie quarterback helped lead the Eagles to their second Super Bowl victory, returning his first professional career interception for a touchdown against the reigning champion Kansas City Chiefs.

If that wasn't special enough, it was also Coop's 22nd birthday. What a way to celebrate a birthday than with a first career interception to a touchdown and winning the Super Bowl.

Cooper, a proud native of Odebolt, Iowa, grew up wanting to be a University of Iowa Hawkeye player. He even wore shoes with the 712 area code during the biggest game of his life. During his time with the Hawkeyes, he earned All-American honors and was regarded as one of the Nation's best quarterbacks.

His NFL success comes as no surprise to those of us who watched him play in Iowa. With last night's performance, Cooper solidified his place as one of the greatest Hawkeyes ever, and he did it in his rookie season. All of Hawkeye Nation and Iowa are proud of Coop. He will always be a Hawkeye.

God bless and Go Hawks.

HONORING IOWA CITY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER AND HEIDI KAUFMAN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible work being done by Heidi Kaufman and the dedicated team at the Iowa City Veterans Administration Medical Center. Their innovative use of aromatherapy in the PACU, or post-anesthesia care unit, is transforming the recovery experience for our veterans.

Through their pioneering efforts, this team has introduced a noninvasive, natural solution to combat post-operative nausea and vomiting. In a re-

cent study, 12 out of 47 patients reported complete relief from nausea using only aromatherapy. Although that is a small amount, it is not pharmaceutical, it is nonaddictive, and the cost is extremely low.

This achievement is a testament to their compassion, skill, and commitment to improving patient care, and it can go far beyond the PACU. Heidi and her team have proven that sometimes the simplest solutions can make the most profound impact. Their work not only enhances the recovery process but also brings comfort and healing to those who have served our country.

We are deeply grateful for their dedication to our veterans and the innovative care they continue to provide. We thank Heidi for her work.

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE STATUS OF ELON MUSK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to remark on the outrage of my colleagues and others over the special government employee status of Elon Musk from the executive branch and constant remarks that he is unelected and unaccountable.

Let me remind my colleagues and those voices, the vast majority of government employees that review and authorize grants, that disburse funds, and that, in fact, issue rules or laws are unelected and unaccountable to the voters.

RECOGNIZING THE 7TH ANNUAL DOMINICANS ON THE HILL DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 7th Annual Dominicans on the Hill event which will be held tomorrow. It is a time for all participants to celebrate the contributions of Dominican Americans throughout the country.

In fact, we have today in the gallery the Honorable Ricardo de los Santos Polanco, who is the president of the Dominican Senate, and Alfredo Pacheco, who is the president of the house. They will be with us for the next couple of days, and I want to extend the courtesies of the House so that all of us can attend this wonderful event that is being held for the seventh year in a row.

PROTECTING DREAMERS, FAMILIES, AND FARMWORKERS

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Dreamers, farmworkers, and families. Much has been said about the immigration issues at the border. I think what has not been said is the fact that we all want to make sure that the border is more secure. There is no disagreement in that.

□ 1215

We can work together to make the border safer, safer for children, for families, for women, for grandparents and for the communities, the border