

preaching her first sermon at 17 years old.

In 1989, she founded Koinonia Christian Center with just 7 members and grew it into a ministry of more than 2,500. She is recognized for her “keep it real” approach, and she is, without a doubt, one of eastern North Carolina’s most influential faith leaders.

A cancer survivor, Bishop O’neal is married to Toiriste O’neal, Sr., and is known for her deep love of family, friends, and even riding motorcycles.

Congratulations to the O’neal family. May she keep on riding.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN BUHR

(Mr. FINSTAD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brian Buhr, one of my former professors at the University of Minnesota, who is stepping down after 13 years of serving as the dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the director of the Minnesota Agriculture Experiment Station.

As our State’s premier institution for agricultural education, the U of M has a longstanding reputation of excellence in developing and training future ag leaders.

Thanks to Dean Buhr’s leadership, CFANS has become a global leader in ag education, offering a diverse range of studies for 14 undergraduate majors, 25 minors, and 13 graduate programs.

By working shoulder to shoulder with farmers, agribusiness, and public policymakers, Dean Buhr has worked to cultivate a student experience that combines classroom learning with cutting-edge research and public engagement, preparing CFANS graduates to become the world’s ag leaders of tomorrow.

I thank Brian for his years of service to the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the many contributions he has made to the U of M’s legacy in ag education. I wish him all the best as he starts this new chapter.

RECOGNIZING JEROME POWELL

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chair Jerome Powell, who has served with honor and integrity on the Federal Reserve’s Board of Governors for 13 years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise and join Democrats, Republicans, and other leaders because the Justice Department’s criminal investigation into Chair Powell is yet another attempt by Trump to take control of the Fed, endangering household finances across the country.

Our economy relies on an independent Federal Reserve, and every

American should be deeply concerned and alarmed by this administration’s dangerous efforts to politicize our central bank.

Interest rate decisions directly impact American households through inflation, the labor market, savings, and household costs. It is imperative that these decisions be driven by economic data and evidence, not partisan pressure.

I ask my colleagues to stand up and use their voices to defend an independent Fed.

HONORING MEHRI NAVAB

(Mr. McDOWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary young North Carolinian, Mehri Navab, who has been awarded the National Medal of Honor Lifesaving Award from the Girl Scouts, one of their highest recognitions for courage and quick action.

On what should have been a normal afternoon at swim practice, Mehri saw her brother, Tristan, at the bottom of the pool. Something didn’t look right, and instead of hesitating, she acted. She swam down, pulled him from a lane divider, got him to the surface, and called for help. Lifeguards began CPR, and she refused to leave her brother’s side until he began breathing again. Because of her courage, her quick response, and her presence of mind, Tristan is alive today.

The Girl Scouts teach service, skill, and leadership. Mehri embodied all of it in a moment when most people, even adults, would freeze. She is a hero, and her community is proud of her.

I thank Mehri for going above and beyond to make a difference in our community. I congratulate her on receiving this well-deserved honor.

APPLAUDING STABILIZING CRIME VICTIMS FUND

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of California’s 21st Congressional District, I am here to share some good news for the people of not only the Central Valley but across the country. The House has just passed the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act, with strong bipartisan support.

As one of the original founders of the bipartisan Congressional Victims’ Rights Caucus, this is good news. I am proud to co-lead the bill alongside a bipartisan group of colleagues.

Right now, too many victim service organizations are forced to operate with uncertainty, not knowing if funding will be there from year to year. That uncertainty affects real people who have been victims of crime, survivors seeking counseling, families

needing emergency shelter, and victims looking for legal support in some of the hardest moments in their lives.

This bill stabilizes the Crime Victims Fund, which is funded by criminal fines, not taxpayer dollars, and supports critical services through VOCA programs across the country.

By bringing stability to the funding, States and local organizations will have the ability to plan ahead, keep staff in place, and continue showing up for survivors when it matters most.

This bill heads to the Senate, and I am urging my colleagues there to act quickly on its passage for victims of crime and their families.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7006, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 992 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 992

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7006) making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. Clause 2(e) of rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. The chair of the Committee on Appropriations may insert in the Congressional Record not later than January 16, 2026, such material as he may deem explanatory of H.R. 7006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

□ 1220

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill and the underlying legislation.

Yesterday, the Rules Committee met and produced a rule, House Resolution 992, providing for the House's consideration of a single measure, H.R. 7006, the Financial Services and General Government and National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 7006 under a structured rule, with two amendments made in order. Further, the rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their respective designees, and one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, following last week's progress in advancing three separate appropriations bills through the committee and on the floor, we have returned this week to continue our work. H.R. 7006 was negotiated in good faith on a bipartisan, bicameral basis.

President Trump's priorities, alongside the priorities of the American people, are interwoven within this important package.

Let me make this abundantly clear, Mr. Speaker: Not only does this legislative package contain no poison pills, but it also cuts foreign aid by 16 percent. That is more than \$9 billion.

Further, this package is part of an agreement that keeps fiscal year 2026 spending below the level that has been forecasted under the current continuing resolution.

We are enacting targeted funding to accelerate entrepreneurship and economic prosperity, guard our Nation's national security posture and apparatus, and further cement true, unyielding, American leadership on the international stage.

At the very same time, we are slashing incompatible mandates and provisions that were cooked up during the Biden administration that would have weakened America's trajectory to greatness.

With fiscal restraint and an eye toward paving a new and prosperous path

for our Nation, anything—yes, anything—can be possible.

As I said in the committee yesterday afternoon, gone are the days of inflated omnibuses that have bogged down and constrained this legislative body. Indeed, we are moving in a better direction and chucking the Biden budget into the grave where it belongs. Good riddance.

The bipartisan and bicameral underpinnings of this legislative package make a compelling case as to why the House must pass it immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule.

Let me begin by acknowledging the hard work of our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee who, despite deep divisions and really difficult political conditions, have assembled a bipartisan compromise to fund additional portions of the Federal Government for the current fiscal year.

The bill before us containing the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act and the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, includes hard-fought Democratic priorities, despite our minority position in the House and Senate. These Democratic priorities will help working families and small businesses safeguard our elections and protect American values and interests abroad.

Democratic appropriators secured funding for vital government programs that the White House sought to cut, including the CDFI fund, which promotes economic development in low-income communities; the Small Business Administration, which provides invaluable financing that allows people to start or grow their businesses; and the Election Assistance Commission, which supports State and Federal election integrity across the country. The package also provides a long overdue increase in funding for the Federal Defender Services, which gives access to justice to those who cannot afford it.

Importantly, the bill restores funding, with meaningful safeguards, for humanitarian and democracy building programs at the Department of State, programs that were illegally shut down earlier this year by the Trump administration.

This bill ensures that the U.S. will continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance. Specifically, it will support women and women's health in developing countries and will combat HIV and AIDS worldwide.

These are victories, and they matter. They matter for small business owners struggling to secure a loan. They matter for low-income neighborhoods that are essentially red-lined by big banks and that rely upon Community Development Financial Institutions. These victories matter for women and girls around the globe seeking safety, education, and healthcare.

The restoration of State Department funding matters for all of us who still believe in the promise of American leadership in advancing a safe and prosperous global community.

Ultimately, we cannot afford to let funding lapse for those agencies, and given that we are 4 months into the current fiscal year, I commend our appropriators for crafting these bipartisan bills to address fiscal year 2026 so that we can immediately start working on appropriations for next year, fiscal year 2027.

However, Mr. Speaker, commendable as this package is and as much as I respect the work of our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, I also believe this package reveals the limits of what we can achieve to meet the needs of the American people under Republican control.

Let's be clear: This bill isn't some compromise where both sides get a little of what they want. It is the most Democrats could get from a Republican Party that continues to knuckle under to the whims of the Trump administration and turn a blind eye to its worst abuses. That is why our Republican colleagues have rejected multiple provisions to rein in the unconstitutional power grabs by this President and his administration.

Republicans control the Senate, the House, and the White House. Under unified Republican control, we have seen the Federal Government used not to help the American people but to punish the President's enemies and to enrich and protect the rich and well-connected at the expense of the American people.

We have seen it when the Republican trifecta passed a partisan bill that gave huge tax cuts to big business and billionaires but refused to extend the ACA tax credits that helped millions of Americans afford their health coverage.

In their main legislative accomplishment so far, Trump and congressional Republicans blew a massive hole in the deficit with their tax cuts for the rich and then tried to pay for it with cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and public health programs that Americans rely upon.

We are seeing it play out after a masked Federal agent shot and killed Renee Good, an American citizen in Minnesota. In the wake of that killing, we learned that Department of Justice leadership blocked the decades-long practice of initiating an investigation of an officer-involved shooting by the Office of Civil Rights. Having blocked that investigation, they instead opened a politically motivated criminal investigation of Ms. Good's widow as it tries to brand protected speech by Americans as domestic terrorism.

The failure to investigate the lawfulness of the officer's use of force and the weaponization of the investigation to attack the widow are so beyond the pale that it has sparked a mass resignation by career prosecutors at the Department of Justice.

It goes on. Last weekend, the Trump White House launched a criminal investigation against Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, not because he broke the law, but apparently because he refused to surrender the independence of the Fed and submit to the President's demand that he lower interest rates. This is an unprecedented attack on the independence of the Federal Reserve, an institution that is critical to the stability of our economy because it is above partisan politics. Yet, under Republican rule, the independence of the Fed and other non-partisan agencies is being destroyed before our eyes because this President cannot tolerate dissent, and his party will not restrain him.

Just last week, the administration blocked \$10 billion in social services funding to States with Democratic leadership. Yesterday, President Trump went even further, announcing his intent to withhold Federal funds from any State that does not embrace his toxic immigration priorities. This is extortion, plain and simple, directed against the American people he was elected to serve, and the House Republican majority is letting him get away with it.

Of course, we cannot forget the continued coverup of the Epstein files. The Department of Justice was mandated by law to release the Epstein files last month, last year now, but the vast majority of the files are still being kept secret, leading us to ask again: Whom is Trump trying to protect, and why is it the Republicans refuse to hold him responsible for this blatant coverup? What possible justification could there be for this secrecy, except to protect the wealthy and powerful men implicated in those documents.

A suggestion of the answers have come from an unlikely source. According to former Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, the President yelled at her in a phone call that he didn't want to release the Epstein files because "my friends will get hurt."

□ 1230

The list goes on and on, and the Republican agenda is clear. They abuse the powers of the Federal Government to protect the elite and punish the vulnerable.

While I will support the appropriations minibus this week, I call on my Republican colleagues in the House and the Senate to take seriously their obligations to this institution under Article I of the Constitution. We cannot sit by and watch as the executive branch grabs more and more power at the expense of Congress and at the expense of the Constitution.

Congress' power of the purse is not just a budgetary tool. It is one of the last real checks we have on a President who believes that he is above the law and only constrained by his own morality.

I know my Democratic colleagues fought for everything they could in

this bill under deeply constrained circumstances, so the failures in this bill are a reflection of the Republican majority, which continues to look the other way as the President dismantles our Federal institutions and subverts our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are here to debate this appropriations package, not every other issue under the Sun. I urge my colleagues not to lose sight of the legislative package at hand: We have a bipartisan, bicameral appropriations package free of poison pill riders that bring us closer to fulfilling our Article I responsibilities.

My colleague says Republicans are in control, but the very bills we have passed and are passing are bipartisan. We are working across the aisle, which we should do. Our friends can't have it both ways. They can't say we are in control, therefore, everything is our fault, and say at the same time that these are good bills built upon bipartisan support.

There will no doubt be time to debate other matters, but today the matter at hand is an appropriations package containing the Financial Services and General Government bill and the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs bill.

Might I add that national security is the number one issue in our Federal Government. We need to stay focused and complete the task at hand.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, just to be clear, I didn't say these were good bills. I said they were the best bills we could get under the circumstances, and certainly we would craft very different bills.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, no one in America is safe from ICE today. Joe Rogan said that ICE agents are acting as "villains," stripping away freedoms from Americans. This agency has gone rogue. It is lawless, and it needs to be reined in.

The ICE agents who pepper sprayed an elderly couple in Minnesota need to be arrested and prosecuted. The ICE agents who dragged out a disabled woman from her car who was going to a doctor's appointment need to be arrested and prosecuted. The ICE agent who shot and killed Renee Good needs to be arrested and prosecuted.

When you have people in the MAGA base, when you have people like Joe Rogan talking about the lawlessness of a private police force—ICE acting as the President's private police force—then we know we have a crisis of freedom in this country. It is time to rein in this lawless agency.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, we should be focused on the issue at hand. Mr. Speaker, we never celebrate the loss of life on our side. We don't celebrate the loss of life in the recent shooting, but we cannot absolve people of the actions they are taking to disrupt ICE's operations.

We certainly shouldn't be looking at ICE agents, condemning ICE agents who are showing up to do their jobs. Democrats have been questioning the authority and jurisdiction of ICE's actions in Minnesota.

Let's shed some light on what ICE has been doing. They arrested a criminal illegal alien from Somalia with a record of multiple counts of credit card fraud, drug possession, controlled substance possession, and drug trafficking. This criminal was issued a final order of removal in 2022.

ICE also arrested a criminal illegal alien from Laos with three prior convictions for selling drugs as well as convictions for assault and contributing to a minor's delinquency. This criminal was issued a final order of removal in 2009, Mr. Speaker.

A criminal illegal alien from Mexico previously arrested for child cruelty and battery was also picked up by ICE. This criminal was issued a final order of removal in 2009.

In addition, there was a criminal illegal alien from Mexico previously arrested for cruelty toward a child, and a criminal illegal alien from Somalia previously arrested for dangerous drugs and possession of narcotics.

We are talking about dangerous people, Mr. Speaker. The list goes on and on. Let's be clear, ICE is targeting criminal rings, and the Trump Administration isn't ignoring fraud as Governor Walz had done for years. They are targeting that criminal ring for immigration violations, just as they have done elsewhere.

Not long ago, ICE agents arrested more than 150 illegal alien sex offenders during a major enforcement surge across the State of Florida. ICE is focusing on rings of criminality, and they will pursue them wherever they might be, political correctness be damned. Americans are better off under this approach.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, nobody is questioning that the Federal Government has the duty and authority to arrest and detain and deport these so-called worst of the worst, rapists, drug dealers, people who have been convicted, but that is not what is happening across the country. That is not what ICE is doing.

Eighty percent of the people that they have picked up and that they are detaining have no criminal record. What we are seeing in Minnesota, this door-to-door, stopping people in parking lots, and asking if they are citizens, that is not targeted enforcement. That is putting masked and armed agents on the streets and causing chaos, as we have repeatedly seen.

The Rules chairwoman mentioned one of the people who has been picked up is absolutely someone who probably deserves to be picked up. However, they have had over 2,000 ICE agents in Minneapolis for about 6 weeks, and they have arrested about 20 people who fit that profile.

In addition, of course, they have killed Renee Good. They have arrested American citizens. They have tackled kids outside their high school. They have tackled teenagers working at Target. They have terrorized an entire community. That does appear to be part of the point here is to create propaganda and videos to scare Americans to project this military power in our streets, which, for any student of American history, that is why we left the U.K.

I think that the objection here is to the lawfulness of what has been happening in Minnesota, in Chicago, in L.A., across the country, and the need to really change how things are being done there.

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to make in order Mr. HOYER's amendment to the FSGG appropriations bill, which restricts obligating any remaining unobligated balances for the new FBI consolidated headquarters facility until GSA, in consultation with the FBI, submits the contracted and completed architectural and engineering plan for review.

□ 1240

Mr. Speaker, our colleague, Mr. HOYER, has served with honor for over four decades and has ushered countless pieces of bipartisan legislation through this House.

Now, in this case, all he is asking for is a vote, that the Members of this body vote on an amendment to make sure that before an extremely consequential and expensive decision is made with respect to the location of the FBI headquarters, we receive the architectural and engineering plan that the General Services Administration is supposed to complete. That seems like the least we could do.

Regardless of one's position on Mr. HOYER's amendment, it deserves a vote on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD, along with any extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, to discuss our proposal, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the sponsor of the amendment.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments and for her support of my amendment. I regret that my amendment was rejected by the Rules Committee, but that is

not uncommon. An overwhelming majority of Democratic amendments are rejected, irrespective of merit.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that this amendment comports with the debate that I heard in the Rules Committee yesterday. The substance of that debate was that we need oversight. We need to make sure that we know what we are doing. We need to make sure that what the administration or any administration is asking for comports with the policies of the Congress of the United States.

If we defeat the previous question, we will offer an amendment to the rule that allows the House to simply consider my amendment concerning the FBI headquarters.

I will speak more on that matter later, but I am deeply concerned that moving the FBI to the Reagan Building, as this administration plans to do, would greatly undermine the FBI's security.

This is a picture of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma. In 1995, a guy named McVeigh drove a step van up to the street of the Murrah Building and blew it up, killing 168 people and injuring over 800 people. That is a major artery in front of the Murrah Building.

The Reagan Building was designed as an open and public-private building with public access, public accommodations, and the public coming into the building for eating. It has a big cafeteria. It has a big parking lot that the public uses and is used by city hall, which is located right in the middle—or not in the middle, but surrounded by the Reagan Building.

The amendment that I have simply says: Let's not spend any money on moving the FBI to this building, which the Murrah Building makes very clear, and is why the FBI Director came to me in 2009 to have this facility, the FBI building, moved to a place where you can have security.

We have some number of security organizations. They are all located either in the suburbs or at Boeing Air Force base. Boeing Air Force base is a secured piece of much acreage, so they are not subject to that risk.

All of these agencies, including the CIA at Langley and other agencies, four of which are in Virginia, are so that those agencies can be as secure as we can possibly make them, so that we will not lose people, FBI agents, CIA agents, NSA agents, or whoever, and that we will have those facilities in a secure place. All this amendment says is: Show us the plan to keep our people secure.

The gentlewoman, my friend from North Carolina, said, and I believe she is accurate, that we are all concerned about the lives of people, be they government employees or not. This amendment says: Present us the information, GSA and FBI, that shows us that, in fact, you can make the Reagan Building safe for a security agency.

If the motion is defeated for the previous question, we will offer that sim-

ple amendment and give everybody in this Congress the ability to stand up and say, yes, we want to know information before we make this critical decision.

It is not partisan. It is not ideological. It is simply doing what the Congress is responsible to do, and that is have oversight and make judgments based upon the best information they can receive.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. In closing, let me emphasize that this is consistent with what all of us say and was said in the committee yesterday. Mrs. HOUSHIN said it particularly well, and others on the committee, when saying that they want the information necessary to make solid decisions. If we adopt my amendment, that will accomplish that objective.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against the previous question and for the Hoyer amendment.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Rules Committee, Republicans rejected over 70 amendments submitted by Members of both parties. This included a handful of amendments that I have submitted, which if adopted, I obviously think would have improved the bill.

I will highlight those amendments in light of the reporting about the chaos at the Department of Justice after its leadership quashed a transparent investigation into the fatal shooting of Renee Good by an ICE agent and instead insisted on opening a criminal investigation into her widow. DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and other Trump officials and conservative commentators have tried to brand Renee Good as a domestic terrorist in gross contradiction to known facts, but that is not the key issue here.

Putting aside the refusal to investigate the lawfulness of the agent's use of deadly force under those circumstances, and the heinous implication that Renee Good somehow deserved to die because she objected to the presence of armed and masked Federal agents in her neighborhood and that she was disrespectful, the President's characterization, this investigation, and these comments from Secretary Noem, are the direct result of an underreported and underappreciated effort by the Trump administration to criminalize constitutionally protected speech.

Earlier this year, President Trump issued a sweeping memo, directing Federal agencies to target Americans with criminal and civil investigations on the explicit basis of constitutionally protected speech.

The memo literally defines specific categories of political opinions and beliefs that law enforcement must now

treat as instances of domestic terrorism.

Following this directive, the Department of Justice then changed its policies to direct Federal law enforcement agents to target Americans with criminal investigations for expressing these sanctioned political views or for participating in protests against the Trump administration.

This is the kind of political oppression you would expect to see from authoritarian states like Russia or China, but no, it is here. It is happening at home.

Our Republican colleagues, who are often so quick to complain about censorship or the weaponization of the Federal Government, have remained silent while President Trump has turned the Department of Justice into a tool of political suppression.

Last night, I proposed an amendment to prohibit the use of any Federal taxpayer dollars to investigate or prosecute Americans on the basis of their lawful and constitutionally protected speech.

□ 1250

Mr. Speaker, every single Republican on the Rules Committee voted against my amendment, blocking it from coming to the House floor so our entire body could vote on it.

The First Amendment protects everyone's speech. There are no carve-outs for those we disagree with. Apparently, as we saw in last night's vote, House Republicans do not agree with that fundamental American value.

While Rules Republicans voted down my amendment to protect Americans' right to free speech, they did make in order a questionable amendment from our Rules colleague, Representative ROY, that would defund the D.C. Federal courts and specifically withdraw the salaries for the staff of two Federal judges.

These two judges have been targeted by President Trump and congressional Republicans because they have done their job. They have not bent to the President's will. They have interpreted the law as written. Therefore, House Republicans are taking the extreme position of zeroing out the salaries of their staff. It is a cruel and un-American attack on the judiciary that completely subverts our constitutional order.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, underneath this debate about the appropriations minibus is the difficult reality that House Republicans have abdicated their responsibilities to this Chamber, to the Congress, and to the Constitution. We are not just debating a budget bill. We are debating whether Congress will continue to function not just as a coequal branch of government but as the Arti-

cle I source of the laws that run our country.

Under Republican leadership, we have seen Congress turned into a rubber stamp. Republicans have surrendered to the whims of a President who sees laws as optional and power as personal.

These two appropriations bills, while necessary for the continued operation of essential government functions, are the limit of how far the Republican Party is willing to go in defying the President.

Unfortunately, Republicans are more interested in protecting power than in responsibly governing for the benefit of the American people. Our job isn't to protect the President. Our job is to fund the government responsibly and to serve as a check on executive overreach.

As masked agents roam our streets, terrorizing our communities, as Trump entertains starting another forever war, and as the Epstein files remain covered up, now is the time for Congress to stand up for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question and rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this majority continues to roll up its sleeves and advance the core priorities of the American people and President Trump. We are absolutely exercising our Article I responsibilities by passing appropriations bills.

With our unifying vision and some elbow grease, we are making significant headway that benefits the American people and our entire Nation. The legislative package contained under this rule is yet another commitment that we are seeing through to completion. Its provisions and intent confirm this through and through.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the previous question, "yes" on the rule, and "yes" on the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SCANLON is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 992 OFFERED BY
Ms. SCANLON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, the amendment specified in section 4 shall be in order as though printed as the last amendment of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution if offered by Representative Hoyer of Maryland or a designee. That amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

SEC. 4. The amendment referred to in section 3 is as follows:

At the end of division A (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ Any remaining unobligated balances from amounts originally made available under the heading "General Services Administration" in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations

Act, 2016 (title V of division E of Public Law 114-113), the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2017 (title V of division E of Public Law 115-31), the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2023 (title V of division E of Public Law 117-328), or the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024 (title V of division B of Public Law 118-47) for the new Federal Bureau of Investigation consolidated headquarters facility in the National Capital Region that were subsequently transferred pursuant to a notification received by the Committees on Appropriations from the Acting Administrator of the General Services Administration on September 19, 2025, may not be further obligated until the General Services Administration, in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate the contracted and completed architectural and engineering plan for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's new headquarters building for review. Any classified portion of the architectural and engineering plan shall be submitted through a classified annex.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 992; and

Adoption of House Resolution 992, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.