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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 11, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE HOLDING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, 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 each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

FAILED POLICY IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

Last week I was home, and on Saturday I had the pleasure to speak to about 50 citizens in the Third District of North Carolina which I represent. I carry this poster with me, Mr. Speaker, and I also have a one-page flier. The purpose of this is to continue to wake up the American people that we are in Afghanistan; and unless you have a

loved one there, you probably don't think about it. That's human nature. It's not a criticism. But I take this and then I give the flier, and it's got the cartoon.

Mr. Speaker, the cartoon has Karzai with a little debit card, and he's standing at an ATM machine. At the top it says, "CIA ATM." Karzai says, "I'm just making a quick withdrawal." He's got bags of cash at his feet. Sadly, there's a soldier in the background that says, "I'd like to make a quick withdrawal from here."

Last week we had two American soldiers killed and one civilian, and the war keeps going on and on. We in Congress act like it's not happening. I don't understand it. The President has signed a bilateral strategic agreement with the Afghans that will keep us there from 2014 to 2024. We're spending \$8 billion a month in Afghanistan. The CIA admitted in a New York Times article that they have been giving tens of millions of dollars for 10 years to Karzai. He's got to be one of the richest men in the world. We keep borrowing the money from the Chinese to give him money. I do not understand it, and I would like to read just a couple of points from The New York Times CIA article:

The CIA money, Mr. Karzai told reporters, was an easy source of petty cash, and some of it was used to pay off the political elite, a group dominated by warlords. Mr. Karzai said that when he met with the CIA station chief, "I told him because of all these rumors in the media, please do not cut all this money, because we really need it."

Well, Mr. Karzai, so do the American people. Here we are in Congress cutting programs for children and senior citizens, and the Congress has a deaf ear to Afghanistan. The bill coming up this week from the Armed Services Committee, which I serve on, will have \$85 billion additional money going to Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the American people to show outrage to those of

us in Congress and say it's time to bring our troops home. It's time to stop wasting lives and limbs and getting money from foreign countries, like China, that we have to borrow to pay Karzai.

I do not understand it, Mr. Speaker, and I'm pleased to say that the people of the Third District of North Carolina, the home of Camp Lejeune Marine Base—the Wright brothers took the first flight from my district—they're tired of this war. They are fed up with it, and they see no end to it.

We in Congress are not meeting our constitutional responsibility for oversight. When you see the kind of money that I just made reference to going to this crook in Afghanistan named Karzai, there should have been hearings held on that money going to Afghanistan. I understand Benghazi and I understand the IRS hearings and these other hearings that we're having, but there are no hearings on the waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield back, I want to first ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. The families who've given a child dying for freedom, God hold them in your arms. And God, I ask you to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people. I will ask God to bless the President of the United States that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people. And three times I will say from the bottom of my heart, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

I-5 BRIDGE COLLAPSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, 5 weeks ago Dan and Sally

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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Sligh packed up their camper and headed out on Interstate 5 on the way to their favorite campsite in northwest Washington State. While crossing a bridge over the Skagit River that they'd safely crossed many times before, a large truck ahead of them clipped the bridge's frame above. Without warning, and without time to react, the pavement under Dan's pickup fell out from underneath them. Next, Dan said, "It was just a white flash and cold water."

Like thousands of my constituents, I myself have driven over that bridge many times. But now, today, no cars are crossing it. Recovery workers have been hard at work pulling pieces of that bridge, along with Dan's pickup, from the flowing waters of the Skagit River and quickly building a replacement span.

The fact that no one died in this collapse is a blessing, but not all have been so lucky. My colleagues will remember in 2007 when a bridge spanning the Mississippi River in Minneapolis crashed during rush hour, killing 13 people and injuring another 145.

Today I want to ask my colleagues a simple question: Shouldn't Americans be able to drive across a highway bridge with the reasonable expectation that it will not crumble away from underneath them?

On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the Skagit River bridge collapse. I spoke this morning to the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board about its investigation. I'm eager to read their report on the incident. But we already know that our aging infrastructure should be enough to make this Congress act.

Sixty-seven thousand bridges in our country are rated structurally deficient—67,000 bridges. When those bridges fall, it isn't just the unlucky few on those bridges who suffer. Whole economies that rely on safe and efficient transportation suffer.

The I-5 bridge over the Skagit River doesn't just connect Burlington and Mount Vernon; it connects the entire west coast and carries millions of dollars worth of trade between Canada and the U.S. Today, that trade is in stop-and-go traffic on local roads.

But here's the good news: we know how to build safe bridges. There are thousands of civil engineers devoting their lives to building good structures that don't fall down. But we need to pay for them. We need to maintain our bridges until they are old, and then we need to replace them. We can't keep waiting until they crumble into the water below.

President Obama wants to fix it first by spending \$40 billion on highways, bridges, transit systems, and airports that are most in need of repair. That's a good start, and Congress should approve that funding. But if we're really going to do something about our long-term transportation needs, this body, this Congress, needs to get to work on

a long-term transportation bill that doesn't just patch our aging roads, but invests in an infrastructure that meets the needs of America's 21st century economy. We can't have a big league economy with little league infrastructure.

Over Memorial Day, more than 31 million Americans hit the roads. I ask my colleagues: Were you among them? How many bridges did you drive over? How many were structurally deficient? If you think your constituents should be able to drive over a bridge without wondering whether it will crumble beneath them, then this Congress must act on a long-term transportation bill. It's time to put our money where our safety is.

□ 1210

THE SILENCE OF MUSLIM LEADERS IS DEAFENING

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, it's been just under 2 months since the attacks in Boston, and in those intervening weeks, the silence of Muslim leaders has been deafening. And that is sad, but perhaps most importantly, it's dangerous.

There have now been at least a dozen attacks by Muslim terrorists on U.S. soil since Ramzi Yousef's parked rental van exploded in the basement of the World Trade Center on February 26 of 1993. Some have caused death and injury, such as the 9/11 attacks in 2001 and Nidal Hasan's mass shooting at Fort Hood, Texas.

Other attacks, such as Faisal Shahzad's fizzled Times Square bombing, or the unsuccessful underwear bombing of a flight, were thwarted or aborted.

But yet, fatal or not, all of these attacks were successful in scaring Americans, successful in reducing our freedom in the most freedom-loving Nation on Earth, successful in slowing our economy, and successful in demonstrating that an open society can potentially be vulnerable.

They were, in former Attorney General Mike Mukasey's words, "crimes that are nonetheless meant to send a terrorist message."

When the most devastating terrorist attacks on America in the last 20 years come overwhelmingly from people of a single faith, and are performed in the name of that faith, a special obligation falls on those that are the leaders of that faith. Instead of responding, silence has made these Islamic leaders across America potentially complicit in these acts and, more importantly still, in those that may well follow.

If a religion claims to be one of peace, Mr. Speaker, its leaders must reject violence that is perpetrated in its name. Some clerics today suggest that modern jihad is nonviolent, and is only about making oneself a better Muslim.

Perhaps that's true for moderate Muslims. But extremists seek to revive the era when most Islamic clerics understood jihad to be holy war.

Mr. Speaker, decades of Middle Eastern oil money have propounded this more extreme, violent interpretation in mosques around the world. Less than 2 months after the 9/11 atrocities, an Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood preacher, who is probably the most influential Sunni cleric today, declared suicide bombing to be legitimate. He said, "these are heroic commando and martyrdom attacks and should not be called suicide."

So what is it that these Islamic leaders must say?

First, that there is never any justification for terrorism. No political goal legitimizes terrorism. Terrorism is never excusable as resistance. Imams must state unequivocally that terrorists' actions, killing and maiming, sully Islam.

They must also publicly and repeatedly denounce radical clerics who seek to justify terrorism. There is a battle of interpretation within Islam. It's not enough to deny responsibility by saying one's own interpretation doesn't support terrorism. Moderate imams must strive to ensure that no Muslim finds solace for terrorism in the Koran. They must cite the Koran as evidence that the murder of innocents is not permitted by good, believing Muslims, and must immediately refute all claims to the contrary.

Finally, Muslim leaders must say that there is no room for militant Islamism in the religion of peace. These statements must be made publicly, frequently and in the mosques, yes, in the mosques and in the madrassas, where many learn their Islamic religion.

You know, we have to call evil by its name in order to stamp it out. Downplaying atrocities and rampages ensures more of them. Every Muslim leader must unequivocally proclaim that terror committed in the name of Islam violates the core tenets of the Prophet Mohammed, and they must do so repeatedly, period.

My own faith has occasionally been hijacked in the name of violence and cruelty, including in Kansas, my home State, by Fred Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church. In response, hundreds of Protestant ministers preach that Mr. Phelps' actions violate the most fundamental Christian traditions, and they have denounced him and his church's evil acts.

Pope John Paul II similarly apologized, in 2000, for the Catholic Church's failure to do more to speak out against the evils of Nazism, and to protect Jews from the Holocaust.

Just as these religious leaders have called up those who have killed and acted brutally in the name of their faith, so too must Muslim religious leaders refute terrorist theology.

We're now 2 decades into Islamic radicals attacking Americans on U.S.