



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2013

No. 103

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 18, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG LAMALFA 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 11:50 a.m.

AIR FORCE ONE

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I have heard some criticize the President for having played golf with Tiger Woods because Woods is not a favorable role model. The President's golfing is not my business.

But permit me to tell you what is my business: the frequent use of Air Force One and the related costs thereto. President Obama was the second most traveled President of all time for a sin-

gle term, spending 95 days on 25 trips. In 2009, President Obama traveled more in his first year than any other President. President Obama spent 41 days traveling to 21 different countries.

The most updated figure, Mr. Speaker, on the cost per hour of operating Air Force One is in excess of \$179,000 per hour. This is just a tiny fraction of the President's foreign travel plans, which includes backup aircraft, aerial tankers, motor transport, security and diplomatic personnel, accommodations, and advance teams.

The First Lady also has been actively traveling, making trips to Ireland, Africa, Western Europe, and Copenhagen. When flying solo, Michelle Obama would likely use a C-40B or C with a cost per flight-hour of between \$19,000 and \$26,000, or a larger C-32 passenger jet, which has a cost per flight-hour of in excess of \$42,000.

Presidential entourage has grown quite large in the modern era as well, Mr. Speaker. President Obama was accompanied by more than 500 staff, including security, during his 2009 trip to London. At least 200 security agents alone will be involved in the President's current Africa trip.

I am not suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that we compromise safety or security, but the First Family, it seems to me, treats Air Force One and related aircraft as their personal toys—a very expensive toy, I might add. I will admit, Mr. Speaker, that Air Force One belongs to President Obama and his wife, but Air Force One also belongs to you and me and to every taxpayer in America.

I simply ask the President and his wife to exercise more prudence and discipline regarding their prized aircraft activities. When the wheels of Air Force One are up, the meter is on, and I'm talking about a heap of taxpayer dollars.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the plague of the soaring debt continues to bother

us. I respectively request that President Obama and his wife direct more attention to our soaring debt and deficit and less time on Air Force One.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from improper references toward the President.

BENGHAZI UNANSWERED

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask another question that has not yet been answered by the House. This question will be the third in a series of critical issues that have not yet been resolved. I will continue to raise additional questions for the next 9 legislative days until we depart for August recess, keeping in mind that the 1-year anniversary of the Benghazi attacks will be upon us when the Congress returns in September.

It is also noteworthy that there does not appear to be a single hearing on Benghazi scheduled in any committee between now and the 1-year anniversary. That is why, in the absence of public hearings to address these questions, I am raising them on the House floor this month.

On Tuesday, I raised the question on why none of the Benghazi survivors—whether the State Department, CIA, or private security contractor employee—have testified publicly before Congress.

Yesterday, I asked about whether there had been any intelligence failures in the vetting of the Libyan militias who abandoned the Americans at the consulate as the assault began. I also asked who provided the terrorists with a detailed understanding of the consulate property.

Today, I return again to the Benghazi survivors and other career employees and contractors working for the CIA, Defense Department, and the

□ 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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