

January 6, 2015, regarding morning-hour debate not apply on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOOLENAAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on November 2, 2015, through November 3, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote No. 582, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 583, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 584, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 585, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 586, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 587, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 588, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 589, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 590, I could have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 591, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 592, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 593, I would have voted "no."

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, ensuring Americans are capable of filling the skills gap and finding quality jobs through stakeholder-led and accountable workforce development programs has been one of my highest priorities in Washington.

That is why I was so proud last Congress to see legislation I sponsored, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, or WIOA, enacted into law. WIOA was the first major workforce development legislation to be enacted in more than 15 years and included many vital provisions to modernize, streamline, and localize our workforce development system.

The highway bill that passed the House earlier today included a frontline workforce development program intended to address human resources needs in public transportation that was not subject to the reforms contained within WIOA.

In order to ensure that program is assessed consistently with other Federal workforce development programs and targeted to areas that have identified needs in public transportation as part

of their broader workforce development programs, I introduced a bipartisan amendment to the highway bill with my colleague from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) that applied WIOA's performance measures and coordination reforms to the program.

All of our Federal workforce development programs should be assessed in a consistent manner and be considered as part of an overall package tailored to State and local needs that provide stakeholders on the ground greater input and control. That is why I am also pleased the House adopted our bipartisan amendment as part of the broader transportation package and strengthened the frontline workforce development program in order to better serve the workers who learn skills through the program and those policymakers who evaluate the programs to improve its future outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

WORKING TOGETHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, everyone has gone back to their offices but you and me, and I appreciate you sticking around to get this hour in. It is not going to be an exciting hour. Ordinarily, I bring down charts and graphs and try to share something in a visual way that folks might not have seen before. Today, it is just words, because words matter.

Mr. Speaker, we have just finished in this Chamber this fantastic—you have heard me say it—it was a festival of democracy. Every Member who had an amendment, they brought them to the Rules Committee. We made over a hundred of them in order. It has been 3 days, Mr. Speaker, and we passed in a very bipartisan way Federal transportation policy for the first time in more than a decade. Democrats had failed to get it done. Republicans had failed to get it done.

We, as 435 individual Members representing diverse constituencies across the Nation, came together today and we got it done. They said it wouldn't be done. Chairman BILL SHUSTER said it could be done. Ranking Member PETE DEFAZIO of Oregon said it could be done, and we did it.

Something has happened, Mr. Speaker, in this town that has people identifying as Democrats or Republicans first and as Members of this body, of the Article I legislature, second. It is bad. It is bad for the country, and it is bad for the people we represent. It is a bad process.

Mr. Speaker, that is what I want to talk about today. You can't see the chart that I have here, but it is a quote from President Obama—you will remember it—back in August of 2013.

You will remember we worked together with the President. Nine different times, we repealed portions of the President's healthcare bill. We repealed them. They were unworkable. He knew it. We knew it. We came together nine times. He signed legislation into law that repealed parts of the President's healthcare bill.

It was the summer of 2013 and we were talking about how to come together on some of the bigger problems in the President's healthcare bill. You remember the mandates were getting ready to go into effect—the business mandates, the individual mandates—and the country wasn't ready. The country was not ready. We all knew it. Every Member, from left to right, Mr. Speaker, knew it.

The President held a press conference and he said this:

In a normal, political environment, it would have been easier for me to simply call up the Speaker and say: You know what? This is a tweak that doesn't go to the essence of the law. It has to do with, for example, are we able to simplify the attestation of employers to whether they are already providing health insurance or not. It looks like there may be some better ways to do this. Let's make a technical change to the law.

The President goes on to say, Mr. Speaker:

That would have been the normal thing that I would prefer to do, but we are not in a normal atmosphere around here when it comes to ObamaCare.

The President says:

We did have the executive authority to do so, and we did so.

Mr. Speaker, this was from that very contentious time trying to solve problems for the American people, again, problems the White House knew existed and problems the Congress knew existed.

The President says:

You know what? If it was ordinary times like any time in the past 225 years, I would have called the United States Congress and I would have said: "Listen, the Constitution gives you Article I powers to legislate, and I need a legislative change made because the law is not working."

He didn't, and he said he didn't, and he said he wasn't going to. He said he was going to go it alone. The disappointment in that decision, in this body, was very partisan, Mr. Speaker. It was very partisan.

I don't know how we get past the allegiance to the President because he is from our party. Republicans did this when George Bush was in office. Democrats are doing this when President Obama is in office. It is not about who the President is. It is about what the President does.

What the President does is implement the laws that we pass. He doesn't change the laws. And every time we fail on behalf of our constituents to stand together as 435 Representatives of the people and instead become Representatives of the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, we fail America.

Mr. Speaker, what I have here is the chart of the Supreme Court decision in