

it from my colleague today, the war on coal, the intent by this administration to take coal out of the portfolio of electricity generation—and, really, any other fossil fuel they can get their hands on, whether it be crude oil or whether they will then move to natural gas.

Later on, the mayor, in another article from the same paper, on November 12, says because the New Era Mine in Galatia is now going to close, this closure, “‘It impacts everybody,’ said David Harrawood, the village’s mayor. ‘It doesn’t just impact coal miners. It impacts trucking businesses, the stores, all their vendors. It’s not just one segment. Down here, we’re all tied together.’”

So that is the human toll of the war on coal. The human toll is lost jobs, lost benefits, bankruptcies, which then creates a risk to the promised pension payments to the retirees. It becomes a loss of revenue to the taxing districts, to the counties, to the villages, to the first line responders, support for our schools. It dries up the ability for the local grocery store to operate, the local hardware store, and it is, as the mayor has said, devastating to southern Illinois.

Now, when you hear the debate internationally, it is carbon dioxide, CO₂. In fact, I always talk in the committee about then-Senator Obama and his quote to the San Francisco Chronicle, when he was interviewed by the editorial board, when he was asked about climate and his plan, and here is his quote. You can YouTube it. It is easily accessible. “So if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant, they can; It’s just that it will bankrupt them.”

That has been the plan since 2008. That has been the plan in the first 4 years of his administration, and that is what he is striving to do, pushing with all his force to not only do here in the United States, but do in an international venue. He is being successful, as we find out in the announcement of the closure of the mine in Galatia.

The total number of coal mines opening each year has fallen to its lowest point in at least a decade. The total number of operating coal mines has hit its lowest point on record, according to the Energy Information Administration, which has records back to 1923. At the beginning of the Obama administration, over half the Nation’s electricity came from coal. That number is down to 38 percent as of 2014.

Now remember, coal is the most efficient, the cheapest source of electricity generation and creates a base-load capacity that is very critical to keep the lights on. If you lose the base-load generation and you rely on renewables, you really do risk keeping the lights on, and you assure the Nation of higher costs of electricity.

So that is the war on coal, and that is kind of where we are right now with the administration.

So what has been the response on the floor of the House? What have we done?

Well, fortunately, yesterday we took a parliamentary procedure and a process called the Congressional Review Act to address the ability of the administration to try to promulgate regulations without the authority of Congress.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again, we come to You to ask wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people’s House.

Give them the generosity of heart and the courage of true leadership to work toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation.

As true statesmen and -women, may they find the fortitude to make judgments to benefit all Americans at this time and those generations to come.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. QUIGLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BORDER SECURITY AND SYRIAN REFUGEES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I share the concerns of the majority of Americans regarding allowing Syrian refugees into this country. Most important, I am worried that a terrorist could slip through, just like one of the terrorists involved in Paris.

But we also can’t lose sight of another vulnerability, a geographical vulnerability, our southern border, because our border is not secure. This President refuses to secure it.

Yesterday, I spoke with the director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Steve McCraw, and he made it very clear that we are seeing another surge at the border. We are seeing folks from Syria come across. This is troubling and wrong.

The President must secure our border and protect our national security. If he refuses, we in this Congress must stop him by any means possible.

NO POLICY RIDERS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, weeks ago, this body avoided a government shutdown by passing the Bipartisan Budget Act. Now we have to pass an omnibus.

Unfortunately, many of our appropriations bills contain divisive policy riders that threaten to create another partisan standoff. There is an appropriate time and place to debate these provisions: in the authorizing committees.

It seems that some Members have learned nothing from the brinksmanship that almost led to a government shutdown. It is hard enough to pass these measures without these divisive, controversial riders. We need to put the unnecessary fighting behind us.

The Bipartisan Budget Act represents a chance for us to return to reasonable compromises and regular order. I call upon my colleagues to follow up on that accomplishment and pass a clean omnibus package.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday marked the fifth annual Small Business Saturday, a day when we recognize the importance of local businesses by shopping at these community businesses.

Saturday’s event was particularly meaningful to small businesses in South Carolina, many of which were recovering from the tragic thousand-year flood in October.

In South Carolina, over half of our State’s workforce is employed by a