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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, 2016, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 6, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RYAN A. COSTELLO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, 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, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

RAIDS BY THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON FAMILIES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA MUST STOP

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, over the holidays, the Obama administra-

tion sent a very special Christmas greeting to immigrant families. They launched a series of home raids targeting Central American asylum seekers and immigrant families with children.

As its New Year's resolution, it is clear the Obama administration is embarking on a new enforcement initiative to deport Central Americans who entered the U.S. in 2014.

Last weekend, 121 children and adults were taken into custody, and most were sent to private family detention centers—a kind of privately run, for-profit family jail. They will probably be deported, just like the 2 million before them deported by President Obama.

How they are treated and whether they get meaningful due process remains a question mark. What is undeniable is that such raids strike maximum fear in immigrant communities. The government is saying they could be coming to your house, and they could be coming at any time.

Already, we are seeing signs of panic. We hear that children aren't going to school and parents aren't going to work out of fear. Not even a week into the new year, and 2016 has turned into one of fear and hiding.

But let us be clear: Deporting families will not solve the violence and corruption that push people from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to risk assault, rape, and murder to seek refuge in the United States. Deporting families will not weaken the gangs who terrorize and extort their own people in Central America. Deporting families

will not solve America's immigration problem. Deporting families will not strengthen border security. Deporting families will not create legal channels that allow immigrants to come with visas instead of smugglers. Deporting families will not reduce the insatiable demand in the United States for the very drugs that fuel the gangs, the guns, the smuggling operations, and the ruthless violence in Central America.

The raids by the Obama administration on families from Central America must stop. They are a cruel reminder of a discredited policy.

We do not want to repeat the scenes from April 2000 when armed agents forcibly took Elian Gonzalez from his house in Miami. That vision of terror is seared into America's memory and should not be repeated.

But even the raid on the home of Elian Gonzalez was carried out after all peaceful means of negotiation were exhausted. Surely there is a better way to take action when people have exhausted all of their legal remedies than to send armed agents into neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and family homes.

Those who are being deported are the ones most likely to have no attorney, no understanding of the laws and the practices of immigration courts, and now could be vulnerable to attack and murder back in Central America.

The fact is that some of the people the U.S. Government has deported in the past years have ended up dead in days or weeks after their return. We have to make sure that same tragic

□ 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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