



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016

No. 96

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, thank You for giving us another day.

As we come to the end of a legislative week, begun after a most terrible tragedy in Orlando, we ask Your blessing of strength and perseverance that each Member might best serve their constituents and our entire Nation.

May it be their purpose to see to the hopes of so many Americans that they authenticate the grandeur and glory of the ideals and principles of our Republic with the work they do.

Grant that the men and women of the people's House find the courage and wisdom to work together to forge solutions to the many needs of our Nation and ease the anxieties of so many.

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 Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COURTNEY 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SUPPORTING USE OF AMERICAN ENERGY SOURCES AT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose entering into contracts for energy or fuel with the Russian Federation for the purpose of heating our military installations.

I have longstanding concerns regarding the prospect of American military installations in Europe being exposed to unnecessary vulnerabilities as a result of becoming dependent upon foreign energy resources. Russian natural gas already makes up a majority of the fuel mix used at some military posts, and we cannot allow Russian coal or natural gas to take control of the difference.

This is a national security issue. By purchasing energy from areas that are impacted by volatile international or regional politics, we are putting our troops and their dependents at risk.

The United States has become the North American energy giant. With congressional action to lift a 40-year moratorium on crude oil exports, we are seeing new markets develop. We must ensure our families in Europe are provided a choice. Similarly, we must utilize American-sourced energy to strategically support our military installations overseas.

This is about countering Russian aggressions—saying “no” to Russian energy and saying “yes” to American jobs and security.

VOTE ON NO FLY, NO BUY

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, President Calvin Coolidge once said that nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not. Genius will not. Education will not. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

Yesterday, U.S. Senator CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut reminded us of the truth of that statement when, for 15 hours, he stood on the floor of the United States Senate and refused to yield until he got a commitment from the Republican leadership of the Senate to hold a vote on a no fly, no buy piece of legislation to restrict people on the terrorist watch list from buying firearms and also for having a commonsense background check reform which allows Internet sales and gun show sales to be included in the background check system, which is supported by 53 percent of NRA households.

Mr. Speaker, finally, at 2:11 a.m., he got a commitment for those votes. I congratulate him. I am proud of him, as a fellow Connecticut citizen, for the persistence and courage that he demonstrated to the world yesterday on the floor of the United States Senate.

It is time for us now in the House to do the same. We have tried 12 times in the House to force a vote on these measures, which the public is craving by huge majorities. After the events of this last week, it is time for us to listen to CHRIS MURPHY, to follow his example, to thank him for his leadership and persistence and courage. Let's do what the American people are looking for: ways to protect us from these mass shootings of which there are far too many and that are far too damaging to the people of this country.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3917