

checks on anybody who wants to purchase a weapon.

Those two simple pieces of legislation we have asked to be brought to this floor. In fact, a couple weeks ago, we were so upset that we actually did a filibuster and broke some rules of this House to try to make our voices heard to have a vote. The Republican majority has refused to let us have that vote.

Let us have a hearing. These are bipartisan pieces of legislation sponsored by Mr. KING. Mr. CURBELO, just a second ago, asked that something be brought up, but it is not going to be brought up.

It is time. It is time that we have a vote. It is time that we have a hearing. It is time that we do something about gun violence.

Today I just brought the picture of Garrett Swasey, the police officer who was killed in the mass shooting at the Planned Parenthood facility in Colorado Springs, and a picture to remember, Alex Teves, who was killed in the Aurora movie theater protecting his girlfriend from being shot by a madman who thought he was The Joker.

It is time, Mr. Speaker. It is time, Mr. Speaker, that we address these things. We can't avoid it any longer. These subjects are not going away. We are not going away. These people cannot have died in vain.

Whether it is the 5 police officers shot last week, the 49 people killed at the nightclub, the hundreds who have been killed by guns over the course of the last few years, it is time for a hearing, and it is time for a vote.

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 11 o'clock and 2 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:

Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of this people's House with wisdom and the courage to address the pressing difficulties of our time. You know each one personally, through and through, and how they relate with one another. You know them, as Your people know them, as the 114th Congress.

Help them to know You. Impel them by Your spirit to act justly and walk humbly with You.

Inspire all of our citizens, as well, to look first to their blessings and then

charitably to the work of this people's House. Each Member chooses to serve another day. May each serve with honor, and merit the appreciation of those whom they serve.

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 Virginia (Mr. FORBES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FORBES 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.

RESTORING THE CONSTITUTION

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take a stand against bureaucracy run amok. Every day I hear from hardworking Hoosiers, small-business owners, and family farmers buried under red tape. They feel like their government is actively working against them. From ObamaCare, to the EPA, to many other agencies, the Obama administration has been churning out complex and costly regulations. This has to stop.

We can't have small business, farmers, and other engines of our economy held back by the threat of a regulator knocking on their door. That is why we have a plan to restore the Constitution. House Republicans recently released our plan for A Better Way to make our government more accountable and transparent and give power back to the people.

Today we are also taking an important step toward reining in regulators and rebuilding the checks and balances our Founding Fathers intended with the Separation of Powers Restoration Act. Mr. Speaker, with this bill, and our A Better Way agenda, the House is standing up for the people against out-of-control bureaucracy.

REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the poor condition of America's infrastructure costs our economy hundreds of billions of dollars each year. Freight bottlenecks, aviation congestion, inadequate ports, and deteriorating roads will cost 2.5 million American jobs over the next 10 years unless we address it.

Meanwhile, interest rates are at a historic low. The yield on a 10-year Treasury bond is 1.4 percent. Indexed for inflation, the interest rate is negative.

Observing this, Nobel Prize economist Paul Krugman wrote: "They say that money talks; well, cheap money is speaking very clearly right now, and it's telling us to invest in our future," to nation-build in America.

Increasing spending by \$250 billion a year, the amount needed to bring our infrastructure to a state of good repair, would create 3 million jobs and would improve America's competitiveness in the long term.

We should use today's record low rates to finance this inevitable spending. Refusing to do so makes no economic sense. I encourage this Congress to reconsider before this opportunity is lost.

TRAGEDY AT THE BERRIEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

(Mr. UPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, southwest Michigan has had some tough times lately, and now we are faced with the news that broke yesterday that two bailiffs at Berrien County Courthouse in my hometown of St. Joseph, Michigan, were slain by an inmate who had overpowered his guard.

So I rise today to offer support and love for the victims' friends, family and certainly our entire community. We should continue to keep those affected in our hearts and in our minds. I also want to thank the countless folks on the front lines who clearly prevented the tragedy from even being worse.

The swift actions of those on the ground need to be commended, particularly the Berrien County Sheriff's Department led by Sheriff Paul Bailey. I was with him just this past Saturday, and what he had to endure the last 24 hours is unthinkable.

I also want to thank the immediate action and outpouring of support from our local officials: St. Joseph Mayor Mike Garey; Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad; and State-elected officials, including our Governor Rick Snyder and State legislators John Proos and Al Pscholka. It is times like these when we need to unite as one. This heartbreaking tragedy happened