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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH) at noon.

PRAYER

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

The prophet Isaiah warns us: O Lord, unless we acknowledge You as Lord with living faith and lasting reverence, we go adrift.

You have raised us and reared us. Our pets know their owners, our appetites know where to be fed, yet there are times when we do not know where to turn unless we truly belong to You.

As Your people, should we hear You call us: "... a sinful nation, a people laden with wickedness, an evil race, corrupt children," should we run away from You? Or toward You?

In those times, is it You we fear and cannot face? Or is it the truth about ourselves? Strengthen us that we may be drawn into the truth by You, now and always.

May all we do in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIPS ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS

(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, this week we have representatives from the South Carolina Manu-

facturing Extension Partnership, MEP, visiting for their annual legislative day. MEPs are public-private partnerships that help small- and medium-size manufacturers grow their business. There are MEP centers in all 50 States and Puerto Rico.

Manufacturing is one of America's major economic drivers, comprising over 12 percent of our annual GDP, with most manufacturing firms in the United States having 500 employees or less. MEPs provide much-needed assistance for manufacturers to become more successful. MEPs help manufacturers grow their global market with export guidance on where to eliminate waste.

Last year, MEPs across the country generated \$1.7 billion in cost savings, \$3.5 billion in new client investments, and helped create and retain over 100,000 jobs. You can see these benefits firsthand in the Second Congressional District, where the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership, led by Chuck Spangler, served over 40 companies last year, resulting in \$25 million in new sales and 25 retained jobs.

I am grateful for the MEP's positive impact in communities across the country.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

BIPARTISAN ACTION ON GUNS

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the students, faculty, staff, families, and community around Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who lost 17 of their own 3 weeks ago today.

I rise to join the entire community of Parkland and millions of Americans all across the country, Democrats and Republicans, who are saying enough is enough. The time for action is now.

We cannot allow partisan politics to get in the way of taking meaningful action in areas where both parties agree and that have the support of most Americans across this country. Here are a few examples:

Both Democrats and Republicans support legislation I have cosponsored to ban bump stocks.

Both Democrats and Republicans support legislation to close the loophole exploited by the Sutherland Springs, Texas, shooter last year.

Both Democrats and Republicans support legislation to uphold Second Amendment rights and strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Now is the time for us to come together and to take meaningful action towards responsible, commonsense gun safety reform.

FEARS OF A TRADE WAR ARE BEING GREATLY EXAGGERATED

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, in his column yesterday, Pat Buchanan wrote that, through most of its history, the Republican Party was the high tariff party, favoring tariffs rather than income taxes. He wrote that those tariffs helped the U.S. to become the strongest industrial power in the world.

In the 1950s and 1960s, 53 percent of American jobs were industrial based, many of them white collar. Now only around 10 percent are in manufacturing, and many thousands of college graduates are working as waiters and waitresses or in other low-paying jobs and living with their parents.

Fears of a trade war are being greatly exaggerated. We have been in a trade war for many years, and we have been losing. With only 4 percent of the world's population, we buy almost 23 percent of the world's goods.

Every country wants into our markets, and we have tremendous leverage on trade that we haven't been using. President Trump's proposed tariffs apply only to two products. I commend him for his effort to try to protect American jobs.

GOP TAX BREAK FOR BILLIONAIRES

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, despite their best efforts, my Republican friends have not fooled the American people.

They provided a modest, temporary tax cut for some Americans, but their tax bill raised taxes on 86 million middle class families. Eighty-three percent of the tax cuts go to the top 1 percent. It creates \$2.3 trillion in debt and pays for it with deep cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

It also provides a huge tax break, \$1.3 trillion, for the biggest corporations in this country and further incentivizes shipping American jobs overseas. Corporations have announced more than \$200 billion in stock buybacks in just 3 months, more than 30 times what workers received.

Corporations like Walmart and Pfizer, at the same time, are laying off thousands of workers as they pocket massive tax breaks for themselves, and we gave them incentives to ship more jobs overseas.

Democrats want real bipartisan tax reform that starts with a real permanent tax break for the middle class that will produce better jobs and better wages for a better future. The American people deserve A Better Deal than this raw deal that they got from the Republicans in this tax bill.