

We now come to find out that the President's attorney has been investigated for a long period of time. We found out a surprise: one of his clients was Sean Hannity, who was already being investigated.

This is an insurance that the President will not fire the special counsel and allow his work to continue. That is an Article I responsibility, a constitutional responsibility, and I encourage my colleagues to join us to provide that insurance.

SAVE A MAJESTIC SHIP FROM SINKING INTO THE DEPTHS OF HISTORY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the first board of her keel landed on the dockyard with a loud thump.

It was 107 years ago today, April 17, 1911. One year later, she sailed smoothly into Newport News, Virginia, harbor, christened the USS *Texas*, BB-35. She was commissioned and saw immediate action in World War I. The *Texas* made numerous voyages to the North Sea, serving the country and our State of Texas.

Upon formal entry into World War II, the battleship *Texas* escorted war convoys across the Atlantic, was the flagship on D-day, and saw action in the Pacific as well. She was decommissioned in 1948.

Texas schoolchildren saved their nickels to bring the ship home to Texas. She is now moored in La Porte, Texas. But now after serving our great Nation, *Texas* is in danger of being scrapped for parts, a fate unfitting for the majestic ship that served our country.

To prevent this, the State of Texas and Congress must band together and work to save the battleship *Texas* from sinking into the depths of history.

And that is just the way it is.

OPPOSE THE FARM BILL

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the recently released farm bill for 2018.

Congressional Republicans and the Trump administration want to unravel the social safety net, and according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, this farm bill cuts total Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits—that is the Food Stamp program—by more than \$23 billion.

Its stricter work requirements could affect 5 million Americans who receive food stamps in this country—children, seniors, the disabled, and, yes, veterans—even though most recipients who can work already do.

All told, 2 million would lose some or all of their benefits. To my colleagues

I say, these are not just numbers on a page; these are people who are in need.

At the same time, Republicans want to expand the ill-targeted commodity programs. They will maintain crop insurance subsidies that have no eligibility requirements or limits.

This farm bill is not reform; it is hypocrisy. No one in this Chamber goes hungry. They have three squares or more. I urge my colleagues to defend the Food Stamp program and oppose this farm bill.

MARKET DATA PROTECTION

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, the Consolidated Audit Trail stands as the largest financial database in the world and ranks second in size only to the NSA's database.

The value of the sensitive information housed within this database includes Social Security numbers, broker numbers, account numbers. In fact, it is comparable to nine times the wealth that is in Fort Knox—far more sensitive than the Equifax data, whose breach affects 143 million Americans.

Despite the enormity of wealth within this database, the unfortunate reality is that its cybersecurity is not yet adequate. The Government Accountability Office report found the SEC's systems “at unnecessary risk of compromise.” The CAT operator recently delayed the issuing of technical specifications, which means that industry will have just 1 month to transmit all of this market data.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the Market Data Protection Act, which passed this House with unanimous support, to guarantee the private information of hundreds of millions of Americans transmits securely and without risk. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues in the Senate to send this bill to the President's desk.

TAX BILL BENEFITS THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today is tax day, the day that hardworking Americans finish preparing their taxes; and it is already clear, looking at the new tax bill, that it will overwhelmingly benefit CEOs, shareholders, and the wealthiest Americans.

Since the passage of this Republican tax bill, corporations have already funneled \$250 billion to CEOs and shareholders through stock buybacks, money that is not going to workers. Stock buybacks overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Americans and corporate executives. In fact, the richest 10 percent of American households hold 84 percent of stocks.

The CBO just released information showing that this tax bill will increase the deficit by \$1.9 trillion.

So let's get this straight. The Federal Government borrows almost \$2 trillion from our children and our grandchildren so that we can funnel hundreds of billions of dollars to the wealthiest Americans. Is that what we should be doing here?

I think not.

SYRIAN CHEMICAL ATTACKS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, President Trump and our British and French allies made it known that the heinous actions of dictator Bashar al-Assad will not be tolerated.

Over the past 3 years, Assad, aided by Iran and Russia, has continued to carry out chemical warfare against his own people. Not only is this in direct violation of Syria's previous agreement to destroy their chemical weapons stockpile, but it also violates every tenet of basic human decency and violates our Geneva Conventions standards.

Through pictures and images, the world quickly saw the aftermath of Assad's most recent attack on his own people: scores of people dead or dying while foaming at the mouth, including women and innocent children.

By aiding Assad's murder of his own people and then working to prevent a response by the United Nations, Russia and Iran deserve equal blame and scrutiny when it comes to these attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the administration to follow through with the sanctions on Russian companies that was announced by Ambassador Nikki Haley and to continue sending a clear message that these horrific criminal actions by the dictator, Assad, will not be tolerated.

BRING THE DREAM ACT TO THE FLOOR

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Speaker RYAN do the following: before he retires, do the right thing and bring the Dream Act to the floor.

Already 46 of his Republican colleagues and more than 170 Democrats—that is 218 bipartisan supporters—have, as of today, cosponsored H. Res. 774. This will force debate on competing DACA bills in the House and use a procedure known as Queen of the Hill. This will include four amendments, including Representative ROYBAL-ALLARD's clean Dream Act and an amendment, H.R. 4796, the USA Act. Mr. Speaker, this will force a debate on this issue.

The Dreamers have the support of the American people and Members of Congress. Bring the Dream Act to the floor.