

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THOSE KILLED OR WOUNDED IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in honor of those who have been killed or wounded in service to our country and all those who serve and their families.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HISTORIC PASSAGE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

(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, last month, at Fort Drum New York, surrounded by brave soldiers, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the signing of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, by President Donald Trump, fulfilling promises made, promises kept.

This critical legislation, thanks to the leadership of House Armed Services Committee Chairman MAC THORNBERRY, passed the House and Senate, bipartisan, in record time, becoming law before the start of the fiscal year for first time in 20 years.

As Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee chairman, I appreciate that the NDAA begins and enhances training, spare parts, equipment, and weapons systems maintenance, promoting safety and effectiveness.

The NDAA has an important part for South Carolina by promoting Fort

Jackson and its role as the largest initial entry training facility of the U.S. Army, which is commanded by Brigadier General Milford Beagle.

Also important are the missions of the Savannah River National Laboratory, which is a bipartisan effort by Congressman JIM CLYBURN from South Carolina and a bistate effort by Congressman RICK ALLEN from Georgia.

I am also grateful that Fort Gordon has been reinforced to continue as the U.S. Army Cyber Command headquarters.

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

TONAWANDA COKE NEEDS TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 3, first responders were called to a fire at Tonawanda Coke in western New York. As they approached the blaze, the company blocked them from entering the plant.

This obstruction of firefighters from the blaze threatened the health and safety of first responders, plant employees, and the surrounding neighborhood.

Tonawanda Coke has a long history of this kind of erratic corporate behavior and is in violation of Federal and State environmental laws, including dozens of provisions of the Clean Air Act.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation needs to put an end to Tonawanda Coke's reckless actions.

Tonawanda Coke needs to be made to comply with the letter of any and all environmental law, or they should be shut down.

MAKE PENSION SECURITY A PRIORITY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, every American who works hard and plays by the rules should be able to retire in dignity, supported by the pension that they have earned.

Instead of protecting these hard-working Americans, this Republican-led Congress prioritized tax cuts for the biggest corporations and the wealthiest Americans. Now some of the largest pension plans for workers are on the verge of collapse; 1.5 million Americans, including 43,000 in my home State of Michigan, are at risk.

These workers have earned their pensions. They worked a lifetime contributing to them, and now they are having the rug pulled out from under them?

Patricia from Michigan is one of those retirees. Here is what she told

my office: "I was a single mother raising one child. I thought putting money into the pension was my security. Now you want to take it away. I was never on welfare—I worked. If I lose my pension, I will not be able to pay for the basics: utilities, taxes, car insurance, food."

So unless Congress steps up, pensions for Americans like Patricia will be cut. Let's vote on bipartisan legislation that I cosponsored, the Butch Lewis Act, which addresses this pension crisis. This legislation ensures that multi-employer pension plans remain solvent and continue providing retirees and workers with the retirement benefits that they have earned. It is long past time to take up this legislation.

TIME TO STRATEGICALLY ENGAGE WITH TRADE PARTNERS

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's erratic trade policies, including abrupt tweets on new tariffs or exemptions, are hurting American workers and making it harder for American businesses to compete.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit eight businesses in my district to better understand the impact of these tariffs. While each business was distinct, all shared a common message: Tariffs are creating uncertainty, raising the cost of doing business, and making it harder to hire and expand.

These concerns were true across the businesses I visited, from a large manufacturer in Wheeling that saw a 30 percent to 40 percent increase in the price of domestic steel, to an educational toy and game company in Vernon Hills that had to redesign upcoming products.

We certainly must hold bad actors who take advantage of trade rules to account, but President Trump's tariffs on our allies are not working for the American people. It is time, instead, to strategically engage with our trade partners; end the misguided trade wars; and, instead, enact sensible, enforceable trade agreements that support American workers, American businesses, American intellectual property, and our environment.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of