

whole ball of wax? I appreciate and I thank Mr. GARRETT very much for yielding to me.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, TOM GARRETT, for arranging this Special Order. He is on his way out, and he cares so deeply about this country and this country's allies that he would put his life at risk and go and spend time with another American hero.

In fact, Dave Eubanks is a hero, and he is someone who has dedicated his life as a Christian, as an American, trying to make the lives of others in the world better, and I thank my friend, Congressman GARRETT, for spending that time with him. We shouldn't turn our back on our friends.

Sometimes it seems that Mr. Erdogan is not our friend, but we certainly have had a tremendous amount of friendship and lives lost in the Kurdish community, standing up for us, with us, in defense of freedom.

That is important. And I also want to address the issue of the wall on our southern border. It appears clear, since we lost over 70,000 American lives last year—that is more than all of the precious American lives we lost in the whole time of the Vietnam war—and we lost those in 1 year from drugs.

Most of those drugs coming across our southern border in the form of opiates and other hallucinogens, including fentanyl, are coming from Mexico. So if you want to see another 70,000 Americans die again next year, you don't want a wall. Let's not build a wall.

If you would like to have illegal aliens continue to pour into this country in the hopes that they will be able to vote illegally, you don't want a wall, even though you supported one in the past. You don't want one now because you may get those votes if you can stop a wall from being built.

If you want Mexico to remain as a country with so much incredible potential whose people are suffering and keep the people of Central America suffering at the hands of the drug cartels, you don't want a wall. Because if we build a wall where we need it, we build a fence where we need it, we totally secure the border, what happens? The money, by the tens of billions, pouring into the drug cartels south of the border dries up.

That means the corruption in Mexico and south of there dries up. That means Mexico, with its incredible national resources—the natural resources of that Nation are incredible. Its location, actually, for commerce is even better than the United States.

□ 2145

It sits between two continents. It sits between two oceans. Its potential is

unlimited. But what limits it is the corruption from the drug cartels that America is continuing to fund.

So do you want that to continue?

Yeah, you don't want a wall.

Our elected leaders in the House and the Senate—the Republican elected leaders in the House and Senate—were not in favor of a wall or total border security in the last election in 2016. It was unfortunate.

The President knew and heard the voice of the American people, and he echoed it. But that is why back in September of this year at our conference—and I know it wasn't popular and people didn't like me saying it—but I had to make clear, it was clear to me, if we don't get money for a wall, then the people, the voters that put President Trump in the White House will not come out in the same numbers, and we will not likely remain in the majority. I said it 2 weeks in a row, and the response was to cancel that last week of votes before the election.

We didn't fund the wall. We said: Oh, let's wait until December.

My comment then was: This will be my 14th December in Congress, and I have lived through 13 where we were told we will fight in December.

We have yet to fight in December.

Now is the time. I know people want to go home. I want to go home. But this is our chance to protect America for our future. Let's help the President keep our promise. Let's help him keep our promise.

I know the Speaker and the majority leader were not big on this 2 years ago, but most of America heard commercials from our majority leaders saying: Help KEVIN MCCARTHY and President Trump build the wall.

Well, now we need Americans to help remind our Republican leaders to help our President build the wall like we said. If that doesn't happen, I don't think the Senate can count on being back in the majority. They won't be. It is that serious.

I have heard that the feeling in the Senate among Republicans now is, let's not do reconciliation so we only have to pass the money for a wall with 51 votes. We don't want to do that.

If you don't do that, get money passed for the wall, then you are not coming back in the majority. Maybe you would enjoy the minority. Get used to it. That is where you are heading in 2 years.

It doesn't have to be that way. We can still have the White House in 2020. We can still have a majority in the Senate in 2020. We can get the majority back in the House in 2020. But if we drop the ball on this biggest campaign promise, then we are not going to have the majority in either the House or the White House.

And that, to quote my friend from Houston, my fellow former judge, that is just the way it is.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, very quickly back to Syria, if anyone tells you that this is Turks versus Kurds,

they should tell Sheikh Bandar, the leader of thousands of Arabs who fight alongside the Kurds and the SDF. If anyone tells you it is Turks versus Kurds, they should tell that to Commander Johannes, the leader of thousands of Christians who fight alongside Arabs and Kurds.

This is not a Kurdish experiment; it is a human experiment. It is an experiment in democracy. We made a commitment. We should keep our word.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone is watching, I hope they will contact their political leaders and ask them to stop the sale of Patriot missiles and F-35s to the aggressive Turks. I hope they will know the Iranian military is on the ground in Syria right now everywhere in the form of the IRGC, except the place that we are about to abandon.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the men and women across the world who stand up for the basic idea that all people are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0118

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) at 1 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 19, 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 the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2018, at 10:55 p.m.:

That the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the bill with a further amendment H.R. 695.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to: