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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 29, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

BORDER WALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I believe the President's decision to temporarily resolve the shutdown was the correct one. The Democrats' refusal even to discuss a path forward had created a crisis of governance, in addition to our ongoing crisis on the southern border.

The President had offered many compromises to the Democrats. He reduced

his funding request, altered the design, and added nearly \$1 billion of humanitarian aid. Yet, the Democrats spurned all of these good faith overtures.

When the President invited congressional Democrats to the Oval Office to hear their views, they refused to go. They had plenty of time to vacation in Puerto Rico with 100 lobbyists during the shutdown, but they couldn't seem to fit a simple meeting with the President into their busy schedules in order to resolve it.

Based on their past behavior, I am skeptical their position will change over the next 3 weeks.

They tell us there is no crisis. Well, the facts speak for themselves. Between 16 million and 29 million people now are living illegally in the United States, costing American taxpayers well over \$100 billion a year to support. Sixty thousand more are illegally crossing our border every month. In 2017, illegal aliens murdered 1,800 Americans and violently assaulted 48,000 more.

The congressional Democrats who oppose the President's wall insist that they support border security, but they say a wall is a costly and ineffective way to stop illegal immigration. Well, it is hard to take either of their claims seriously.

These same politicians have long advocated for providing a wide range of services for illegal immigrants, ranging from healthcare and legal counsel to education and housing, all at taxpayer expense. It is hard to believe they want to discourage illegal immigration while they reward those who illegally immigrate.

The Democrats long ago ceased to call illegal immigration what it is: illegal. Many have gone so far as to advocate abolishing the agencies that defend our borders and enforce our immigration laws. They have enacted sanctuary laws that protect dangerous criminals from deportation. They have

opposed mandatory employment verification to hold employers accountable for hiring illegals. And they have opposed visa tracking of foreign nationals entering our country.

They tell us that walls are medieval and what we really need are sophisticated cameras. Well, we don't want to watch them crossing our border; we want to stop them.

Walls have been used for thousands of years to impede unauthorized entry for one reason: They work, and they still work. When Israel built a 143-mile wall to protect its southern border, illegal immigration fell 99 percent. The cost of building a wall is a fraction of the cost incurred by American citizens every year to support the illegal population already in our country.

It doesn't address the whole problem, but a wall would be a tremendous force multiplier for border enforcement agencies. It would protect them from the violent attacks to which they are constantly subjected and allow them to apply their slender resources more efficiently and effectively.

If the Democrats continue to oppose serious measures to defend our borders and enforce our laws, I urge the President to use the authority Congress granted in 1976 to reprogram already appropriated but unobligated military construction funds for the defense of our Nation. What is more fundamental to national defense than the security and integrity of our own borders?

Some argue that this would divert money from other Defense Department projects. Well, it is an odd logic that argues that defending the Iraqi border is more important than defending our own.

Others have worried that a Presidential order would provoke a protracted legal challenge. Isn't that true of any course the President could take?

Others worry that leftist activists would misuse this precedent. Well, let me ask you: When have such activists

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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