

NEGOTIATE BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, while the longest government shutdown in our country's history finally ended over the weekend, its effects continue to plague working families.

For 35 days the President held hostage the paychecks, financial security, and health and wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of Federal workers, including 5,200 from Michigan.

The President's stunt did nothing to advance real border security discussions and resulted in a colossal waste of time and resources. He cost the American economy \$11 billion; ironically, nearly twice as much as he wanted for an ineffective border wall.

As the President threatens another shutdown, I rise today to demand that he never again use this cruel tactic, and to, instead, come to the table, the negotiating table in good faith.

Democrats support effective border security solutions, and we are here to talk so long as working families are not used as pawns in the political process.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

FIRE SAFETY REMAINS A DIRE ISSUE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind people, that although it is wintertime, a rainy season, a stormy season, that we are still in a dire circumstance on fire safety in our forested areas, California, of the West, and many areas of the United States.

So for us to just be comfortable during the wintertime, during the rainy season and not think about it would be in error. We need to do much to catch up on the forest inventory we have across this country, across the West.

That will require USDA, the U.S. Forest Service, our States, our local governments, Tribes, and everybody to be able to coordinate much better than we have in the past to reduce this fuel load, this inventory we have in our forests that makes it so dangerous when fire season comes around once again.

We have seen that with so many devastating fires in the West, just this year in my own district, the Carr fire in the Redding area, and the Camp fire in the Paradise area.

Many factors go into what causes these fires, but we can at least be proactive in thinning our Federal forests, thinning the material that needs to come out of there, putting people

back to work doing that, using this material for biomass, generating electricity, and the wood and paper products that we all need and enjoy.

We need to move fast-forward on the pace and scale of what it takes to make our forested areas fire safe, healthy, good for the economy, and good for all of us.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 104(a) of House Resolution 6, 116th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member to the House Democracy Partnership:

Mr. PRICE, North Carolina, Chairman

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. CUELLAR, Texas, Chairman

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. HIGGINS, New York, Chairman

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. CONNOLLY, Virginia, Chairman

THE PEOPLE'S NIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and introduce extraneous material into the RECORD on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, tonight is a reminder of exactly whose House this belongs to. We hear much in the political circles as far as who makes the call and who gets to speak when. Today, customarily, is a very unique and special day had our President not been disinclined.

Well, tonight we will have a few Members speaking on the importance of hearing from the Members that Americans have elected to talk about the issues of the past 2 years, and some of the things that we need to accomplish over the next couple of years.

We have some wonderful speakers this afternoon and this evening, to be able to share some of the topics that are important to our constituents as well as to all Americans.

The first speaker I would like to introduce to you is Mr. MIKE JOHNSON, who represents the Fourth District of Louisiana, and is currently leading the largest caucus in all of Congress as chairman of the Republican Study Committee.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from the great State of North Carolina for inviting me to speak on this topic.

I stand before you in disbelief and in sorrow tonight. It has been mentioned that the State of the Union Address was originally scheduled to take place today, and it has been rescheduled for next week.

I think it is appropriate for us then to bring attention to what is happening here in the people's House. I think the American people deserve to know that. As we speak, I think the American people need to know that partisan tactics are underway by certain House Democrats to undermine American values and traditions that have been cherished and practiced here since the time of our founding.

As we finally begin our committee work in the 116th Congress, I am proud to serve again on the Judiciary Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee. We have just begun the process of adopting our committee rules there, and today, we were issued a list of proposed rule changes that the Democrat majority and the Natural Resources Committee will apparently push through at our hearing tomorrow.

Among the radical new changes to the rules is a stunning action to remove the phrase, "So help me God" from the oath taken by witnesses before they testify to Congress. Did you hear that? Let me repeat it. Among the radical new changes in our committee is a stunning action to remove the phrase "So help me God" from the oath taken by witnesses before they testify to Congress.

This latest example of the aggressive surge to the far left that we are seeing