

You know the last task will come, last work be done, then home. All right!

You will mount up to take that last patrol with fellows all well tried;

That honor roll of troopers you have come to know with love and pride.

You have all talked, laughed, wept, and fought hard, side by side.

Many times before, you've watched them play, work, fight, and bleed.

You've patched them up, cheered them on, and sent them back to lead.

You've been there for them in the dust of day and in the cold of night.

Then on to the next patrol, with that honored roll. Back one more time to fight.

You remember. The report was out. They were all about, and they had planted one to three.

On late guard, near break of day, an IED you see they start to lay.

You call Sarge, "Hey! Look close over there. Can you see?"

Sarge runs right out, and starts to shout, "That's it!" And you do the follow me!

Later, you patch the enemy then work smart, fight tough, to get yourself free.

You ask, "Is this the last patrol? Is this it for the Sarge and me?"

Experience kicks in. You both fight hard and win. Clearly, the last patrol it's not.

You and your team will see lots more patrols, as that's the soldier's lot.

As you're grouped the next day, the General praises your brave acts.

You and Sarge got four, and the team got nine more, in those all-out attacks.

Your team did its job. They fought hard and did so very well.

You've sent the enemy on their last patrol, their justly deserved death knell.

Now, you are rolling on this new daytime mission. The light is oh so bright.

Your patrol is off to guard the convoy, checking all that is in sight.

You laugh at stories told as along you roll and grab a snack. All right!

Then that flash of light, that blast of might, your eyes they see now closed so tight.

For four, the last patrol has come. The rest for a moment numb, a truly terrible plight.

Later, the caisson rolls. The cannons boom. Overhead, the Blackhawks fly.

We honor you as we stand in place. But we ask, O God! Tell us why.

We find some comfort as we hear "Amazing Grace," our eyes very far from dry.

It was a one-way ticket, but we know you're in a better place.

Now, you are with our dear Lord and holy master.

You have passed from last patrol to honored guard of God's most holy pasture.

FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PAKISTAN

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, came to Washington this week-end. As chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, it is appropriate that I comment upon what has occurred so far in the bilateral discussions, and I look forward to meeting the Prime Minister later today.

What is unfortunate is the approach taken by the Trump administration.

First, as to Afghanistan, the hearts and minds of the Afghan people are

critical to our success in what has been our longest war. Tens of thousands of Americans have worked to get the hearts and minds of the Afghan people on our side, building schools and hospitals, under very dangerous conditions.

Now, the President takes this high-profile opportunity as an opportunity to say that he might kill 10 million Afghans, or was thinking about it, or raises the possibility that we would use nuclear weapons to destroy Afghanistan.

This does untold harm to our efforts in Afghanistan to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people.

What the President should have done is talk about the Durand Line and how Afghanistan should accept this border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, a border that Afghanistan disputes but that the whole world accepts.

As to Kashmir, it is not surprising that the Prime Minister of Pakistan wants America to arbitrate or mediate. That has been the position of Pakistan for decades. But then, the President said in Osaka, last month, Prime Minister Modi asked the United States to arbitrate or mediate the Kashmir dispute.

That is utterly preposterous, and it is embarrassing that we have a President who wouldn't realize how preposterous that statement is. Of course, the record has been set straight by Prime Minister Modi.

Third is what the President didn't say. He didn't make a major issue over Dr. Afridi, the doctor who was critical in helping us find and kill Osama bin Laden. Bin Laden was hiding a mile away from the military academy of the Pakistani Army, their West Point.

We have not demanded that the Pakistanis who helped Osama bin Laden be put in jail, but we do insist that the one Pakistani who helped us find bin Laden be released from Pakistani jail.

The President barely raised the issue. In fact, he didn't voluntarily raise it at all.

This is not just a humanitarian concern. It is also a strategic national security concern because who will help us fight terrorism if we leave Dr. Afridi behind?

In a news interview, Prime Minister Khan suggested there might be a trade, where Afridi was released and a terrorist named Dr. Siddiqui released by the United States.

No friendly country would demand that we release a terrorist in order for them to release a hero, but we have to be practical, and we have to get Dr. Afridi released.

Finally, the President failed to mention with the Prime Minister of Pakistan the situation as to human rights. Hundreds of individuals in Sindh have been forcibly disappeared by Pakistani authorities.

A prime example of that I should highlight today is a 17-year-old boy from Sindh, Aqib Chandio. He was abducted 14 months ago, in broad daylight. He is still missing.

It is time for the Prime Minister of Pakistan to provide information about Aqib Chandio. Where is he? Produce him in court or release him. What is his fate?

Of course, we need information about hundreds of others who have disappeared, including Murtaza Junejo, Shahid Junejo, Ayoub Kandhro, and Insaaf Dayo.

I want to mention Dr. Anwar Laghari, a friend of mine who was shot dead in Sindh in 2015 while working with the Sindh United Party, a party of which he was one of the leaders. Pakistan has not adequately investigated that brutal murder, and it is time for Pakistan to do so.

Finally, we focus on the issue of forced conversions in Sindh, young Hindu and Christian girls forced to convert to Islam and forced to marry men many decades their senior. The Pakistani Government needs to stop this pernicious practice. They need to do more. That is why nine of my colleagues joined with me in sending a letter to the President, urging a focus on human rights in Sindh in these bilateral discussions.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given.

Encourage the Members of this House, O God, to use their abilities and talents in ways that bring righteousness to this Nation and to all people.

Ever remind them of the needs of the poor, the homeless or forgotten, and those who live without freedom or liberty. May they be instruments of justice for all Americans.

We are grateful for the success of the recent negotiations between the President and congressional leaders on the debt limit and budget caps deal and ask Your blessing on them and on those now charged with moving the business of government and the national economy forward.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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. BAIRD. Madam 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 Utah (Mr. McADAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McADAMS 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

WE MUST ACT ON BIPARTISAN HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, passage of the Affordable Care Act nearly a decade ago, while not a perfect bill, helped thousands of Utah families gain insurance coverage, many for the first time, and I am working in Congress to ensure we meet the law's goals to improve access to care and protect all Americans' coverage, particularly those with preexisting conditions.

Utah's hardworking families struggle with the rising costs of care, fueled to a large degree by skyrocketing prescription drug prices.

Everywhere I go, people talk about how the cost of an illness or an accident sparks the fear of being one health crisis away from financial ruin.

That is why I have voted for a dozen bills to seek to lower the cost of prescription drugs and strengthen consumer protections, and I urge my Senate colleagues to act, too.

I continue to meet with Utahns about their healthcare concerns, and I recently had a conversation with moms of kids with type 1 diabetes, who explained to me how the high cost of insulin is affecting their child's treatment.

We have a bipartisan consensus that our healthcare system needs work, so it is past time that we act on bipartisan solutions that lower Americans' costs and ensure their access to quality, affordable healthcare.

FOR THE PEOPLE AGENDA IN ACTION

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, last year, the American people embraced the Democrats' For the People agenda: lower healthcare costs, raise wages, and clean up corruption.

Americans hate corruption. They hate the idea that people are cutting the line, breaking the rules, and getting ahead, cheating on the system. They want to see us clean that up in Washington.

And they sent us last year with a very, very powerful message. Three things, they said:

The first was: Make it so that I can get to the ballot box in America without running an obstacle course. Make it easier to register and vote in this country.

And in H.R. 1, the For the People Act, we did that. We put that proposal forward to strengthen voting.

The second thing they said was: When you get to Washington, behave yourselves. It is that simple. Be ethical, be accountable, and answer to the people.

So we put ethics reforms into H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

The last thing they said was: When you get to Washington, don't get tangled up in the money. Remember where you came from. Work for us, not the special interests and the insiders and the lobbyists.

And we fixed that in H.R. 1. That was part of the For the People agenda.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE AVERN COHN

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Avern Cohn, who turns 95 years young today and marks 40 years of service in the Eastern District of Michigan.

Although he has technically been on senior status for two decades, Judge Cohn maintains a remarkably active docket, and his Chambers are a landmark for anyone interested in an astounding range of history, legal doctrine, and public policy.

I count myself among the many Michiganders, from all communities and stations of life, who know room 218 is the place to go when you have a particularly thorny problem to solve or need advice on a sensitive matter. You just have to be ready because the judge dispenses his wisdom unvarnished.

Judge Cohn's work ethic is legendary. In any room, he is generally both the most well-read person on history, philosophy, culture, and also, somehow, the most up to date on current affairs, as he devours numerous newspapers and websites every day.

It is hard to overstate Judge Cohn's impact on the law and the people who have passed through his courtroom, whether they be defendants, attorneys, or staff. He has left an indelible imprint on so many lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Judge Cohn on 40 years of service and in wishing him continued success.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF STEM ACT

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1665) to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1665

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Building Blocks of STEM Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Science Foundation is a large investor in STEM education and plays a key role in setting research and policy agendas.

(2) While studies have found that children who engage in scientific activities from an early age develop positive attitudes toward science and are more likely to pursue STEM expertise and careers later on, the majority of current research focuses on increasing STEM opportunities for middle school-aged children and older.

(3) Women remain widely underrepresented in the STEM workforce, and this gender disparity extends down through all levels of education.

SEC. 3. SUPPORTING EARLY CHILDHOOD STEM EDUCATION RESEARCH.

In awarding grants under the Discovery Research PreK-12 program, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall consider the age distribution of a STEM education research and development project to