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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. GOTTHEIMER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 18, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOSH GOTTHEIMER 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.

CONGRESS MUST PASS USMCA AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, it is time. It is time for Congress to pass the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the USMCA. This is not, as many of you know, a new issue. The administration finished its work months ago—292 days ago, to be exact.

That is 292 days that Congress has had to ask questions. That is 292 days

that we have had to assess the benefits of the agreement. That is 292 days we have had to analyze the text of that agreement.

During the August recess, I had conversations with hundreds, maybe thousands, of folks. Their message was clear: USMCA is a clearly better agreement, and Congress needs to do its job for the good of this country.

There are a number of ways in which the President has negotiated a USMCA that is stronger, that is better than NAFTA.

First, USMCA ensures that the digital economy will be more open and that it will be more secure.

Second, the strong language on currency manipulation and on intellectual property provides a model for our way forward with other agreements, especially one with China.

Third, Mr. Speaker, the benefits to the ag community are compelling. My colleagues have heard me speak before about the fact that our ag producers have not had the easiest time of it lately. They need USMCA.

This agreement opens up new access to Canadian markets for wheat, wine, eggs, poultry, and dairy. It increases agricultural exports by \$2 billion a year. That is why 1,000 ag groups from across the country have endorsed USMCA. They know that with fair access to markets, American producers can compete and win.

USMCA is not perfect, but collectively, these improvements would create 176,000 new American jobs and would increase our GDP by \$68 billion. That is real value, and it is value across the agricultural, manufacturing, and service sectors.

The administration has done its job. It has negotiated an agreement that powers economic opportunity and grows American jobs.

So, it is time. It is time for this body to act. It is time for the Speaker to bring this bill to the floor. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to pass USMCA.

PUT PRINCIPLES ABOVE POLITICS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise because I love my country. And I rise today because we are witnessing clear and convincing evidence of a Presidential coverup. We are witnessing this evidence live and in living color on national TV.

Just yesterday, before the Judiciary Committee, two witnesses did not appear pursuant to the coverup, and the one who did appear brought with him the clear and convincing evidence. He brought with him a letter from the President of the United States, by and through his agents, that indicates that he should not give certain testimony—clear and convincing evidence of a coverup.

The President of the United States is engaged in a continuation of obstruction that is creating the coverup. He obstructed. This is why we are having the Judiciary Committee hearings, in part.

He continues his obstruction, which means he is covering up. We cannot allow this to continue.

The President is making a bet. The President's bet is this: The President is betting that we will put politics above principle, that we will not use Article II, section 4 of the Constitution as the radical Republicans did in 1868 to impeach President Johnson for merely speaking ill of Congress.

He is betting we won't use that. He is betting we won't put the principle above the politics. He believes that we will put winning the next election above the Constitution of the United States of America. He believes that we are going to put the politics above the moral imperative to do that which we know should be done when a President has committed impeachable acts.

I believe that we will not be driven by the polls. We will not. Those who

□ 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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