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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, 2020.

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 7, 2020, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT BECOMES LAW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, at long last, the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, USMCA, will officially become law. USMCA is a major win not only for American farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and business owners, but for each and every American who depends on these industries.

Thanks to the leadership of the Trump administration, we are delivering real results for the men and women who are the backbone of the American economy. Freer markets, fairer trade, and increased opportunity are on the horizon as USMCA is signed today and implemented.

The numbers are staggering: more than \$68 billion in new economic activity, approximately 176,000 new jobs, and an increase of more than \$2 billion a year in agriculture exports. It is no wonder that USMCA passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

USMCA brings particularly good news for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In 2018 alone, Pennsylvania exported approximately \$15 billion in goods to Canada and Mexico, and USMCA continues to open doors for our producers.

As Pennsylvania's number one industry, agriculture is vital to the health of both the economy and our residents, as our farmers provide the food, the fiber, the energy, the building materials, and all that we depend upon. With increased market opportunities, the future of the Keystone State is brighter than ever.

That being said, it is impossible to talk about the impact USMCA will have on Pennsylvania without talking about dairy. For far too long, our Nation's dairy producers have been subject to Canada's unfair class 6 and class 7 ultrafiltered pricing programs, limiting our export potential both into Canada and, quite frankly, into Third World countries as Canada floods them with dairy components of whey and lactose, proteins and powdered milk. Thanks to USMCA, this is a thing of the past.

A 21st century economy requires 21st century trade policy, and with USMCA, we are sending a crystal-clear message to our trade partners around the globe: America is open for business.

THE OBAMA ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in 2016, I wrote this op-ed, "Seven Years of Change You Can See and Feel." I wrote it in the backdrop of the election of President Barack Obama and his opening remarks and his inauguration that said: "Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this America: They will be met."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the op-ed I authored.

[From the Washington Examiner, Feb. 17, 2016]

SEVEN YEARS OF CHANGE YOU CAN SEE AND FEEL

(By Sheila Jackson Lee)

The morning of January 20, 2009 was one of the coldest days on record in Washington, DC. But this was nothing compared to the chill wind blowing through the American economy and body politic. The nation was facing economic challenges unseen since the Great Depression: Americans were losing their jobs at a frightening rate of 800,000 per month; the national unemployment rate had risen to 7.8 percent and would continue to climb until reaching its peak of 10.0 percent in October 2009.

For African Americans, the numbers were much grimmer: A jobless rate of 13.5 percent in January 2009 which would grow to 16.5 percent by the end of the year. And on top of this, tens of thousands of American families each month were losing their health insurance and their homes to foreclosure. The United States was still bogged down in the quagmire that was the Iraq War and young people by the thousands were being forced to defer or drop out of college because of lack of financial aid. And the average price of gas exceeded \$4 per gallon.

It was against this backdrop that I watched from the inaugural platform as Barack Obama, surrounded by his radiant and beautiful wife, Michelle, and their two adorable daughters, rose to take the oath of office. After being sworn in as the nation's

☐ 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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