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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. YARMUTH).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 3, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN A. YARMUTH 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.

STILL I RISE

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, proud to be an American, proud to be a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

I rise today because I refuse to accept the notion that we should get back to bigotry as usual in the House of Representatives. I am one who has fought bigotry most of my life, and I will continue to fight it for the rest of my life.

Today, I want to talk about bigotry, not only within the country, but I also

want to talk about those who aid and abet bigotry in the House of Representatives. Right here in this House there are people who aid and abet bigotry.

I spoke last on the floor about a Newsday report. It concerned an investigation that took place in the State of New York. And within this investigation it was uncovered that, with reference to real estate agents, after having tested them, it was uncovered that 19 percent of the time Asian Americans were treated unequally when compared to White Americans. Thirty-nine percent of the time Hispanic Americans were treated unequally. And 49 percent of the time African Americans were treated unequally.

We sought to do something about this in the Financial Services Committee. We have a piece of legislation that will provide for testing and expand the testing that was started in this country by President Ronald Reagan.

President Reagan gave us the paradigm which we seek to enhance, which we seek to expand because that is the means by which we can eliminate this kind of invidious discrimination. It is not a question of way; it is a question of whether we have the will to challenge it and take it on.

I want to tell you that in my committee there were those who would aid and abet. They came up with specious arguments, fallacious contentions, the notion that we can do without, without saying we can do without the improvements.

I believe this kind of aiding and abetting is the reason we still have this level of invidious discrimination in this country. There are people in this Congress who aid and abet racism and discrimination. We have to call this out. We cannot continue to pretend that it does not exist right here in the Congress of the United States of America.

I plan to come back to this podium, and I am going to say more about what

happened and who caused it to happen. Those who tolerate bigotry and racism perpetuate bigotry and racism. I refuse to be among those who tolerate it.

IMPROVING SECURITY ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, every parent's worst nightmare is to learn that their children's school may be one of the sites of mass violence. Schools should not be a place where our kids have to fear, it should be where they learn, and grow, and follow their dreams.

No child should have to be more concerned about their safety than they are about their science project, band concert, or basketball game.

That is why last year, I and many others introduced the Securing Our Schools Act in the last Congress, passed it on to the President, and it was signed into law.

I was proud that our bipartisan bill passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by the President. The new law creates a Federal grant program for local communities to improve security in their schools.

School districts and law enforcement can use these critical funds to purchase life-saving technology, panic alert systems, communications equipment, cameras, door locks, or to better train authorities when incidents of violence might occur.

Last year, \$33 million in grants were allocated to 103 school districts nationwide, making four million students safer. The application process is now open for grants for the 2021 fiscal year.

Please urge local officials, those in your district to visit cops.doj.gov for more information on how to apply for up to \$500,000 in grants through the School Violence Prevention Program. Once again, that is cops.doj.gov.

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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The application deadline for this fiscal year is April 8. Please reach out to your community, community leaders, law enforcement, and local school districts.

We have advanced safety technology in banks, office buildings, and retail locations. There is no reason we shouldn't have this technology at all of our schools to protect all of our children.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Women's Day on March 8 to call attention to women around the world who have risked their personal safety and freedom to speak out for the rights of all women.

I am particularly inspired by the example of three brave Saudi women who have spent nearly 2 years imprisoned or under house arrest because of their fearless advocacy.

These three women, Loujain Al-Hathloul, Nouf Abdulaziz, and Eman Al-Nafjan, are outstanding examples of the many Saudi activists who bravely fought to stop Saudi Arabia's male guardianship, fought to end its prohibition on women driving, and fought to open up female participation in elections and public office.

And although the government ostensibly granted such freedoms in 2018, these three women continue to face different injustices, including torture or threats of murder and sexual violence and limited access to family or legal representation.

Loujain has been particularly targeted for her courageous leadership within this women's movement. Her selfless commitment has paved the way for crucial social reforms, but unfortunately, the Saudi Government has attempted to undermine her contributions with politically-motivated criminal charges, a lengthy imprisonment, and inhumane abuse.

This incredible woman deserves to be honored, not jailed, which is why I recently led several colleagues in nominating Loujain for the Nobel Peace Prize and will continue to advocate for her through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Defending Freedoms Project.

This Congress, we have already adopted a bipartisan resolution in the House to urge for the release of these women and other activists. Today, we call on Saudi Arabia once again to free these women and to lift the threat of their continued persecution.

To maintain our international leadership, the United States has a moral obligation to uphold democratic principles. The President, the Secretary of State, and the entire Trump administration must increase its diplomatic pressure to demand the release of these

women and hold the Saudi Government accountable for its appalling disregard of human rights.

As we recognize this International Women's Day, we are reminded to look beyond our borders; to continue to bring attention to the urgent and ongoing human rights violations that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committing.

I ask that all women and their allies throughout the United States and around the world and all men join me in standing with these amazing Saudi feminists in demanding that they be freed.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as National Nutrition Month.

A well-balanced, nutritious diet is important for all Americans, and access to fresh, quality ingredients and food shouldn't be a luxury.

Last Congress, I had the honor of serving as the chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations. During my time as chairman, and through all of my years on the House Agriculture Committee, I have met with many advocates, stakeholders, and other individuals who understand the role that nutrition plays in the lives of all Americans at every stage of life.

Nutrition plays a particularly important role in the lives of our Nation's children, however. During critical development years, children are particularly dependent on foods that are packed with nutrients. In some unfortunate cases, the meals that students receive at school may be the only time they eat during the day.

It is important that we do what we can to ensure schools have the resources that they need to provide students with delicious and nutritious options.

In January, the USDA announced two new proposals to expand nutritional options for our Nation's school children. The new rules allow schools to offer a greater variety of vegetables, options to customize school breakfasts, and the ability to purchase items a la carte.

This added flexibility will not only bolster the consumption of nutritious food in our schools, it will also help reduce food waste.

At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how nutritious school lunches are, if students aren't eating them, they are not nutritious. I am hopeful that this recent change will encourage more of our Nation's young people to make increasingly healthy, well-rounded food choices.

In addition to a greater variety of fruits and vegetables, we can help re-

store nutritious dairy options in schools. My bill, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, would allow both flavored and nonflavored milk back into our Nation's school cafeterias. Additionally, the School Milk Nutrition Act would further expand milk options for students and help reverse the decline of milk consumption in schools.

While we can all be advocates for healthy diets and good nutrition, I would like to specifically recognize the registered dietitian nutritionists who are one of our most valuable resources in the pursuit of reliable food and nutrition information.

Next week, on March 11, we celebrate Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day and thank these individuals for their role in building strong, healthy families and communities.

PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 CENSUS IS IMPORTANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of participation in the upcoming 2020 Census, and specifically the critical importance of getting a full count of Tribal Nation citizens.

Census results affect our communities every day. As the official count of how many people live in our communities, the Census determines everything from plans for highways, to funding for special education, and support for our firefighters.

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in Federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade.

Think of our local schools: Census counts help determine how money is allocated for Head Start early education programs and for grants that support college access and education programs for children with disabilities.

But that is not all. The Census determines Federal funding for SoonerCare, foster care programs, housing assistance, infrastructure investments, and so much more. We have to make sure that every Oklahoman is counted so that our communities receive the support they need.

This past week, I was proud to introduce bipartisan legislation encouraging Federal, State, local governments, and Tribal Nations to work together as partners to encourage participation in the 2020 Census among American Indians and Alaskan natives.

Today, Oklahoma is home to 39 Tribes. The Census ensures we make a strong investment in Oklahoma and provide resources to Tribal Nations that fulfill the Federal-Indian trust responsibility. Funding for critical healthcare programs, housing initiatives, and education is at stake.

For too long, Tribal Nations have been shortchanged in Federal funding