



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

No. 121

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 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,
July 1, 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 9:50 a.m.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE GUNTER

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of the mayor of Salinas, California, Joe Gunter.

Mayor Gunter passed on Monday after a quick bout, unfortunately, with cancer.

Mayor Gunter was a true public servant, who truly understood what it means and what it takes to live up to

our obligations as Americans—to give back to his country and community—that gives all of us so much.

Right out of high school, Mayor Gunter joined the Marines where he served and fought in Vietnam. Right out of his service to our country, Mayor Gunter joined the Salinas Police Department where he proudly served and protected for 32 years.

And right out of that service to our community, Mayor Gunter then volunteered at a Women's Crisis Center, in youth sports, for the Salinas Air Show, and the California Rodeo.

But that wasn't enough. Because right out of retirement, Joe then served as mayor of Salinas for the past 8 years. And I can tell you, as Mayor Joe knew well that it really wasn't about the snarkiness of your tweets, it is about making government work for people.

Joe would tell you he wasn't much for politics, but when it came to serving the people of Salinas, Mayor Gunter was the best. Because Joe knew dang well that good governing is good politics.

My prayers are with his wife, Lisa, his children, and his grandchildren. I hope they take comfort knowing that although Joe will be missed, his legacy of service will always endure with the people of this country and the community of Salinas, California.

SIDNEY AND KINSEY IRRIGATION DISTRICTS SHOULD NOT LOSE POWER

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, the Sidney and Kinsey Irrigation Districts serve more than 130 family farms that irrigate nearly 12,000 acres of farmland in eastern Montana.

A recent decision by the Bureau of Reclamation has upended 70 years of

how Sidney and Kinsey irrigators have received project use power to pump water.

The change will increase power costs from 2.5 percent of their annual budget to nearly 40 percent.

Losing this power would put these family farmers and companies out of business.

My amendment will fix this issue by restoring the original arrangement that has been in place for 70 years.

I urge support for it.

MONTANA SHOULD BE ABLE TO SELL ITS COAL OVERSEAS

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, Montana should be able to sell its coal overseas.

Washington State is preventing construction of coal export terminals, effectively shutting down exports of Montana coal and unconstitutionally interfering with interstate commerce.

My amendment will continue the Federal permitting process if Washington State remains on its unconstitutional path.

Building a coal port that supports good-paying union jobs in Washington and good-paying jobs across Montana should be a bipartisan winner.

I urge adoption of this amendment.

TWO SIMPLE SOLUTIONS TO THE CRISIS AMERICANS ARE FACING

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

MR. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the longer I am here the more I question why everything must be so complex. Some, like our transportation bill, are complex because of the massive interrelationships we have, but others we just make complex.

I would offer two simple solutions today to the crisis that we are facing, not just from Black Americans, for justice. First, I would suggest that we remove the dead hand of Richard Nixon

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2985

from the scales of justice with his cynical, cruel war on drugs, which continues to this day.

Tens of thousands of young Black Americans are arrested or cited still for something that two-thirds of Americans think should be legal; and, in fact, voters in 10 States have done so. We are watching how these interactions with police with young people for something that even a majority of Republicans now say should be legal can lead to tragic consequences. Why do we do this?

We have an opportunity before us now with legislation approved by the House Judiciary Committee, the MORE Act, which incorporates many elements of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's Marijuana Justice Act, which would just legalize marijuana, what the majority of American people want, what is happening in States across the country, and prevent this opportunity for interference with law enforcement that is completely unjustified. Completely unjustified.

I suggest that there is another simple action to deal with a century of discrimination dealing with housing specifically against people of color. I spent most of last summer and fall doing a deep dive into American housing policy. I have a report on my website: "LOCKED OUT. Reversing Federal Housing Failures and Unlocking Opportunity."

But what I found dealing with this is a tragic, embarrassing record of blatant discrimination by the Federal Government against people of color, especially Black Americans.

Look at the history of the Federal Government denying them housing for wartime work projects, for redlining, denying applications for New Deal housing projects, excluding African Americans. And an example of something that I just recently became aware of, the 1968 Housing and Urban Development Act, which had good intentions and generous terms, but gave way to predatory inclusion where real estate interests, banks sold essentially deficient properties at terms that unsophisticated buyers did not fully understand. But the banks and real estate interests didn't care because the loans were guaranteed by the Federal Government at inflated prices. Banking and real estate interests were able to take those back, flip them, sell them again. It is a shameful chapter in this century-long process of discriminating against African Americans in housing.

I would suggest that when we look at what we might do, some are thinking about reparations, I suggest we just provide generous rental subsidies and loan terms for Black Americans. Think of it as a GI Bill for Black Americans who endured a century of discrimination and denying them the access to wealth that has built much of the White middle class.

I would respectfully suggest that this is long overdue. It is justified. It would help stop some of the free-fall in hous-

ing markets that is moving forward and could lead to the same economic burst of energy that we saw after World War II for the GI Bill, which too many Black Americans were denied.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for our Second Amendment as protected by the United States Constitution.

The right to bear arms shall never be infringed upon, and I will always defend that right on this very floor.

I swore an oath to serve the people of Indiana's Sixth District, and that means fighting for the God-given right of all Americans to defend themselves and their property. The right to defend yourself and protect your loved ones is paramount now more than ever.

IN SUPPORT OF LIFE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to those who do not have one: The unborn children of America.

I am a pro-life American. It is our duty to protect the most vulnerable among us. Every human being deserves a right to life, and I will always defend that right. As I stand in this Chamber today, I pledge to always fight for the fundamental right to life given to us by God.

SUPPORT MAIN STREET

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support Main Street as our economy reopens.

Across this Nation mom-and-pop shops are suffering.

The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with extreme social unrest, has caused businesses everywhere to shut their doors, many of which may never open again.

As we reopen, American jobs may be lost permanently.

Congress must make it a priority to protect and support small business owners and workers.

It is our duty to do the people's work here in the people's House in our Nation's capital.

Congress must support the Americans we swore to represent.

IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for our brave law enforcement officers.

Behind the badge and uniform of our men and women in blue are neighbors and friends who put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens they serve.

Defunding the police would be downright dangerous, and I will never support that.

Further, some are advocating to change qualified immunity.

Eliminating this civil protection would have disastrous implications.

It would open up officers and their families to countless civil lawsuits and

make community policing all but impossible.

In these times, the heroes of law enforcement deserve more support, not less.

AMERICANS NEED A STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE BILL TO REVIVE OUR ECONOMY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice opposition to H.R. 2.

Americans across this Nation need a strong infrastructure bill to revive and strengthen our economy now.

Yet Democrats drafted this bill without any Republican input.

Commonsense, bipartisan proposals like the 12 amendments I authored failed because this is not a serious effort. This bill is a progressive wish list and a NANCY PELOSI power grab again.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 2.

WISHING GOOD LUCK TO 4-H PARTICIPANTS ACROSS INDIANA

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the fair season begins, I want to wish the best of luck to all 4-H'ers across Indiana's Sixth District.

Though this year's fairs are virtual and may look very different, the hard work they have put in throughout this past year I want to recognize.

4-H is a tremendous organization that helps our Nation's youth develop the life skills needed to empower themselves and their communities.

Best of luck to those participating in their 4-H county fair. You are making your families and communities very proud.

MODERNIZING INFRASTRUCTURE IS IMPORTANT TO ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, like many Members of Congress, I came determined to increase long-term Federal investment in infrastructure.

Supporting the movement of people, goods, energy, and information through our infrastructure is crucial to driving investment in our communities and maintaining America's economic competitiveness.

Modernizing our infrastructure is important to Americans in every part of the country. We know that infrastructure projects are consistently evaluated as the best return on government investment.

□ 0915

As a member of the New Democratic Coalition, we believe any new proposal must include new revenue, new financing, new funding, and regulatory streamlining and encourage lifecycle funding in innovative infrastructure projects that are built to last.

As chair of the New Democrat Coalition Infrastructure Task Force and a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I believe that there should be four pillars for infrastructure deals. Those include revenue funding.