

Kuster	Neal	Sewell
LaLota	Neguse	Sherman
Landsman	Nickel	Sherrill
Larsen (WA)	Norcross	Simpson
LaTurner	Norton	Slotkin
Lawler	Nunn (IA)	Smith (NJ)
Lee (CA)	Obernolte	Smith (WA)
Lee (NV)	Ocasio-Cortez	Sorensen
Lee (PA)	Omar	Soto
Leger Fernandez	Pallone	Spanberger
Levin	Panetta	Stansbury
Lieu	Pappas	Stanton
Lofgren	Pelosi	Steel
Lopez	Peltola	Stevens
Lucas	Pence	Strickland
Luetkemeyer	Perez	Swalwell
Lynch	Peters	Sykes
Mace	Pettersen	Takano
Magaziner	Pfleger	Thannedar
Maloy	Phillips	Thompson (CA)
Mann	Pingree	Thompson (MS)
Manning	Plaskett	Titus
Matsui	Pocan	Tlaib
McBath	Pressley	Tokuda
McClellan	Quigley	Tonko
McClintock	Ramirez	Torres (CA)
McCollum	Raskin	Torres (NY)
McCormick	Rogers (KY)	Trahan
McGarvey	Ross	Trone
McGovern	Ruiz	Underwood
Meeks	Ryan	Valadao
Menendez	Sablan	Van Orden
Meng	Salazar	Vargas
Mfume	Salinas	Vasquez
Miller (OH)	Sánchez	Veasey
Miller-Meeks	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Moore (UT)	Scanlon	Wagner
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Wasserman
Moran	Schneider	Schultz
Morelle	Scholten	Waters
Moskowitz	Schrier	Wexton
Moulton	Schweikert	Wild
Mrvan	Scott (VA)	Williams (GA)
Mullin	Scott, Austin	Williams (NY)
Nadler	Scott, David	Wilson (FL)
Napolitano	Sessions	Womack

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Griffith

NOT VOTING—21

Bush	Grijalva	Porter
Castro (TX)	Higgins (LA)	Radewagen
Cleaver	Hudson	Ruppersberger
Comer	Kamlager-Dove	Schiff
Evans	Larson (CT)	Suozi
Garamendi	Moylan	Turner
González-Colón	Pascrell	Watson Coleman

□ 1111

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Chair, I regrettably missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present I would have voted: No on Roll Call Vote 387, Brecheen Amendment No. 24; No on Roll Call Vote 388, Brecheen Amendment No. 25; No on Roll Call Vote 389, Harshbarger Amendment No. 45; and No on Roll Call Vote 390, Miller (IL) Amendment No. 57.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chair, due to unforeseen events, I was unfortunately unable to cast my vote for legislation considered on the House floor today. Had I been able to be present, I would have voted according to the following: NO, Roll Call 388, on Amendment No. 25; NO, Roll Call 389, on Amendment No. 45; and NO, Roll Call 390, on Amendment No. 57.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, had I been present for Roll Call Vote 387, Brecheen Amendment 24, I would have voted No. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 388, Brecheen Amendment 25, I would have voted No. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 389, Harshbarger Amendment 45, I would have voted No. Had I been present for Roll Call

Vote 390, Miller Amendment 57, I would have voted No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 387, 388, 389, and 390. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call Nos. 387, 388, 389, and 390.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW) having assumed the chair, Mr. LALOTA, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, only the doors immediately opposite to the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Monday, July 22, 2024, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 1 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Acting President pro tempore, the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN of the State of Maryland, and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Act-

ing President pro tempore taking the chair at the left of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER);

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE);

The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ);

The gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER); and

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

The Acting PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Acting President pro tempore of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu into the House Chamber:

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN);

The Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST);

The Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES);

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY); and

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

At 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable William P. McFarland, announced His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu.

The Prime Minister of Israel, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Prime Minister NETANYAHU. Speaker of the House MIKE JOHNSON, Senator BEN CARDIN, Minority Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Senate Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER, Senate Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL, Senators, Members of Congress, distinguished guests:

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for giving me the profound honor of addressing this great citadel of democracy for the fourth time.

We meet today at a crossroads of history. Our world is in upheaval. In the Middle East, Iran's axis of terror confronts America, Israel, and our Arab friends.

This is not a clash of civilizations. It is a clash between barbarism and civilization. It is a clash between those who glorify death and those who sanctify life.

For the forces of civilization to triumph, America and Israel must stand together because when we stand together, something very simple happens: We win; they lose. My friends, I came to assure you today of one thing: We will win.

Ladies and gentlemen, like December 7, 1941, and September 11, 2001, October 7 is a day that will forever live in infamy. It was the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah. It began as a perfect day with not a cloud in the sky. Thousands of young Israelis were celebrating at an outdoor music festival, and, suddenly, at 6:29 a.m., as children were still sleeping soundly in their beds in the towns and kibbutzim next to Gaza, suddenly, heaven turned into hell. Three thousand Hamas terrorists stormed into Israel. They butchered 1,200 people from 41 countries, including 39 Americans.

Proportionately, compared to our population size, that is like 20 9/11s in 1 day. These monsters raped women, they beheaded men, they burned babies alive, and they killed parents in front of their children and children in front of their parents. They dragged 255 people, both living and dead, into the dark dungeons of Gaza. Israel has already brought home 135 of these hostages, including 7 who were freed in daring rescue operations.

One of those freed hostages, Noa Argamani, is here in the gallery sitting near my wife, Sara. On the morning of October 7, the entire world saw Noa's look of desperation as she was vio-

lently abducted to Gaza on the back of a motorcycle.

I met Noa's mother, Liora, a few months ago. She was dying of cancer. She said to me: Prime Minister, I have one final wish. I wish to hug my daughter, Noa, one last time before I die.

Two months ago, I authorized a breathtaking commando rescue operation. Our special forces, including a heroic officer named Arnon Zmora who fell in this battle, rescued Noa and three other hostages.

I think it is one of the most moving things when Noa was reunited with her mother, Liora, and her mother's last wish came true.

Noa, we are so thrilled to have you with us today. Thank you.

Many hostage families are also here with us today, including Eli Bibas. Eli Bibas is the grandfather of those two beautiful, red-headed boys, the Bibas boys. They were toddlers who were taken hostage with their mother and Eli's son. The entire family was taken hostage. Two beautiful red-haired children were taken hostage. What monsters.

With us also is Iris Haim, whose son, Yotam, bravely escaped Hamas captivity with two other Israelis, and tragically they were killed making their way back to our lines.

We have with us also the families of American hostages. They are here. The pain these families have endured is beyond words. I met with them again yesterday, and I promised them this: I will not rest until all their loved ones are home, all of them.

As we speak, we are actively engaged in intensive efforts to secure their release, and I am confident that these efforts can succeed. Some of them are taking place right now.

I want to thank President Biden for his tireless efforts on behalf of the hostages and for his efforts to the hostage families, as well. I thank President Biden for his heartfelt support for Israel after the savage attack on October 7. He rightly called Hamas sheer evil. He dispatched two aircraft carriers to the Middle East to deter a wider war, and he came to Israel to stand with us during our darkest hour. It was a visit that will never be forgotten.

President Biden and I have known each other for over 40 years. I want to thank him for one-half century of friendship to Israel and for being, as he says, "a proud Zionist." Actually, he says he is "a proud Irish-American Zionist."

My friends, for more than 9 months, Israel's soldiers have shown boundless courage. With us today is Lieutenant Avichail Reuven. Avichail Reuven is an officer in the Israeli Paratroopers. His family immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia.

In the early hours of October 7, Avichail heard the news of Hamas' bloody rampage. He put on his uniform and grabbed his rifle, but he didn't have a car. So he ran 8 miles to the front lines of Gaza to defend his people.

You heard that right. He ran 8 miles, came to the front lines, killed many terrorists, and saved many, many lives. Avichail, we all honor your remarkable heroism.

Another Israeli is with us here today, and he is standing—stand up—right next to Avichail. This is Master Sergeant Ashraf al Bakhiri.

Ashraf is a veteran soldier from the Israeli Muslim community of Rahat. On October 7, Ashraf, too, killed many terrorists. First, he defended his comrades in the military base, and he then rushed to defend the neighboring communities, including the devastated community of Kibbutz Beeri.

Like Ashraf, the Muslim soldiers of the IDF fought alongside their Jewish—Jews, Christian, and other comrades-in-arms with tremendous bravery.

A third hero, Lieutenant Assa Sofer, is also here with us. Assa fought as an officer in the tank corps, and he was wounded in battle. He was wounded in battle while protecting his fellow soldiers from a grenade. He lost his right arm and the vision in his left eye. He is recovering, and incredibly, within a short time, Assa will soon return to active duty as a commander of a tank company.

I just learned there is a fourth hero here, Lieutenant Jonathan Ben Hamou, who lost a leg in Gaza and continued to fight.

My friends, these are the soldiers of Israel, unbowed, undaunted, unafraid.

As the Bible says, "'Am ke-lavi yakum.'" They shall rise like lions. They have risen like lions, the lions of Judah, the lions of Israel.

Ladies and gentlemen, the men and women of the IDF come from every corner of Israeli society, every ethnicity, every color, every creed, left and right, religious and secular. All are imbued with the indomitable spirit of the Maccabees, the legendary Jewish warriors of antiquity.

With us today is Yechiel Leiter, the father of one of those Maccabees. Yechiel's father escaped the Holocaust and found refuge in America. As a young man, Yechiel moved to Israel and raised a family of eight children.

He named his oldest son Moshe, after his late father. Moshe became an exemplary officer in one of our elite commando units. He served with distinction for two decades while raising six beautiful children of his own.

On October 7, Moshe volunteered to return to combat. Four weeks later, he was killed when a booby-trapped mine exploded in a tunnel shaft right next to a mosque.

At his son's funeral, Yechiel said this: If the State of Israel had not been established after the Holocaust, the image engraved in our collective memory would have been the photograph of that helpless Jewish boy in the Warsaw ghetto holding his hands up in the air with Nazi rifles pointed at him, but because of the birth of Israel, Yechiel continued, because of the courage of

soldiers like my son, Moshe, the Jewish people are no longer helpless in the face of our enemies.

Yechiel, please rise so we can honor your son's sacrifice, and I pledge to you and to all the bereaved families of Israel, some of whom are in this hall today: The sacrifice of your loved ones would not be in vain.

It will not be in vain because, for Israel, "Never Again" must never be an empty promise. It must always remain a sacred vow, and after October 7, "Never Again" is now.

My friends, defeating our brutal enemies requires both courage and clarity. Clarity begins by knowing the difference between good and evil. Yet, incredibly, many anti-Israel protesters, many choose to stand with evil. They stand with Hamas. They stand with rapists and murderers. They stand with people who came into the kibbutzim, into a home. The parents hid the children, the two babies, in the attic, in a secret attic. They murdered the families, the parents. They found the secret latch to the hidden attic, and then they murdered the babies.

These protesters stand with them. They should be ashamed of themselves. They refuse to make the simple distinction between those who target terrorists and those who target civilians, between the democratic State of Israel and the terrorist thugs of Hamas.

We recently learned from the national security director, the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, that Iran is funding and promoting anti-Israel protests in America. They want to disrupt America, so these protesters burn American flags even on the Fourth of July. And I wish to salute the fraternity brothers at the University of North Carolina who protected the American flag, protected the American flag against these anti-Israel protesters.

For all we know, Iran is funding the anti-Israel protests that are going on right now outside this building, not that many, but they are there, and throughout the city.

Well, I have a message for these protesters: When the tyrants of Tehran who hang gays from cranes and murder women for not covering their hair are praising, promoting, and funding you, you have officially become Iran's useful idiots.

Some of these protesters—it is amazing, absolutely amazing—some of these protesters hold up signs proclaiming: "Gays for Gaza." They might as well hold up signs saying: "Chickens for KFC."

These protesters chant "from the river to the sea," but many don't have a clue what river and what sea they are talking about. They not only get an F in geography; they get an F in history.

They call Israel a colonialist state. Don't they know that the land of Israel is where Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob prayed; where Isaiah and Jeremiah preached; and where David and Solomon ruled.

For nearly 4,000 years, the land of Israel has been the homeland of the Jewish people. It has always been our home. It will always be our home.

It is not only the campus protesters who get it wrong; it is also the people who run those campuses. Eighty years after the Holocaust—80 years after the Holocaust—the presidents of Harvard, Penn, and I am ashamed to say my alma mater, MIT, couldn't bring themselves to condemn the calls for the genocide of Jews.

You remember what they said? They said: "It depends on the context." Well, let me give these befuddled academics a little context. Anti-Semitism is the world's oldest hatred. For centuries, the massacre of Jews was always preceded by wild accusations.

We were accused of everything from poisoning wells, to spreading plagues, to using the blood of slaughtered children to bake Passover matzos. These preposterous, anti-Semitic lies led to persecution, mass murder, and ultimately to history's worst genocide, the Holocaust.

Now, just as malicious lies were leveled for centuries at the Jewish people, malicious lies are now being leveled at the Jewish state. No, no. Don't applaud. Listen.

The outrageous slanders that paint Israel as racist and genocidal are meant to delegitimize Israel, to demonize the Jewish state, and to demonize Jews everywhere. And no wonder, no wonder we witnessed an appalling rise of anti-Semitism in America and around the world.

My friends, whenever and wherever we see the scourge of anti-Semitism, we must unequivocally condemn it and resolutely fight it without exception.

And don't be fooled. When the blood libels against the Jewish state come from people who wear fancy silk robes and speak in lofty tones about law and justice, here is a case in point.

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has shamefully accused Israel of deliberately starving the people of Gaza. This is utter, complete nonsense. It is a complete fabrication.

Israel has enabled more than 40,000 aid trucks to enter Gaza. That is half a million tons of food, and that is more than 3,000 calories for every man, woman, and child in Gaza. If there are Palestinians in Gaza who aren't getting enough food, it is not because Israel is blocking it; it is because Hamas is stealing it. So much for that lie.

But here is another: The ICC prosecutor accuses Israel of deliberately targeting civilians. What in God's green Earth is he talking about?

The IDF has dropped millions of flyers, sent millions of text messages, made hundreds of thousands of phone calls to get Palestinian civilians out of harm's way, but at the same time, Hamas does everything in its power to put Palestinian civilians in harm's way.

They fire rockets from schools, from hospitals, from mosques. They even

shoot their own people when they try to leave the war zone. A senior Hamas official, Fathi Hammad, boasted—listen to this—he boasted that Palestinian women and children excel at being human shields, his words. Excel at being human shields. What monstrous evil.

For Israel, every civilian death is a tragedy. For Hamas, it is a strategy. They actually want Palestinian civilians to die so that Israel will be smeared in the international media and be pressured to end the war before it is won. This would enable Hamas to survive another day, and as they vowed, to carry out October 7 again, and again, and again.

Well, I want to assure you, no matter what pressure is brought to bear, I will never allow that to happen.

The vast majority of Americans have not fallen for this Hamas propaganda. They continue to support Israel. I want to say, thank you, America, and thank you, Senators and House Members, who continue to support us, continue to support Israel, continue to support the truth, and see through the lies.

But as for the minority that may have fallen for Hamas' con job, I suggest you listen to Colonel John Spencer. John Spencer is head of urban warfare studies at West Point. He studied every major urban conflict—I was going to say in modern history. He corrected me. No, in history.

Israel, he said, has implemented more precautions to prevent civilian harm than any military in history and beyond what international law requires.

That is why, despite all the lies you have heard, the war in Gaza has one of the lowest ratios of combatants to non-combatants casualties in the history of urban warfare.

And you want to know where it is lowest in Gaza? It is lowest in Rafah. In Rafah. Remember what so many people said? If Israel goes into Rafah, there will be thousands, maybe even tens of thousands of civilians killed.

Well, last week I went into Rafah. I visited our troops as they finished fighting Hamas' remaining terrorist battalions. I asked the commander there: How many terrorists did you take out in Rafah? He gave me an exact number: 1,203.

I asked him: How many civilians were killed? He said: Prime Minister, practically none. With the exception of a single incident where shrapnel from a bomb hit a Hamas weapons depot and unintentionally killed two dozen people, the answer is: practically none.

You want to know why? Because Israel got the civilians out of harm's way—something people said we could never do, but we did it.

These heroes here today, the heroic soldiers of Israel, should not be condemned for how they are conducting the war in Gaza. They should be commended for it.

I want to thank all of you here today who forcefully opposed the false accusations of the ICC and stood up for the

truth. These lies are not only libelous, they are downright dangerous.

The ICC is trying to shackle Israel's hands and prevent us from defending ourselves. And if Israel's hands are tied, America is next.

I will tell you what else is next. The ability of all democracies to fight terrorism will be imperiled. That is what is on the line. So let me assure you. The hands of the Jewish state will never be shackled. Israel will always defend itself.

My friends in the Middle East, Iran is virtually behind all the terrorism, all the turmoil, all the chaos, all the killing, and that should come as no surprise.

When he founded the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khomeini pledged: We will export our revolution to the entire world. We will export the Islamic revolution to the entire world.

Now, ask yourself: Which country ultimately stands in the way of Iran's maniacal plans to impose radical Islam on the world?

And the answer is clear. It is America, the guardian of Western civilization and the world's greatest power. That is why Iran sees America as its greatest enemy.

Last month I heard a revealing comment, ostensibly, about the war in Gaza, but about something else. It came from the foreign minister of Iran's proxy, Hezbollah, and he said this: This is not a war with Israel. Israel, he said, is merely a tool. The main war, the real war, is with America.

Iran's regime has been fighting America from the moment it came to power. In 1979, it stormed the American Embassy. It held scores of Americans hostage for 444 days.

Since then, Iran's terrorist proxies have targeted America in the Middle East and beyond. In Beirut, they killed 241 U.S. servicemen. In Africa, they bombed American Embassies. In Iraq, they supplied explosives to maim and kill thousands of American soldiers.

In America, in America, they actually sent death squads. They sent death squads here to murder a former Secretary of State and a former National Security Advisor. And as we recently learned, they even brazenly threatened to assassinate President Trump.

But Iran understands that to truly challenge America, it must first conquer the Middle East. And for this, it uses its many proxies, including the Houthis, Hezbollah, and Hamas.

Yet, in the heart of the Middle East, standing in Iran's way, is one proud, pro-American democracy, my country, the State of Israel.

That is why the mobs in Tehran chant "death to Israel" before they chant "death to America." For Iran, Israel is first, America is next.

So when Israel fights Hamas, we are fighting Iran. When we fight Hezbollah, we are fighting Iran. When we fight the Houthis, we are fighting Iran.

And when we fight Iran, we are fighting the most radical and murderous enemy of the United States of America.

And one more thing. When Israel acts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons that could destroy Israel and threaten every American city, every city that you come from, we are not only protecting ourselves, we are protecting you.

My friends, if you remember one thing, one thing from the speech, remember this: Our enemies are your enemies. Our fight is your fight, and our victory will be your victory.

Ladies and gentlemen, that victory is in sight. Israel's defeat of Hamas will be a powerful blow to Iran's axis of terror.

Another part of that axis, Hezbollah, attacked Israel on October 8, a day after the Hamas attack. It has launched thousands of missiles and drones against us.

Eighty thousand of our citizens in northern Israel evacuated their homes, becoming effectively refugees in their own land. We are committed to returning them home.

We prefer to achieve this diplomatically, but let me be clear: Israel will do whatever it must do to restore security to our northern border and return our people safely to their homes.

Last Friday, a third Iranian proxy, the Houthis, attacked Tel Aviv with a deadly drone. It exploded a few hundred feet from the American consulate, killing one person and injuring nine. On Saturday, I authorized a swift response to that attack.

All our enemies should know this: Those who attack Israel will pay a very heavy price. And as we defend ourselves, on all fronts, I know that America has our back, and I thank you for it, all sides of the aisle. Thank you.

My friends, for decades, America has provided Israel with generous military assistance, and a grateful Israel has provided America with critical intelligence that saved many lives.

We have jointly developed some of the most sophisticated weapons on Earth. I choose my words carefully. We have jointly developed some of the most sophisticated weapons on Earth that help protect both our countries, and we also help keep Americans' boots off the ground, while protecting our shared interests in the Middle East.

I deeply appreciate America's support, including in this current war, but this is an exceptional moment. Fast-tracking U.S. military aid can dramatically expedite an end to the war in Gaza and help prevent a broader war in the Middle East.

In World War II, as Britain fought on the front lines of civilization, Winston Churchill appealed to Americans with these famous words: "Give us the tools, and we will finish the job."

Today, as Israel fights on the front line of civilization, I, too, appeal to America. Give us the tools faster, and we will finish the job faster.

My dear friends, the war in Gaza could end tomorrow if Hamas surrenders, disarms, and returns all the hostages. But if they don't, Israel will

fight until we destroy Hamas' military capabilities, end its rule in Gaza, and bring all our hostages home.

That is what total victory means, and we will settle for nothing less. The day after we defeat Hamas, a new Gaza could emerge. My vision for that day is of a demilitarized and deradicalized Gaza. Israel does not seek to resettle Gaza, but for the foreseeable future, we must retain overriding security control there to prevent the resurgence of terror to ensure that Gaza never again poses a threat to Israel.

Gaza should have a civilian administration run by Palestinians who do not seek to destroy Israel. That is not too much to ask. It is a fundamental thing that we have a right to demand and to receive. A new generation of Palestinians must no longer be taught to hate Jews but, rather, to live in peace with us.

Those twin words, "demilitarization and deradicalization," those two concepts were applied to Germany and Japan after World War II, and that led to decades of peace, prosperity, and security.

Following our victory, with the help of regional partners, the demilitarization and deradicalization of Gaza can also lead to a future of security, prosperity, and peace. That is my vision for Gaza.

Now, here is my vision for the broader Middle East. It is also shaped in part by what we saw in the aftermath of World War II. After that war, America forged a security alliance in Europe to counter the growing Soviet threat.

Likewise, America and Israel today can forge a security alliance in the Middle East to counter the growing Iranian threat. All countries that are at peace with Israel and all those countries who will make peace with Israel should be invited to join this alliance.

We saw a glimpse of that potential alliance on April 14. Led by the United States, more than half a dozen nations worked alongside Israel to help neutralize hundreds of missiles and drones launched by Iran against us.

Thank you, President Biden, for bringing that coalition together.

The new alliance I envision would be a natural extension of the groundbreaking Abraham Accords. Those accords saw peace forged between Israel and four Arab countries, and they were supported by Republicans and Democrats alike. We could call—I have a name for this new alliance. I think we should call it the Abraham alliance.

I want to thank President Trump for his leadership in brokering the historic Abraham Accords. Like Americans, Israelis were relieved that President Trump emerged safe and sound from that dastardly attack on him, dastardly attack on American democracy. There is no room for political violence in democracies.

I also want to thank President Trump for all the things he did for Israel, from recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights to

confronting Iran's aggression to recognizing Jerusalem as our capital and moving the American Embassy there. That is Jerusalem, our eternal capital, never to be divided again.

My dear friends, Democrats and Republicans, despite these times of upheaval, I am hopeful about the future. I am hopeful about Israel because my people, the Jewish people, emerged from the depths of hell, from dispossession and genocide, and against all odds, we restored our sovereignty in our ancient homeland. We built a powerful and vibrant democracy, a democracy that pushes the boundaries of innovation for the betterment of all humanity.

I am hopeful about America because I am hopeful about Americans. I know how much the people of this country have sacrificed to defend freedom.

America will continue to be a force for light and good in a dark and dangerous world. For free peoples everywhere, America remains the beacon of liberty its extraordinary Founders envisioned back in 1776.

Working together, I am confident that our two Nations will vanquish the tyrants and terrorists who threaten us both.

As Israel's Prime Minister, I promise you this: No matter how long it takes, no matter how difficult the road ahead, Israel will not relent. Israel will not bend. We will defend our land. We will defend our people. We will fight until we achieve victory, victory over liberty—rather, victory of liberty over tyranny, victory of life over death, victory of good over evil. That is our solemn commitment.

We will continue to work with the United States and our Arab partners to transform our troubled region from a backwater of oppression, poverty, and war into a thriving oasis of dignity, prosperity, and peace.

In this noble mission, as in many others, Israel will always remain America's indispensable ally.

Through thick and thin and in good times and in bad, Israel will always be your loyal friend and your steadfast partner.

On behalf of the people of Israel, I came here today to say: Thank you, America. Thank you for your support and solidarity. Thank you for standing with Israel in our hour of need. Together, we shall defend our common civilization. Together, we shall secure a brilliant future for both our nations.

May God bless Israel, may God bless America, and may God bless the great alliance between Israel and America forever.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 3 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from the Chamber.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1554

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JAMES) at 3 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 24, 2024, at 11:53 a.m.

That the Senate passed S. 3696.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1076.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8998.

Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1555

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, with Mr. NORMAN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 57 printed in part B of House report 118–602 offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 80 OFFERED BY MR. PALMER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 80 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime Manufacturing Plants Technology Review” published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on July 16, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 57738).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Chairman, the Environmental Protection Agency recently finalized a \$2 billion regulation on the lime industry that the EPA's own staff have found is completely unnecessary to protect public health and welfare.

Lime plants not only supply products essential for the proper function of critical activities concerning construction, but lime also keeps our roadways from breaking down and helps keep our water clean.

As recently as 2020, just 4 years ago, the EPA conducted a full risk assessment of hazardous air pollutants emitted by the lime manufacturing industry. The EPA found that risks from the source category are acceptable, the standards provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health, and more stringent standards are not necessary to prevent an adverse environmental effect. The EPA received no new data or other information during the public comment period that causes us to change that proposed determination. I emphasize that is the EPA's own staff and scientists.

This was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER in July of 2020. What is interesting is that lime is used for pollution control to absorb sulfur oxides, which helps prevent acid rain and reduces emissions of hazardous air pollutants, including mercury.

The only reason the Biden administration's EPA is issuing this expensive