

Madam Speaker, that is what we should be about here. I hope we can get to it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE NEW PELOSIAN CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, tonight, I want to talk just briefly on the calendar, a little bit of historical note.

Julius Caesar took over the chaotic Roman calendar because, as Matt Rosenberg of About.com said, it was being exploited by politicians and others for their own political purposes and it had the effect of adding additional days, because in certain ways changing the timing of things made a difference politically.

So Julius Caesar, in the year 46 BC, established what we have been calling for years the Julian calendar. The Julian calendar was an improvement over the Roman calendar, except for one thing; it was 11 minutes and 14 seconds too slow, and that added up to a full day off every 128 years.

Well, for a number of centuries, it didn't mean anything. But, over time, it meant something. And what happened was in the year 1582, the Pope, Pope Gregory XIII, concerned that Christianity's most important dates were falling behind with respect to the calendar, particularly Easter, which was based on the date of the vernal equinox, believed what we had to do was to adjust that calendar. So he issued what is known as a Papal bull establishing the new calendar, which actually corrected, fairly well, the problem. It would be comprising 365 days, with every fourth year adding an additional day, but no leap year in years ending in 00 unless they were divisible by 400.

Now, I am not a mathematician. I can't tell you how that works out, but it pretty near makes it perfect. The problem was, of course, there was a cleavage between the Catholics and the Protestants. So the Catholic countries adopted that in 1582.

It wasn't until 1752 that Great Britain decided to follow. As a matter of fact, that is a famous day in English history, because the British Calendar Act of 1751 meant that people went to bed on Wednesday, September 2, 1752, and woke up 12 days later. They lost 11 days in order to correct the calendar.

But this is the calendar that has been adopted around the world ever since that time, until recently. What do I mean by that? Well, here would be the

Gregorian calendar for 2009. You see it does have 365 days. You see it does have an August. But we have found this year that August did not exist, because we have what I call the Pelosian calendar.

Under the leadership of the Democrats, we have been told to ignore what happened in August. Those town halls did not take effect. The American people did not express themselves. We did not hear outcries about what was happening in the Congress.

Rather, nothing occurred. You don't hear about it on this floor. You don't hear about it in the President's statements. You don't hear about it in the recommendations made by the Democratic side. And now, as we are moving forward on our calendar and told that we have a few days to make up, we forget about the 31 days.

I would like to say that the Pope took 11 days away from us, but it appears he was a piker. The Speaker has taken 31 days away from us. There was no August. There is no August. There were no town hall meetings. The American people did not rise up and say, Congress, listen to us. We don't want a public option. We want you to make some changes, but don't put us at jeopardy for losing the care and the coverage we currently have.

I must say, this is a historic moment, because it took us 1,600 years to change the calendar the first time. But now, by the magic of the congressional calendar, we have done it in just, well, less than 600 years.

There is something fundamentally wrong, extremely disappointing, that somehow we would have the temerity to tell the American people, You don't count, because we know better here in Washington, D.C. And, as a matter of fact, if you have a different idea, we are going to question that idea. We are going to question what you are doing.

Madam Speaker, give us back those 31 days.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PROVIDING NEEDED RESOURCES IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, as the leader of coalition forces in a faltering Afghanistan, the United States appears indecisive at this critical juncture in the long war.

Madam Speaker, we owe it to the Afghan people, the Pakistani people, our allies and our own national security interests and our courageous U.S. troops to stiffen our spines and heed the rec-

ommendations put forth by General McChrystal. As a leading expert on counterinsurgency efforts, General McChrystal has rightly put the focus on winning over the Afghan civilians to our side by providing the security they so desperately want for their families and villages.

As an American and as a Member of this House, I hate to put U.S. soldiers in harm's way, whether it is on our own shores or halfway around the world. We all wish that we could remove our troops from the day-to-day, face-to-face conflicts with the insurgent forces in Afghanistan. We all wish that we could finish this job by dropping bombs on the bad guys from the safety of unmanned drones or conducting surgical strikes with Special Forces. These counterterrorism efforts hold much appeal and those tactics can win in many battles.

But there is a problem. Our own very recent experiences teach us that counterterrorism alone can't win this wider war.

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We faced a similar crossroads in Iraq 3 years ago. American forces had suffered heavy casualties. The Iraqi Government was inept and corrupt. The Sunni insurgency and al Qaeda in Iraq ravaged the country. Our Nation then took a new course. We took a risk, a highly controversial one at the time, Madam Speaker, but that risk turned out to be an investment in Iraq's future, and it is an investment that has paid off for the United States today. Today we have a measure of stability that no one could have predicted 3 years ago. As a result, we are positioned to draw down our troop levels there.

In fact, when President Obama was a candidate, he saw the success in Iraq as a chance to redirect our attention to Afghanistan. Then-Senator Obama said in August 2008: "Ending the war will allow us to invest in America, to strengthen our military and to finish the fight against al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan and the border region of Pakistan. This is the central front in the war on terrorism. This is where the Taliban is gaining strength and launching new attacks. This is where Osama bin Laden and the same terrorists who killed nearly 3,000 Americans on our own soil are hiding and plotting 7 years after 9/11. This is a war that we have to win. And as Commander in Chief, I will have no greater priority than taking out these terrorists who threaten America and finishing the job against the Taliban."

As President, Obama issued an important policy statement on Afghanistan in March. He said his goals were to "disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan and to prevent their return to either country in the future." In that statement, President Obama said explicitly that we cannot allow the Afghan Government to fall again to the Taliban because "that country will again be a