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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,
November 18, 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.

URGENT NEED FOR CORONAVIRUS RELIEF

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling for immediate action on COVID relief.

It is an outrage that Senate Republicans and the impeached President's administration are more focused on undermining our election integrity and faith in our democracy rather than delivering relief to millions of Americans who are struggling right now.

With over 20 million unemployed and more than 8 million having fallen into poverty, recurring monthly payments are desperately needed to protect the American people from further harm and loss.

Due to the lack of Federal commitment and funding, the maximum amount a worker in my district gets on unemployment is $362 a week, Mr. Speaker; $962 under the first stimulus payment. So now you are asking workers, our families, our neighbors, to live with $362 a week. Not anyone here could survive on that.

Due to the uncontrolled spread of the coronavirus, new stay-at-home orders and business restrictions are necessary to protect our public health.

But we must couple this with orders with strong, recurring Federal support, putting money directly into the pockets of Americans, so they can actually afford to stay home, and support our local governments and businesses on the brink of collapse without more stimulus.

This pandemic has also made clear the need of guaranteeing access to clean water to our neighbors.

Washing one's hands is crucial to preventing illness and spread. We need to treat water as a human right, and ban water shutoffs nationwide, and ensure that every American has what they need to protect themselves during this pandemic.

So, Mr. Speaker, sending stimulus checks, supporting State and local governments, small businesses, and preventing water shutoffs are some of the first steps we must take to not only control the spread of this coronavirus but to recover from its devastation.

I urge my Republican colleagues to please join me in taking urgent action.

RECOGNIZING PERSONNEL

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, many of us know that the House could not function without the professional nonpartisan personnel who ensure that we can do our job. We do at times as an institution pause and thank them, but now it is time for me to do it personally. I thank them for their commitment, dedication, and their hard work.

It would be difficult to start without mentioning the Capitol Police. They are here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Since my time here, some have fallen in the line of duty, others injured protecting those placed in their care. These are only the events that I know. I can only imagine the stories that they could tell. Thank you.

I owe thanks to the Office of the Attending Physician. This concierge service helps us stay healthy and keeps us informed on how this job affects our health. There have been many times when I have watched them scramble to attend to the health needs of a Member or one of our visitors.

In the Army we are fond of saying the Army moves on its stomach. So does the House of Representatives. We and our guests can find food in numerous locations. This morning, I picked up my breakfast right here in the basement of the Capitol. Lunch, who knows, but I do not fret that I will not be able to find something.

When we depart for the day, the cleaning crew comes in. They are long gone by the time most of us arrive the next day.

Mail and newspapers are dropped off by couriers. Lightbulbs are replaced. Pictures are hung up and, in my case, taken down. Photos are taken of us and our guests in major events.

Audiovisual connectivity for Chamber and Committee activities, so the public can observe our deliberations, is ensured. And, again, as I observe this morning, the electronic voting system was turned on and checked.

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