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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

## House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CASTEN of Illinois).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 26, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SEAN CASTEN 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.

### INVIDIOUS DISCRIMINATION SHOULD NOT EXIST IN THIS COUNTRY

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 a proud American, proud to be a citizen of the greatest country in the world, proud to proclaim that I am a liberated Democrat, speak truth to power, truth about power, unbought and unbossed.

I am also proud to be aided today with my mnemonic notes. I would like to talk to you about invidious discrimination in the United States of America, the greatest country in the world.

I know of no one in this House who believes that invidious discrimination is appropriate. I believe that every Member of this House will go on record indicating that invidious discrimination should not exist in this, the greatest country in the world.

But what I would like to do is give some empirical evidence of the existence of this invidious discrimination and then say a word or two about possible remedies.

Newsday had a testing investigation. On November 17, 2019, Newsday released a scathing report detailing an investigation into the nature and extent of real estate sales practices on Long Island in New York.

Now, do not confuse the fact that this was in New York on Long Island with the notion that it doesn't happen in other places. It could have happened in my city, Houston, Texas, and my belief is it happens every day in a good many places around this country.

The evidence continues with this. The report, titled, "Long Island Divided," was the culmination of a 3½ year comprehensive investigation en-

tailing 240 hours of secretly recorded meetings with real estate agents and analysis of 5,764 house listings.

It appears that the Newsday report revealed a 19 percent rate of discrimination against Asian Americans, 39 percent rate of discrimination against Latinos, and 49 percent rate of discrimination against African Americans.

It appears that the persons who were the agents, the agents who were the persons being spoken to by persons seeking opportunities, it appears that these agents refused to provide service to customers of color—some of them, not all of them.

They showed borrowers of color far fewer homes than their White counterparts, provided inaccurate information to borrowers of color, made inappropriate statements based on race, placed higher requirements on borrowers of color, and steered potential customers based on race.

Nobody in this House would agree to this as appropriate. Everybody in this House, I believe, would condemn this. But here is where the rubber meets the road.

It is one thing to condemn it and to say that it is wrong. That is a talking point. We can have the greatest talking points in the world, but this will continue until we make those talking points an action item.

There are things that we can do to prevent this level of invidious discrimination. The question is not whether there is a way. The question is: Do we have the will to challenge and take on this level of invidious discrimination?

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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Because of the many remedies proposed, the one that stands out the most is that of increasing the fund for fair housing testing, to do exactly what they did with this report, to go into various venues and test and acquire this empirical evidence.

Nobody wants to see this happen, but we cannot stop it by simply talking about it. We have to have an action, and the action item is testing.

I will be saying more about this later on this week because there is legislation right here pending in this House that we can bring to the floor of this House, pass, and we can prevent this kind of behavior from taking place because, when we acquire the empirical evidence, we can then confront those who do this. We can also educate them, and we can pass on a legacy to future generations of success in ending invidious discrimination.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Future Farmers of America Week. Without question, the hardworking men and women in the field of agriculture serve as the backbone of our Nation.

Since its founding in 1917, the Future Farmers of America has prepared the next generation of chemists, veterinarians, entrepreneurs, and premier agriculture professionals. These individuals will go on to solve the world's challenge of providing resources to growing populations.

In North Carolina, the Future Farmers of America continues to grow. Last year, it had over 20,000 members, and its 321 chapters contributed more than 1 million service hours across the State. When you see these young people in their dark blue jackets with the gold trim, you are seeing leaders and patriots.

By learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, and living to serve, the Future Farmers of America ensure that our Nation's agricultural future remains bright.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not address imprudent comments about our Nation's farmers that were recently brought to light. At an Oxford University event in 2016, Michael Bloomberg offered commentary that was truly unsettling. He said: "I could teach anybody, even people in this room, to be a farmer. It's a process. You dig a hole; you put a seed in; you put dirt on top, add water, and up comes the corn."

When you write off America's farmers, you write off the lifeblood of our country. To show you the impact of our farmers, we will look at the facts in just a moment.

Contrary to the idea, as Michael Bloomberg said, that farming is so sim-

ple, the truth is that farmers must be among the most intelligent, innovative, and creative people in the world. They face challenges every day that threaten their survival.

Now, let's look at the facts: Annually, one U.S. farm will feed 166 people in the U.S. and abroad;

In 2018, \$139 billion of American agricultural products were exported around the world;

Ninety-eight percent of U.S. farms are operated by hardworking families; and

About 11 percent of U.S. farmers are serving or have served in the military, compared to only 2 percent of the general public, showing that American farmers are very patriotic.

These facts speak for themselves. The work of American farmers goes far beyond Michael Bloomberg's claim of simply digging holes, planting seeds, and adding water.

I am proud to represent over 7,000 farms and over 11,000 agricultural producers in the Fifth District of North Carolina. Collectively, they generate over \$1 billion every year and represent almost 10 percent of North Carolina's agriculture sales.

Recently, Alleghany County honored some of its farmers, young and old, and to hear of their efforts and dedication would inspire anyone. I commend and thank our farmers and our future agricultural leaders for their unwavering commitment to our families, communities, and to our country.

#### THON, THE LARGEST STUDENT-RUN PHILANTHROPIC EFFORT IN THE WORLD

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 and thank Penn State students who have spent the last year dedicating countless hours to support a fantastic cause benefiting pediatric cancer patients. I am talking about THON.

This yearlong fundraising effort culminates in an annual 46-hour dance marathon to financially and emotionally support more than 4,500 families with children who are battling cancer.

THON was founded in 1973 by Penn State fraternities and sororities. What began as a small fundraiser bringing in \$2,000 in its inaugural year has flourished into a campus-wide effort with more than 16,000 student volunteers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This year, Penn State students raised \$11.7 million, and, to date, students have shattered records and raised nearly \$180 million, making THON the largest student-run philanthropic effort in the world.

Of course, their dedication is to be applauded, but ask any Penn State student and they agree: THON isn't about them; it is about the children and the families fighting cancer.

Over the years, THON has supported more than 4,000 families with a child battling pediatric cancer. Patients are treated at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center, and because of THON, many of these families never receive a medical bill.

THON is for the kids, and it is for the families to focus on celebrating more birthdays, piano recitals, science fairs, graduations, and every other milestone that a child should celebrate without fear. THON exists so that one day parents never have to hear the words, "Your child has cancer."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of these students; but, more importantly, I am proud of the children and the families who have the courage to fight back against pediatric cancer.

#### CONGRESS MUST MAKE LYNCHING A FEDERAL HATE CRIME

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 35, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, we will be voting on later this afternoon. I am pleased to see the House take steps in finally addressing this issue.

Like many, despite our Nation's ugly history of lynchings, I was shocked to learn that there was no law making lynching a Federal hate crime.

My home in Omaha area is not unlike many other towns across the country with a gruesome past of lynching. George Smith was murdered in October 1891, and this past fall marked the 100th anniversary of the murder of Will Brown on the steps of the Douglas County Courthouse during the Red Summer. The hands of lawless and angry mobs in Omaha beat and lynched these men in what can only be characterized as racial terrorism.

We cannot simply wash away the past, but in order for our Nation to heal from past racial injustice, Congress must specify criminal penalties for the crime of lynching or conspiracy to commit lynching.

With at least 5,000 lynchings in our Nation's history, this bill is important as an acknowledgement that this evil did occur, that millions felt fear in their homes and communities, that many feared for their lives, the lives of their dads and their sons, and that this formal acknowledgement will help facilitate reconciliation.

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Last year, I was approached by local African American community leaders to look into antilynching legislation. I felt that the language from Senator HARRIS' bill that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate was the right one to support here in the House. This is how we are going to pass a bill and get it signed by the President of the United States. It is because of these reasons that I was honored to introduce the Senate-passed language in the House.