



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015

No. 37

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 4, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, 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 each party limited to 1 hour 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.

DHS FUNDING AND IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Speaker and the Republican majority for coming to their senses and allowing the House of Representatives to pass a bill funding the Department of Homeland Security for the rest of the fiscal year.

It seems odd that I would have to come to this well to congratulate the majority for funding one of the largest and most important departments in the U.S. Government. I cannot con-

gratulate the majority alone because the bill funding the Department of Homeland Security was passed largely on the strength—yes—of Democratic votes.

The vote was strong, 257-167, but 182 of those votes came from Democrats. In fact, every Democrat who voted voted to keep the Department of Homeland Security open and protecting America until the end of the fiscal year, 100 percent. Only 75 Republicans supported paying our border security and airport security professionals.

Mr. Speaker, it should never have come to this. On the one hand, it should never have come to this because Members of Congress should never play around with the paychecks of our fellow government employees and threaten them with furloughs in order to score cheap partisan political points.

The real people with real lives who work at O'Hare and Midway and at ports, airports, and border crossings, the real people with mortgages, car notes, and tuition bills who provide the security our democracy depends on do not deserve the way they are treated by this Congress. Lurching from funding crisis to shutdown showdown to last-minute votes is no way to run the greatest democracy the world has ever known.

We know there is a sensible, bipartisan majority that is willing to compromise and do what has to be done to keep the basic functions of government operating. That group voted yesterday, and the leadership should find a way to let that sensible majority govern, despite those who take every opportunity to make governing next to impossible in this body.

Secondly, it should never have come to this because the premise on which this funding and shutdown crisis rested was never logical or necessary.

Those who opposed the President exercising powers granted to him by the Congress have filed a lawsuit in Fed-

eral court. They picked a sympathetic judge and have won a temporary injunction on the implementation of the executive actions the President announced last November.

If they really believe in the strength of their case, this threat of a partial government shutdown was unnecessary. Clearly, they agree with me that their case is weak and that the courts will eventually overturn the temporary injunction.

But the logic was always sideways. The very Presidential actions that are not even funded by the appropriations made by Congress. The criminal background checks and the adjudication of each person's application is paid for in full by fees of \$465 for each immigrant, so this was never a logical funding matter.

With or without funding for the Department of Homeland Security, the premise that Congress could force the President to deport low-priority deportees who grew up in the United States or who are the parents of U.S. citizens never held water.

Even if people cannot come forward to apply and pass a criminal background check and get to the back of the deportation line, the basic way the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security prioritized deporting criminals, drug dealers, and drunk drivers over moms, dads, and DREAMers, that would not change.

Think about it. It is as if the Republicans were saying they are so upset about their obsession with border security and their conviction that the President is not doing enough about border security that they were willing to defund border security in order to make their point. Jon Stewart can't write stuff that good, and he doesn't have to.

Here is the biggest reason why it didn't have to come to a shutdown showdown. Republicans in the House

□ 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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