

because only in Communist regimes and under ruthless dictatorships is nonviolent opposition to the regime considered a crime. Peaceful dissidence, resistance, is a crime in Cuba.

For all of the engagement—the concession after concession to the ruthless dictatorship—it has not moved the Castros even 1 inch toward freedom, toward human rights, toward the rule of law, toward democracy.

The people of Cuba deserve better.

#### TRUMP MORTGAGE

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week we learned that the Republican presumptive nominee, Donald Trump, actually rooted for the collapse of the housing market just before the Great Recession wrecked our economy.

In 2007, before the crash, Donald Trump said he was excited about the housing market crash because “I’ve always made more money in bad markets than in good markets.”

Today we don’t know if he made money or not because, unlike Presidential candidates for decades, Donald Trump refuses to release his income tax returns. In fact, there is one report that suggests that he paid no income taxes in 1 year.

Even worse, his own company, Trump Mortgage, actually pushed people into subprime mortgages. Millions of people lost their homes in the housing crisis, and 8.4 million Americans lost their jobs, but Donald Trump was the winner.

He is doing what he does best—putting himself above everybody else. He does not want to make America great. Donald Trump wants to make Donald Trump richer.

#### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the first freedom mentioned in our Constitution is the free exercise of religion. The Founders understood the universal right to seek God in accordance with one’s conscience and, also, that many sought refuge on these shores because of religious persecution.

Pilgrims, Puritans, Quakers, Catholics—these were just some of the groups who fled persecution. In the old country, in the old days, exercising one’s faith could result in lost business opportunities and other forms of discrimination. Some faced imprisonment and even death. The Founders knew that history and sought to guarantee that this new Federal Government would not allow such injustice.

Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, today we are seeing laws, rules, executive orders, and court rulings at different levels of government force some people to

choose between following their consciences and pursuing their livelihoods. Such a choice is exactly what the penal laws of 18th century Ireland presented to Catholics in that country: abandon your faith or face severe hardship.

Forcing such a choice is at odds with explicit, fundamental, constitutional liberties and basic human rights. The intolerance of religious freedom will not—cannot—stand in our Nation.

□ 1215

#### NEVADANS DEMAND APOLOGY

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Nevadans to demand an apology from presumptive Republican Presidential nominee, Donald Trump.

Last week, news reports revealed that Donald Trump actually bragged about being able to make a lot of money from a housing market that was about to burst. He rooted for that bubble to burst.

Well, the crash of the housing market devastated my hometown of Las Vegas, which was one of the hardest hit in the country. Thousands lost their homes, and 71 percent of homes were underwater, some by over 50 percent. Bank foreclosures put families on the street who had already lost their jobs and their savings.

Slowly we are coming back, though. We have reformed lending policies, demanded accountability, and worked to ensure that families can keep a roof over their heads, but we remember how awful it was.

So we say to Mr. Trump: Keep your short fingers out of the Nevada housing market.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

#### HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM E. TROXELL

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor William E. Troxell on his May 31, 2016, retirement as mayor of the borough of Gettysburg.

Mr. Troxell was born in Gettysburg and is a direct descendant of John Troxell, the first settler of Gettysburg. Mr. Troxell is a World War II veteran and served 12 years in the United States Army Reserve.

William is best known, however, as Mayor Troxell of Gettysburg, a position he has held since 1997 and performed with zeal, professionalism, and class. William has left an enduring legacy of service to Gettysburg and our Nation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania’s Fourth Congressional District and a grateful

nation, I am proud and humbled to congratulate William E. Troxell on his retirement and wish him great health, happiness, and prosperity in his future adventures.

#### PORT SPENDING TARGETS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the Panama Canal expansion is set to open next month, posing challenges for many of our Nation’s ports. That is why it is more important than ever that our ports have the funding that they need to prepare for the future and stay globally competitive.

Since coming to Congress, I have led an effort to ensure that money collected at our Nation’s ports in the harbor maintenance tax be spent at our Nation’s ports. We have set up a glide path to get us to 100 percent spending of the funding by 2025, and each year we have a target to get closer to that goal.

This week, we are voting on the energy and water appropriations bill on the floor, and I want to thank the leadership of the Appropriations Committee—Chairmen ROGERS and SIMPSON and Ranking Members LOWEY and KAPTUR—for recognizing the importance of port spending targets.

This year \$1.2 billion is set to go back to our ports and our port communities, making it the third year in a row that we have hit our target. I am proud of this continued achievement. This funding will go to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, where I come from, and also to ports across this country to create construction jobs and economic opportunities for decades to come.

#### COLUMNIST MAKES FALSE CLIMATE CHANGE CLAIMS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently a prominent New York Times columnist recycled disproven assertions to criticize businessman Donald Trump’s views on climate change. This type of alarmist rhetoric is what we have come to expect from liberal pundits and the media, but science doesn’t back the columnist’s claims.

Extreme weather events are not getting weirder. There is no evidence that weather events such as hurricanes, tornados, droughts, and floods have increased in number due to climate change.

Last year, at the Paris climate conference, the President said that fish swim in the streets of Miami because of a downpour caused by climate change. He was immediately contradicted by his own government agency that said the flooding was due to lunar cycles, not climate change.

Climate alarmists should speak the truth, not try to promote a political agenda.