

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico will provide a translation to the Chair.

#### NATIONAL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate National FFA Week, an annual tradition that highlights the contributions of one of our Nation's most impactful youth organizations.

Last week, from February 15 to 22, we honored the FFA's mission, achievements, and ongoing work in preparing future generations of agricultural leaders.

Founded in 1928, the National FFA Organization has grown into a dynamic force in agriculture, education, leadership development, and career preparedness.

With over 1 million members and chapters in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, FFA stands as a pillar of strength for young men and women pursuing careers in agriculture, agribusiness, and related fields.

FFA is a transformative experience that instills a sense of responsibility, leadership, and service in its members. The agricultural education programs offered through FFA equip students with the technical skills, scientific knowledge, and problem-solving abilities necessary to meet the challenges of feeding, clothing, and fueling our Nation.

Access to agricultural education is critical not only for our rural communities but for the entire country.

Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. As I often say, food security is national security, and investing in the next generation of producers ensures that there is food on our tables, clothes on our backs, and fuel in our vehicles. However, beyond that, agriculture is science, technology, and innovation. Its cutting-edge advancements will drive the future of food production and environmental stewardship.

The blue FFA jacket is more than just a uniform. It symbolizes hard work, commitment, and leadership. The young men and women who wear it today are tomorrow's farmers, veterinarians, researchers, policymakers, and business leaders.

Their dedication to agricultural excellence and community service exemplifies the very best of American values. The impact of FFA extends far beyond agriculture. The leadership training, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that members develop prepare them for a wide range of careers and civic responsibilities.

Many former FFA members have gone on to serve in Congress, lead Fortune 500 companies, and contribute

meaningfully to their local communities, including the recently confirmed U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins, the first Secretary of Agriculture to have served as a State FFA officer.

As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I understand the vital importance of shaping the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and producers. Through education and hands-on experiences, FFA continues to make a lasting impact on the agriculture industry.

National FFA Week is also an opportunity to recognize the educators, advisers, and mentors who guide these young leaders, as well as the families and communities that support them. Their investment in agricultural education ensures that future generations will continue to innovate, adapt, and lead.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the past successes of FFA while also looking ahead to the incredible contributions that future FFA leaders will make. Their passion, knowledge, and dedication give us confidence in the future of American agriculture and the prosperity of our Nation.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY IS AN EARNED BENEFIT

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for children. That program is Social Security.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, as you know, Congress has not addressed or enhanced Social Security in more than 54 years. Richard Nixon was President of the United States the last time that Congress enhanced Social Security.

I am sure it is of interest to some of our listeners here today that Social Security is the number one insurance program for a Nation who relies on their government to make sure that it passes on savings to them that they have paid for. This is no entitlement. All one has to do is go to their pay stub where it says FICA, Federal insurance contribution. Whose money is that? It is your money.

Yet, Congress hasn't acted on it. However, we want to give that opportunity to everyone to act on it.

What is especially alarming, Mr. Speaker, is now Mr. Musk—an unelected official who operates outside of government, who doesn't need to be approved by the Senate, who is neither a Federal employee nor a volunteer, he has the ear of the President of the United States and can get all the statistics and data that he wants—is currently going after Social Security data.

I commend the Federal employees who have stood up to this illegal act and refused, in an effort to protect

American citizens' valuable information and, most importantly, their privacy.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, you have 115,000 Social Security recipients in your district: 86,000 are retirees; 10,000 are disabled workers who rely on this money; 5,486 widows; 2,600 spouses; 8,613 children; and your district gets on a monthly basis \$197 million.

Where do they spend that?

Right back in your district, Mr. Speaker.

Nobody gets wealthy on Social Security. It is the safety net for capitalism. That is what Roosevelt intended it to be. It is long overdue that we have a vote in the United States Congress to enhance Social Security benefits for all Americans.

□ 1230

There are 10,000 baby boomers who become eligible for Social Security every day. More than 70 million people receive Social Security, and now Mr. Musk and Mr. Trump are out to cut those benefits?

Ask your constituents where those cuts are going to come from, Mr. Speaker. Are they ready to say that cuts ought to be made to the money that they receive?

In something that was widely debunked last week, President Trump made the most outlandish claim that Social Security is contributing money to people who are supposedly 150 years old. That was widely debunked as false and untrue, but it is the kind of thing that is seen in dictatorships or at the start of fascism when people all of a sudden make outlandish claims that are untrue with regard to the Nation's number one insurance program for the elderly and our children, which Congress hasn't enhanced in more than 54 years.

The public ought to be demanding a vote of its Members. Do not let any Member of Congress stand up without saying where they stand on your benefits.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

In the beginning, God, You created the heavens and the Earth. When Your