

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 593

Resolved, That the Speaker, in concurrence with the Minority Leader, is authorized to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to record proceedings during a joint meeting of Congress on July 19, 2023, to provide a virtual reality experience for educational use by the public.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME THROUGH JULY 20, 2023, CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 79, RELATING TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 11, 2004

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time through July 20, 2023, to consider in the House, H.J. Res. 79 if called up by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or his designee, that the joint resolution be considered as read, that the previous question be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except 30 minutes equally divided among and controlled by Representative McCAUL of Texas, Representative MEEKS of New York, and Representative GAETZ of Florida, or their respective designees, and that the provisions of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622) shall not apply to the joint resolution through July 20, 2023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 4664, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Mr. WOMACK from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 118-145) on the bill (H.R. 4664) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 4665, STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 118-146) on

the bill (H.R. 4665) making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

HUDSON VALLEY SEEKS MAJOR DISASTER RELIEF

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to call on President Biden to immediately approve the Major Disaster Declaration requested by New York Governor Kathy Hochul.

The Hudson Valley was ravaged by storms and flooding on July 8, with a young woman tragically losing her life.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of our first responders, including the Piermont Fire Department's Dive Team and High Angle Rescue Team, Carmel Police Department, Putnam County Sheriff's Office, the Yorktown Police Department, among many, many more, thankfully no other lives were lost.

My office has been working in tandem with State and local elected officials to ensure that our region receives the Federal aid it needs to get back on its feet, which is why I am calling on President Biden to immediately approve the major disaster declaration requested by New York State.

We need FEMA to help our hard-hit Hudson Valley communities recover in full, and provide much-needed resources and aid to impacted homeowners and municipalities alike with the damage in the tens of millions of dollars.

□ 1915

DEMOCRATS PUT PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how Democrats are putting people over politics and working to support all Americans. We are lowering the everyday cost of living for working families. We have brought inflation down significantly from the pandemic-related highs. We have capped the price of insulin for America's 37 million diabetics, and we continue to fight to lower prices for other lifesaving medications.

We have created more than 13 million jobs since President Biden took office, and we are fixing the roads and bridges that Americans use to travel on throughout the country. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle were

against this proposition, and many voted against it. Now I see them at home taking pictures in front of bridges and roads being fixed. Pretty interesting.

In addition, we are making communities safer. We have passed legislation to protect America's children and expand background checks to keep dangerous weapons off the streets.

I have said it before and I will say it again: I am extremely proud that my party works for the American people and not special interests.

RECOGNIZING COMMON THREADS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passionate team of problem solvers at Common Threads, including its executive officer and cofounder, Linda Novick O'Keefe.

Common Threads operates across the Nation, providing children, educators, caregivers, and healthcare professionals with the resources, curriculum, and training needed to champion healthy cooking and nutrition education. Since its inception, Common Threads has reached more than 550,000 students and 103,000 adults with more than 4.3 million snacks and meals served.

Common Threads recognizes nutrition education is the cornerstone to healthier communities. Their programs give families the tools to make better nutritional choices by focusing on nutrition basics, meal affordability, and healthy substitutions.

There is a lot of talk about how food is medicine, but food is also prevention. With effective and evidence-based nutrition education, we can continue to curb the disastrous instances and impacts of diet-related chronic diseases.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ANSWERS

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, as the Oversight Committee Chairman JAMES COMER has stated, our investigation into the Biden family's business dealings has uncovered a web of complex financial transactions, shell companies, and attempts to conceal payments.

It is our duty to determine whether these activities compromise our national security and impact the President's policy decisions.

Thanks to the hard work of Chairman JASON SMITH in the Ways and Means Committee, IRS whistleblowers have come forward with troubling information. These courageous individuals shed light on the politicization

and misconduct within the Department of Justice and the IRS regarding the Hunter Biden investigation.

The American people deserve answers. They deserve to know if Federal law enforcement was compromised, if Joe Biden was shielded from evidence, and if Hunter Biden was given preferential treatment leading to a sweetheart plea deal he received last month.

Transparency and accountability are the foundations of our democracy, and as Members of this body, we must deliver on these principles. It is our responsibility to ensure that no one is above the law and that justice is served.

I urge all my colleagues to demand the truth and to stand with the American people. Together, we can restore faith in our institutions and safeguard the integrity of our democracy.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS EUBANKS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate tennis star Chris Eubanks on his impressive Wimbledon run.

Chris Eubanks is an Atlanta native who played tennis at Georgia Tech. During his time at Tech, Eubanks was named the ACC Player of the Year twice and was a two-time all-American.

At Wimbledon, Eubanks beat the number one British player and 2022 Wimbledon semifinalist in a second round in front of a lively crowd. He advanced to the quarterfinals of the tournament after defeating the world number five player in a more than 3-hour battle.

Eubanks is now the 13th man in the Open Era to reach the final eight in his debut at Wimbledon and the first American man to do so since 1984.

His performance at Wimbledon propelled him to a world number 43 ranking and has now guaranteed himself entry into every tournament and a seeding at the U.S. Open.

I congratulate Mr. Eubanks on his valiant Wimbledon run and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. He has made Georgia proud and made his country proud.

A CONCLUSION TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the President or the Members of this body to weigh in with the President and try to come to some sort of conclusion on the war with Ukraine.

It seems to me that there are two groups: people who want us to pull out and people who want us to be all in for

years and years. However, the longer this war drags on, the worse long-term relationships get between Russia and the United States.

Russia has a very low birthrate and has had a lot of their young people leave for the United States and other parts of the world recently. Ukraine has the second lowest birthrate in the world. Neither of these countries can afford to lose any more of their young people to this war. The sooner the war wraps up, the better.

I am very disappointed that the press is not asking questions of the Biden administration and that the Biden administration seems completely uninterested in negotiating some settlement of the war.

I am aware of the fact that the U.S. cannot appear an impartial broker, but we should strongly encourage Türkiye, Israel, or France to step in and try to negotiate an end to this war. I do not know why it seems like the Biden administration does not want it to end.

BIPARTISAN OPPOSITION TO JULIE SU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 5 months since President Biden nominated Julie Su to be Secretary of Labor. That nomination remains stalled. The Senate has declined to confirm her. She now faces bipartisan opposition, yet the President has not withdrawn her nomination.

Worse yet, Su is continuing to serve as Secretary of Labor in an acting capacity, despite the Senate declining to put her in that position. It appears that this is now the plan, to simply cancel the vote and carry on as if she had been confirmed.

Su's leading supporter in the Senate, BERNIE SANDERS, said as much. He said: I hope she has the votes to become the Secretary. If not, of course, she should stay where she is. She is doing a great job, Sanders continued. Why would you not?

Well, why would you not? One simple reason is the Constitution. This is blatantly an end run around the Constitution's advice and consent requirement of Article II, section 2, clause 2.

As further evidence of the Biden administration's plan to simply keep Su on indefinitely, with or without a vote, after months of Department of Labor rulemaking being put on pause to spare Su negative press during the confirmation process, the wheels are now back in motion. The administration seems to be acknowledging that Su does not have the votes for confirmation but, again, plans to keep her at the helm of the Labor Department anyway.

Now, this administration has a disturbing pattern of seeking to do by undemocratic means that which it cannot do by democratic means.

For example, on the topic of student loan forgiveness, President Biden had said: I don't think I have the authority to do that, and then he went ahead and did it anyway by executive order.

On the issue of independent contracting, Congress has declined to adopt the destructive ABC test via the PRO Act, so the Labor Department is seeking to enact a functionally equivalent legal standard by rulemaking. This is the most brazen example yet. Having made the worst possible pick for Secretary of Labor, which the United States Senate is rightly rejecting, the President is trying to install his nominee as the permanent Secretary anyway.

Now, the student loan executive order, of course, was just struck down by the Supreme Court, but what the administration is attempting here is much more potentially disruptive. What is at issue is not just one policy, rather, it is every action the Department of Labor takes under Acting Secretary Su that will be put under a legal cloud.

Now, Su's allies have tried to make a legal argument relating to the interplay of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of the statute that created the position of Deputy Secretary of Labor. This argument is without merit. There is no statutory authority to have an Acting Secretary who has been nominated for permanent Secretary continue serving indefinitely, with or without confirmation; nor could there be because any such statute would violate the Constitution.

Education and the Workforce Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX and I have sent a letter to Gene Dodaro, U.S. Comptroller General at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, requesting an opinion on the legality of keeping Su as the head of Labor indefinitely.

None of this should be necessary. The White House and Julie Su have had every opportunity to persuade the Senate. They have had a nightly war room and daily arm twisting for months. It is well past time to withdraw the nomination and for the President to nominate a Secretary of Labor who will be on the side of American workers.

THE FENTANYL CRISIS

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, last month, the district attorney of Placer County in my district secured the first-ever murder conviction in California for dealing fentanyl. This is a very important moment in the battle against the fentanyl epidemic that is taking such a tragic toll on every community across the country.

As The New York Times reported: The novel prosecution in Placer, northeast of Sacramento, is being closely watched in law enforcement and legislative circles in California, which lost about 6,000 people to fentanyl and other opioids in 2021, the last year for which complete data is available. Prosecutors have been looking for ways to hold people distributing the drug accountable for the staggering death toll.