

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VICTIMS OF THE HARTFORD DISTRIBUTORS TRAGEDY**

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise on a very solemn and sad moment to express condolences to families of the victims within my congressional district in the State of Connecticut.

I have always empathized with my fellow colleagues when they address the House about fateful events that occur in their communities. I just never imagined that tragedy would strike so close to home. And it's hard to conceive, I know for everyone here, that bad things happen to good people.

On the morning of August 3, 2010, eight men went to work, some looking forward to vacation, others nearing retirement, none expecting the calamity that would follow. I thank my colleagues for indulging me the time to express the heartfelt condolences of the Nation and this body. Eight men went to work that morning. Some of them followed in the footsteps of their fathers and brothers before them. This is a family business, many of whom had served and worked at this family business for over 20 years. Neither they nor their families and friends could anticipate the senseless, unthinkable actions that occurred on that morning. Yet bad things happen to good people.

So consequently, ordinary people are going through extraordinary circumstances, punctuated by acts of heroism, courage, and camaraderie that unites them. These eight men, Bill Ackerman of East Windsor, Bryan Cirigliano of Newington, Francis Fazio of Bristol, Louis Felder of Stamford, Victor James of Windsor, Edwin Kennison of East Hartford, Craig Pepin of South Windsor, and Douglas Scruton of Manchester, lost their lives that day.

They were Teamsters of Local 1035. But beyond that, they were husbands, fathers, grandfathers, coaches, and friends. They were leaders and stalwarts in their communities where they lived and served. All were part of a family business, which makes this so tragic, a family that's operated a business since 1955. The owner of that business I was with that fateful morning. Stunned and shocked, as everyone was, his thoughts were only about the safety and well-being of his workforce, his concern as to whether or not they would be able to keep their wages. And he talked to the comptroller, making sure that benefits would be extended. And his heart went out to all of the families who were victims of this senseless, tragic slaying.

It's a family business. It was a tragic and horrific thing that took place in Manchester, Connecticut. What the people of Hartford Distributors have, as they went through this, and the several vigils and memorials that have been created, and the funeral services

that are still going on, is they understand that they have one another. And they intend, later this week, to lock arms and march back into the warehouse together, and continue to move forward, always remembering those eight men.

I ask that the Members rise and observe a moment of silence in memory of these eight men and their families during this senseless tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

**QUESTION OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is aware of valid bases for the gentleman's point of personal privilege.

The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. RANGEL. My dear friends and colleagues, I rise to the floor because the newspapers and the media have indicated that there is a concern about some of the Members in this House that I retire or remove myself from this body. And I have always tried to play by the rules. And I cannot think of anybody that has encouraged me to speak here.

I want to thank all of you who are concerned about me for saying that, you know, a guy's a fool to represent himself, as some of the people have said. But I have been losing a lot of sleep over these allegations, and my family and community. And some of these rules that they have is that I am restricted by confidentiality. But for years I have been saying, No comment, no comment, no comment to a lot of serious allegations because I could not comment, and I would refer them to the Ethics Committee.

When the Ethics Committee finally brought out their statement of alleged violations, it was a long list of things, and somehow the chairman of the subcommittee of investigation indicated that I had received a lot of offers to settle this thing so that it would not cause embarrassment to my Democratic friends, and that I had been offered a reprimand. And a lot of people kind of felt that that sounded like a wonderful opportunity to remove this so that I could leave the Congress with some degree of dignity.

Why, even some people said that the President had suggested that his life might be made easier if there was no CHARLIE RANGEL so-called scandal. But I interpret it another way. I think when the President said that he wanted me to end my career in dignity, he didn't put a time limit on it. And I would think that his concern would be that if any Member of the House of Representatives has been accused of serious crimes or allegations, that somehow within the process, even though we are not entitled to a court process,

there has to be some process in which the Member has an opportunity to tell his constituents, his family, and his friends what he didn't believe.

So when the chairman of the investigative committee said I had been offered a settlement, it reminded me of something that I will devote my retiring years to besides education, which is the major thrust of my attempt here, is that those of you that come anywhere near criminal courts, we have a terrible thing that happens throughout these United States. And that is that someone gets arrested for a very serious crime, and they get their lawyer, and the lawyer explains that, I think it's better that you plead guilty to a lesser crime. And he says, Well, I am not only not guilty, but I don't even know what's involved here. They said, Well, listen, we are not suggesting that you plead guilty if you are innocent, but we think you ought to know that this judge, if you are found guilty, is going to send you away for 20 years. On the other hand, you have no offenses, you are a first offender, and if you could just forget about this thing and explain later what happened.

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So he continues to tell his lawyer that, hey, I am willing to admit what I have done wrong, and I have done some things wrong, but I shouldn't have to anyway. He says, listen, we would never tell you to quit or resign. We are just telling you that it would be easier for us if this were not an issue. But knowing the President as I do, I think he believes that dignity means that everybody is entitled to be judged for allegations against them.

Now, what is working against me? We come back to this House because the Speaker has called us here in order to make certain that we provide resources for governors and mayors to maintain our teachers and our firefighters, and RANGEL is not on the schedule for anything. Which is okay, because I know that the members of the committee, they work hard, it is a selfless job. God knows I wouldn't take it. I respect the time that they have placed on this. And it has been almost 2 years.

But I have a primary that takes place a couple of days before they even thought about meeting. And then I found out from my lawyer that even when they meet on the 13th of September, there is no trial date for then.

So I don't want to be awkward and embarrass anybody. As a matter of fact, those people that believe that their election is going to be dependent on me resigning, I would like to encourage Democrats to believe, I think Republicans have given you enough reason to get reelected, and they continue to do something.

But quite frankly, I think I have given. I mean, a lot of people don't know, but when the—well, I don't want to be critical of the Ethics Committee because my lawyer said you can't get