

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, May 12, 2011, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at 10:59 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mrs. Kerri Hanley, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER);

The gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT);

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN);

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL);

The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN);

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY);

The gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY);

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY);

The gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF);

The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ); and

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL);

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN);

The Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN);

The Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR); and

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH).

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Her Excellency Faida Mitifu, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for her.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m., the Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

The Prime Minister of Israel, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Prime Minister NETANYAHU. Vice President BIDEN, Speaker BOEHNER, distinguished Senators, Members of the House, honored guests, I am deeply moved by this warm welcome, and I am deeply honored that you've given me the opportunity to address Congress a second time.

Mr. Vice President, do you remember the time that we were the new kids in town? And I do see a lot of old friends here, and I see a lot of new friends of Israel here as well, Democrats and Republicans alike.

Israel has no better friend than America, and America has no better friend than Israel. We stand together to defend democracy. We stand together to advance peace. We stand together to fight terrorism.

Congratulations, America. Congratulations, Mr. President. You got bin Laden. Good riddance.

In an unstable Middle East, Israel is the one anchor of stability. In a region of shifting alliances, Israel is America's unwavering ally. Israel has always been pro-American. Israel will always be pro-American.

My friends, you don't need to do nation-building in Israel; we're already built. You don't need to export democracy to Israel; we've already got it. And you don't need to send American troops to Israel; we defend ourselves. You've been very generous in giving us tools to do the job of defending Israel on our own.

Thank you all; and thank you, President Obama, for your steadfast commitment to Israel's security. I know economic times are tough. I deeply appreciate this.

Some of you have been telling me that your belief has been reaffirmed in recent months that support for Israel's security is a wise investment in our common future, for an epic battle is now underway in the Middle East between tyranny and freedom. A great convulsion is shaking the Earth from the Khyber Pass to the Straits of Gibraltar—the tremors of shattered states, their toppled governments—and we can all see that the ground is still shifting.

Now, this historic moment holds the promise of a new dawn of freedom and opportunity. There are millions of young people out there who are determined to change their future. We all look at them. They muster courage. They risk their lives. They demand dignity. They desire liberty. These extraordinary scenes in Tunis and Cairo evoke those of Berlin and Prague in 1989.

I take it as a badge of honor—and so should you—that in our free societies you can have protests. You can't have these protests in the farcical parliaments in Tehran or in Tripoli. This