

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

□ 1815

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOHO) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3826) to provide direction to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the establishment of standards for emissions of any greenhouse gas from fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, 1836, nearly 200 Texans took their last breaths at the Alamo. A week before that, their commander, William Barret Travis, sent a final plea for help. Here are parts of that inspiring letter:

To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, I am besieged by a thousand or more Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion; otherwise, the Garrison are to be put to the sword.

I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, of everything dear to the American character to come to our aid. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor, that of his country, victory or death.

May God and history always remember the Alamo.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HIGH SCHOOLS IN ALABAMA'S SEVENTH DISTRICT THAT WON THE STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2014

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to declare Alabama's Seventh Congressional District to be the district of high school basketball champions.

This year, in 2014, at the State tournament held by the Alabama High School Athletic Association, teams from the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama dominated, winning four boys basketball State championship titles and one girls.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Class 1A boys basketball State champions, St. Jude Educational Institute of Montgomery, Alabama; Class 3A boys basketball State champions, Midfield High School of Midfield, Alabama; Class 4A boys basketball State champions, Dallas County High School of Plantersville, Alabama; Class 5A boys basketball State champions, Parker High School of Birmingham; Class 5A girls basketball champions, Wenonah High School of Birmingham, Alabama.

No doubt that in the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama we breed winners. I plan to provide individual remarks about each school's victory so that each school is recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. For now, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating and honoring the State of Alabama high school basketball champions from Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, the district of high school basketball champions.

HONORING HENRY WILLIS NEAL

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with heavy heart but a joy for his life that I rise today to honor Henry Willis "Hanq" Neal of Houston, Texas, who lost his battle in life last week. He was the music minister at the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, an awesome tenor voice anointed by God.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Henry Willis "Hanq" Neal, the legendary minister of music at Houston's Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, who was called home by the Lord on Thursday, February 27, 2014. He was 57 years old.

The attack that took his life occurred the Sunday preceding, after a number of church services where he led the music ministry, and then concluding at another church a few miles away, never stopping, never ceasing to lead to the glory the Lord.

Hanq Neal possessed a distinctive singing voice that enthralled all audi-

ences, the church and the unchurched. According to the Reverend Marcus D. Cosby, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church's senior pastor, because of Hanq, people's lives have been comforted and we have been enriched by his musical genius.

Hanq Neal was born on September 4, 1956, one of eight children. He was raised in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where he began to play the organ at 4 and took up the violin at 7. He performed in school orchestras and sang in the church on Sunday. He dreamed of becoming a teacher, a gifted musician, and vocalist.

Hanq Neal and two church friends formed a gospel trio, the Pentecostal Ambassadors. The group was discovered at a Gospel Music Workshop of America conference and signed to a recording contract by the gospel legend, Reverend James Cleveland.

Hanq Neal sang the lead on "If You Move Yourself," the title track of the 1980 gospel album recorded live in Detroit by the Donald Vails Choraleers.

The main thing that I want to share with all of you is that Hanq Neal was a friend. He sang at Erica Lee's, my daughter's wedding. And he sang this song, Mr. Speaker, for the late Congressman Mickey Leland, "There Is Hope."

Hanq Neal gave hope to the world. We loved Hanq Neal. He was a hero, an American hero. We have lost a unique talent. We wish our deepest sympathy to his family, and he will be missed. You may not know him, Congress, but he is an American hero.

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Hanq Neal possessed a distinctive singing voice that enthralled all audiences, the church and unchurched. According to the Rev. Marcus D. Cosby, Wheeler Baptist Church's senior pastor, because of Hanq, "people's lives have been comforted and we have been enriched by a musical genius."

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In 1984, Hanq joined the Windsor Village United Methodist Church, a small-but-growing Houston congregation, and eventually established five choirs with a total membership of 600. He served there until 2001 and helped Windsor become the denomination's largest congregation.

Hanq Neal “had an awesome tenor voice anointed by God,” according to Kathy Taylor, the nationally known gospel artist who succeeded him as Windsor Village’s music minister.

Mr. Speaker, Hanq Neal was the preferred vocalist for Houston public occasions. He performed at mayoral inaugurations and for Queen Elizabeth II when she visited the city in 1991.

It was at the memorial service for the late Congressman Mickey Leland in 1989 that Hanq Neal gained national recognition and critical acclaim for his rendition of “There Is Hope,” which became one of his signature songs.

When Hanq finished that song there were no dry eyes in the room every heart was lifted. Hanq Neal’s operatic rendition of “The Lord’s Prayer” made him a popular soloist at funerals and other solemn occasions.

Hanq Neal was a unique talent and an American original. He was genuine. He broke and crossed barriers. His music brought the church to the community and the community to the church.

Mr. Speaker, Hanq Neal was a great man who touched the lives of all who heard him. He will be missed but never forgotten.

I ask a moment of silence in memory of Henry Willis ‘Hanq’ Neal.

THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Russians are invading Ukraine. I think a history lesson is in order.

I take you back to 1938. Adolph Hitler annexes a neighbor, Austria. Just took them. Took them over. The West, the world, the freedom-loving people watched. He got away with that. He took them over because he wanted to, in his statement, unify the German-speaking peoples.

That was in March of 1938. Then in October of 1938, Adolph Hitler just decided that he wanted part of Czechoslovakia, the Sudetenland, saying the same thing, that German-speaking people were being persecuted and that he wanted to help them, and he annexed the Sudetenland.

The West really agreed to that. We have heard about the appeasement of Chamberlain. Agreed to it, waived his paper, peace in our time. Not long after that, Hitler decided he wanted more Czechoslovakia. Then he invaded Poland, and then World War II started, and he invaded other countries. That was in the beginning of 1938.

Now take you to today. Vladimir Putin, Russia. He invades the Republic of Georgia, and he did so in August of 2008, and he took one-third of the country.

I happened to be in the Republic of Georgia shortly after the Russians invaded. I saw the Russian tanks on the horizon. Remember, Mr. Speaker, Putin invaded Georgia, took one-third of the land, and the Russians are still there. The world just moved on.

The Georgians are trying to figure out some way to deal with Putin’s imperialistic attitude, but the Russians were there, are there—no consequences for that action.

Now that brings us to March of 2014. Of course, Georgia as we all know was a former Soviet Republic. Now Putin has his eyes on another former Soviet Republic, Ukraine. The Russian military, even though they went in with unmarked uniforms, just decided to move in and take over part of Ukraine—Crimea. That is the latest activity.

This is similar to what Adolf Hitler did back in the thirties and the forties. So, yes, Putin is similar to Adolph Hitler in that he has this appetite for other people’s land, and he tries to justify it some way and he just waits to see if anybody is going to do anything about it.

This is a photograph taken by the Associated Press, Mr. Speaker, and it is some Ukrainian women that are holding up signs. Here is a photograph of Adolph Hitler over here on the far right. They are holding a sign. This is a Russian flag with a swastika in the middle. Here is another poster being held up showing the Russian flag, comparing Putin to Hitler and the Nazis’ quest and their appetite to take other people’s sovereign land.

I think the analogy is in order. I think the world should understand that Putin has it somewhere in his brain that he can just, on his own, justify the taking of other people’s sovereign land. I think it is important that we recognize the obvious. And what we will do about it, we shall see.

When the Russians moved into Georgia, I personally don’t think much happened to the world, other than the Georgians didn’t complain too much. So the Russians understood that they could do it and get away with it, Putin did. Six years later, *deja vu*, it is all over again. He believes that he can get away with the invading of sovereign nations because of this reason: these nations, to some extent, depend on Russia for their energy, including, specifically, natural gas.

The Kremlin is working to reestablish its empire by bullying countries like Ukraine, its neighbor who broke away from the Soviet Union years ago but never was quite able to get away from the influence and intimidation of Putin.

Russia has used its competitive advantage to maintain a stronghold over Eastern Europe and the European states that were formerly aligned to the Soviet Union. This is my opinion: that Russia—Putin—has its goal to try to rebring in those former Soviet Republics under the sphere of influence of Russia under some new name. That is my opinion. It looks like they have already started this.

Seventy percent of the gas that goes to Ukraine comes from Russia. Six nations in the European Union rely on Russia for 100 percent of their natural gas.

□ 1830

Much of Europe relies on the Kremlin for natural gas, although they don’t get 100 percent of their gas from them.

So you have got Europe, the former Soviet Republics, and Ukraine depending on energy, natural gas, from Russia. The Russians know that. Reliance on the Russian gas shapes the foreign policy of Eastern European countries, Western European countries, and especially the former Soviet Republics, and jeopardizes, I think, political and economic reforms.

Russia understands the stranglehold and the monopoly. They can get away with the bullying because they are the source of natural gas. Two times in the last 10 years, for political reasons, they have been punished economically—that is, the Ukrainians—by the Russians turning off the gas.

I happened to be in the Ukraine when the Russians turned off the gas one winter. Mr. Speaker, it gets cold in the Ukraine without heat. The Russians did that to make sure that the Ukrainians, I believe, come around and support Russian politics.

This past weekend, the Russians warned that the Ukrainians were not going to be able to continue to get some kind of discounted rate unless they reinstated the former Ukrainian President. They are blackmailing the Ukrainians. They want a president different than the one the Russians support.

So we can change that. People back home in Texas, like most Americans, don’t think it is legal or right for the Russians to invade another country and just start moving in and taking over, but they ask this question: What are we going to do about it?

Remember, back when Hitler was in charge, it took a while for the West to react—and finally had to react militarily. Maybe we should try to react sooner and not have to react militarily, and we should do it economically.

The way to do that, I believe, is to give the Ukrainians, the former Soviet Republics, and Eastern and Western Europe an alternative to being held hostage by Putin because of their energy issues and the lack of natural gas and the lack of having an alternative.

Where should they look? They should look to the United States, and the United States should look to helping out these countries. Also, it would help us economically. We should be ready and eager to export our abundant natural gas to our European friends.

I think very few people in the energy industry would have believed 5 years ago that the United States would have so much natural gas that we would be able to export it; that we can produce it in such an efficient and clean way that we can export it to foreign countries. This is an opportunity to do so, and we should do so.

There is an ice cream company down in Texas that makes the best ice cream in the world. It is Blue Bell Ice Cream from Brenham, Texas. Their slogan is: