

I live in Nebraska, we are the geographic center of our country, where east meets west.

As a part of that trip, we also took a drive northward into the State of South Dakota, into the Black Hills, to a place called Mount Rushmore. It happened to be the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally that weekend, so I and about 2 million other bikers were on the road. Everyone knows the four faces on Mount Rushmore. Each of the four American Presidents embodied great qualities and faced significant challenges:

George Washington was a transcendent leader who purposefully walked away from power, giving our early Republic a chance to grow into a vibrant democracy;

Thomas Jefferson's life was seemingly full of conflicts and contradictions, but his efforts gave rise to the Declaration of Independence, which poetically expressed an understanding of the dignity and the rights of all persons, which so beautifully still informs our culture and our government to this day;

Abraham Lincoln made a midcourse correction in his life. He rejected an early snarky, political, antagonistic attitude and turned toward a vision of that which is noble and good. His reputation as a skillful and humble leader extended well beyond the Civil War to many important endeavors, including the development of land grant institutions all over this country, like the University of Nebraska;

Theodore Roosevelt had to rebuild his life after his wife died at a young age. His boundless energy, translating into multiple accomplishments, perhaps helped him outpace a haunting melancholy from which he suffered. As an avid hunter, he grew to recognize the importance of wildlife preservation. Beyond the natural places that he preserved, perhaps Roosevelt's greatest legacy was one of trust busting—breaking up concentrations of economic power that locked so many Americans out of a fair shot at economic opportunity.

Four great Presidents. Four men who sacrificed greatly to give us what we have today.

Today, Mr. Speaker, many people in the country are experiencing a serious disquiet about all of these challenges that we are facing. They feel disconnected from the ability to control their own well-being. These concentrations of power are overwhelming the capacity of individuals to shape their own environments. Political and economic and cultural cartels are growing more powerful, and, in some ways, they are more hidden and destructive than in Roosevelt's time.

Of course, today, political problems are on everyone's mind. This concentration of power stifles innovation and creativity; and as money flows into the political system, it pays for the polarization which hinders the ability of our body to find constructive solutions.

This transcends, by the way, the current partisan divide.

Our increasingly interconnected world offers significant benefits and opportunities to us, but globalization also introduces forces that can leave so many Americans feeling helpless. Transnational corporate conglomerates, often buttressed by oligarchic political systems, are shrinking the space for genuine choice and competition in the private sphere. As I talked about earlier, the stress of small business is very real. This concentration of economic power endangers true free market principles, which should be working for the many.

On a deeper level, America's political disrepair and economic malaise signal an underlying brokenness in our society, in our culture. Persons—humans—thrive in relationships with our families and communities in a healthy society, which creates the preconditions for this human flourishing. Cultural consolidation and social discord have left more and more people, again, feeling directionless and feeling alone. Weakening relationships and weakening social institutions foreshadow and prefigure political and economic problems. Ultimately, renewing America—restoring America's government and economy—requires reclaiming a vibrant civil society, which is the true source of our Nation's strength.

Mr. Speaker, if you have ever driven through those Black Hills, which I spoke of earlier—the one-lane tunnels and winding hairpin turns—they form a very beautiful but a very arduous journey, even without all the motorcycles around you. As you continue that journey, looking for something, an opening then appears in the trees, and you see it—that magnificent piece of art, carved in stone, with four of America's greatest Presidents.

Their likenesses are in the rock, timeless and unchanging; but the ideals they represent must be reestablished in each generation. The renewal of America will depend, in large part, on whether or not we can grasp what these leaders stood for and whether or not we can make the sacrifices necessary to reclaim our country's potential in this time, our time.

Mr. Speaker, what we all do matters.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 11, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3740. A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Develop-

ment, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the Order Siluriformes and Products Derived From Such Fish [Docket No.: FSIIS-2008-0031] (RIN: 0583-AD36) received December 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3741. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed positions and units across all Services and U.S. Special Operations Command, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 652(a); Public Law 109-163, Sec. 541(a)(1); (119 Stat. 3251) and 10 U.S.C. 6035(a); Public Law 106-398, Sec. 573(a)(1); (114 Stat. 1654A-136); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3742. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's semiannual report on the account balance in the Defense Cooperation Account and a listing of personal property contributed, as of September 30, 2015, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608(i); Public Law 101-403, title II, Sec. 202(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 103-160, Sec. 1105(b)); (107 Stat. 1750); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3743. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's semiannual report on the account balance in the Defense Cooperation Account and a listing of personal property contributed, as of September 30, 2015, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608(i); Public Law 101-403, title II, Sec. 202(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 103-160, Sec. 1105(b)); (107 Stat. 1750); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3744. A letter from the Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Office's annual report on actions taken to carry out Sec. 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1463 note; Public Law 111-203, Sec. 367(c); (124 Stat. 1556); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3745. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's 2013 Report to Congress on Outcome Evaluations of Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Projects, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2992(e); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3746. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's FY 2015 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a); (104 Stat. 2849); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3747. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1 through September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3748. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's semiannual report to Congress for the period of April 1, 2015, to September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3749. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the Corps' Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2015, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a); (104 Stat. 2849); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3750. A letter from the Acting Administrator, United States Agency for International Development, transmitting the

Agency's Fiscal Year 2015 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a); (104 Stat. 2849); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3751. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Computation of Annual Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance) Settlement Recovery Threshold", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(9)(D); Public Law 112-242, Sec. 202(a)(2); (126 Stat. 2379); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2406. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-377, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 560. Resolution providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 644) to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-378). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2406 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. RIGELL (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4208. A bill to authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MOORE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BASS, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. FATAH, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. DANNY K.

DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 4209. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to provide treatment for diabetes in minority communities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H.R. 4210. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to require voting members of the Financial Stability Oversight Council to testify before Congress at least twice each year when requested to do so or to otherwise permit certain Members of Congress to attend meetings of the Council whether or not such meetings are open to the public; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 4211. A bill to require Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to establish procedures for considering certain credit scores in making a determination whether to purchase a residential mortgage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. LANCE):

H.R. 4212. A bill to establish a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan demonstration program to target home and community-based care to eligible Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 4213. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the earned income tax credit and to provide for equitable treatment for residents of Puerto Rico with respect to the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 4214. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the excise tax and special occupational tax in respect of firearms and to increase the transfer tax on any other weapon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FATAH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LAR-

SEN of Washington, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 4215. A bill to require regulation of wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of crude oil, natural gas, or geothermal energy under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 4216. A bill to protect the investment choices of American investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 4217. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to determine eligibility for health insurance subsidies without regard to amounts included in income by reason of conversion to a Roth IRA; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H.R. 4218. A bill to suspend the admission to the United States of refugees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 4219. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCK (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 4220. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 4221. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to restore National SMART Grants for a certain number of award years; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 4222. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a pilot program under which higher education savings accounts are established for the benefit of eligible secondary school students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and