

THE ELEVENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Thursday), February 16, 2017

Assembly called to order at 11:40 a.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present except Assemblyman Ellison, who was excused.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Fred Kingman.

Loving Father, we come before You full of gratitude for all you've done. You've given to us everything, holding nothing back, and we're humbled by this generosity. As we prepare for the day's work, we ask that you remind us of these gifts and help us understand the true meaning of stewardship, that what we have and what we build ultimately is not ours but yours.

We thank You for families that support our work and are ready to forgive when necessary. We thank You for the people of this great state who have either supported or challenged us, people who are now under our leadership. We thank You for the grace of the created world around us and the pleasures it provides. And we thank You for the love You've shown in Christ.

Today, would You empower this redeeming work before us as we seek to fix and recreate what is broken in our cities and state. Would you give us a vision of a better world where the principals we value would be part of the lives of our people. Would you bless this work You've made us for. In Jesus' redeeming name we pray.

AMEN.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and the Speaker and Chief Clerk be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Assemblywoman Carlton requested that the following remarks be entered in the Journal.

ASSEMBLYMAN FUMO:

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring attention to the protests happening across this great country against Trump's divisive and hateful rhetoric toward our country's immigrants. Today is A Day Without Immigrants. Our country was founded and built by immigrants. As the son of two immigrants—my father born in Naples, Italy, and my mother born in London, England—I stand in solidarity with the protests occurring throughout our great country today.

Additionally, I am proud to have my attaché, Latoya Kent, an immigrant from Australia, join me on the floor today. Please make her feel welcome.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARAUJO:

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues here today, over 30 years ago, a beautiful woman fled her native country of El Salvador amidst a civil war, in search of a better life. She came to this land and built a family. For more than 30 years, that beautiful woman who sacrificed everything that she loved, everything she aspired to be—for more than 30 years she has been cleaning hotel rooms in the same hotel, working long days to make sure that her family had every possible opportunity to succeed in this great country, to fulfill that promise that we could be anything that

we wanted to be so long as we had love, support, and the audacity to believe that we could be better. That woman was an immigrant. That woman was my mother. She still has those fears for families to come. Her story is a story of many that we hear in the state of Nevada and across the country, of folks crying, right now, eager to hear from someone who is actually going to fight for them, who is actually going to stand up and preserve the values that our country was founded upon.

So today is A Day Without Immigrants, and I personally would not be here if it were not for that immigrant. I am very grateful for that immigrant, and I am here to tell everyone, and to urge everyone, to turn to those who are currently living in fear, to the Dreamers, to the families, to the children who are really looking for answers, and let them know that we have their back. They are one of ours and we are not going to let them down. This is our moment to really take a stand for something that is right. I know that, personally, I refuse to let up on that fight.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE:

I rise today to speak in regard for our children that are immigrants to this country. Several years ago, my sister, my amazing sister, and my brother-in-law went to Ethiopia and they adopted two children. These children were very young and had severe medical issues and my sister brought them back to this country. She and her husband have raised them as their own. My niece and nephew are my niece and nephew, and they have the promise ahead of them of what this country has to offer. And now, all of a sudden, they have to live in fear that that might come to an end. We are all immigrants, and it is wrong for us to even think that that is not what we are. That is not something I want to ever have to tell my niece and nephew—and certainly my sister. So I rise today in support of the protests that are going on and to remind everybody that our future lies in our past and our future really is our children. Our future is my amazing niece and nephew.

ASSEMBLYMAN EDWARDS:

I had no idea we were going to be talking about immigration today, but I am absolutely compelled to correct something that was said regarding President Trump's executive order. It is not a ban. It is about national security. It is absolutely about national security. There is no banning of people; it is a temporary halt. I think there has been a lot of misinformation, a lot of fearmongering going on, and it is wrong. The ban that people talk about simply says that for a 90-day window, we are going to vet people from countries that are simply dangerous to us. I have been to some of those countries; we better be careful. Even President Obama could see that these specific countries were dangerous to the United States and we should see that too.

I think it is also important to realize that this month there will be about 100,000 immigrants allowed to come to the United States. Next month another 100,000 will come, and the month after that another 100,000. This is still a nation of immigrants. They are still coming and they will continue to come. That is great. But for the sake of the national security—and that means your security and mine, as well as that of your constituents, our families, and friends—the executive order makes a lot of sense.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIAZ:

I, too, rise in support of A Day Without Immigrants. I do want to say to my colleague who just spoke that there are unintended consequences in these types of measures. What you are doing is incrementally increasing the level of intolerance instead of teaching our future generations of Americans to embrace one another and to love diversity. We are strong when we embrace diverse people from different backgrounds.

I say again, for some of the members here, that there are unintended consequences of this executive order. There are people who are legally residing in our state that are going to be harassed because they look like they could be a person who fits this executive order, and that is not fair. That already happened here in Washoe Valley; someone got questioned by immigration authorities. That is probably going to happen in my home of Las Vegas, and that is completely unacceptable. Because my skin complexion is different from others, you are going to question whether I am a citizen, or a resident, or undocumented. It is absolutely unfounded. We all look different. We all come with different strengths and abilities, and we bring different and

wonderful gifts to make America greater. I think that is what we need to be concentrating on and embracing to move our country forward.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON:

I, like my colleagues, rise in support of A Day Without Immigrants. Many of the points that I would have liked to cover have already been covered, so for the sake of brevity, I will just respond to my colleague from District 19. This is about even more than immigrants; it is also about our state. We are a state that thrives on visitation, on international travel, and when we look to the world as though we are unwelcoming, people do not apply for visas. They do not apply to come and spend money in our state and power our economy. It has already been reported that there has been a 17 percent drop in international searches for travel into Nevada. Being that this state runs on gaming and this Legislature cares about jobs, we ought to also consider how this image we portray looks to the world. I would ask everyone to also keep that in mind: it is not simply about ideological battles; it is about dollars and cents. Considering that gaming funds approximately 52 percent of our General Fund, as someone who used to work for tips on the Strip, you should be cognizant of how our actions portray us to the world and how it affects even people who are U.S. citizens.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On request of Assemblyman Fumo, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Latoya Kent.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the Assembly adjourn until Monday, February 20, 2017, at 11:30 a.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Approved:

JASON FRIERSON
Speaker of the Assembly

Attest: SUSAN FURLONG
Chief Clerk of the Assembly