

world wants to make the region insecure, we will make the world insecure.”

So the Keystone XL pipeline—which is the second part of this discussion—we heard on the floor yesterday, and it was acknowledged by both sides that, at a minimum, 20,000 jobs would be created, maybe up to 110,000 jobs. We also heard about organized labor being all in on the Keystone XL pipeline. I quoted a couple of members of organized labor. One would be Brent Bookers, director of the construction department at the Laborers’ International Union of North America. He said, “For many members of the Laborers, this project is not just a pipeline; it is a lifeline.”

But what doesn’t get told about Keystone XL pipeline enough is its importance for energy security.

Now, look. If Iran can shut down the Strait of Hormuz, why do you think we’re in the gulf? Why is the Middle East so important? We all know why it is; because that’s where all of the crude oil is.

So why would we not access the third largest oil supply to the Earth from our northern neighbor, Canada?

The map is right here. Right up here you have the great Canadian oil sands in Alberta. The red line is already a pipeline called the Keystone pipeline. What is being proposed is the Keystone XL pipeline, which would help bring Canadian crude to the oil refineries in Texas.

□ 1130

Now, I already have Keystone crude oil coming to my refinery in Wood River, to the terminal in Patoka, and to the Marathon refinery in Robinson, Illinois, and that crude oil, once refined through pipeline, goes to Cleveland, goes to Detroit, goes to Chicago and goes all over the country. There can be no more secure route for crude oil for this country than the Keystone Pipeline and the Keystone XL Pipeline. Do we dare as a country still have to fret over threats by a member of the Iranian parliament because they want to shut down the Strait of Hormuz? We will have to continue to worry about this unless we continue to build and work with our Canadian allies on the Keystone XL Pipeline.

We know it’s a jobs issue, we know it’s an organized labor issue, and we know it’s an energy security issue. And I just thought this story was timely with respect to our vote to hold Iran accountable. So we’re on the record: We need energy security and we need the Keystone XL Pipeline.

RAPE IN THE MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise again today to highlight the epidemic of rape and sexual assault in the military. This is the 14th time that I will

stand on this floor to tell the story of yet another victim. Each has proudly served their country, each was violently attacked, and each was subjected to a system of justice that protects the perpetrators and punishes the victims.

Make no mistake, the United States military is the finest in the world. But even the Department of Defense recognizes that there is a deep-rooted problem of military sexual trauma that must be addressed. DOD estimates that there are some 19,000 soldiers who are sexually assaulted or raped each year in the military. It’s a staggering figure. Sexual assault in the military is a cancer that is undermining readiness, unit cohesion and morale, and fixing this broken system will strengthen our military, not weaken it, as some have argued.

Today, I want to tell the story of Specialist Andrea Neutzling. Originally from a small town on the banks of the Ohio River, Specialist Neutzling served in the Army from 2000 to 2004 and then served in the Army Reserves from August 2004 until April 2010. She has served her country in Korea and twice deployed to Iraq.

In 2002, while serving in Korea, Specialist Neutzling was sexually assaulted by an intoxicated colleague outside the latrine. She decided to report the assault to her command, and her assailant was sentenced—sentenced to 5 days of base restriction. That was it.

In August of 2005, Specialist Neutzling was deployed to Iraq, and again one of her fellow soldiers sexually assaulted her. But after learning what “justice” meant for a previous perpetrator and not wanting to be seen as a troublemaker, she decided not to report the sexual assault to command. Instead, she simply slept on a cot, her rifle pointed toward the door for days. Several months later, she was deployed again to Iraq. After being in the country for 2 weeks, Specialist Neutzling was brutally raped and physically assaulted by two soldiers. The two soldiers were from a unit that was scheduled to depart Iraq, and their unit was being replaced by Specialist Neutzling’s unit. The soldiers were drunk when they raped her and threatened to beat her if she struggled. Specialist Neutzling suffered serious bodily injuries from the rape.

Again learning what “justice” meant from her previous perpetrator, Specialist Neutzling decided not to report the rape to command. She didn’t say a word about her rape for a week until another woman in her unit informed her that her perpetrators were showing a video of the rape and bragging about it. After learning this, Specialist Neutzling reported the rapes to her command.

So what happened this time? Her command told Specialist Neutzling that they did not believe that she had been raped because she “didn’t act like a rape victim” and “did not struggle

enough.” Her unit commander also told her that he decided not to disclose Specialist Neutzling’s allegations of rape to the investigative services because he didn’t want the men separated from their unit. If the men were charged, they would have to stay in Iraq or would have to go to Kuwait.

Additionally, Specialist Neutzling’s command unilaterally downgraded her complaint of rape to sexual harassment. Her assailants were scheduled to leave in 2 weeks, and they left on time facing no charges.

In the current military chain of command structure, the commander did nothing wrong. Commanders can issue virtually any punishment, or in this case, no punishment at all. Command has complete authority and discretion over how a degrading and violent assault or rape under their command is handled. They are the judge and jury.

We need to end this unjust and horrific pattern, and we need to end it now. That’s why I have introduced H.R. 3435, the STOP Act, because it’s time. It’s time to stop this horrific culture in the military.

AMERICA IS NOT BROKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I have listened to a lot of Republicans here on the House floor and back in Connecticut talk about how they think that the only way to build up America is to tear down government and start divesting from our public institutions. That’s simply not the history of this country. Over the last 100 years, we’ve become the world’s leader by layering massive private investment on top of massive public investment. And yet day after day, I listen to the right wing come down to this floor and tell the American people that we can no longer afford to make these kinds of investments that we used to make in roads, in rails, in schools, and in new technologies.

And, so, it’s time that the rest of us stood up here and told them that they’re simply wrong, that America is not broke. We have all of the resources and all of the willpower necessary to make the investments we need in order to regain our global competitive edge, but only if we start dealing with facts rather than just with political rhetoric.

So, over the next few minutes, I want to show you four pretty simple charts that debunk this myth that our Nation is broke and that we can’t muster the resources necessary to meet the challenges of a global century.

Let’s start here. The United States is still the richest country in the world. In fact, our GDP ranks us at the top of the list among G-20 countries. And for all of the talk about the rise of China, India, and Brazil, our country is still

wealthier than all three of those nations combined on a population-adjusted basis.

And, so, we have wealth in this Nation. What we have done, though, is make a conscious choice to make our government poor. We are going to spend about a million dollars a year more than we actually take in in revenue. And it's important to talk about why that is. First of all, the notion that discretionary spending is out of control, which is the popular belief, just isn't true. In fact, discretionary spending since 1980 has remained pretty static. If you don't believe that, then think about this statistic for a second. If you thought that government spending was running amok, you would expect that Federal employees were increasing, as well. Well, that's not true either. Since 1970, we actually have 16,000 less Federal workers than we did then.

Now, this doesn't mean that the government can't get leaner and that it can't get meaner. It just means that there's another culprit at work when we talk about why our government is so broke, even if our Nation is not, and that's revenue. Today, as a fraction of GDP, this country is collecting less taxes than it has in 60 years. In fact, today, we are collecting only about 15 percent of taxes as it relates to GDP. Now, we're spending more, but the bigger problem is that we're collecting less revenue.

So, if the problem is that the government is broke but that our Nation isn't, why does it feel like so many people are out there that are broke? Well, let's explore that with the last chart. Here is the essential problem. Over the last 30 years, the incomes of the bottom 90 percent of Americans have remained virtually flat while the incomes of the top 1 percent of Americans have grown by 300 percent.

□ 1140

This is a recipe for economic disaster because, if the bottom 90 percent of Americans don't have enough money to spend, then pretty soon they're not going to be able to buy what the top 1 percent are selling. Everybody fails if this economic equation continues.

And the economic history of the last 100 years tells us one thing—that government has a pretty important role to play in helping to create wealth among the bottom 90 percent. We create real, widespread wealth when we invest in education to move more kids more quickly through quality higher education. We create real, widespread wealth by investing in businesses that create technologies before they become commercially viable. And we create real, widespread wealth by investing in infrastructure so that once again people and goods in this country can move from economic center to economic center without delay.

Yes, these investments cost money, but this country isn't broke. Prosperity in this Nation has never ap-

peared out of thin air. It's never come from gutting consumer protection or environmental regulation, it's never come through slashing taxes for the wealthiest Americans, and it's never come from government just sitting by on the sidelines and letting other countries eat our technological lunch. It's come through an innovative partnership between public investment and private ingenuity.

Now, America can recommit ourselves to this partnership, but only if we wake up to the reality that we are not broke.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of the People's House to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve. May they be filled with gratitude at the opportunity they have to serve in this place.

We thank You for the abilities they have been given to do their work, to contribute to the common good. May they use their talents as good stewards of Your many gifts and, thereby, be true servants of justice and partners in peace.

As this first session of the 112th Congress draws near its end and pressing legislative business once again weighs heavily on this Hill and throughout our land, withhold not Your Spirit of wisdom and truth from this Assembly. Give each Member clarity of thought and purity of motive so that they may render their service as their best selves.

May all that is done this day in the People's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COURTNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT PROTECTS THOSE WHO SERVE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed legislation that supports and provides for servicemembers and their military families who have chosen to dedicate their lives to service in our Armed Forces to protect American families.

After victoriously fighting the global war on terrorism for over a decade, our military families deserve recognition for their service. This bill gives to our military families a 1.6 percent increase in basic pay and protects against the rising cost of health care fees.

Additionally, the National Guard Chief, General Craig R. McKinley, will be provided a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, giving the Guard a voice in military discussions. As a Guard veteran and proud dad of three Guard members under the command of Adjutant General Bob Livingston, I am grateful for the recognition of Guard capabilities.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

FACTS ARE STUBBORN THINGS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, our third American President, John Adams, once said, "Facts are stubborn