

of Homeland Security, and, between the two, had 34 previous arrests. The third man had 50 previous arrests. Even though the three have been in America long enough to have been arrested 94 times, they still requested a court interpreter. They abused their privilege. They do not belong in America.

America has a great capacity to be generous. But those who have received our generosity have an obligation. If you want to come to America, you will accept American values. If you want to come to America, you will work, provide for yourself, and integrate responsibly into dutiful citizenship. If you want to come to America, it is absolutely essential, and I and many others will stand with you. Celebrate your past culture, explain it to your new community, and, at the same time, celebrate your new one, as so many good people coming to our country do.

Our Nation has generally maintained a vibrant immigration system, and it has been an important part of the character and development of our country, but chaos, disorder, and crime undermine our ability to maintain that openness.

Of all of our country's pressing priorities, one of the most should be ensuring that the criminal justice system, the judicial system, and the immigration system work in concert to swiftly remove persons who have seriously transgressed our laws. This will help keep America safe and protect the integrity of immigration policy for those who want to come here, rebuild their lives, contribute to this wonderful society, and sustain America's generous impulse.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate to leave you tonight with some comments on the future of democracy. Some of what I talked about are ideals, but they give us a chance to envision and create a more inclusive government, economy, and society. Given that the future of democracy depends on quickly moving forward in the right direction, there is a mood of both curiosity as well as urgency here. Curiosity as to how we are going to translate this moment and urgency not to waste it.

Even though the election was a proxy for many open and deep philosophical divides in our country, now there is the possibility of great change. As President-elect Trump said on the night of his election: We must now come together, and I want to be President for all Americans.

President Obama very generously and graciously extended a hand of friendship to President Trump and said: President Bush was so extraordinarily helpful to me in this transition, I will work the same in any way he wants with President-elect Trump.

President Clinton, admitting that this was a painful loss said: It was a fair election. We need to give the new President-elect a chance, and we must unite.

I think that set an important tone, Mr. Speaker.

We take it for granted, but this demonstrated the brilliance of how our democracy provides for this peaceful transition of power. In spite of some protest, we have witnessed the ongoing resiliency of America's governing traditions. In Congress, a great deal of ideological rigidity has been vaporized. Conversations among fellow Republicans and Democrats are yielding a sense of new horizons, which, if properly considered, will help shape a meaningful approach with the next White House.

Mr. Speaker, the next hundred days are critical. It is time to create the architecture of a 21st century government, one that is innovative, one that is effective, restoring the trust and confidence of the people.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great old movie starring Bette Davis called "All About Eve." In that classic Hollywood moment, she looks around to her guest with that smoldering gaze and says: "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night."

Mr. Speaker, real change is always bumpy. But when done with purpose and clarity, with the intention of doing good for others, we can allow ourselves to dream big again.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING RANDY NEUGEBAUER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the chairman of the Space Subcommittee of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor and privilege for me to stand up here to honor one of my colleagues, who is going to be retiring, Representative RANDY NEUGEBAUER, who is just finishing up his seventh term. He has been a great mentor. I am finishing up my first term in office.

I want to say how much the Neugebauers mean to me and my wife, Roxanne.

RANDY NEUGEBAUER and his beautiful wife, Dana, have been a tremendous addition not only to the Texas delegation up here in the United States Congress but also to the Republican spouses and Democrat spouses, who have worked so long and hard for many years to support their Member spouses.

□ 1915

I just want to say how much I appreciate him, admire him, and wish him Godspeed. He is a great Christian man, and his wife is a great Christian woman. We appreciate so very, very much his long years of service to our country, to our Nation, to his district, as well as to his God.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for his comments.

I now yield to another colleague from Texas, ROGER WILLIAMS.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues down here tonight to honor a patriot and a good friend, Congressman RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

While your retirement is well-deserved, RANDY, your departure is, certainly, a loss not only to us as your friends, but to Texas and America.

RANDY and I serve together on the Financial Services Committee. Before we came up to Washington, we were both in small businesses. Still are. I knew RANDY before he was a Congressman, and he is still the same guy. Congressman NEUGEBAUER is a voice of reason. He has valuable, firsthand knowledge of how the private sector works—knowledge which is needed very much in Washington today. He understands how Washington's decisions affect Main Street America. That empathy is crucial to conducting good policy, and it is rare. We could use more lawmakers like RANDY NEUGEBAUER. Congressman NEUGEBAUER is a Texas Tech fan. I feel sorry for him, but he always thinks they will win every single game.

Congressman RANDY NEUGEBAUER, I wish you and your wife, Dana, my best as you begin the next chapter of your lives. May your spare time be spent with your grandkids, fly fishing, and rooting for the Raiders. You have served your State and our Nation with honor and devotion. We will all miss you. You will be missed. I must simply say to you, RANDY, guns up. May God bless you, and may God bless America for allowing you to serve this great country.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, another good Texan, .

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to brag on RANDY NEUGEBAUER. He is a friend, and he and I have a unique circumstance that we share in that we ran against each other in Texas. Larry Combest served District 19 at that point in time, and they had a special election. Randy and I ran against each other. It hasn't happened in a long time, but right after that election, people asked me: What do you think about RANDY NEUGEBAUER?

I said: Well, he is my friend.

They said: I know, but that is what you politicians always say—the "good gentleman," the "friend." You never tell the truth in those circumstances.

I said: No, no, no. With RANDY and I, the key is our wives are friends; so, if wives can survive a campaign against each other and be friends, then it is a testament that we ran the way Republicans should run against each other. He stuck to why folks should vote for RANDY NEUGEBAUER, and I stuck with why folks should vote for me.

RANDY prevailed in that election and joined Congress in June of 2003. He has served wonderfully and ably since then. RANDY has a strong moral compass and exhibits that moral compass to the House all of the time. He is one of those guys who is true north and never wavers, a rock solid Conservative and someone, I am sure, who is proud of his service to the folks in District 19.

Our districts are contiguous. My northern border is his southern border; so we overlap in certain areas, and I get comments from his constituents about the great work he and his constituent service team do back home. We are going to miss him. We are going to miss him greatly—his voice. He serves on the Agriculture Committee as vice chairman and has served the agricultural communities as well as his having experience on the Armed Services Committee.

I am proud to call RANDY my friend and I am proud of his service here. He and his wife, Dana, are off to the next chapter—an exciting chapter. I need to warn the rainbow trout and brown trout populations all over America that, on the days we are in office in 2017 and 2018, they need to be on the lookout for an avid fly fisherman who will be on the hunt for all of those trout.

Again, I want to add my congratulations to RANDY on a job well done in service to his State and our Nation in an admirable way. He leaves office in the right way—on his own terms and very proud. I would ask for God's blessing on him and Dana and for God's blessing on Texas, and may God continue to bless the great United States of America.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentleman for those nice comments.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to another Texas colleague, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, PETE OLSON.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my friend from San Antonio.

Mr. Speaker, RANDY NEUGEBAUER is many things. He is a damned proud Texan and is a Texas Tech Red Raider who always has his guns up. He is a husband to a fierce force of Texas nature—his wife, Dana. He is a father of two sons and is a grandfather of four grandkids. He is a respected Member of Congress—seven terms in this body—and he is my dear friend. In RANDY's time here, he has made America a better place for my family, for his family, and for every American family.

As we say in our Navy to departing friends who leave the ship, who go ashore for the last time: RANDY, may you always have fair winds and following seas. Texas 19 departing.

I salute you.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to host today's Special Order in honor of my friend and colleague from Texas, Representative RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

Representative NEUGEBAUER is a consistent Conservative. In fact, the National Journal named him the "most conservative Member of Congress" in 2011. He has also been a valuable member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, which I chair. He has been a member of that committee for over a decade. I am grateful for his work on the committee to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

Representative NEUGEBAUER has actively pushed back against burdensome EPA regulations that limit affordable, reliable energy. He has also championed research and development efforts that benefit all forms of energy. This isn't surprising since Representative NEUGEBAUER's district has oil and gas development and produces the most wind energy of any district in the country.

In this Congress, Representative NEUGEBAUER's National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act authorized coordinated research to minimize the effects of windstorms on local communities. It will help save lives and property damage. This legislation was inspired by Representative NEUGEBAUER's personal experience with a tornado that devastated his hometown of Lubbock, Texas, some years ago. His bill was signed into law last year, and now Federal agencies and universities can work to better predict, prepare, and recover from dangerous storms.

We thank Representative NEUGEBAUER for his service to the people of west Texas and for his many initiatives on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. His retirement is well-deserved, and we know he is going to enjoy more time with his family in west Texas.

Mr. Speaker, one of the best summaries of Mr. NEUGEBAUER's contributions as a person, as a family member, and as a great Member of Congress is the following, and I want to make sure that everybody is aware of these contributions and his personal attributes as well.

RANDY NEUGEBAUER proudly represents the 19th Congressional District, which stretches across 29 counties in west Texas and the Big Country, and he has represented that great district for 14 years.

Raised in Lubbock, RANDY learned the west Texas values of family, faith, hard work, and public service. These are the values he has carried with him throughout his life as an accounting student at Texas Tech University, as a banker, as a homebuilder, and now as a Member of Congress.

He serves on the Financial Services Committee, where he is chairman of the Financial Institutions and Con-

sumer Credit Subcommittee. In this role, he has oversight responsibility for U.S. banks and the banking industry, credit unions, depository institutions and Federal deposit insurance, consumer credit, and financial regulators, including the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Reserve. Representative NEUGEBAUER is also the vice chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, where he played a leading role in developing the 2014 farm bill. He also serves on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, which, I mentioned a while ago, I chair.

His legislative initiatives include eliminating wasteful Federal spending; improving crop insurance; and fighting Federal overreach on energy, the environment, the economy, and personal liberties.

RANDY NEUGEBAUER's bill to lessen government interference and encourage more private sector participation in the terrorism risk insurance market became the first law of the 114th Congress. The President also signed his bill to promote research and minimize the devastating effects caused by windstorms. Last year, as I alluded to a minute ago, the President signed into law his initiative that gives Texas Tech the opportunity to build a VA clinic on the campus to better serve west Texas' veterans.

Congressman NEUGEBAUER and his wife, Dana, who is with us this evening in the gallery back to my left, are both graduates of Texas Tech University. They have been married for 46 years and are the proud parents of two sons, two daughters-in-law, three grandsons, and one granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, you can see that Representative NEUGEBAUER has led a very rich life, a very satisfactory life, and a life dedicated to his country and to his family. There can be no question about that.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I yield to another Texas colleague, the chairman of the Rules Committee, PETE SESSIONS.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing us—not only the Texas delegation, but other Members of Congress who would wish to come down—the opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and debt of gratitude to the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas, and to his dear and beautiful wife, Dana Neugebauer, and family who are in the House tonight. On behalf of the Texas delegation and as a Member of Congress from Dallas, Texas, I would say from the people of Dallas, Texas—Texas' 32nd Congressional District—we have long been friends with the gentleman from the 19th District of Texas and appreciate his life and service to this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, you have just heard much of Congressman NEUGEBAUER, much of not only what might be resume information, but, really, what might be, when it plays itself out, information that is about the service

that Congressman NEUGEBAUER has given, the leadership that he has provided not only to the committees of service, but, really, to the people of this country.

Congressman NEUGEBAUER came to Congress as an exciting young man who was not only full of opportunity, but who came from a vibrant part of Texas with his ideas about freedom, about free enterprise, about opportunity, about collegiality—about the things which he placed high value on. RANDY comes from a part of Texas—and I would like to say everybody from Texas might be this way, but it is not true—where a handshake and your word make a difference.

The entire time he was here, Mr. NEUGEBAUER didn't oversell and didn't underdeliver. He did the things that were necessary as the proper representation of not only the Texas delegation, but as a man of distinction from Lubbock, Texas—the High Plains. He brought with him the professional attributes that were very necessary within the Texas delegation to be successful. Very early on, he championed those ideas. They were ideas of bringing forth representation from a group of people in Lubbock, Texas, and north Texas who strongly believed in America, who strongly believed that America's greatest days lie in its future. RANDY always spoke of not only the ideas that he had, but of the people he represented in terms of real admiration for those people, admiration for hard work, admiration for an honest day's work, admiration for an honest day's pay.

□ 1930

So you can see, Mr. Speaker, those who have known RANDY the best watched him in his personal dealings not only with Members of our delegation, but also in committees and the hard work and the homework that he did to make sure that he did his part necessary.

He rose not only in the ranks of responsibility, but also rose in the ranks of people who admired Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I am one of those people. I looked at RANDY, who had come just a couple of years behind me, as not only a champion of words and ideas, but he had the ability to express those ideas, the ability to speak to people in terms of content, of where our country would head. This was a time after 9/11 when we were faced with fear, uncertainty, and perhaps some complexity that might be available to some.

It never existed to Congressman NEUGEBAUER. RANDY threw all of that out. I would say he threw out the high and the low and lived off of confidence, confidence about not only the way of life that he understood and he represented, but really about the United States military and the men and women who were from his district whom he spoke so plainly about, who we understood where they were. They were committed.

Yes, we are Texans, but he really spoke of America, of America as not just this shining city on a hill, but Americans who would dedicate themselves to a principle, to ideas higher than just citizenship as a responsibility, as a necessary part of making sure that this country and where home is back in Lubbock, Texas, in the high plains, that that is what he believed was honorable.

People who would go and sacrifice themselves, who would go help people in another land, who were called on because of commitment to service, these are the kind of people that RANDY NEUGEBAUER would identify with. These are the kind of people RANDY NEUGEBAUER would talk about. These are the kind of people who, at our Thursday Texas delegation—yes, we are a bunch of darn Texans, but we get together, and we celebrate and share not only camaraderie and commonality, but ideas about where we wanted to go. That is RANDY NEUGEBAUER. That is what RANDY NEUGEBAUER did every single week, faithfully, dutifully, and he knew what he was doing.

So I want to say to the gentleman, the young chairman of the Science Committee, thank you for being here for our dear colleague, current colleague RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

One last point, a point of privilege.

Look, when you come up here, you are proud of where you are from, and you want to do a good job. One of those marks is to be thought of as a real conservative. RANDY NEUGEBAUER, at least 1 year, and probably 2 or 3, was, by his voting record—this isn't a vote. This is actual delivery of product—number one, the most conservative person in this body. I had that chance for 1 year; I tried for 2. It is hard to outguess the scorecard. RANDY NEUGEBAUER is a good guesser also because he knows where he is from—right, wrong, good, bad, up, down, more, less, proper.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we honor a real hero of mine, the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas, RANDY NEUGEBAUER. And let no one forget his beautiful, young bride who, day after day, gave confidence to so many other people about who they are, what they do. I hope these 46 years turn into 146 years of marriage, Mr. Chairman. I wish RANDY NEUGEBAUER and Dana and that entire family the very best.

I thank Chairman SMITH for allowing me the chance to come down and say to my dear friend and the Neugebauer family: A job well done, Godspeed, and I hope I do well enough to get invited back to Lubbock to see you again.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the chairman for his nice remarks this evening.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

And let me say to my friend Representative GOHMERT that, we only have a total of 6 minutes left, and I do want to allow Mr. NEUGEBAUER time to speak as well.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank the gentleman. And because of all of the glowing comments about RANDY, I knew I should not share more than a couple minutes so that there is time at the end.

We have heard the old saying that in Washington, D.C., if you want a friend, get a dog; but when I got here to Washington, D.C., as a Member of Congress, RANDY NEUGEBAUER was a friend, and he is a friend. He is a man of integrity. He is a man of honor. He does his best to live out the Beatitudes that Jesus talked about better than I have. He is not a man who has been afraid to ever stand up and call things the way he sees them. It is one of the many things I admire about him so much.

Apostle Paul said three things about what he had accomplished. He said: I have fought the good fight. Then there was another clause, and then he said: I have finished the race. Well, RANDY NEUGEBAUER has not finished the race. The race has still yet to go. He has not finished the course. He is just taking a new course.

But I know that, as a brother in Christ and as a man of integrity, he will continue to listen to the still, small voice that has guided him and his wife through the years and has made him someone who inspires me, encourages me, and someone that I would hope to emulate. I am grateful to RANDY NEUGEBAUER for his service and for all he has done for America.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Texas, particularly for bringing out an aspect of RANDY NEUGEBAUER's character that has not yet been mentioned tonight. And I might also add, and you know only too well, that he has been an active member of a prayer group here in the House of Representatives as well. So that spiritual aspect, that spiritual character is rightfully shown tonight.

I yield to the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), our colleague and Texas friend, whom we honor tonight.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Well, I thank the gentleman, and I thank my colleagues for those very kind words.

What an honor and a privilege it has been to be able to serve with people of this integrity and this commitment to our country.

You know, it was just a little over 13½ years ago that our colleague from Texas (Mr. BARTON) introduced me on this very House floor my very first day. It was June 5, 2003. I came in a special election. I think Mr. CONAWAY mentioned that we had a race together. I was sworn in as the 236th Texan and the 9,832nd American citizen. What you realize is what an honor and a privilege it is to get to do this, and what an honor and a privilege it has been to represent the people of the 19th Congressional District.

Somebody asked me one day: Do I ever think about, when I am on the House floor, the men and women who have served here in the past?

I said: No, I really don't think about the men and women who have served in the past because their history has been written. The people that I think about are the men and women whom I serve with every day because we are writing our history, and the things that we do and the things that we say on this floor have a huge impact not only on our constituents, but on our country and on the world.

So I want to thank my wife, Dana, and my family for helping me do this job on behalf of the people of the 19th District. Without Dana's support, I couldn't have done this. My two sons and their wives have been an integral part of this, and even my grandkids were out campaigning when we were running for Congress.

I also want to thank those men and women who have come through our congressional office, both here in D.C. and back in the district, who have worked so hard on behalf of our constituents, making sure that that veteran gets his check or making sure that that Social Security check that was lost was found, helping people get their loved ones back from a foreign country because of visa problems. All of those kinds of things are important.

So I want to thank the staff who have been so much a part of that, and I want to thank the people of the 19th District and my family, but I also want to thank my fellow colleagues whom I have served with.

Everybody here that I have come in contact with loves America. Now, what we do have is a difference of opinion from time to time on what it takes to make sure that America has the bright future that we all want it to have, and that is a healthy process.

I am excited for our President-elect and these new Members of Congress who will be sworn in in just a few weeks because they have a big task ahead of them. So as many of my constituents have prayed for me and this Congress in the past, Dana and I will be praying for them as they take our country forward.

Thank you again, and God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Representative NEUGEBAUER for his service to Texas and to our country. We wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my fellow Texas colleague and friend RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

RANDY has been serving the constituents of the 19th Congressional District of Texas since 2003. Prior to coming to Congress, he served on the Lubbock City Council and as Mayor Pro Tempore. He also worked in the private sector as a banker and a homebuilder.

In Congress, RANDY has worked hard to eliminate wasteful federal spending, curb federal overreach and create better agriculture policies. He has served on the Financial Services Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and the Science, Space and Technology Com-

mittee. He has also served as a Chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, and as Vice-Chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

RANDY and I are similar in many ways. Growing up in Texas, we were both instilled with strong values of family, faith, hard work, and public service. We both went on to marry our high school sweethearts. We each have two sons and have been blessed with multiple grandchildren. And we both take pride in representing our respective universities where we are alumnus in Congress. Even though Texas Tech and Texas A&M have a strong rivalry, we have worked together for the good of all Texans.

RANDY will be missed in the halls of Congress. He took pride in serving the constituents of all 29 counties in West Texas that make up the 19th Congressional District. I commend him for his many years of public service to Texas and for our nation. It truly has been an honor to serve and work alongside RANDY. I wish him the best of luck on his retirement and want to thank him for friendship and guidance.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country and for our military and first responder who selflessly serve and sacrifice to protect us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that it is not in order to refer to occupants of the gallery.

REFLECTIONS OF A FRESHMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) for his service and that of his spouse and family, for they made my welcome to Congress so agreeable and so appropriate, and I have enjoyed my service with Mr. NEUGEBAUER on the House Financial Services Committee.

You know, when I am home, one of the most frequent questions I get is to describe the major changes that I have seen in Washington since my previous work on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch. And yes, now it has been more than 24 years since I served in the administration of George H. W. Bush from 1989–1993, 24 years and three two-term Presidents—two Democrats, one Republican. Anyone familiar with life inside the beltway would certainly see that the city's traffic has become unbearable, and the number of places to eat has really been improved in those 24 years.

But tonight I don't want to talk about the enrichment of life along The National Mall with new monuments to FDR and MLK and new visionary sites, such as the Native American Museum and now our African American Museum. Instead, it is not urbanization or nightlife that has happened that I noticed, that I talk about when I see my constituents, but it is really the changes I see in public policy as I wan-

der back like Rip Van Winkle 20 years later to our Nation's Capital.

The politics and productivity of the city are more stymied and less successful than in my experience in the executive branch, led by George H. W. Bush, or even in my service as a legislative aide on the Senate Banking Committee staff back during the days of the first term of President Reagan.

Tonight I would like to outline my thoughts on those biggest differences I have seen in our Federal Government. These include the size and complexity and the unmanageable nature of the administrative state, the growth and unreformed nature of our mandatory spending programs, the failure of the Congress to meet its most fundamental constitutional responsibilities, that is, the oversight of the executive and the timely and thoughtful appropriations governed by the Appropriations Clause of our Constitution.

□ 1945

At the end of this "Rip Van Winkle" overview, I will offer suggestions as to possible solutions to these challenges that we face in Washington. While I am a realist, I understand consensus is difficult in this city, and, while sensitive, my remarks tonight will appeal, in my view, to both Democrats and Republicans about how do we have an effective Federal Government, one that honors our constitutional limitations, the best intentions of our Founders, and demonstrates to the American people that their legislative and executive branches can work together for the long-term common good and the general welfare of this Nation.

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, does a splendid job in enumerating the significant grievances that the American colonists had against King George III. Among them, my favorite of the "Facts . . . submitted to a candid world": "He," the king, "has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance."

When I am visiting with our fellow citizens in the seven counties of the Second Congressional District of Arkansas, our doctors and hospital administrators, people who own small businesses, community bankers, high school and elementary schoolteachers, university administrators, highway contractors, small-town mayors, inevitably the size, scope, and complexity of the paperwork, micromanagement, and intrusion of the administrative state dominates that conversation.

While other policy proposals from the tax and policy ideas to funding the need for our needed Federal programs, inevitably every conversation ultimately returns to how management and employees believe they are no longer focused on their missions to increase sales, produce profits, grow their business, educate kids, operate on patients, make loans to entrepreneurs and successful businesses, and help expand the American Dream.