

in the words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, brought about “the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe and security for ourselves in a free world.”

Mr. Speaker, over 160,000 soldiers, sailors, and airmen participated in the invasion, which would precede the long and difficult battle across Europe, ending in the full victory that Eisenhower asked of his men on June 6, 1944.

Of the many brave soldiers from Pennsylvania’s 11th District, perhaps none is better known than Major Dick Winters, who was born in Lancaster County and attended Franklin & Marshall College. Dick offered the world his memories and the memories of his fellow soldiers in the book and later HBO miniseries “Band of Brothers.”

One day, Dick Winters was asked by his grandson, “Grandpa, were you a hero in the war?” He said to him, “No, I’m not a hero, but I have served in a company full of them.”

Mr. Speaker, we offer thanks and unending gratitude for the heroes who have served.

COMMENDING IMMIGRATION ACTIVISTS AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZERS

(Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, today is a profoundly important day. It is the day that we passed the American Dream and Promise Act.

So many have fought for so long to reform America’s immigration system, and I commend the activists and grassroots organizers who made this happen, the families and young people who shared their stories to press this moment into fruition.

I also want to highlight the tactics that are used to ensure that we do not pursue immigration reform. Labeling communities as gang members, criminals, drug dealers, and bad parents, we have seen this playbook before. It was the playbook that was used to pass the 1994 crime bill, mass incarceration, the War on Drugs, to target a community, to make sure to dehumanize them into increased enforcement.

We have to make sure that we recognize immigrants as among the greatest potential of innovation and profound sources of potential in our country.

MEDICARE FOR ALL WILL LEAD TO RATIONED HEALTHCARE

(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, a disaster is brewing in the people’s House. It is called H.R. 1384, the Medicare for All Act of 2019.

May 29, 1 week ago from today, the Fort Bend Chamber had a state of healthcare event. During Q&A, Dr.

Richard Ehlers, the head of the MD Anderson Cancer Center, was asked about Medicare for All: “Medicare for All is the most expensive way to go, and it would be the most expensive system to utilize. The underlying model for the rest of the world is actually not universal healthcare but rationed medical care.”

He continued, “Depending on the supply and the patient’s age, it could mean a 72-year-old man who needs a liver transplant is told he is not eligible because of his age.”

That man, 72 years old, is given a death sentence by Medicare for All, and that is just the way it is.

□ 1915

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, this last week, I once again got the opportunity to visit the Texas-Mexico border for an updated look at the situation, and I can confirm that this is certainly not a manufactured crisis. Our border resources are completely overwhelmed.

For those of us from Texas, we have understood the situation for quite some time, and what we saw was an overworked, vastly underfunded Border Patrol trying to deal with an overwhelming flood of migrants and dangerous criminal cartels.

Cartels smuggler fees for illicit activity in the Rio Grande Valley Sector are estimated to be about \$80 million each week. Our Border Patrol’s budget in that sector is around \$30 million per year. There is no way for our good men and women in the border services to compete with this kind of mismatch.

The situation is unsustainable. The phrase we heard repeatedly from Border Patrol agents is: “There is no end in sight.” And, indeed, the numbers that we expect to be released soon will probably show over 130,000 migrants have crossed just in May.

What is already a crisis will only get worse unless we act. This is, indeed, a very real crisis, a humanitarian crisis, a criminal crisis, and a national security crisis. This needs our attention now.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago, in a letter to his troops, General Dwight D. Eisenhower encouraged the invasion forces of D-Day.

“The eyes of the world are upon you,” he wrote. “The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.” He ended this famous letter with a call to pray: “Let us all beseech the blessings of Almighty God

upon this great and noble undertaking.”

On the 75th anniversary of D-Day, we turn our attention and admiration to those young soldiers at sea, in the air, and on land who sought to liberate Europe from tyranny.

This is the time to humbly remember the sacrifice of over 4,000 American soldiers who died on the beaches of Normandy to liberate the world from evil; and it is a time to thank Almighty God for his blessings in delivering some of the heroes of D-Day home after the war and for welcoming those who did not into his heavenly kingdom.

CONSTRUCTION ON NEW REDDING VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC BEGINS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the incredible privilege to participate in the groundbreaking for the new Redding VA Outpatient Clinic.

This will serve veterans all over northern California with the increased size and space as well as the increased capabilities of the new clinic, which include allergy, immunology, rheumatology, and additional telemedicine rooms being available. Also, increased radiology service will include fluoroscopy capabilities. This is a good sign for being able to better care for our veterans in northern California.

I would also like to point out one of the driving forces in seeing this clinic happen in the Redding area, and that would be our former State Senator Maurice Johannessen. This has been his vision and his dream for a long time: to help our veterans in northern California.

So my hat is off in appreciation to my friend Maurice, and we will attend, together, the ribbon-cutting before too much longer.

So, indeed, congratulations for the good work to VA and Senator Johannessen and everybody else who had a hand in it.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak before the House and all the people who are here listening. Today’s talk is going to be a Special Order on the human rights abuses of China.

Being the 30-year anniversary of Tiananmen Square, where hundreds, if not thousands, of people were murdered at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party, I think it is due that we give respect to the people.

What I have here is a poster of people in China in 1989 who came to Tiananmen Square. These were the

people who were peaceful. They were wanting a democracy. They were wanting the things that we yearn for that are innate in all people.

And we are blessed in this Nation to be born in a country where the founding principles said that our rights come from our creator, not from government, and government is instituted by “we the people.”

We give our consent to be governed, the very first nation on the planet to ever do that. And so that word had spread around the world, obviously.

China, being somewhat of a hermit nation from the Opium Wars of the 1840s into the early 1900s, wasn’t introduced to the modern world. But with the advent of publications and with other things, they became aware of what freedom was. And freedom, as we know it in this country, is something that we fought for.

The freedom and liberty that we have today is something that is innate in all humans on the planet, regardless of what government form they have. The ability to be free thinking, to want freedom, to want liberty, is something that comes with us when we are born, when we are created in the womb.

It is no different than, I guess, an oak tree. If an acorn is put in the ground, it doesn’t know it is an oak tree, but it goes straight up into the sky. The roots grow down. That is an innate quality that has been designed genetically in that.

Humans are the same way, so they have a desire to be free thinking and free determining. The thing that is fortunate for us is that we have a government that got formed.

And so the people in Tiananmen Square, June 4, 1989, wanted this very same freedom, but, unfortunately, the Government of China thought differently.

June 4 marks the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, when the Chinese Government forcibly suppressed the peaceful pro-democracy protest—and I want to repeat that, a peaceful pro-democracy protest—and declared martial law, killing hundreds, maybe thousands, of innocent Chinese citizens. Troops with assault rifles and tanks fired upon the protests, creating utter and despicable chaos.

Thirty years later, the Chinese Communist Party continues to censor all information relating to this attempt, attempting to completely erase it from history. So, for the new generations of Chinese, they don’t know if this happened or not because they can’t look outside of China.

The Chinese Communist Party has such control over the people of China that it is forbidden to look at pictures. They are taken off of the internet. They are not in the history books. They are not in the school books that talk about Tiananmen Square, that talk about the pro-democracy movement that people yearn and desire for.

The human rights abuses under the Chinese Communist Party have contin-

ued. But if we look back at China—and I want to direct this conversation, not to the Chinese people, because they are like people everywhere else in the world.

I chaired the Asia-Pacific Subcommittee in the last Congress. I am the ranking member this Congress. I have had the opportunity to travel around the world, and when I talk to people around the world, we will ask them the same question: Do people in your country have the desire to be free and self-determining?

Every one of them says that, and they say: I want a better future for our children than I had.

And, again, that is why I feel this is an innate thing that we are born with, and I know that.

So, as we travel around, we see this as not true in China. And so the Chinese people are great; it is the Chinese Communist Party under the control of Xi Jinping.

China has an amazing history that spans thousands of years. Its culture has stayed, for the most part, intact since the 19th century.

There have been multiple rulers and emperors recorded in the history books. In fact, at one point, China and most of Eurasia were under the control of Ghengis Khan and the Mongolian Empire. This empire was larger than the Roman Empire.

Khan allowed the people in his empire to be free and prosper through their work and developed a market economy based on production and trade. He provided protection from invasion, and they provided goods, services, and loyalty to the Khan empire.

This is the way history has been repeated over and over again. Since then, that is when China became the Silk Road. They were a major economic powerhouse around the world. They are great traders in spice and garments and linens and silks around the world.

But China went from a major economic power in the 18th century to a nation addicted to opium. During the 19th century, China’s ruling class allowed their country to be taken over by the European colonial and Japanese imperial powers.

During this time, over 90 percent of the male population became addicted to opium. The culture, heritage, and social fabric of China decayed, and China truly did enter into a peasant state, isolated from the world, for the most part, during the next 70 years. They were a lost country. This has become known as the century of shame.

The PLA, the People’s Liberation Army, emerged in 1927. In fact, they will have a 100-year anniversary in 2027.

Mao Zedong was a favored member of the PLA, and he later became the Chairman of the Communist Party of China. He promised communism would be the savior of China.

Mao was an ardent student of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, the father of communism, where an individual’s

role in society was to serve the party for the greater good of the whole. His policies were one where the Communist Party was the supreme law of the land.

Mao, being a firm believer in this philosophy, implemented top-down policies in all sectors of China’s economy and culture, destroying the greatness that China once had. His farming policies led to a famine and starvation. Seventy to eighty million people died under Mao’s policy due to a combination of starvation and a purge of those who dared to show political dissent towards the communist ruling party.

Mao set a 100-year plan for China to regain its lost stature. Maoism became a belief and a philosophy for many. It was even idolized in some think tanks, with prominent individuals claiming this was a better way to govern a country, a country where the individual needs are secondary to the needs of the Communist Party, where individuals can’t challenge the government, the party, or its ideology.

And, again, I am so thankful that we are born in our country, as messy as democracy is. As Ben Franklin forewarned us back when they came out of the Constitutional Convention in Pennsylvania, when asked by a lady, “What form of government did you give us, sir?” he said, “A republic, ma’am, if you can keep it.”

We know democracies like we have in a constitutional republic are messy, but, by God, they are worth it because they empower the people.

□ 1930

It seems bizarre to me that some would idolize Maoism, knowing that history records that 70-plus million people have been killed through the failed policies of communism, again, from the starvation, but also from the brutal torture and the murder of those who challenge the Communist Party and its ideology. That is what I would like to focus on tonight, the human rights abuses of the Chinese Party and the PLA.

Since its founding almost 100 years ago, it has a record of human rights abuses that has led to the death of tens of millions of people, if not over 100 million people.

It does this through the elimination of anyone that challenges the doctrine of the Communist Party. I think that can be seen right here. This shows a peaceful prodemocracy protest that occurred June 4, 1989, in Tiananmen Square in China. This is how it started.

This shows the statue of democracy that these people wanted because they saw what free people could do in a free society that had a government that they could address their grievances to, to change government to fulfill the needs of society, not government changing people to fulfill the needs of government.

This is how it started, and I think we have all seen this. Any of us of a little age or long in the tooth, this is what we remember, as the videos showed on

our television sets, the horror of people brave enough to stand in the way of the tanks.

The Chinese Communist Party and its ruler, Deng Xiaoping, ordered the tanks to disperse the protesters. So they literally killed people. There are videos of people being run over by tanks, people are running away. Tanks are chasing them down and running them over from the back. And they killed them over and over again.

This is something that China had done then, and they are doing it today. We made a big blunder in our foreign affairs policies back in the 1970s under President Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger by inviting China into the modern world. It wasn't the wrong thing to invite them into the modern world, but with no safeguards or direction, their goal was that they felt that if China became successful and developed a strong economic base, they, too, would become free thinking and would incorporate into the modern world.

But, unfortunately, as history has recorded, China became more totalitarian, more authoritarian, and the Communist Party grew in strength. China, over the last 30 years, we have seen go from a backward state to a very prosperous state, to where 12 percent of the billionaires are now residents of China or of Chinese origin. They should be commended for that type of success, but not at the cost of what the Chinese Communist Party has done to their citizens.

Under the Chinese Communist Party since the founding of the CCP in 1921, the Communist Party repeatedly disregarded the human rights of the Chinese people. Abuses include the practice of incommunicado detention, torture of persons in custody, censorship of the internet today, and restrictions on the freedoms of religion, association, and assembly.

Xi Jinping, the ruler for life in China now, has further implemented a clampdown on political dissent, civil society, human rights activists, and lawyers.

The Great Leap Forward, which was an economic and social campaign led by the CCP under Mao Zedong from 1949 to 1976, when he died, through the idea of collectivism—again, right out of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' handbook on communism—the CCP took control of citizens' workplaces, took control of their lands and resources, and used coercion, violence, and murder to control their famished citizens.

This failed initiative led to the deaths of over 75 million people, making it the largest episode of mass murder ever on the planet. Not only were 2 million to 3 million people starved to death, people were needlessly tortured and killed, and I suspect that number is small.

The Cultural Revolution also launched by Mao from 1966 to 1976 called on the Chinese youth to purge impure elements of Chinese society.

That means anybody that dare challenge the Communist Party's ideology would be purged and they had their own citizens do that to their own citizens.

This escalated when students formed paramilitary groups called the Red Guard and attacked and harassed other Chinese citizens. Violence erupted between factions of the Red Guard, creating wide chaos. The CCP views separatist sentiments as a threat to internal order, and ultimately the party's control.

Tibet, Taiwan, the Uighur population in Xinjiang and Hong Kong are all threatened because the CCP and Xi Jinping are insecure and paranoid in their country and in their leaders, because they fear free-thinking people. The CCP in China is the highest entity in that country. It is higher than any other entity in the universe, including God.

The Uighurs in the Xinjiang region, it has been reported up to 1 million people—I read a report today that said it could be 3 million Uighurs, which are the Muslim sect of the Chinese population—have been interned. We don't know because it is a closed society.

I have met with the Chinese foreign ministers. They told me this is not something that is going on, that the Uighurs have the ability to come and go at random. Although I talked to a Uighur today that was in Tiananmen Square 30 years ago, and he said that is not the case.

You don't book a reservation to go into the internment camp or the reeducation camp. You are ordered, or forced, or kidnapped and put into that camp. You walk around with headphones on your head for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and they are playing the national anthem. They are playing the thoughts of Xi Jinping which are now the standard that all students must listen to in China, and so they are reeducating these people forcefully. This is something they do not have the free will to leave.

In addition, we found a horrific element that came out, there are concentration camps—they are not concentration camps, although they probably are—but what we are seeing is there are crematoriums, not just crematoriums for when people do pass away, but they are armed crematoriums. There was an advertisement that people must be physically fit and able to fend off people.

My question is, if you have got a peaceful situation where you are reeducating people at their free will, why do you need armed crematoriums?

Mr. Speaker, I think what we are seeing in China is a repeat of what we saw in Nazi Germany. This is something I remember Dwight Eisenhower said, as he went over there to Auschwitz and to the other camps: "Never again."

It saddens me that I have been in Congress for 7 years and I watched the genocide in Africa, in the different countries, in Darfur, and Somalia. We

said, never again. Yet it happens. In Syria, over 500,000 people have been murdered and slaughtered in that civil war under the hideous rule of Bashar al-Assad, and we say, never again. Yet we allow it to happen.

Mr. Speaker, it is happening right now. And China is our number one and two trading partner in the world, as it is with many of the countries around the world. I think that we should rethink our foreign policy of who we trade with.

There was a hearing today and we had several people who were members of the peaceful protest in Tiananmen Square. One of the protesters, Dong Shengkun, was arrested as a political dissident and he was given a death sentence that got commuted to a life sentence that he got off after 17 years.

His comment was in a periodical yesterday and he said that he would prefer to have his son think he is just a regular criminal, at least in the current political climate in China, than be potentially put in danger by learning of his father's political past.

His child should be proud of him because that father's political past was fighting for the very things our Founding Fathers fought for: freedom and liberty. He stated: "It is for his safety," his son, "I worry that I might influence his thoughts if I started chatting to him about those things."

Other former political prisoners have expressed concerns about talking to their children about the massacre for fear of putting them at risk. Fellow Tiananmen survivor, Fang Zheng, said that he doesn't blame Dong and the other activists who wanted to shield their children from politics. Fang, who lost both of his legs in the massacre, blames the ruling Communist Party. That is the fear and horror that the regime has brought to everybody.

Three decades after the Chinese Government declared martial law—and I find this interesting, because this relates to the abuses that we are seeing and why China can do this—three decades after the Chinese Government declared martial law and unleashed the military on unarmed students and worker protesters, the bloodshed has been largely erased from the nation's collective memory.

Think about that. The Chinese Communist Party has so much power that they control what is in the textbooks, and we have seen this revisionist history over and over again in different countries around the world.

They tried to do it here in the United States with, I believe it was the Harvard University Press, to get them to rewrite history books so it wasn't a negative slant against China.

I know they have done this in Australia and other countries around the world, and they have done this through force, coercion, and intimidation to get other countries to bow down to the ideology and the teachings of Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party.

So after three decades, they have erased the nation's collective memory.

The question today was asked: What percentage of the Chinese people even know of Tiananmen Square? The answer was shocking because these people who were there in our hearing today were the actual freedom fighters for democracy in China at Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

Their answer was: Probably not 20 percent of the people in China are even aware of what happened in Tiananmen Square. The Communist Party-led effort has created a generation who are mostly unaware of the Tiananmen massacre. Dong said, school textbooks don't mention it, and students won't find photos or stories of June 4 on China's heavily censored internet.

The story can go on, but I hope it doesn't for the sake of humanity. If we look at the Uighurs, the Muslim population in the western province of the Xinjiang region, like I said, up to 1 million, maybe 3 million have been interned. There is no way to know. We asked the foreign minister when he was in my office, and he assured us this wasn't happening. These were voluntary camps. And I said: If you feel that certain, Mr. Foreign Minister, invite the Western free press in there, and let them report on that.

He said: No, we are not going to do that. So in the reeducation labor camps, there is near totalitarian levels of surveillance and security measures. Xinjiang is now a police state where cultural genocide is occurring.

And, again, I go back to Dwight Eisenhower: "Never again."

□ 1945

CCP views Islam as a threat to the atheist state.

Again, keep in mind that the Chinese Communist Party has stated that the role of the Chinese citizen is to serve the Chinese Communist Party and that the Chinese Communist Party is the ultimate power in the universe; there is nothing higher.

If we look at Tibet, Tibet has been a sovereign nation over the millennia. It is where the Dalai Lama comes from and has come from throughout history.

In 1959, there was an armed conflict between the Tibetan people and the PLA. Retaliation for such an uprising involved the killing of 87,000 Tibetans.

During occupation of Tibet there were tortures, killings, bombardments of monasteries, and the extermination of a whole nomad camp. What they have done is they have gone through and erased the monasteries and erased much of the people. They moved in the ethnic Chinese Hun population to the point where they have diluted the Tibetan population, and all they have to do is wait out time because the youth won't know that.

In Tibetan culture, the Dalai Lama is not chosen by the people. He is chosen through their process, and it is through the birth of the Panchen child. The Panchen child is the next Dalai Lama in their culture.

When the Panchen child was discovered, China kidnapped him, and they

said: This is not the Panchen child. We have the real Panchen child.

So they brought him forth.

I found this to be very hideous and just offensive. Being a Christian nation as we are, that would be as if King Herod went to the manger and took Jesus Christ, saying that that is not the Lord and Savior and that you have got it wrong.

Then they kidnapped him and they put somebody they want in there. That is how warped the Chinese Communist Party's thinking is.

In 2008, violent protests and riots erupted through Tibet as they desired more independence from China. CCP views this as a threat to their control. That is why I said that the Chinese Communist Party and Xi Jinping are insecure.

We can talk about Tibet; we can talk about the Uighurs; we can talk about Hong Kong; and we have to talk about Taiwan, because human rights abuses are going on through all of these countries through coercion, intimidation, and threats.

Hong Kong was a nation that the British powers captured in the 1800s during the Opium Wars, during the period of colonization. When that happened, Hong Kong became a province of Great Britain.

What happened in 1997 is there was an agreement between Great Britain and China that they would give the Hong Kong territory back to China, but there was an agreement that, for 50 years, there would be autonomous rule in Hong Kong and that Hong Kong could continue as it was.

Well, we are 22 years into that, and already we have seen the usurpation of power and the influence of China coming in. In fact, China, right now, is trying hard to get extradition laws so that they can take executives from any company. If they feel they have treated the Chinese Communist Party wrong, they can extradite them to China, and my bet is we will never hear from these people again, Mr. Speaker.

We have seen this happen with book-sellers, and we have seen this happen with successful businesspeople who have started insurance companies in China, who came to America. All of a sudden, they have mysteriously disappeared, and they have never shown up.

So Xi Jinping stated that, as far as he is concerned, the agreement between Great Britain and China for the 50-year autonomous rule is no longer valid and that it needs to be done away with.

My question is: When we talk about Taiwan—and I think it was a blunder of our foreign policy when President Nixon and Henry Kissinger said that they would agree to a one-country, two-party system, which stripped Taiwan of its autonomy—if Xi Jinping sees no need to follow course with the 50-year agreement with Hong Kong, does that give us cause to forget the agreement that we had with President

Nixon and with the Chinese rulers back in the seventies? I say, yes, and I think it is time that we honor and respect Taiwan for the country it is.

Today, in China, we have mass surveillance of its citizens. So what we see are human rights evaporating more so today than ever before.

China has become a powerhouse economically. They are starting to become a powerhouse militarily. They have learned to leverage certain things that hold other nations, including the United States, in debt to them.

If we just look at one example of that, that would be the rare earth metals. Our F-35 fighter jets, 10 percent of the weight of those are rare earth metals; 90 percent comes directly from China, and the other 10 percent comes from countries that get it from China.

China is on a march to take over the world. Mr. Speaker, you can listen to Xi Jinping in the 17th Communist Party Congress in 2017. He said that the year of China has arrived. No longer will they be made to swallow their interests around the world. It is time for China to take the world's center stage.

Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying that says, if you want to see one's past, look at their present situation; if you want to see one's future, look at their present activities, look at their present investments, look at their present actions.

I think the actions speak loud and clear, because the human rights abuses that started in the 1920s when 70-plus million people lost their lives, this is something that has happened over and over again.

If we look back then and we look at modern-day China, it is estimated and predicted that China is about to complete the installation of 2.7 billion CCTV cameras around their country. What they are using this for is facial recognition tied up with artificial intelligence. They have over 25 million people today whom they monitor 24/7, around the clock, 365 days a year, and they are giving people what we call good citizen scores.

If your good citizen score isn't high enough, Mr. Speaker, then you don't travel on airplanes and you don't travel on buses. You don't travel anywhere. You have no freedoms because you have become a threat to the Chinese Communist Party. That is today.

Xi Jinping and his Communist Party has offered this to the Russian dictator, Putin, who wants this technology. He has offered this to the ayatollahs of Iran. He has offered this to any despotic government and country that wants to control their citizens, that is afraid of freedom of expression and freedom of thought.

He has also offered this to Maduro in Venezuela. This is something that they are going to use to control people to suppress freedom, liberty, and free thought.

Again, I talk about how blessed we are in this country because we have a country that empowers the individual.

I know as history looks back at this—and there may be some rocky roads ahead, but I know the side that empowers their people and that believes in a Creator will come out on top of this because what I know is you can't suppress the innate qualities and genetics of a plant, of a breed of cattle, or of any animal, and you can't suppress human freedom, thoughts, and the innate quality to be free.

So I feel confident that over time the Chinese suppression, the Chinese Communist Party will collapse, and this picture where you see the people getting ready to be run over by the tank will be replaced by this picture and this statue being rebuilt, the statue of the Goddess of Democracy and Freedom in Tiananmen Square. The future will show this as what China is doing in the future of people protesting peacefully for the freedoms that they have.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to end with, on this day, being the 30th anniversary of a horrendous chapter of suppression and murder in human history, that if it is not for us speaking about this, it won't be talked about around the world. China will do everything they can to erase this kind of history from the history books, and it would be a shame for this to go away.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Florida bringing to the floor an extremely important issue: the way in which China is removing the civil liberties.

Tonight, I do want to talk about America and some of the things that are going on within our own country.

When I do these floor sessions, I always want to start with some sense of value and purpose, so I usually begin with this quote from Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and I think it pretty much describes—not pretty much. It definitely describes how I view my job and how I view what I would hope would be the work of the Congress of the United States.

So here is his quote: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

This statement of value really flows down through much of what we do here. We make a choice almost every day in ways that are very direct, for example, when we talk about Social Security, or indirect when we talk about war and peace. In the case of war, men and women who die are generally those who have little, not those who have much.

So I want to keep this in mind, and I want to talk about several pieces of legislation that we are working on right now. I want to talk about seniors.

Now, way back when Franklin Roosevelt established the Social Security system in the height of the Great Depression, Social Security was a pension system. Over the years, it has become the foundation for the support of retired men and women.

Over the years, because of the way Social Security is structured, the inflation set up in Social Security does not keep pace with the normal expenses that a senior has, which is really much different than the general inflation rate for the Nation.

I have introduced a piece of legislation, H.R. 1553, known as the Fair COLA for Seniors Act.

Now, COLA is the cost-of-living adjustment. What we want to do is to make it fair for seniors so that we can honor the value that Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated so clearly for those who have the least, and generally that is the senior population.

So what we want to do is to adjust the COLA to reflect the real expenses that a senior has. They are going to have far more medical expenses, some of it covered by Medicare, but a lot of it not, out-of-pocket costs—we want to do that—housing and other kinds of transportation issues and the like.

So this would be an adjustment to the COLA and provide a modest, very small, modest increase that, over time, would generate a substantial improvement for the benefits that seniors receive from their Social Security benefits.

□ 2000

Another group that we ought to be paying attention to, if we are looking at what Franklin Delano Roosevelt has said should be the test of our progress, is what we are doing for those who have little.

Focus for a moment on students in America. Maybe it is a grandchild, a child, or an adult. If we take a look at the students in America today, not those who went to school when I did decades ago but, rather, students in school today, they are expected to borrow money to pay for their education.

It used to be that higher education was a public benefit, not a private benefit, a public benefit supported by the taxpayers of America because the American public understood that if we had a well-educated workforce, not only high school but through the college years, we would have good, strong economic growth, and we would all be much better off.

Those days when education was a public benefit have long been forgotten. Now it is perceived to be a private benefit to be paid for by the individual who is fortunate enough to go on to college.

They do go, and right now, students who have gone to college in the past and students who are still in college

today have accumulated \$1.5 trillion of student loan debt.

Over \$875 billion is owed to the Federal Government through the various Federal loan programs. And guess what? The interest rate averages over 4½ percent, 4½ percent at the very same time that the Federal Government is borrowing that money to then loan to the students.

I looked at it this morning. The 10-year Treasury rate, which is the borrowing rate for the Federal Government, is right around 2 percent. The 30-year rate is just under 3 percent, if I recall correctly, 2.8 percent.

The Federal Government is doing an arbitrage here. It is borrowing at 2 percent and loaning at 6 percent. We are making money on the backs of the students.

What is the effect of that? The effect of that is that a student cannot engage in the normal economic activity of their parents where they are able to buy a car, go on vacation, buy a house, raise a family, begin a family. They are burdened by student loans.

Here is what we are proposing in H.R. 1899, the Student Loan Refinancing and Recalculation Act. This would simply say that the Federal Government will refinance student loans at a rate that is about 1 percent above the rate at which the Federal Government is able to borrow the money.

Right now, instead of 6 percent on a 10-year loan, it would be 3 percent. That is a lot of money. That is a lot of interest. It is not necessary for the Federal Government to do that. This is the Student Loan Refinancing and Recalculation Act.

Undoubtedly, the parents of the students are able to refinance their home, refinance their mortgage. Who amongst us who owns a home has not refinanced that home? Most have as the interest rates have fallen. As I say, the interest rates for the Federal Government 10-year loan or 10-year note is now about 2 percent.

Here we go. We think H.R. 1899 is a good thing. If we can reduce that interest rate to the students, they will be able to pay off their loans faster. By the way, the same policy would apply to new loans not at 6 percent but at the going rate for the Federal Government plus 1 percent.

That is H.R. 1899, which I think fits very directly with what Franklin Roosevelt said should be our purpose.

We have several other bills that I have introduced, and I am going to go through some of them rather quickly here.

I want to take up another one that really deals with a very special problem. I think I have put this board up before. That is Oroville Dam 3 years ago. The Oroville Dam is the highest dam in the United States, over 700 feet.

It rains in California. Sometimes, we have a drought. Sometimes, we have rain. Sometimes, when we have rain, we get too much rain.

This is the spillway at Oroville Dam that failed. If the rain had continued