

more talent-based so you maximize economic growth so we can keep our economic promises?

How do you encourage people to be in the labor force?

One of the very odd things we see in the data is that December, a year ago, suddenly we saw in the data statistics millennial females moving into the labor force at substantial numbers but millennial males still substantially underperforming. Why? Is this the opioid crisis? Are there other factors?

We need to know those sorts of things because, it turns out, when we have entire quartiles of our population who are underperforming in the labor market, it has really bad societal cascade effects.

So let's work on policies that get as many folks who are interested. Whether you be retirement age or that millennial male, what do we have to do as a society to encourage, to prod, to push for you to be in the labor force? Because that is important not only to you as an individual, but it is really important to the country's economic stability.

Technology disruption: We just talked about the curative drugs that are coming. We also can talk about the sensors and the other things that are going to allow us to stay healthy. How do we update the laws so that thing like that flu kazoo isn't illegal?

There is a reason you didn't go to Blockbuster Video last weekend. Technology changes. We need to make sure our law sets are sympathetic to the changes that can reduce our prices in healthcare, to protect the environment and so many other things.

Yet we are decades behind in the way we write laws here and understanding how to future-proof those laws so, when we have disruptive technologies—and anyone who is really interested in this, pull out your phone. Go to a search engine, and go look up “MIT ambient air capture” and look at the miracle they have.

If what they have published is correct on, now, their price per ton—they believe they can pull CO₂ right out of the air or do it right over a smokestack. If those numbers are correct, we now have a major change in CO₂ emissions in the world because of our ability now, at amazing prices, to be able to pull it almost right out of the air.

These technologies are here. Why aren't we here talking about them on the floor, and how to encourage more of it and how to get it rolled out in society, not only here, but across the world? Because, if you actually care about global warming—or climate change or whatever the current pop term is—it turns out there are amazing technology disruptions that are here. The only problem is they don't allow you to control other people's lives; they just solve the problem. And are we about solving the problem or just the control freaks who are often the Members of this body?

And then other things: The earned entitlements. You have earned your

Social Security. You have earned your Medicare. Are there things we can do in those benefits to encourage you to stay healthier; to, if you feel like it, work; to actually, instead of taking your benefits, say how long would you like—if we gave you a spiff, would you wait?

There is tinkering you can do here that actually makes the programs more sound. And if you do it all together, we believe we have a model that provides an economic future where we are not destroyed by the growing debt.

But there is no single answer. It is going to have to be almost a holistic approach of lots of types of policies woven together, and every single one of them needs to be about the reality of our demographics.

And now the experiment I will ask you all to engage in: Watch the floor this week and see how many people will ever come behind these microphones and talk about the economic growth and survival of this country because of what is about to happen, the debt that is about to crush us and the fact that we are not talking about it. Instead, we are busy, basically, doing levels of absurdity around here.

The cruelty you have just also subjected my 4-year-old daughter to—and her economic future—you should all be ashamed of yourselves, ourselves, myself, because there is a path. The problem is this path doesn't ideologically satiate those who have just gone so extreme.

But the math is real, the math works, and the math, Madam Speaker, always wins.

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

IMMIGRATION POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, obviously, most of the newspapers, insofar as people still read newspapers, most of the TV shows in the last month have focused on the impeachment hearings. And we all know that, at the end of the day, impeachment or no impeachment, President Trump is not going to be removed in the next year.

So the question is: Why are we spending so much time on impeachment?

I have felt, in the long-term future of America, the most significant thing going on right now is what is going on with immigration policy in the United States; and as long as this impeachment hearing has taken the top of the page in the newspaper, immigration is at the bottom of the page.

I believe one of the primary reasons for keeping immigration from the public is they don't want the public to know what is going on in immigration or what isn't going on in Congress with regard to immigration.

At its worst, we allowed over 140,000 people in this country in May. President Trump has been asking for help in this crisis, and he has gotten no—or virtually no help from Congress. Nevertheless, things that President Trump has done on his own have reduced that figure, if only temporarily.

I mention again, 145,000 people caught and processed in May and probably over another 10,000 people not even processed. That number has gone down to around 45,000 in September, and we believe it will be even lower in October. This is largely because of things that President Trump has done on his own.

He has negotiated with the Mexican Government—to a certain extent, under threat of tariffs—to put Mexican troops on the southern border.

The Mexican Government is patrolling the interior of its country for people trying to work their way north, and President Trump has reached agreements with the triangle countries of Central America, the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, and they are currently taking people coming from farther south who need asylum.

President Trump has also—we wish he was doing more here, but he began building a wall, and we are working our way toward adding another 450 miles of wall by the end of next year. This is a significant improvement toward what it should be, but we are still well short of where we want to be.

What should Congress be doing, or what should we be focusing on while Congress is spending time debating impeachment?

First of all, we have a shortage of detention beds. So, when ICE is trying to remove people from this country, there are a lack of beds to place people in. There is no reason why, given the amount of money we are spending here, that should not be taken care of.

There have been requests for another 5,000 people in the Border Patrol, and there are still, unquestionably, people streaming across this border every month who aren't even counted because we are not taking care of them.

□ 1700

But there are other things that can be done as well. There is the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Some people talk about children being separated from their parents. This is something that Congress can solve on its own.

Right now, if children try to come here, single children from Mexico and Canada, they are returned to their parents to make their families whole. In a loophole in the law, if children come here from countries other than Canada and Mexico, we are bound to keep them and separate them from their families.

Congress should act, and the same law that applies to Mexico and Canada should apply to Venezuela or Honduras or Guatemala. We have no business allowing the current law to continue in

which people are coming here while their parents are in another country.

We have the Flores settlement in which, right now, people have to be released after being detained for 20 days. Given the slowness of our court system, it is not unusual for people to have to be released prior to the time when a hearing takes place. Again, Congress should act and spend time on that rather than continue to spend time on impeachment.

We continue to have a problem with sanctuary cities in which, when we want to remove people even from incarceration types of facilities or from jails, particularly from jails, sanctuary municipalities are not allowing us to remove people, even criminal people.

Congress should act, and Congress has not acted, so that we do not allow these sanctuary cities to forbid access to the jails for ICE to remove people from this country.

Another thing that should be done is something should be done about the credible fear standard and when people are allowed in this country and when people are not allowed in this country. But, again, Congress has refused to act.

I want to point out that we can do all these things without being anti-immigrant.

And something that hasn't been noticed in the most recent year: Over 800,000 new people were sworn into this country, and President Trump is doing nothing to reduce that figure. As a matter of fact, that 830,000 figure is well over the 700,000 figure of the relatively recent past.

President Trump is a friend of legal immigration, but we have to stop being a friend of illegal immigration.

In other things that encourage people to come here, Secretary Carson is going to bat and trying to keep our limited, low-income housing stock available for our own citizens and not people who are here illegally. It would be good if Congress stepped up to the plate and said we are going to put our homeless veterans ahead of people who are in this country illegally.

President Trump is also trying to put work requirements in the SNAP program. And let's be honest: If we have a program giving away free food without a work requirement, that is an inducement for people from other countries to come here.

Congress should, again, convene and bring bills to the floor that put a work requirement with the SNAP benefit. A work requirement with a SNAP benefit, making it a less advantageous welfare program, would stop sending the message for the rest of the world to come into the country.

So, in summary, there are a variety of things that have to be done and that Congress should be acting on and that the mainstream media and even the conservative media should be paying attention to because they are going to affect the future of this country for the next 10 or 20 or 30 years, unlike the impeachment inquiries which we know

are going nowhere, although the impeachment inquiries are keeping other things off the page.

We need more detention beds.

We have to change the credible fear standard so that less people are able to come in this country without doing something, without having a genuine fear.

We have to change the 20 days in the Flores settlement so we are not required to release people in the country.

And above all, we have to change the Trafficking Victims Protection Act so that we can remove children from this country and send them back to their parents in Central America.

I don't know why, with so many people in this institution purporting to claim that they want families together, we do not amend our current laws and do with other countries what we already do with Mexico and Canada, and that is tell an unaccompanied minor: You belong with your parents. We are not going to separate you from your parents.

However, Congress is not acting. And I think one of the reasons they are able to get away with not acting on this is because the papers are filled with impeachment, impeachment, impeachment all day long.

So, in summary, I hope we pay attention to the number of people coming in this country.

I hope we congratulate President Trump on the things he was able to do without Congress doing anything, congratulate him on the reduction of—I will play with my mind here a little bit—reduction of over 70 percent, about 75 percent reduction in the number of people who are processed in this country compared to 4 or 5 months ago.

But I also think we have to pay attention to the things that we are not finishing at this time, and I hope the media and the American public does not take its eye off the immigration ball while we focus on the impeachment hearing.

And I really hate to say it, but I do believe one of the reasons why some people want to keep impeachment in the news is, as long as impeachment dominates the news, we are not talking about Congress' neglect in doing what they should do to secure our border and to make sure that the people coming here are people coming here for legal green cards, legal work visas, and, eventually, to be sworn in as legal citizens.

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

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Robert F. Reeves, Deputy Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 5277. An act to amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and re-

tirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 4, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 887. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the "Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building".

H.R. 1252. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "Marilyn Monroe Post Office".

H.R. 1253. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the "Ritchie Valens Post Office Building".

H.R. 1526. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the "Eva G. Hewitt Post Office".

H.R. 1844. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the "Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 1972. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the "Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building".

H.R. 2151. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the "Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office".

H.R. 2325. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building".

H.R. 2334. To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the "Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic".

H.R. 2451. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the "Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office".

H.R. 3144. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as the "Jose Ramos Post Office Building".

H.R. 3314. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the "Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, further reported that on December 5, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 5277. To amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office.

ADJOURNMENT

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