

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BOURDEAUX). Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

RISING INFLATION HURTS US ALL

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing economic crisis our Nation is facing.

Study after study has found that the Democrats' budget proposals attack every part of our economy, from gas prices to groceries to middle-class workers and small businesses. Americans are struggling to make a living.

Gas prices have skyrocketed to \$3.15 per gallon, the highest price for a gallon of gasoline since 2014 and a 42 percent increase from last year. As we continue to fall back into pre-pandemic routines, families hoping to travel this summer can't afford the rising prices for fuel.

I am also deeply concerned by the rising costs of everyday necessities. Over the past year, consumer prices have shot up 5.4 percent, reflecting the biggest increase since 2008, which was the last economic crisis the United States faced.

The bottom line is that hardworking American families cannot withstand the negative impacts of rising inflation. As long as this administration continues to spend trillions of dollars on failed policies, Americans will be left to foot the bill. I will continue to fight to ensure Oklahoma families and businesses do not suffer more in this economic crisis.

AMERICAN IDEAL WITHSTANDS TEST OF TIME

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, recently, I received an impassioned letter from Elizabeth Bradley, a young woman from Bessemer City, North Carolina, about the American ideal.

In her letter, she writes: "The American ideal is the revolutionary thought that it is not by government, nor wealth, nor any human intervention that people have rights, but by the divine power of God."

Ms. Bradley is exactly right, Madam Speaker.

The American ideal has withstood the test of time because of those who

put their faith in God's plan rather than their own.

Madam Speaker, let us never forget that we are one Nation under God, and the freedoms we proudly espouse are a gift that He has bestowed upon us.

□ 1915

HONORING DON PARRISH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the storied career of Mr. Don Parrish as he celebrates his retirement as Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Don is a champion and friend of the U.S. agriculture industry through and through.

Don's legacy spans a variety of topics, but namely, he is renowned for his incredible work on the Clean Water Act and the waters of the U.S.

Don's role as an integral leader on this topic lead to his placement as chair of the Waters Advisory Coalition and to be named as a "Top 5 Player" on WOTUS in Politico.

Anyone who knows Don knows his deep love for both his work and his family, whom he frequently brags about.

The U.S. agriculture industry is better today because of Don's fierce dedication and advocacy.

Madam Speaker, I thank Don for his partnership and for the outstanding work he has done to improve the livelihood of America's farmers and ranchers.

I wish Don a fulfilling retirement. He has earned every bit of it.

HELPING PEOPLE MAINTAIN THEIR PHONE NUMBERS IS A GOOD STEP TOWARD NORMALCY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to see that this week we are taking up H.R. 678, the PHONE Act.

This bipartisan piece of legislation is common sense and helps real people after natural disasters.

This bill would place a moratorium on phone companies reassigning people's landline phone numbers when their house is destroyed by a natural disaster, such as forest fires, which I am having so many of in my district.

I have heard countless stories of people whose houses are burned down in wildfires that continue to get charged for their landline phone number, or their number is reassigned to a new customer.

This bill would help alleviate some stress and give people one less thing they have to deal with.

I am proud to cosponsor a bill that is stepping up and providing a solution to

help out wildfire victims and other natural disaster victims.

The goal of recovery is to bring back a sense of normalcy, and helping people maintain their phone number is a good step.

STANDING WITH THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

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

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with the people of Cuba. I rise today to stand with these brave people who are risking everything, their lives, their families, their livelihoods.

Standing for freedom in Cuba isn't an academic exercise. They not only put their lives on the line, they put their entire family's lives on the line. And as they do this they are reading from the Constitution of the United States of America, they are reading from the Declaration of Independence, they are waving the American flag. They are not waving flags of Europe or other countries. They are waving the American flag, the international symbol of freedom.

Madam Speaker, socialism does not work, is not working, has never worked anywhere around the world. The only place in the world where the Cuban people are not succeeding is in Cuba. We must stand with them. We will stand with them. And the Cuban people will be free.

FREEDOM FOR CUBA

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, the people of Cuba are standing up for freedom, and they are suffering horrific consequences for it. They are getting murdered in the streets by the regime. They are getting killed in the streets by the regime.

And what they are asking for are just a couple of things. And what I am pleading for right now with the President of the United States is for some solidarity. And, yes, he made a couple statements, but where is his leadership?

What the Cuban people need right now is access to the internet that has been cut off by the Cuban regime. The Cuban people are not asking for remittances, they are not asking for aspirin, they are asking for freedom.

This President ran saying that he was going to renew a new era of American diplomacy. Why is he not rallying the world? Why is he not speaking about what is going on on the island of Cuba? Why is he not talking to the democracies, making sure that everybody understands that it is an illegitimate terrorist, murderous regime in Cuba, and the United States stands with the people and is going to make sure that the world stands with the people of Cuba, as well?

President Biden, this is a moment of leadership. Stand with the Cuban people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose Democrats' cruel efforts to repeal the Hyde amendment.

My wife, Cathy, and I are proud parents because of two women in difficult situations who chose life and, through adoption, gave us two loving sons.

Since 1976, the Hyde amendment has saved the lives of nearly two and a half million innocent babies, and whether you are pro-abortion or pro-life, as I am, Americans have always agreed, Washington should not use their taxpayer dollars to pay for and encourage abortion.

Unfortunately, that is what President Biden is trying to do, repeal this important humanitarian protection of the innocent unborn.

This is an affront to the majority of Americans who do not want their tax dollars to fund abortion.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration on the House floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

CONGRESS MUST ACT NOW

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

Ms. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, libertad. Freedom. Abajo la dictadura. Down with the dictatorship.

These are the calls we are hearing from the people of Cuba.

They have taken to the streets demanding the end of the Castro tyranny.

We see the American flag waving on the streets of Havana because they yearn for the same thing we have: Freedom. We see the American flag waving on the streets of Havana because that is what they want, freedom.

Castro has taken repression to scientific levels. There are at this hour over 500 political prisoners and thousands more are in jail.

Madam Speaker, we are begging President Biden to stand with the Cu-

bans now. The Castro regime has cut off the internet so no one will see how they are torturing the Cuban people. America has the technology to provide internet now in Cuba.

We don't need any study groups about remittances. What we need is action. We need the President to grant the green light now so that Cubans can organize among themselves and can stay in the streets; so they don't feel abandoned; so they know the whole world is watching; so they can decide their own political future. Time is of the essence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to observe proper decorum.

WILDFIRE AND DROUGHT UPDATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I want to speak with the body here about the situation in the West with wildfire and drought.

As so many of you know from the news, there is wildfire breaking out all over in the western States. My home State of California has several going on right now. I represent the very north part of the State, the First Congressional District, and we have fires routinely reaching now the five-digit mark, including the newest one known as the Dixie fire; it is over 30,000 acres. My understanding is, there are 11,000 new acres just last night burning up in the area of Feather River Canyon.

But this is not, unfortunately, news this time of year in the West. Anything west of the Rocky Mountains pretty much seems to be on the line.

What is going on is that for many years we in this country value the Smokey the Bear principle of putting out fires when they occur in the forest. And I think we still do value that. But what we haven't done on the back side of that is to manage our forest lands.

And so what we have seen in the decades since, a good-minded policy, a good-intended policy, is that the forests have built up so much fuel. So much damage gets done from all this fuel being built up from fire season. It kind of creates its own drought situation inside the forest there when you have more inventory per acre than what the forest can sustain, especially during a drought period. And so in the West, in California, it is known you are going to have drought years, you're going to have wet years. And it kind of goes with the program there.

So I am disturbed that we can't advance the ball more on really the type of forest management we need to be doing. We can sustain X amount of trees per acre, and this is depending on tree type, tree age, particular landscape, the particular weather pattern in a micro area, but if we are not doing

that then we are going to see this year after year.

So the U.S. Forest Service has kind of transitioned from—not that many years ago—about one-third of their budget would go for fire suppression and two-thirds for the good green work we call it, green harvest, permits, maintenance of forest roads and all the other things you do in the off season in order to make the asset protected from fire and also usable to the people, because this is indeed the people's asset. And they are getting less and less access to it because of fire, but also just flat being closed down because of other environmental concerns that have been brought up.

That is a key part of the argument here is that we have had hundreds of thousands of acres burned. I will just stick with California for a moment here. And simple projects after the fact when we are talking salvage, salvage timber that needs to be removed after a fire, if you do that within a reasonably soon amount of time after a fire then you can still get value out of that timber. If you do it soon. No more than a year would be ideal.

But what happens is that when Forest Service goes to try and contract or do some of the work post fire to remove trees that will be dead or are already dead but still have a salvage value, you can make a timber product out of that, they get sued. The environmental groups come in and sue them saying, oh, we think you are going to take away habitat for the black-backed woodpecker or something like that. And indeed, what has already happened is the environment has already been ruined for quite a few years where the spotted owl might have been, where other owls might have been, or other wildlife had been.

You should see some of the horrific pictures of how the wildlife is affected in a fire like this. And these are not just a slow-moving fire, but these conflagrations that we have these days that move from treetop to treetop across the whole landscape.

And one of the saddest stories you will see is a rancher just right in my home county of Butte on the east side who wrote the story about how their family had been there for at least five generations and long-time ranchers there, and a fire whipped through there and took out so many of their livestock, but also the legacy, the land that they love has been ruined by fire in eastern Butte County, California, last year.

□ 1930

So what are we going to do? Are we going to continue to watch this go on year after year after year?

I have run legislation to try and make it just a little bit simpler to do basic, I think, commonsense idea of trimming around power lines, moving hazardous trees and foliage away from power lines. But that means you are going to have to cut some trees. That