

solve the environmental racism that we face each and every day. It will clean up our polluted creeks and our vacant lots. Many don't know that when you drive in some communities, Madam Speaker, where it looks like the community doesn't care, sometimes it is not that the community doesn't care, sometimes it is because the ground is contaminated in our Black and in our Brown communities that those lots sit there vacant. Those lots sit there like they are unattended to, but there is more to the story, and financially that is the issue.

When we look at cleaning up our polluted creeks and our vacant lots—every move further we have to make sure that we replace fossil fuels with renewable energy.

Why are we still having that conversation?

I don't want my 46th birthday to come next year and our communities are still waiting for the people with the power of the pen and the people with the power of the purse to deliver the lifesaving changes that the people deserve. We need a Green New Deal.

For my birthday, please join me in fighting for one everywhere.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, it is amazing, whether we are talking about the Bronx, New York; St. Louis, Missouri; or New Mexico, it is obvious that a Green New Deal is needed now.

Madam Speaker, I would like to close by returning to one particular aspect of the Green New Deal for Public Schools because I think it highlights something about the framework as a whole. For me, one of the most exciting parts of the Green New Deal for Public Schools is how the learning environment in every school will be enriched, putting our young people at the center of the green energy revolution.

Students will delve into every aspect of the building retrofit process and immerse themselves in the broader sustainability and social challenges that we are tackling as a society. Each school will become a living lab for the Green New Deal. I cannot think of a better way to nurture the curiosity, ingenuity, and imaginations of our children. We will be kick-starting climate, STEM, and STEAM careers across the United States, and our country will reap the benefits of all that creativity.

The Green New Deal for Public Schools and the entire Green New Deal framework is built on the foundation of care and healing and allowing everyone in this country to unlock their full potential.

This is an idea that is expressed in Tupac Shakur's brilliant poem "The Rose That Grew from Concrete."

Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete?

Proving nature's law is wrong it learned to walk without having feet.

Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air.

Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared.

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

### SERIOUS ISSUES FACING OUR COUNTRY

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration and Democrat House leadership want to cap off their first 6 months with an additional \$3.5 trillion in massive bills which will be the largest expansion of government ever.

Let's review the past 6 months. Prior to the Biden administration, on a bipartisan basis we here in this Congress allocated \$3.7 trillion for COVID relief and recovery on a bipartisan basis.

President Biden and the Democrats through a completely partisan spending bill spent \$1.9 trillion, three times more than many thought was necessary, and many Democrat economists also felt that way, especially since GDP growth was hitting record levels, clearly indicating American recovery.

□ 1615

Now we are experiencing inflation at really historic levels. Milk, bread, fruit, gasoline, among other items, have seen price increases, taxing all Americans. Unemployment remains very high in States that continue to extend and enhanced unemployment insurance. Meanwhile, virtually all employers have a shortfall in their workforce and are looking for employees.

Additionally, illegal immigration is at an all-time high. We see the mess at the border with no real corrections being made by the Biden administration or the Democrat-led House. Crime is hitting record levels in urban and suburban American. Oil imports from Russia are at an all-time high while we restrict energy production here at home, and China's economy is roaring.

We receive no cooperation from the CCP or the WHO, regarding investigations into the origins of COVID-19. Additionally, cyberattacks originating from China and Russia have presented a huge threat to American businesses large and small, yet, we have little to no response from the Biden administration or from our Democratic leadership here in the House.

Now the Democrats are putting a bipartisan transportation infrastructure bill in jeopardy that was agreed upon because they insist on spending \$3.5

trillion-plus for all kinds of government expansion initiatives, including expansions in Medicaid, ObamaCare, EPA, IRS, and I could go on.

This reckless expansion of government after \$5 trillion in spending will rock our economy, destroy career opportunities, create permanent dependency on government, and saddle our future American generations with debt well beyond what the eye can see or what the mind can contemplate.

Say "no" to reconciliation. Say "yes" to a bipartisan transportation infrastructure bill.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear friend for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON), my great friend.

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a serious issue facing my home State of Texas and millions of Americans, the Biden border crisis. Things at our southern border have gotten worse by the day since Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS have taken office.

For example, illegal immigration numbers were up 450 percent in June compared to June of last year. June was the fourth straight month with over 170,000 apprehensions. Border Patrol officials have seized more fentanyl so far in 2021 than all of 2020.

COVID cases among illegal immigrants are up 900 percent in the Rio Grande Valley. Numbers don't lie. The Biden administration's reckless approach to immigration has caused a full-blown crisis at the border, and there is absolutely nothing being done to stop it.

To be clear, the public health and drug crises that have been exacerbated by what is happening at the border are not just a problem for border States. The drugs being smuggled in at the border are coming to a neighborhood near you, courtesy of Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS.

Their hypocrisy on the public health threat, in particular, couldn't be more appalling. While pushing stringent COVID rules on the American people, the Biden administration is simultaneously pushing an open-border agenda that includes placing COVID-infected illegal immigrants all over this country. It is absolutely unbelievable.

Every American will ultimately be impacted in some way by this Biden border crisis. I plea with the President to reverse his failed immigration plan and start protecting the American people.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. JACKSON for his comments.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I will address tonight the many, many serious issues facing our country: the unprecedented crisis at our southern border; the highest inflation we have seen in 13 years; the Democrats' out-of-control spending and tax increases; the Democrats' undermining of the Hyde amendment; and the Democrats' defense of the Communist Cuba regime.

It is important we discuss these issues as Republicans, because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they just won't. We owe it to the American people to do better than this; to ensure there is still a country left when our children grow up.

The way the Democrats and the Biden administration are spending money, and our open borders, should not just concern Republicans, but every American. That is why I am proud of the way my colleagues and I will bring these issues straight to the American people in the people's House.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for their participation tonight. I know that we don't have anyone else here, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### DEMOCRATS' RECKLESS SPENDING AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, when you pull into a gas station or visit a grocery store this week, you will notice something different. Consumer prices are up across the board. Make no mistake, this financial strain is a direct result of the Biden administration's out-of-control spending. It is hurting millions of Americans across the Nation. In fact, nearly 9 in 10 Americans have reported a serious concern about the rise in prices. The reality is inflation, perhaps more accurately called Biden-flation, which is climbing at the highest rate in 13 years. Gas prices are up 45 percent; used car prices up 45 percent; and the cost of breakfast, lunch, and dinner has gone up for every single family.

These staples are necessities for every family in this country and their prices are rising because of the Democrats' reckless spending agenda. There is no doubt that the Democrats' non-stop Big Government spending is placing tremendous financial stress on the American family. What is worse, Democrats have failed to acknowledge that their outrageous spending has the most devastating impact on low-income Americans, many of whom have to spend beyond their means to afford the basic cost of goods and services.

Let me make this very clear. Inflation is a regressive tax that disproportionately affects the poor. Democrats are completely out of touch with the American people. To them, inflation is transitory; nothing to worry about. To the North Carolinians that I represent and speak with every day, inflation is now a real and present problem.

What is the Democrats' solution to soaring prices and high prices? Borrowing more money, another \$3.5 tril-

lion of taxpayer money to put toward new spending and tax hikes.

There is a life lesson here. If you are in a hole, stop digging.

Republicans understand that in most households, every dollar counts. But in Biden's economy, all Americans are having to pay more now to get less. We must reverse these disastrous policy decisions to save jobs, protect long-term investments, sustain economic progress, and most importantly, keep more money in taxpayers' pockets.

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

#### SUPPORTING CUBAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in absolute and unequivocal support of the Cuban people protesting their evil and oppressive Communist regime. Unfortunately, there is nothing new about their brutality and willful violations of universally recognized human rights. The United States should make it very clear that we stand on the side of the Cuban people as thousands have joined one of the biggest anti-Communist demonstrations the country has witnessed during its 62-year dictatorship.

Since the protests began, hundreds have been detained or are missing, including: artists, peace activists, and priests. The Cuban people deserve and need our help. In the words of the late Senator Jesse Helms:

The United States must speak out clearly on behalf of those whose own voices are choked by Communist repression.

Despite what many of our own people have been brainwashed by our education systems to believe, America is the greatest force for freedom and liberty that the world has ever known. I implore this administration, the Biden administration, and this Congress to utilize every tool of the U.S. Government to support the Cuban people in their effort to defeat the Communist regime and break the shackles of its oppressive government.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to address the Chamber on what I believe is the biggest crisis facing America today. I spent last week down at the McAllen section of the U.S.-Mexico border, and what I saw horrified me.

Late at night, from 10 to 11 o'clock, I watched people from all around the world walking on a pathway from the Rio Grande River to the Border Patrol station. We are right now at a point where I believe over 70,000 people a month are being allowed in the country. Many of these people have no ID at all, so there is no way to confirm who

they are, to even see if they have a criminal record.

□ 1630

Upon being processed through the border station, even without an ID, we buy them plane tickets for all around the country.

Scandalously, at a time when we are talking about COVID again, even if they test positive, people are held in apartments or hotels and not guarded, so they turn around and are being released. At a time in which we are supposed to be more careful than ever, we have a situation in which people who are coming here illegally are allowed in the country.

Furthermore, we watch as we have hit new records for the number of people who are killed in this country by illegal drug overdoses, including fentanyl. We are up to 90,000 people in the last year. I believe the reason we are hitting all-time records is because, as bad as heroin is, fentanyl is far worse. And all or virtually all of that fentanyl is coming across the southern border.

Meanwhile, we cede control of our immigration policy to Mexican drug gangs. These gangs charge, depending upon where you are coming from, \$3,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 to come across the border. They are so heartless that it is not uncommon that if Border Patrol approaches them on a boat from the Mexican side to the American side, whether it is with people or with drugs, they will throw a 3- or 4-year-old child into the Rio Grande River, knowing that our Border Patrol will fight to save that child rather than go after the people sneaking in the country or going after the drugs. This is the brutal type of people we are assisting by continuing the current policy or lack of a policy.

I strongly urge the Biden administration to step up to the plate to make sure that COVID-positive people are no longer let into the country; bring back the old policy, the migrant protection protocol, when we had only 6,000 people a month rather than 70,000 people a month crossing the border; require some sort of photo ID, like every other American would have before they get on an airline.

Good grief, who knows what type of criminal records these people have. Of course, we can only check criminal records in the United States. Nobody has any idea if these people have horrific criminal records in Honduras, El Salvador, Brazil, or all the other countries that people are coming here from.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage the Biden administration to step up.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the freedom fighters in Cuba and against communism, the very system of social, political, and economic oppression that