

level since 2014. Thirteen million individuals are still on some type of unemployment, while over 9 million jobs remain unfilled.

This type of scenario is essentially unheard of and totally artificially created by the Biden administration. They failed to get the \$15 minimum wage, so now they have artificially cut the American workforce in an attempt to force wages upward. Such a forced, quick increase in wages will undoubtedly be inflationary as small businesses, and even large fast food chains, will have to raise their prices just to maintain viability.

Do they think the American people are that stupid? Endless borrowing has consequences. Republican lawmakers see this every day as ordinary Americans are having to bear the cost of excessive Democrat spending. At the gas pump, in the grocery store, at the mall, and at the car dealership, my constituents are having to spend more of their hard-earned dollars just to get to work, feed their children, and care for loved ones.

The numbers don't lie. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, gas prices are up 45 percent from last year; used car prices are up 45 percent; airfare is up 24 percent; and hotel prices are up 16 percent. At the grocery store, bacon is up 8 percent; fruit prices are up 7 percent; fish prices are up 6 percent; and milk is up 5 percent. Even to pour a cup of coffee, Americans are feeling the cost of the Democrats' reckless spending spree.

Unfortunately, under Biden's leadership, the situation looks bleak. House Democrats are well accustomed to spending beyond their means, but they routinely ignore its negative impact on the American people.

What is worse is that experts agree the Democrats' far-left proposals will undoubtedly lead to higher taxes on the vast majority of middle-class American families.

Here is what we know. A recent report from the Tax Policy Center found that Biden's tax plan will increase taxes on an astounding 75 percent of middle-class Americans and raise taxes on 95 percent of Americans by 2031. This broken policy work has real consequences that are completely unsustainable.

Another study by the Wharton School of Business shows that Biden's \$6 trillion budget would slow economic growth, shrink the American economy, and cut workers' hours and wages. In fact, annualized real wages are already down by 3.95 percent since 2020.

Madam Speaker, I implore my colleagues across the aisle to listen to their constituents and sympathize with what they are going through. More than that, I urge them to recognize that we, as lawmakers, have a responsibility to care for our citizens and ensure that Big Government policies do not squander American families and small businesses.

Look, this should be simple. All Americans understand that to stay fi-

nancially viable and intact, they must stick to a budget and spend within their means.

I encourage the Biden administration and its Democratic cohorts in the House to balance their own checkbooks immediately for the sake of the American people and to stop this reckless spending spree.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Lord our God, as we set our sights on the week ahead, we do so with a certain degree of anticipation and anxiety. There is much to discuss, many concerns to address, and a wide array of perspectives to consider.

By Your gracious guidance, as You lead us into these next couple days, call us to pay attention to Your inimitable wisdom, to turn our ears to Your words, that we would keep them within our hearts.

Above all else, may each of us keep watch over our innermost souls, knowing that everything we do reflects its integrity.

Keep our mouths from perversity and corrupt talk from our lips.

But remind us to look straight ahead with purpose, fixing our gaze, today and throughout the week, on the goals You would have us reach.

And may we be intent on taking heed of Your direction.

May we be steadfast in all we do.

May we be worthy of this place in time to serve You, this country, and our communities.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CRISIS

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I stood here nearly a month ago to deliver a very similar message: once-in-a-lifetime storms are becoming our reality in Michigan.

In the last month, southeast Michigan has flooded three times in the city of Dearborn, nearly 20,000 homes have been impacted. My constituents can't recover from one flood before it worsens and another one hits and there is more damaged property, more lost valuables.

People are angry. People are scared. And they have every right to be. That is because we have known the solution to these disasters for a while. The time for climate action is now. This starts with investing in resilient infrastructure to protect our communities from the impacts of climate crisis.

We need to invest in infrastructure that can withstand natural disasters and make it easier on the American people to recover. We can't continue to have these floods couched as once-in-a-lifetime, if you call them that, when people are dealing with unimaginable damages in my city for the third time in 4 weeks.

We need a strong infrastructure package that takes bold action and addresses change head-on.

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, it is nearly August, a full 7 months since the Biden administration assumed control of the White House, and still there is no end in sight for the Biden border crisis.

It has been a month since Biden border czar, KAMALA HARRIS, hopped off of her jet for 90 minutes for a photo shoot near the border, which she dubbed as a southern border visit, and still nothing has changed.

March was the highest month on record for illegal crossings until April. April was the highest month on record for illegal crossings until May. May was the highest month on record for illegal crossings until June. And we are on pace to set another record in July.

How many records must be broken, crimes committed, victims trafficked before the Biden administration wakes

up to the roaring crisis at our southern border?

The American people are sick and tired of the talk. They are sick and tired of excuses. They are sick and tired of the political games. Enough is enough. Secure the southern border.

D.C. STATEHOOD

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, with a detailed poll showing that 54 percent of the American people now support statehood for our Nation's capital, the District of Columbia, we are optimistic about passage in the Senate of H.R. 51.

I thank the House for passage of our statehood bill, for that passage has spurred the American majority that now supports D.C. statehood. The recent hearing in the Senate helped further educate Americans about our statehood bill, noting that our country is the only democratic country that denies equal representation for the people of its capital.

With continuing success with our D.C. statehood bill, we look forward to reporting progress on our bill on becoming the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING ERIN KERKHOFF

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young woman in my district who has become an inspiration to women and athletes everywhere.

Erin Kerkhoff, a University of Northern Iowa sophomore and track star from Solon High School, earned a position on Team USA for the Paralympics in Tokyo.

Kerkhoff, who has 20/400 vision due to optic nerve degeneration in both eyes is ranked fifth in the world in the 400-meter dash after achieving a personal record of 58.23 seconds in the qualifying trials earlier this month, finishing second overall in both the 400- and 100-meter dashes.

The Second District and the State of Iowa are lucky to be represented by stellar athletes like Erin, Thomas Gilman, and Kenny Bednarek competing in this year's summer Olympics.

I could not be prouder to represent these three in Congress. Good luck Erin, Thomas, and Kenny, and bring home the gold.

Last week, I wished my sister Mari-Eleanor Martino a happy birthday, and this week I would like to extend a happy birthday to her husband, Ralph Martino. Happy birthday, Ralph, and we are delighted to have you in the family.

RACIAL EQUITY IN AMERICA JOBS AND FAMILY PLAN

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's proposed \$2.65 trillion American Jobs Plan contains a commitment of resources and investments to overcome structural economic inequity, driven by decades of racial and gender discrimination and exclusion.

In addition to being undercapitalized by the PPP in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Black business owners experienced an acute decline of 41 percent in their numbers; Latinx businesses fell by 32 percent; Asian businesses, 26 percent. Compounding these inequities, Black, Indigenous, and people of color, particularly, women of color, have been hardest hit by unemployment and job losses.

These groups have been left behind and held back for far too long, resulting in multigenerational poverty, wage, and wealth gaps. To meet the moment, House Democrats are proposing systemic solutions rooted in equity to ensure prosperity for all Americans. These solutions are driven by targeted, long-term investments to improve our infrastructure by igniting our economy for equity, baking in accountability to equitable practices and outcomes and fostering an ecosystem where the safety, health, and well-being of the people are a priority.

DOOR-TO-DOOR IN ORWELLIAN FASHION

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, Biden's team of neighborhood, basically, disturbers, showed up at a constituent's house this past weekend demanding that they reveal their vaccine status, after asking for them by name.

Our agents on the border cannot test the tens of thousands that are being released into the country on a monthly basis, and tens of thousands are going in without COVID testing and without vaccines. But Biden-Harris, the first President with a hyphenated name, is going door-to-door in an Orwellian fashion to pester Americans about vaccines.

Welcome to the authoritarian turn of the new Democrat party.

2020 ELECTION

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, is anyone else tired of hearing the insurrectionist in Chief continue to lie about the 2020 election?

Over the weekend, once again, the former, twice-impeached, disgraced, so-

called President of the United States of America, falsely claimed that he actually won the election, and that it was stolen from him by Joe Biden.

Something is really wrong with this guy. And I need some help in trying to figure it out.

Is Donald Trump, A, a pathological liar;

B, a sociopath;

C, a malignant narcissist; or

D, all of the above?

I will be around all week. Look forward to hearing from you.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEVIN of Michigan) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 26, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 26, 2021, at 1:41 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 89.

That the Senate passed S. 189.

That the Senate passed S. 894.

That the Senate passed S. 1910.

That the Senate passed S. 2382.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CONSIDER TEACHERS ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 848) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 848

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Consider Teachers Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. TEACH GRANTS.

Section 420N of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "(referred to in this section as the 'service obligation window')" after "under this subpart";