

priorities: expand the government's control over everyday Americans.

OSHA CHANGES TO VACCINE REACTION REPORTING

(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, historically, under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, covered employers were required to maintain an annual log of all work-related illnesses and injuries.

An illness or injury is recordable if it is work-related, a new case, and the incident involves days away from work or medical treatment beyond first aid, among other things.

On May 21, OSHA changed these requirements. This new OSHA policy effectively removes legal liability from employers that require a vaccine at least through May 2022. Now, if a worker decides to get a vaccine to keep their job and experiences an adverse reaction, the employer is not responsible for this injury.

OSHA stated it changed this requirement only because they do not want to give any suggestion of discouraging workers from receiving the COVID-19 vaccinations or to disincentivize employers' vaccination efforts.

Why are they trying to hide statistics related to the vaccine? While this policy change appears to be a mere sidenote for OSHA's lengthy guidelines, we have to ask President Biden and OSHA: Why is the ethical burden on the workers and not on the government?

RESIST VACCINE MANDATES

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, millions of freedom-loving Americans with legitimate concerns with the vaccine—some are vaccinated, by the way—have had their jobs, livelihoods, and military service held hostage by this new vaccine mandate. They are being told to shut up and take it. That is un-American.

With both Army Fort Rucker and Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in my district, I am especially disturbed by the new vaccine mandates our military and civilian contractors are having to endure.

Last week, I spoke at a meeting of concerned Fort Rucker employees. We expected about 20 to 30 attendees, but hundreds showed up. Clearly, Americans are mobilizing to resist against these mandates.

I met with Lieutenant Colonel Theresa Long, a military physician stationed at Fort Rucker. We have seen firsthand the health risks associated with the vaccine that can impact our military readiness. Why are voices like hers being ignored? She has the rank of

lieutenant colonel; she has a medical degree; and she is an expert. And if she is not, who is?

These mandates are about control and not safety. Every American must have the freedom to make their own health decisions, and our concerns will not be silenced. The American people will continue to resist the vaccine mandates, and I am proud to stand with them.

HONORING GENERAL COLIN POWELL

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to Secretary Colin Powell, America's general.

Secretary Powell was more than an astute general and outstanding civic leader who served our Nation's President. He was kind-hearted, a genuine American hero. He was a man of conscience and integrity who bravely stood against divisiveness and lived life bringing people together.

As the son of two hardworking Jamaican immigrants, he knew the importance of education and hard work. General Powell, as he prefers to be called, was the first African-American National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State, and he had 35 years of service in the military for this Nation.

He described himself in a New York Times article, and he talked about himself in the third person: "Powell is a problem-solver. He was taught as a soldier to solve problems. So he has views, but he is not an ideologue. He has passion, but he is not a fanatic. He is, first and foremost, a problem-solver." And that he did.

In Vietnam, he was a hero when the helicopter that he was in crashed, and he pulled out his commander, Major General Charles M. Gettys.

Also, he was a passionate servant of the people. When he retired, he organized America's Promise. America's Promise helped at-risk children. I remember seeing his program, hearing about his program, and supporting his program.

To his wonderful wife, Alma, and his children, he remains to us an extremely beloved individual. I am reminding all Americans, let us remember that a general can be soft and strong and remain a hero to all of us in nature, spirit, sacrifice, and deeds.

The Nation has lost a great leader, but more importantly, the Nation has lost a symbol of what is best and great about America.

AMERICA IN CRISIS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. 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 Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, during my time this afternoon, my colleagues and I will address the burning issues that are on the hearts and minds of all our constituents back home—really, all Americans—and that is the numerous self-inflicted crises of the Biden administration and the House Democrats' increasingly radical leftwing legislative agenda.

Madam Speaker, Democrats may narrowly control the House, the Senate, and the White House, but over the past several weeks, it has become abundantly clear that they just cannot govern.

America is in crisis. Everybody knows that, and everybody can feel it in so many areas.

□ 1630

Today, the White House spends its days doing damage control on all these multiple crises of their own making.

Just think of what we are facing right now. We have an economic crisis where jobs remain unfilled, prices for basic goods continue to rise, and the shelves sit empty.

We have got an energy crisis that has led to the highest gasoline crisis since 2007, and we know the projections for warming our homes in the winter are off the charts.

We have multiple foreign policy crises, and we have on the southern border humanitarian, national security, and public health crises like we have never seen before.

These really are existential kinds of threats to the country. I know our colleagues like to throw that word around, but it really does apply here. And while all Presidents confront crises beyond their control, that is not what is happening here. These crises—the things we are talking about today—are the direct result of this administration's own actions.

We know that inflation is rising because Democrats are flooding the economy with money and supply is down because of labor shortages caused by the Democrats' so-called pandemic policies. Gas prices are up thanks to a steady assault on our energy producers by the Biden administration. Our foreign policy is in crisis because of the Biden debacle in Afghanistan and all the other fumbles that they have made.

The border problem is simple. They opened the border. They put a welcome mat there and told everybody around the world to come on in. The Democrats opened it, and so we should not be surprised or shocked at the result of that invitation.

Here in Congress the picture is no better. If you think about this, the Democrats have a mere three-seat majority in this House. We have a fifty-fifty deadlock in the Senate. There is no objective person in this country who could look at those numbers and say that the Democrats have any mandate to ram through the most partisan and most expensive legislative package in the history of this Nation using the slimmest majority possible.

If you ask the Democrats what is in the bill, Madam Speaker, they can't tell you because they don't know.

Is amnesty in it?

Well, the House certainly worked to add it.

Taxpayer funded abortion? A carbon tax? A tax on prescription drugs?

They have been working very hard to include all those things. The one thing they do know for sure is that they are deadlocked. They are insistent that they want to spend \$5.5 trillion of hard-working Americans' tax money while inflation goes through the roof and while we are trying to recover from a pandemic. This is the worst possible time to be doing what they are doing.

The American people expected competence in the White House. They wanted bipartisanship in Congress. They have received instead the most incompetent White House of our lifetimes and a Democrat-led Congress trying to push the most extreme agenda in our history.

This is not hyperbole; these are facts. And my colleagues are going to lay out many of the reasons, many of the facts, and much of the evidence that proves what every American now knows intuitively. If House Democrats drop their radical, dangerous agenda right now, I promise you, Madam Speaker, they would find so many Members of this party on our side of the aisle who would be ready to work with them in a bipartisan fashion tomorrow. We have so many challenges facing the country. But they won't do that. They are dug in. And their votes prove over and over now that they are determined to be Big Government socialists and not the Democratic Party of our parents' generation.

This afternoon we will highlight what this agenda is doing to our country.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, first of all, I thank my good friend and colleague for organizing and leading this leadership hour.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the Biden administration's energy crisis. This is a crisis that was created by the Biden administration.

Last week, the price of gas reached a 7-year high. In fact, in my home district, Pennsylvania-15, we are now paying anywhere from \$3.49 to \$3.67 a gallon—well over the price any American should have to pay.

In 2019 and 2020, the United States was a net total energy exporter. This

means for the first time since the 1950s we were exporting more energy than importing. We were energy independent, and we saw the many benefits across all sectors of United States manufacturing, production, and consumption. For example, in 2020, the average gasoline price in the United States was \$2.17 per gallon.

I am proud to represent a district and come from a State that plays such a large role in domestic energy production. In fact, Pennsylvania is the second largest producer of natural gas and the third largest net supplier of energy to the other States. Without the energy production of my district and others in rural America, our cities would wake up cold, in the dark, and hungry. But President Biden chose to stifle American energy production, issuing executive order after executive order reducing and even pausing our own access to oil and natural gas.

In addition, the Biden administration has reached out to OPEC-Plus begging them to produce more oil which—let's not forget—is less environmentally friendly, less humane, and less regulated than United States sources.

Last week, I joined my colleagues in a letter to this administration opposing the pleas, the begging to OPEC-Plus, and encouraging the use of American produced energy to meet our current needs. We asked the administration to reverse the crushing executive orders impeding our own energy production and to work with Congress on issues affecting American energy security and supply. We know the answer to this self-imposed crisis: we must lift the limitations on our own energy supply.

By repealing these executive orders and encouraging American producers to harness our abundance of natural resources, we can meet our energy needs and we can ensure Americans and our allies have access to affordable, reliable, and exportable energy produced in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman, once again, for his leadership.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, this is such an important issue in Louisiana, my home State. We are a big energy State. We were so excited to have achieved not just energy independence under the Trump administration but energy dominance. We were a net exporter, and, of course, all that has been reversed, as my friend just explained.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, the fight to restore law and order and secure our southern border continues. Border apprehensions remain at a 2-decade high as the Department of Homeland Security warns officials to prepare for roughly 400,000 illegal migrants crossing the border just this month.

President Biden is more committed to ending President Trump's policies that had successfully slowed the surge

of illegal crossings than he is to securing our border. The cartels and human smugglers have taken notice of our weakened position and are more than willing to exploit these changes for their financial benefit. Meanwhile, those who are understandably seeking opportunity and a better future are being coached to gain entrance to the U.S. by claiming asylum.

As a result of our open southern border and the refusal by the Biden administration to detain the majority of those we encounter, more than 2 million illegal immigrants are expected to pass through our southern border this year. Already, 1.2 million have entered the country illegally and have been apprehended since President Biden took office, and millions of these are expected to be brought into the interior of our country—all at taxpayers' expense.

The desperate situation at the southern border calls for urgent action. Instead, House Democrats are determined to use the budget reconciliation process to pass amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants. This type of thinking, if turned into law, will have staggering consequences for our Nation for years to come. Widespread illegal immigration is detrimental not only to Americans and our families but to our Nation and even the migrants themselves.

As one of the Representatives in Congress for middle Tennessee, I have the responsibility to safeguard our sacred freedoms. But if we cannot control our borders, how can we defend our sovereignty as a nation?

That is why I am fighting to restore law and order at the southern border.

President Biden and House Democrats can no longer run from this crisis.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's effort, and I thank him for sharing his insights this afternoon.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the great gentleman from the big State of Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana not only for his leadership to our conference but also speaking up and taking time out of his schedule to speak directly to America and Americans about important issues that face our country today.

Madam Speaker, we hear time after time our colleagues from the Democratic Party talk about all the violence that is taking place in large cities. Murders are up 30 percent last year according to the FBI who talked about this rise. And then we turn around and see where they are the activists who are leading the defunding of police, the destabilization of our cities. The bringing together of illegals into this country with record drug deals and amounts of drugs on our streets, record numbers of death from fentanyl, opioids—misery.

But what does our President do?

He goes off on an aggressive agenda, one which is fueled by the radicals in

his party, one which he fully believes in, one that he is proud of, and one that they sustain and are still pushing. It is not enough just to push and push big spending and Big Government. It is actually an agenda that is in chaos. A chaotic agenda is apparent to the American people.

For a second I would like to have us think back about what we have had previously with Republicans not only in charge in the House and the Senate but in the Presidency leading this great Nation. Our goal as Republicans is to have America to be a land of hope, to have America to be a land of opportunity, to have America to be a land of freedom, for America to be a land of achievement, and for America to be a land of heroes.

For this to happen, Madam Speaker, it means that America needs its ability to go back to work and to have the dignity of work. Madam Speaker, it means that we need to have Americans who go to work not because a government or a political party wants to keep people away from work and is using trillions of dollars of government funds to keep them there.

Madam Speaker, we have an administration and a President who wants to take people's freedom away by requiring them to wear not just masks but to have vaccinations or lose their job.

But, Madam Speaker, the thing that is harming America that is apparent to everyone right now is the cost of items just to live. Inflation and monetary policy are what the Fed is responsible for, the Fed bank. And they are prepared to give hundreds of billions of dollars and trillions of dollars, some \$5,000 trillion is what they will be asked to go take loans out on again. That devalues not just the American dollar, but it actually causes a price increase directly at the grocery store where people buy their food and basic elements.

Inflation is at a 40-year high, but we keep hearing about how much money the government is going to put in people's pockets. But it is robbed when they net it out, Madam Speaker.

It is robbed when they net it out because inflation robs not just people who have families, but it robs those who live on a fixed income. It robs the vitality and the ability that we have to be ingenious and to move our country forward.

So, Madam Speaker, please know this, that the Republican Party and our Members who are here tonight are not just speaking about things because we disagree, it is because we love our country. We believe that what was built and available for America and Americans is the greatest country in the history of this world. We believe in Americanism. We believe in American exceptionalism. We believe in the Constitution. We believe in freedom and a right to make our own decisions in our own homes and in our own communities.

□ 1645

Increasingly, we are finding that this new administration, the House and the Senate under Democratic control, are taking away the basic rights and freedoms that would have been enjoyed by free people, but they are not because this administration intends to extend the long arm of the Federal Government into all transportation, to all members of the military, and to free people who want to live their own life.

Madam Speaker, Republicans are on the floor today to offer better ideas, to offer hope and solutions, but perhaps more importantly to say this, that we believe that it is time that this administration get off its radical agenda, radical agenda that is leading America into chaos.

If the President would listen, if the Speaker of the House would listen, and if the Senate majority leader would listen, they would hear even members in their own party saying that a radical agenda will greatly change America to where we would become a socialist Nation.

Madam Speaker, we are here offering the example that we have known that made America great, and it is called capitalism and freedom.

I want to thank Mr. JOHNSON for taking the time to gather Republicans together on the floor to offer not just our vision but also to highlight to the American people that elections have consequences, and we look forward to next year. I want to thank the gentleman for allowing me this time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments, and that clarity and conviction is so necessary right now. I love how the gentleman is articulating the stark differences between the two competing visions for this country right now. The chasm is so wide between the Republican and Democratic Parties, and we say that without any pleasure at all.

It is a sad development in our politics that this is not—listen to us at home—this is not your parents' and your grandparents' Democratic Party.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to move from Texas and move over to Alabama.

I yield to the gentleman from a Alabama (Mr. CARL), a good friend of mine.

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for organizing this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to address President Biden's failure to secure our borders and enforce our national immigration laws. The Biden administration's disregard for the national security threat and humanitarian crisis they have created is extremely troubling. The American people deserve better than this. My constituents in south Alabama, as well as millions of folks across America, share my concern. That is why today I sent a letter to President Biden asking him a

few simple questions. They are as follows:

Why did you stop construction on the border wall even though we had supplies on the ground and contractors ready to finish it? Why?

What is the plan to secure our border and enforce our immigration laws today? Do we have a plan?

What is the plan to prevent additional surges of illegal immigrants who are crossing our border? As we know, there are 30- to 50,000 on the way that are going to get here, and I want to know what the plan is before they get here; not a week after they get here.

What is the plan to handle thousands of individuals living in makeshift camps along the border? Can the White House assure us that these criminals who are sneaking across the border will not be released in our community?

I challenge my friends from across the aisle to stand up and start speaking out. This is not a Republican issue. It is an American issue. We have got to stand up for our constituents because when we are getting these people coming across the border with diseases, undocumented, the drugs, it becomes an American problem, and we as Americans have got to stand together and fight this.

If we can't get the Democratic Party, the Democrats across the aisle, to listen to what we are saying, there will be a tsunami in 2022 that will change this House for a long time. And that is not what we need. We need to be working together.

Although I doubt my letter will get a response from President Biden, I will continue to fight to secure our border so we can protect the health and the safety of American citizens.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and appreciate him being here tonight and articulating that so well.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I thank Vice Chairman JOHNSON, my good friend from Louisiana, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, no matter how hard the White House attempts to spin this economic crisis as a high-class problem, our Nation's financial future is in shambles because of the Biden administration's policies and it affects all of us.

Inflation continues to climb ahead of the holiday season hitting a 13-year high just last week. From the gas pump to the grocery store, Americans are paying more for just about everything while they are working less. Despite having over 10 million job openings across the country, only 194,000 jobs were added last month, making September President Biden's worst jobs report since taking office.

Instead of putting the brakes on spending, Biden and his allies in Congress are carelessly adding fuel to the inflationary fire by advancing their \$1.2 trillion—only 9 percent—infrastructure bill, and \$4.3 trillion Big Government socialist spending package. So

in the face of an economic catastrophe, Democrats are gearing up to spend a whopping \$5.5 trillion on their liberal wish list. That is wrong for small businesses. That is wrong for hardworking people across the country, and that is just wrong for America.

Squandering trillions of dollars for unpopular, radical, and dangerous policies, while imposing a \$2.1 trillion tax hike to pay for it, will only inflame the current economic crisis and burden Americans with more financial instability.

How many more empty shelves will it take and record-high gas prices—yes, look, \$3.30 per gallon is where we are right now. That is a 50 percent increase from where we were for the last 4 years under the Trump administration. How many more struggling Americans will it take for the Biden administration to get serious about this economic crisis and call it a crisis, and act like it is a crisis?

For the sake of our country, I call on President Biden to join us. Reverse course and work with Republican lawmakers to get our economy back on track.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for those insights.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my sometimes friend from Louisiana for that kind introduction and thank him so much for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the current state of our economy is like a car about to blow through a railroad crossing. As the car approaches the tracks, indicator lights flash red warning of danger ahead. Despite warnings, the car tries to beat the oncoming train across the tracks. We have all seen this scenario. The train T-bones the car at full speed leaving it in pieces.

Think of this preventable crash in economic terms. We are ignoring flashing red fiscal indicators like rising inflation, as illustrated in some of the issues right here; weak labor force participation; and \$28 trillion of national debt. We need to heed these warnings. If we don't, we face the complete destruction of our entire economy.

Joe Biden and the Democrats are crashing our economy. They control the spending in Congress and the Federal agencies overseeing various sectors of the economy. Since these folks don't seem to care or want to work with us Republicans, they are the only ones who can stop this out-of-control economy from colliding with disaster.

Instead of steering the economy away from danger, Joe Biden and the Democrats are going to put the pedal to the metal in pursuit of their multi-trillion dollar, far-left political agenda. Their expensive socialist plan recklessly overstimulates the economy, pays folks not to work, and bloats our national debt.

Pumping trillions into our economy will devalue the American dollar. Combine this with rising prices, everyday folks won't be able to afford a whole lot. Democrats risk crashing the economy if they choose to move forward with their political agenda, Madam Speaker.

Let's not lie about who is going to be hurt the most if this happens. It will be our poor and working-class folks, our fellow Americans—both the Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals. Paychecks just won't go as far as they did before, as we are seeing already. Vulnerable folks will struggle to afford basic goods and services for their families.

Picture that car colliding with the train, Madam Speaker. Think of that total devastation. It can be prevented if the flashing red warning signs are taken seriously and heeded. Joe Biden and the Democrats need to get control of our economy or let the Republicans take the wheel.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my always friend. The gentleman's metaphor paints a real picture. We are headed for a crash if we don't change course.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), my good friend and Super Bowl champion.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Louisiana for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, as crisis after crisis emerges from this administration, I would like to take a moment to discuss an issue that has been on my mind and in the hearts of millions of Americans: the crisis at our southern border.

It is a humanitarian, national security, and public health crisis that must be addressed immediately. I have seen these horrific scenes for myself down in McAllen, Texas, and further south through the Darien Gap where families, women, and children endure a dangerous trek to America.

For the past 9 months, the border has served as a hotbed for drug smugglers, human traffickers, child trafficking, and illegal immigration, and is a direct result of the disastrous and harmful open border policy of President Biden and Vice President HARRIS.

These policies are enriching the cartels, smugglers, and human traffickers who prey on and abuse women and children crossing the border. Some report earnings as much as \$14 million a day.

These are horrendous crimes and they have no place in our country. Here is what we know: During the month of August, almost 19,000 of the 208,000 illegal immigrants to cross the border were unaccompanied minors. With a record number of minors crossing the border alone, we need to be actively taking steps to prevent predators from exploiting these innocent children.

Another fact: The number of illegal immigrants taken into custody along the southern border topped 1.2 million

since February. This does not count the hundreds of thousands of got-aways. This crisis is not seasonal, is not inherited. It appears like a purposeful chaos by our Democratic Party. We must restore security at the southern border, end illegal immigration, and take immediate steps to prioritize the health and safety of all Americans.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. The gentleman is right. It does appear to be purposeful. The chaos, there is just too much of it, and that is what people back home say. This has to be intentional.

There is no way that we could have these many dilemmas piled upon each other this quickly unless there were some ulterior motive. It is a rhetorical question, I suppose, for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman JOHNSON, my always friend, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, our country is experiencing an unbelievable crisis at our southern border. In August alone, the United States Customs and Border Protection encountered over 200,000 migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border which was a 317 percent increase from August of last year. Let me repeat that one more time: a 317 percent increase from just one single year ago.

President Biden has prioritized reversing effective Trump-era border policies such as the Remain in Mexico Policy and most notably, the border wall. They were working. We literally have tons of building materials, all of which have been bought and paid for by the hardworking men and women American taxpayers, sitting in the desert collecting dust because President Biden cares more about trying to be politically stylish than he does implementing policies to protect and strengthen our America which we love so much.

Is President Biden requiring these migrants to show proof of vaccination? The answer is no. Are they being tested for COVID-19? The answer is no. Are they being tested for other deadly viruses? The answer is no.

Americans are still unable to return to their normal ways of life but hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants are allowed to breach and break through the border and infect our Nation. How does that make sense? How can any one individual American make any sense or understand that?

□ 1700

Drug cartels are recruiting and using children as drug mules, they are sexually abusing women, and they are responsible for bringing enough fentanyl into America to kill every man, woman, and child, at least 10 times over, and we read it in the headlines. This is unlike anything we have ever seen before in our America, yet this administration continues to leave this

border wide open. Again, how does it make sense? How can we understand it? How can we believe it?

The Border Patrol is on track to encounter more migrants this year than it has in any year prior. In fiscal year 2021, roughly 10,000 migrants with criminal records were detained at the southern border. This is no joke. This is a real tragedy for America. The former Border Patrol chief has also stated that our Border Patrol is encountering known and suspected terrorists at “a level that we have never seen before.” This is no joke. This is the real world which we live in now in America.

There are serious shortages among Border Patrol agents, and somehow congressional Democrats and the administration are making zero efforts to address them. They fail to recognize the severity of the issue or even admit that there is an issue to begin with.

Again, it is no joke. These men and women are putting their lives in danger. Half the time they don't even have the backup that they should. I remember when I went to the border and saw them encountering all types of dangerous situations. Not a single backup sometimes. How can we do that to our American men and women in law enforcement?

Make no mistake about it. I don't want anyone to think otherwise. Make no mistake—this is the worst border crisis that we have ever experienced in America. President Biden is actively destroying our country and our way of life by not taking this crisis seriously at all. But he should. I will say it again. This is no joke. It is the real thing.

Madam Speaker, God help us all. We must save our country.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for doing all he does to save this country, and we have a lot of work still to do.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), who is my good friend.

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend Mr. JOHNSON very much, our conference vice chair, for putting this together today.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, we have the latest crisis under the Biden administration, known as the supply chain bottlenecks, particularly at our U.S. ports. We have thousands of ships waiting to be unloaded with goods that the consumers of the U.S. have purchased.

Now, some of this could be said to have been COVID related due to the manufacturing delays and disruptions in the U.S. and worldwide. But that was the reason for shortfalls last year. This situation has been very much exacerbated by the policies of the Biden administration.

You see, in Q4 of 2020, we had a 4 percent GDP growth, which is pretty good, and it was followed by 6 percent in Q1 of 2021, which is very good. Then came along the so-called rescue plan, which

every economist worth anything said was three times too high in taxpayer dollars. They continued enhanced unemployment supplement under this plan; spent trillions of taxpayer dollars; extended 100 percent health insurance through COBRA, a further disincentive to work; and sent stimulus checks of \$5,600 to families of four.

There is something in all of the sciences, Madam Speaker, known as the law of cause and effect, and the effects of these actions have included disincentives to work, rampant inflation, heavy consumer spending, but nobody to make the goods and provide the services.

So since the production in the U.S. is down, all of these products are now coming from Asia as the thousands of containers waiting off our coast prove. So the blunders and mistakes being made have caused overdemand, weak production, and less trucks on the road.

Some in this House call this the economy of the future, the modern monetary theory. My constituents call it Big Government socialism versus free market capitalism or just simply economic madness.

But wait. We are not finished. Or they are not finished. Progressives in this House that, let's be honest, run this House and the White House, are holding a transportation and infrastructure bill hostage while doubling down—no, tripling down—no, 3.5 trillion down on all of the effects of this liberal economic policy. So we will continue with the disincentives to work; we will continue spending us into oblivion; and we will add to it taxes on small businesses and families and all who purchase goods while inflation increases, making American business less competitive worldwide.

This is why \$3.5 trillion in a reconciliation plan must be stopped, and the American people need to contact their Members because they are not giving us a seat at the table to negotiate or discuss this disastrous plan.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for that really good explanation of what we are facing right now. People back home are scratching their heads, how can it come to this? Well, you see, it is the result of policies that are being implemented by this administration.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), also my good friend.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Louisiana for holding this Special Order and his leadership in our conference.

It started off with the war on fossil fuel and then the border crisis. Now, this new deal is about a war on small business. And the Biden administration and BERNIE SANDERS' trillion-dollar tax-and-spend bill, it is not about addressing our Nation's urgent needs, which I have just described, like: rising inflation; supply chain crisis; illegal immigration—we should not say illegal

immigration; it should be human trafficking and drug trafficking—or the crime rate in the country. It is a blueprint to bankrupt and fundamentally turn America into a Big-Government, socialist Nation.

So what is included in their House Democrat bill? It includes a radical expansion of the IRS, granting them unprecedented access to the bank transactions of a vast majority of Americans. Again, a war on small business. It allows on-demand, taxpayer-funded abortions by excluding the Hyde amendment protections. Folks, we are just one of three countries that allow elective, full-time abortion. The other two are not good company: China and North Korea.

It provides college financial aid for illegal immigrants. It advances Green New Deal priorities to the tune of \$630 billion at the expense, again, of small businesses.

It forces taxpayers to spend nearly \$14,200 per person per year for government-controlled healthcare plans, doubling the cost of the average employer-sponsored healthcare plan.

It continues welfare benefits without work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents, at a time when there are 10.1 million jobs openings. Folks, I am talking 25 million people, work-capable people.

That is not all. The Democrats are desperately trying to sell this bad bill, with both Biden and NANCY PELOSI falsely claiming it will cost zero dollars. You have got to be kidding.

But the American people can see that this costly bill will wreck our economy, all to advance the Democrats' socialist agenda.

We must fight for the future of this Nation by stopping their tax-and-spending spree. My friends, why in the world would you follow the Biden administration and BERNIE SANDERS over the cliff after every legislative initiative that has been created by this administration has resulted in a crisis and caused the American people tremendous suffering? Stop this nonsense.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, it is nonsense indeed.

Madam Speaker, as they say, everything in Texas is bigger, including the representatives.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), also my good friend.

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, thank you to my good friend from Louisiana.

Crisis after crisis after crisis.

Madam Speaker, I rise against the extreme anti-American policies that we see right now that are being discussed in this forum, in this House.

I ask two simple questions of the President: Are you making us more secure? Are you making us more prosperous?

And the answer to that is no. Unequivocally, no.

We have got an anti-American energy movement in this country that is going to devastate every American. It is

going to leave us cold, dark, and hungry; it is going to embolden our adversaries; and it is going to harm our environment.

This administration is taking a hard line against American energy by canceling thousands of pipeline jobs, by canceling drilling permits, by kneecapping our energy producers with targeted tax increases and harmful regulations.

Americans are already feeling the pain of the Biden energy crisis at the gas pump, at the grocery store, where we see exorbitant prices that are continuing to skyrocket.

Just today, I had a Democrat colleague who said: In my district, small businesses are feeling the pain everywhere. I said: Well, push back. Stop this madness. Any vote for reconciliation is a vote against the American worker; it is a vote against American energy.

To make matters worse, heating bills are forecasted to be 54 percent higher in 2021. Under this administration, make no mistake about it, middle-class families will pay the price, and they will be forced to think twice before turning the heat on this winter.

We are nearing an all-out energy emergency that is eerily close to where our neighbors in Europe are feeling, at \$25 for gas—\$25 in Europe. It is only going to get worse.

Instead of unleashing the producers in the Permian Basin, where I represent, people who have done more to innovate and bring emissions down to levels that the Paris climate accords could never have dreamed of, we are cutting them off at the knees. The American family, our mothers and fathers, the working-class American, is who is paying for this.

Adversaries whose energy is nowhere near as clean as ours are going to benefit from this.

You see that today, on average, \$3.30 per gallon, over a dollar more at the pump than what we saw last year. It is only going to get worse.

I am urging my colleagues to oppose this radical agenda, to stand up for American energy producers, and to provide every American household with affordable, reliable energy that has come from this country that has allowed us to lift a billion people out of poverty in this world.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Mr. PFLUGER said it so well. We feel this acutely in energy States like Texas and my home State of Louisiana, the Permian Basin and Haynesville Shale, but all across this Nation. We benefit from domestic energy production. It is not only the cleanest and the most efficient, it benefits us here at home. It is that America first idea that this administration is abandoning too quickly.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening deeply concerned

about the pressures that have been brought to bear on America's supply chains and the effects that those pressures are having on inflation and on the constituencies that we represent.

Every day, I talk to members of the community from my district who are struggling in paying their bills. They are struggling because, just in the last year, they are being asked to pay over \$20 more in my county to fill their gas tanks to get to work. They are being asked to pay substantially more for commodities like milk and eggs and bacon.

Madam Speaker, economists say that this inflationary pressure is greatly exacerbated by the irresponsible spending decisions that have been made right here in this Chamber in the last 18 months. That is important to talk about tonight, because we are considering the largest spending bill in the history of our country.

In fact, if you take the version of that bill that is in print and the spending it represents, combined with the extra Federal spending that has been approved over the last 18 months, added together, that exceeds the combined annual wages of every single American. I find that a stunning statistic. I am also very concerned about the possible impact that this spending will have on our national debt.

Now, the administration just this week has said that this spending package will be fully paid for and will not add a single dollar to our deficit. My response to that is: prove it.

□ 1715

Speaking charitably here, it strains credibility to believe that that would be the case. It is certainly not the case that the current version of the spending bill that is in print is fully paid for. But if the new version will be paid for, prove it. Wait to vote on the bill until the Congressional Budget Office has had a chance to score it and verify that that claim is accurate.

Madam Speaker, even if that is the goal, I would submit that America does not have a revenue problem. In fact, last year we collected more in tax revenue than in any year in our entire country's history. We do not have a revenue problem, Madam Speaker. We have a spending problem.

Even if you believe, as some of my colleagues do, that the problem is that we don't tax people enough and that we need to enact the largest tax increase in the history of our country, which is what this bill would do, then my question would be, why would we not use that extra revenue to shore up the social safety programs that are already in danger of failing, programs that people depend on, like Medicare and Social Security?

Why would you not use that extra revenue to pay down the \$2 trillion of deficit that we currently have every year and the almost \$29 trillion of national debt that we will be passing on to our children and their children?

Madam Speaker, I pray that we will get our fiscal house in order and stop this reckless Federal spending.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those insights. It is so important that people recognize what is happening here.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana has 12 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I urge the American people not to take their eyes off the ball. I honestly sometimes believe the reason the majority party is putting people like Steve Bannon in the headlines, or mandatory vaccines, as horrible as they are, or driving up the cost of gas to over \$3 per gallon, it is to cause the American public to avert their eyes from the most long-term dangerous policy that the Biden administration is implementing, and that is what is going on, on the border.

I was down on the border last Thursday in the Yuma sector. So the American public understands, there are nine sectors along the border, and every time I go down there, I find more things that should scare the American people to death.

First of all, we have just the sheer number of people who are crossing the border. A year ago in July, for all nine sectors, an estimated 8,000 people were crossing the border. We are now up to over 100,000 people a month crossing the border.

As far as the type of people coming across the border, I saw something in the Yuma sector I hadn't seen before, and that is dozens of identifications scattered along the ground where people crossed from Mexico into Arizona. Why are people throwing away their identification prior to checking in at the Border Patrol? There is only one obvious reason. They don't want the United States to know who they are.

These people are paying the drug cartels to come here. If you are from Mexico, you are paying \$3,000 or \$4,000 a person. If you are from Central America, you are paying \$6,000 to \$8,000 a person. If you are from Brazil, you are paying over \$10,000 a person.

The drug cartels are recruiting people by putting on Central American TV or Brazilian TV ads urging people to come here. There are some Americans who are taking out ads telling people it is not all it is cracked up to be to turn yourself over to the drug cartels.

But right now, clearly, many people are crossing the border. These are not people, by the way, coming across in desperation. They are people with very top-of-the-line shoes or top-of-the-line purses, well-done hair, well-done nails. People have to realize that people are not always coming here out of even a little bit of desperation. They are coming here because it has been advertised

they will make more money coming here.

As far as families, in July, in all nine sectors, there were about 15,000 unaccompanied children coming here. You go down there and see children in what can only be described as pens, being held on mats as they wait for the United States to transport them wherever they want. They write on their clothes which address they should be delivered to, and we turn the children over to nonprofit organizations that will transfer these children to New York, to Denver, wherever they want to go.

It drives the Border Patrol up the wall because, of course, if any American took a 5-year-old child and dropped them off at the airport and said, "Please deliver this child to Oregon," or Maryland or wherever, social services would be after them.

But the United States, due to neglect, has pushed a policy in which people south of the border are encouraged to turn their children over to the Border Patrol and transfer them wherever they want.

Of course, as we have more and more children come here, the Border Patrol cannot patrol the border because they have to spend all their time processing the little children. The more Border Patrol is not patrolling the border, the more people are just walking in here, without any vetting at all.

Last year in the Yuma sector, they would be processing maybe 25 people a day. This year it can be up to 700 people a day. And it is not a difficult thing.

The way they treat each other is kind of a sign that maybe they might not make the greatest people to have around America. They needed help recently because of fights between the Haitians and the Colombians. Is that a sign of the type of people that we are letting into our country?

Other things that you learn down there: In the past, when I would go down to the border, I was under the impression that if people had any symptoms, they were tested for COVID. Now, we don't want another 100,000 people a month here under any circumstances. But right now, I was told that we like to test them, but of course, you can't require people to be tested, which means we are letting people in this country who may well have COVID.

Now, I don't know what to make of that. I guess what I make of it is when the Biden administration requires mandatory vaccines for people, it is really not that important. They are just doing it to avert people's eyes because if it were that important, they would be requiring at least tests for people coming over the border. But they don't even require tests. We will just let them come here.

Other activities of the Biden administration clearly are acting as magnets to bring more people here. One of the reasons why the people on the Mexican

side of the border, the Mexican military, does not seem to care as much now as they did a year ago is because why should they risk their lives taking on the drug cartels when the American Government, by all of their actions, indicate that they don't care whether we enforce the border?

Two examples. We have, of course, as well advertised free medical care for people coming here, and there are Border Patrol agents who believe people just come to the United States for the free, superior medical care.

In the reconciliation bill that is being passed here, people who come here illegally are getting free college. Talk about a magnet to come to the United States. Of course, it shows contempt for the American middle class that we are seeing more and more.

If you are a member of the American middle class and want to go to college, you take out those student loans, go \$30,000 in debt, go \$40,000 in debt, go \$50,000 in debt. But if you are somebody showing up here illegally, you get free college. Talk about advertising that our administration does not even remotely care whether our immigration laws are being obeyed or not.

The other thing that we have moving through here, again, on the reconciliation package is we believe about 10 million more people coming here, who we did not appropriately, yet are going to be eligible for amnesty and allowed to become American citizens, which is a further magnet, bringing more people here.

While there are a lot of things filling up the newspapers today—well, people don't read newspapers, but a lot of things filling up the TV screen or the computer screen—I want the American people to contact their legislators and pay attention to what is going on at the border.

There are people right now who permanently want to change America, and they are going to get away with it unless there is more of an uproar here saying: "Get that immigration stuff out of the reconciliation package. Finally hire some more Border Patrol agents to see what is going on down there. And please, please, please go back, Biden administration, to the Mexican Government and renegotiate deals where we keep people south of the border."

By the way, while I am talking about things that indicate there is a complete lack of caring on the southern border on the part of the Biden administration, when was the last time we saw Vice President KAMALA HARRIS at the border? I tell you, if you go down to the border there are all sorts of Congressmen poking around, seeing what is going on with the most important issue facing America today. Where exactly is KAMALA HARRIS, as she just brazenly ignores this crisis?

Please, America, wake up, and defend our southern border.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. He is right. We better wake up.

Just by way of a quick reminder, over 1.2 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at the border since February alone. We know that number is grossly undercounted because of all the got-aways and people who came totally undetected across the totally open border.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my good friend.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, today marks exactly 9 months in of the Biden administration. The motto was Build Back Better. So, where do we stand? What have we built back better on behalf of the real American people out there?

He talked about unity in his inauguration speech. It only seems to be that he has unified the American people in anger at the cost of doing business. Everything has gone up for American families, as you see from this chart here.

In my home State of California, everything is going up. We see fuel. We heard the national average is \$3.30. In my home State, it is anywhere from \$4.20 to \$5. Now, it is not the rest of the country's problem how the State runs itself, but it kind of underlines that we have big problems.

What is the focus going to be? The Biden administration is going to make it where farming in California is even more difficult. We are going to have fewer of the crops California grows, therefore driving inflation even more on everything when these crops have to be replaced with foreign imports.

I mean, come on. The inflation is being caused by this government, when you pull just \$4 trillion or \$5 trillion of spending out of midair. Now they are threatening to have tax increases on certain people, whether it is corporations or the rich or whoever. But then they back off on that, and they say no tax increases on those under \$400,000.

It is going to be impossible to pay for this without doing that. Show us how you are going to do it. The inflation is going to kill the American worker, especially middle- and lower-income folks.

It is irresponsible what is going on. Just throwing these terms, trillions of spending—stimulus spending is basically what it is because it isn't infrastructure. Trying to sneak it through in budget reconciliation by getting a mere 50 votes over in the Senate is really a sleight of hand that is going to hurt this country.

This country is already hurting compared to a year, year and a half ago, the way our economy is right now, our energy reliability, our food reliability. You want to talk supply chain? All the ships are sitting off California, waiting to be unloaded.

There is one thing about it: If we were building it here, if we were producing it here, manufacturing it here, we wouldn't have to be worried about unloading ships. But when you chase the jobs out of the country with horrendous regulations and the taxation

that is going to be upon business, farmers, timber fallers, you don't get a good result.

The Biden administration needs to take a real good hard look at how economics actually work and quit doing this to the American people because, I will tell you what, we are not going to have much left after 4 years of all this.

I appreciate my friend here from Louisiana trying to bring this to the American people with the time here tonight on seeing how this 9 months in of the Biden administration is costing and hurting regular Americans.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Mr. LAMALFA is exactly right. It has been only 9 months. It is only going to get worse.

Madam Speaker, what you have heard tonight is a quick summary from a number of our friends. We could go on for hours if we had the time, but I know we are almost out of time.

We talked about the economic crisis, energy crisis, foreign policy crisis, border crisis. It goes on and on and on. I will summarize and close with this: We have two competing visions for America. It is now very clear: It is free-market capitalism v. Big Government socialism.

I think the American people see the results of the latter. I hope we have an opportunity very soon in the next election cycle to get back to the former.

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

□ 1730

THE CARE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPEIER. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I am astonished by the last hour. It is like they are living in a different universe. If you look at the economic growth in the United States under this administration, it is actually growing at such a rate that by the end of the year it will have reached 6 percent in growth. So all of that blather that went on on the other side of the aisle should be registered as what it is: False.

But we are here to talk about something much more important than a bunch of lies. We are here to talk about what 90 Members of the Democratic Women's Caucus are concerned about, and that is the care economy. The question that we want to ask is: Why

does America not value our families or our children?

Why is it that France has provided 8 weeks of maternity leave to working women since 1913—yes, since 1913—yet we struggle to provide paid family leave?

Why is it that Germany 30 years ago was able to decide children have the right to quality childcare, yet some of my colleagues call universal childcare and pre-K a handout?

Surely if our European counterparts can understand that childcare and pre-K is not babysitting, it is education that fuels the brain and emotional development in the most formative years of a child's life so that children can grow and thrive, we certainly can grasp that.

Surely my colleagues who stand here and preach about the sanctity of life can understand the hypocrisy of advocacy for birth but not advocacy for life. After they come out of the womb is when we should be investing in them.

And surely, they can understand that the she-cession that happens to both Republican women and Democratic women is real in this country and has resulted from a pandemic that isn't just a burden on working women and families, it is a burden on all of us. It is an issue that touches every corner of our society and government from national security to economic growth, and most importantly, the health and well-being of our children and the progress of our country as we work to build back better.

Now, I am just getting started here, but I have got many colleagues who are here and want to speak to this issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman SPEIER for yielding. I appreciate it.

I rise today to talk about the childcare crisis facing our Nation, and by extension, our national economy.

I rise today to share the stories from working mothers in my district, to outline the disastrous impact maintaining the status quo will have for families and communities and businesses, and to instill a sense of urgency for addressing this childcare crisis, because prior to COVID, women represented over half the working people in this Nation. Over half.

So let's be clear, when working moms are losing ground, that is the American middle class losing ground. And the current reality of the American childcare system is endless waitlists for spots that may never open up.

The current reality is unreasonable costs that eat away at 20, 30, 40 percent of a working parent's paycheck.

In fact, I have a constituent who has two children in childcare and pays over the amount of their paycheck in childcare. And in over half of the States in this Nation, center-based infant care costs more than in-State college tuition. That is what is facing families today.

And the current reality is to make it work, often for families—including my own family—the only way you make it work is with the help of grandparents or friends. So God help you, if you don't have that safety net in place.

The current reality is that too many moms are being forced to leave their jobs because they simply can't make it work. And if we don't act, too many of those moms will not be able to re-enter our workforce.

Two weeks ago, I convened a round table to have an in-depth conversation with working women in NJ-11. The stories I heard on that call mirror the experiences of women across my district, of the women serving alongside me in this legislative body, and they mirror my own experiences over the past 16 years as a working mom raising my four children.

Anyone who has had a child in the last few decades knows that the barriers to entry for childcare in America begin before your first child is even born. You are only pregnant for 9 months, but mothers have told me about 2-year waiting lists and a dearth of available options.

That situation got worse during the pandemic, with many centers closing down or going out of business.

And that is the current reality when things go according to plan.

During that round table, we heard from too many people who had changes in their lives which upended their whole childcare plan. During that round table, I heard from a professor who told me about how her search for childcare became twice as hard when she and her wife found out they were expecting twins. It got even harder than that when they were born premature and had health concerns that required in-home care.

She and her spouse were forced to make the impossible choice to cut their income in half so one of them could stay at home or to incur the astronomically high cost of in-home care. That is the catch-22 our families are facing too many times today.

I have a working mom and a councilwoman in my district who faced a similar dilemma. When she had her son, she was lucky enough to find a great childcare center with space for him, but the price of quality care was steep. She was in the position where her salary was just above the cost of care. Like far too many women, she considered leaving the workforce simply because the costs were unjustifiable. But in her case, she couldn't afford not to work. And she is lucky she didn't stop because we know that for women who quit the workforce for even 1 year, that is a 40 percent pay cut over the next 15 years.

This issue is about the family budget, the bottom line, the ability to make ends meet. And for too many families, the exorbitant costs of childcare place them just steps away from financial ruin.