

DISASTER AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to educate my colleagues and the public one more time as to what sort of disaster we are soon to have on the southern border.

Recently, we have had frequently 90,000 to 100,000 people cross the border every month. People of whom we know little. People are skipping to the head of the line over people who want to come here legally, people that come from countries that are hostile to us.

But as bad as it is to have 80,000 to 100,000 people come across, the Biden administration is claiming that within the next month and a half they will remove title 42, opening up the border to perhaps another 200,000 or 300,000 or 400,000 people a month above what we are already getting here.

I personally think they are doing this because the Ukraine war is going on, and they think they can really land a death blow to the future of this country by opening up the border to people all over the world.

I call upon American citizens and my colleagues to not forget about what is going on at the border. I call upon the press to treat this story with the gravity it should be given and to report on all the people who are going to come here in the second half of May.

We cannot have 400,000 people a month coming across the border.

UKRAINE CHILDREN

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, while preparing remarks, I considered showing much more graphic photos of Ukrainian children brutalized at the hands of Vladimir Putin. But then I thought of some of the people who might see this—refugees of war, war veterans who would be reminded of their own pain and suffering.

The truth is, for survivors who actually see the end to war, the trauma never recedes, it never leaves. The cost of war is simply too high.

I come to the floor tonight not as a Congresswoman, but as a mother and a grandmother. My heart breaks at these sights of horror of children lost or scarred forever.

Last night, my son sent me a photo of a child who is nearly the same age as his daughter, my granddaughter. On her back, her mother had written her name, her contact information, her birth date in case the mother was killed, or the daughter was left alone.

I cannot imagine that planning—the fear, the despair, the trauma.

No matter the war, we must think of the children in Syria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Cameroon, anywhere on our planet.

I pray for peace for anyone suffering at the hands of a brutal dictator.

We must do everything we can to find a peaceful resolution.

“Slava Ukraini,” “Glory to Ukraine.” “Slava heroem,” “Glory to the heroes.”

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I will start with associating myself with my colleagues who have just spoken and say, “Glory to Ukraine” and to indicate that my heart is broken. The words will not elevate the despicable actions of Vladimir Putin.

Today we voted to secure and seek, I hope, an indictment. He is a war criminal, and he is killing children.

But I must, Mr. Speaker, suggest that we have a difficult problem at the border exacerbated by Governor Greg Abbott, who wishes to make a mockery of the desperate people coming, including Ukrainian refugees, who gather at the southern border. Today, he has announced that he will bus these migrants to Washington, D.C.

I am embarrassed.

With the likes of George H.W. Bush, Ann Richards, Henry B. Gonzalez, as well as Barbara Jordan, who are brothers and sisters of Texas, I now have to live with Governor Greg Abbott who disgraces us by suggesting that we must take migrants and drop them off on the steps of the Capitol.

I welcome them.

Why don't we sit down and resolve how we deal with these desperate people? Why don't we find a way, as we were trying to do with George W. Bush, to have an immigration policy? But when he does that, he will also do that to Ukrainian refugees at the southern border.

Enough is enough.

CRISES THE WHITE HOUSE IS CAUSING AT HOME AND ABROAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). 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. Mr. 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. Mr. Speaker, during the last election, the Democratic Party managed to win a razor-thin majority here in this House and a split Senate, 50-50. No objective

person can look at those numbers and suggest that the President of this party, President Biden, was given any kind of authority whatsoever to try to radically transform our country, but, you know, that is exactly what he has tried to do for the worse.

And the latest offense, the latest overstep, the latest overreach is this President has made the most leftwing nomination to the Supreme Court in American history.

For those who didn't see this over the weekend, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson testified in her post-confirmation hearing written questions for the record: “I do not hold a position on whether individuals possess natural rights.”

You heard that correctly. President Biden's nominee for the highest court in this land cannot say whether individuals possess natural rights. We can hardly imagine a more un-American position than denying the first self-evident truth of America.

The central and foundational premise of our great country is that all individuals are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights. Among those are the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We have a newsflash for the judge: Those rights don't come from government; they don't come from any human authority. They come from our creator himself. We are endowed with those rights by God.

The fact that Judge Jackson cannot or will not acknowledge this simple fact is disqualifying for the highest court in this land, period, full stop.

Mr. Speaker, the President's nomination is truly out of step with the country and this fateful moment.

And the primary job Americans elected President Biden to do was to help unite this country. This is doing the opposite.

His nomination for the Supreme Court is the latest example of just how badly he has failed.

I am very thankful to my colleagues for joining me on the floor this evening to discuss President Biden's radical nominee to the United States Supreme Court, but also, as you will hear, the myriad number of other crises the White House is creating at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

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Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, title 42 is the only thing keeping President Biden from fully handing our border to cartels and smugglers already taking full advantage of his incompetence and neglect.

Last week, the Biden administration announced that they will be stopping Border Patrol from enforcing COVID-19 restrictions on illegal immigrants by ending title 42.

Title 42 must stay in place. It is a matter of national security, and my colleagues and I are calling on Democrats to act in a bipartisan effort to

force a vote on the bill to keep it in place.

Biden's open border policies are an unmitigated disaster. The crisis at our southern border is out of control and our Customs and Border Patrol is already dangerously overwhelmed.

Ending title 42 expulsions will signal to cartels and migrants that our border is now wide open, inciting more violence and lawlessness.

It is also being reported that the Biden administration is going to divert resources from our veterans in order to give free medical care to illegal migrants.

I wrote a letter to the secretary of Veterans Affairs to oppose these efforts because we must put our heroes first and stand up for our veterans.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for drawing attention to that. The gentlewoman is exactly right, and some of the Border Patrol officials have said that they estimate that by rescinding title 42, that the number of illegal border crossings will double overnight. So instead of having 7,000 a day, we will go to 18, 20,000 a day. The numbers are just staggering.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield next to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to the great State of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, a recent CNBC survey illustrates how Americans are feeling about inflation. Fifty-two percent of adults reported they are under more financial stress today than they were 1 year ago.

The poll also shows how consumers spending habits changed over the last 6 months in response to rising prices: Fifty-three percent say they are cutting back on dining out; 39 percent are driving less; 32 percent switched from a brand-name product; and 29 percent canceled a vacation.

The economy is in a tailspin, Mr. Speaker, thanks to President Biden's Big Government agenda. His failed policies are making the cost of doing business more expensive, and those increased costs are passed directly on to consumers.

Many companies use catchy slogans and taglines to advertise their services but, in this economy, some businesses might rethink their marketing campaigns.

Remember the \$5 foot-long at Subway? It costs at least \$10 for a foot-long sandwich from Subway these days, Mr. Speaker.

Southwest Airlines' low-cost flight motto is "Wanna Get Away?" Flights are now so expensive; Southwest should change its offers to Wanna Go One Way? Did you catch that? One way, since that is all travelers obviously can afford.

Walmart tells customers they will "Save Money, Live Better" by shopping at its stores. Americans are probably thinking more along the line of

Spend Money, Live Worse after making a trip to Walmart in recent weeks.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, lots of folks are doing their banking with Capital One, which asks "What's in Your Wallet?" Pretty soon Capital One will be asking consumers What's Left in Your Wallet?" Thanks to rising prices.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are really just fed up with President Biden's handling of the economy. From the same CNBC poll I referenced earlier, 61 percent disapprove of the President's response to inflation, and 81 percent fear a recession is coming in 2022. And I would dare say, CNBC is not the most conservative folks out there.

Earlier this week, thank goodness, Elon Musk, he swooped into Twitter to save the company from the woke politics that are running it into the ground, censorship being one of those.

President Biden needs a similar hero who can come in and stop this administration from destroying the economy. Alternatively, he could simply give up on his Big Government agenda that is failing American citizens, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate Vice Chairman JOHNSON's lackluster leadership and his constant mention of complimentary snacks which are not here, coming forthwith.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend; we always need a little moment of brevity, don't we? The news is so bad, but the gentleman pointed out and highlighted how difficult the times are, and that is a serious subject.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield next to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN), who holds the distinction of being the highest-ranking military officer ever elected to the United States Congress, my classmate, president of our freshman class. I still call him the general.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my esteemed colleague from Louisiana, who I rely on. If you are going to be worth anything as a military commander, you rely on the folks who work for you. And I can tell you, I spent a lot of time with lawyers, and the gentleman is the best when it comes to constitutional law. So I am proud to be here with him today to talk about kind of a certain level of, you could say, lawlessness.

President Biden's favorite policy, public policy shop, also known as the CDC, announced that it would lift title 42, which has been used nearly 2 million times since March of 2020, to remove illegal immigrants.

When title 42 is lifted this May, even more illegal immigrants will be incentivized to cross our southern border. This will spark an unprecedented surge, considering that we have already experienced record-high illegal border crossings under President Biden in his first year plus.

As border violations rise, so does the number of violent criminals allowed into our communities. I regret these circumstances forced upon our Nation

by President Biden's careless policies. Because of this, we must be prepared for more illegal immigrant crime.

For this reason, I will be introducing legislation next week called the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement Restoration Act, or the VOICE Restoration Act.

VOICE was an office set up by President Trump to connect victims of illegal immigrant crimes; connect them to their legal representatives, to any witnesses, with supportive resources like a hotline to answer questions, local contacts, Social Services referrals, and information about the custody status of detained illegal immigrants.

In 2021, President Biden dismantled VOICE—I repeat, dismantled VOICE.

Think, for a second, what that says about him and his policies, and what he thinks about innocent American citizens.

My legislation will permanently reinstate the VOICE office, and I look forward to sharing more of the details soon.

We have an out-of-control crisis on our southern border; predictable and avoidable, but it is so massive that it is impacting cities and towns all across our country.

The Democrat leadership in Congress and in the White House have done nothing about this. This must change soon. And I know it is going to change here in probably about another 8 months, because we are going to have some new leadership.

And my promise to you, as a marine who doesn't know the word "quit," is that, in the meantime, every day between now and then, I won't stop fighting, along with others, to secure our borders.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that fight and that very worthwhile legislation, and we look forward to seeing that.

The gentleman is right. The surge in crime is directly related to border in so many ways because we know dangerous people have come across that border. It is completely open to MS-13 gang members, violent criminals, convicted persons, criminals who come from other countries. You have child predators, even terrorists who have come across that border. We know this for a fact, and still they won't change the policies.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield next to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, President Biden recently announced his fiscal year 2023 budget, the proposal includes a plan to spend \$73 trillion in a 10-year period that will add \$15 trillion to our national debt; this at a time when government spending is already driving inflation and making all these items that much more expensive: Airline fares, lodging, gas, the cost of automobiles, new or used.

I stopped in at a dealer the other day and they are finding that people are actually willing to pay more for a used

car than what the car cost new, or trucks. It is crazy.

So the American people are suffering right now under these economic conditions, all man-caused, all government-caused, pretty much.

So with record-breaking inflation and gas prices, we are, instead, having a budget that is crafted to not combat these issues, but add to them. It radicalizes our energy in the new Green Deal that these guys want to do, making more cost, making energy even less available to Americans.

It includes zero mention of resuming the Keystone Pipeline, since that was something on the first day of office they decided to put a stop to.

The budget should be focused on getting people back to work, to making America thrive, combating inflation, not causing it; strengthening our energy independence, which will bring prices down, not playing around with the strategic reserve and, you know, bleeding out a million barrels per day.

That strategic reserve has a purpose, and it isn't playing economics with it; it is supposed to be there for, indeed, a time of crisis for our country.

So, instead of relying on Russian oil and relying on other imported oil from Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, whoever, we can do our own national oil independence with our own known reserves.

So, the direction the Biden administration is taking with all this spending, it is starting to mimic my home State of California really, because our regulatory and tax policies there are already the model for what not to do. The Federal Government shouldn't follow that.

So let's come back to common sense. I urge President Biden and the Democrats to not adopt this giant spending plan but move in a direction of getting people back into production again. Come out of this COVID crisis, put them back to work, have our economy thrive, with our energy independence, food independence, because California's ag situation is being decimated by the water being taken away.

I asked the President to help us on this. Help us grow food in this country and get prices back down and not have empty shelves. That should be focus of how you help American people, not more crazy spending.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. So much of that is just common sense, and I appreciate him pointing it out.

But sadly, unfortunately, this White House shows no intention whatsoever of reversing its policies and positions, which could fix these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to yield next to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate my good friend from my neighbor, Louisiana, Mr. JOHNSON, for having this Special Order.

No, it doesn't look like things are going to change, as the gentleman said. Joe Biden has no interest in securing

the southern border. He has proven it time and time again over the last 14 months.

On day one of his Presidency, our Commander in Chief stopped completely the construction of our border wall, which is, by the way, something that Congress appropriated funds for and is something that we know for a fact deters illegal crossings.

In fact, the Department of Homeland Security reported that illegal entries in areas with the new border wall system along the Yuma sector plummeted more than 87 percent in fiscal year 2020, compared with the previous year of 2019.

President Biden's foolish decision to stop construction of this wall left millions of taxpayer dollars' worth of steel just rusting away in the hot sun and the cold, wet winters; millions of your tax dollars simply gone to waste.

He ended remain in Mexico, a policy that The Washington Post reported made illegal apprehensions fall by 30 percent in its very first year alone.

He has tied the hands of ICE who, last year, deported the lowest number of illegal aliens since 1995, despite more than 2 million alien apprehensions. Interior enforcement is drying up to nothing.

And now he is scrapping title 42, the very last policy that saves CBP from drowning in a complete sea of chaos.

But if all of this isn't enough to convince you that Joe Biden doesn't have your best interests in mind, take a look at his budget request for 2023. He wants \$73 trillion—that is with a T—in spending, \$58 trillion—another T—more in taxes. And our debt will increase by \$16 trillion—with a T—over the next decade.

I did a quick search for the phrase "border security" in this budget. It is mentioned twice. We are facing the worst border crisis on record and a historic number of fentanyl overdoses from drugs illegally smuggled into our country, over 100,000 dead Americans from drug overdoses, and yet, the President mentioned border security only twice.

Do you know how often he mentions the word "climate"? 187 times.

Joe Biden claims that he is working to protect America but, folks, the facts actually say otherwise. The facts show that he doesn't care about keeping you and your family safe. The facts show he doesn't care about protecting the livelihood that you worked so hard for. And the facts show that he doesn't care about the sovereignty or the security of our great Nation that we love, a beacon of liberty and freedom for all the world to look at and envy.

That is why they are coming here. Shame on President Biden.

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Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, John Adams said facts are stubborn things, and those are some tough facts. They cannot refute it because everyone can see for themselves.

By the way, Dr. Babin, I just pulled up the U.S. debt clock, this thing that everybody can see on their smartphone. Currently, right now, as we stand here, the national debt is \$30,367,412,900. You can't count it or follow it with the naked eye. Unbelievable. And he is proposing more.

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate your leadership and willingness to highlight the issues facing our country, including the very serious issue of the possible confirmation of an unqualified person, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, to the U.S. Supreme Court.

President Biden's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, commonly known as KBJ, is simply unfit to serve our Nation's highest court.

Throughout her legal career, Judge Jackson has garnered a disconcerting record of being soft on crime, as evidenced by her lenient sentencing, particularly for criminals convicted of egregious acts involving child sex torture. Judge Jackson simply is incapable of holding dangerous criminals accountable.

Additionally, Judge KBJ has revealed her allegiance to the radical left by refusing to define what a woman is, excusing her extremism by claiming she isn't a biologist. There are indisputable differences between men and women, and those differences must be both acknowledged and accepted in order for KBJ to properly adjudicate title IX cases.

Judge Jackson also recently declined to recognize Americans' natural rights, the precious rights granted to us by God. Failing to accept the basic principle that individuals possess unalienable rights, a principle that is the very foundation of our American values, is supremely disqualifying for any individual seeking to serve our Nation's highest court.

Yet, despite Judge Jackson's frightening record and recent disqualifying revelations, the Senate intends to vote to potentially confirm her to the Supreme Court this week.

While it is true that Judge Jackson's confirmation will not immediately alter the makeup of the Court, it is naive and cowardly to make excuses when the stakes are this high. Our country, our liberties, and the makeup of the Supreme Court are on the line.

If Judge Jackson becomes a Supreme Court Justice, she will serve for decades, solidifying and strengthening the left's menacing grip of our rule of law. Her decisions will impact future Americans for generations to come, setting precedent that will ultimately guide our great Nation once many of us in these Chambers are long gone.

This is exactly why Judge Jackson's confirmation is much larger than just one vote. It is about preserving justice, protecting our freedoms, and defending our Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every solitary Senator to contemplate their vote and the significant weight that it carries for our future. I encourage them to vote "no" on this confirmation.

Without question, Americans from Maine to Utah to Alaska, from sea to shining sea, are watching intently, praying their Senators' votes will represent our Nation's constitutional principles rather than appeasement to the left.

America is watching. Will our Senators defend America by voting "no," or will they shrink back? We will not forget.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for highlighting that. It is a serious issue.

The longest-lasting legacy of any President is who they put on those Federal courts, and, of course, the most important is the highest court in the land. We cannot overstate how important this is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), my good friend.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for hosting this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden's budget is symbolic of his wasteful build back broke agenda that was filled with partisan provisions.

There is \$73 trillion in new spending, \$58 trillion in taxes, and \$16 trillion in new debt, all over the next 10 years.

When hardworking Tennesseans get together and come up with a household budget, they have difficult conversations with one another about what exactly they can afford. If something falls under the category of unnecessary and unaffordable, the last thing they do is put it on their grandchildren's credit cards. That is exactly what this budget does.

President Biden and congressional Democrats praising his proposal are now on record seeming to have no issue with mortgaging our country and its children's futures, even amidst the largest increase in inflation since 1982.

There are many wasteful provisions in President Biden's budget proposal, like the \$11 billion being sent to foreign developing countries to help adapt to global warming. The one that I struggle with the most is the one that gives \$400 million to Planned Parenthood and other entities that perform abortions.

The Hyde amendment has existed in every Federal appropriations bill since 1976. It is one of the most longstanding and bipartisan agreements to protect Federal taxpayer dollars from going toward abortion.

President Biden's decision to purposefully keep this out of his budget proposal is wrong and will never get my support nor the support of my constituents in middle Tennessee who are firmly pro-life.

Leaving out the Hyde amendment is only another partisan attempt to advertise the President's anti-life posi-

tion and satisfy those who support the horrible atrocities of abortion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the Congress to stand firm in their commitment to protecting life. We must restore the Hyde amendment and reject President Biden's budget because no Tennessean's tax dollars, nor dollars borrowed from our children and grandchildren, should go toward subsidizing Planned Parenthood and the immoral practice of abortion.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, that was so well said. I appreciate the gentleman highlighting that issue. It is one of so many that we have deep concerns about with this administration and their budget and everything they do.

We have to protect the sanctity of every single human life. To defend the defenseless is the job that we have—the first job, the primary job.

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, our country is obviously in bad shape, and I think our forefathers, if they saw the way we operated today, would be quite stunned and wonder where in their Constitution they let us down to wind up where we are today.

I think of the three branches of government. The judiciary is the one which right now has let down the Framers the most. Our forefathers realized that a country with elections usually eventually fails because the majority can either want, or be manipulated into wanting, more stuff, or ordering other people around to order them to be obeyed the way they would like other people to be behaved.

The Bill of Rights is almost exclusively about restricting the role of government in American life. Obviously, the Supreme Court has largely abandoned that function. Things got bad in the 1930s and 1940s, and again in the 1960s. Today, one wonders what the Court will ever say no to.

Where will Judge Jackson fit as we try to defend our Constitution? We look at her inability to say what a woman is and her inability to talk about judicial philosophy, and we know where she will stand. She stands with woke America. I hate that word, but that is what it is. It is somebody who has no respect for tradition. If you have no respect for tradition or common sense, you certainly don't have that near reverence, which should be a requirement for any Supreme Court Justice.

Furthermore, President Biden got himself in a position in which he said he is going to have to promote a Black woman to that position. The very idea that you think decisions on a court should vary with the background of the person who is on that court shows you don't have that respect for the Constitution.

All Americans should have an originalist view of the Constitution and consider it the great, almost God-given, document that it is.

In any event, when you don't have that respect for the Constitution, you know you are not going to respect the Second Amendment. You are not going to respect the 10th Amendment; it is a disaster we have ignored it. You are going to continue to stretch the Commerce Clause all out of whack. You are going to look at every individual as a member of a group, never as an individual in their own right.

Right now, about 2 percent of the lawyers in the country are Black women. So, what Joe Biden did is he took 98 percent of the possible resumes for this very important job and threw them in the garbage.

I wonder if President Biden does that anywhere else in his life? Does he throw away 98 percent of the resumes or potential resumes when he is looking for a new dentist, a new plumber, a new clergyman, throw out 98 percent willy-nilly? That is what he has done in picking a new Supreme Court Justice who could well be on the Court for the next 40 years.

Our forefathers felt that by giving us this Constitution—they pointed out that this Constitution is fit for moral and religious people and not fit for anyone else. Will Judge Jackson respect that? I don't know.

When they finished the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin said: We are giving you a republic, if you can keep it.

We are, right now, being tested whether we are the moral and religious people that can keep the republic that the forefathers felt they described in the Constitution.

It looks to me, from everything you hear about her, that Judge Jackson is not going to have that reverence to keep that Constitution, to keep that republic. We will, therefore, with judges like that, wind up collapsing.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of wisdom there. The gentleman is exactly right. If a judge begins with the premise that we have no natural rights, that does not bode well for where that logic leads.

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, many times, we have heard President Biden and his administration say that the crisis we are facing at our southern border is seasonal. There is nothing seasonal about 1 million illegal aliens crossing our southern border in 6 months. There is nothing seasonal about 400,000 illegal alien got-aways going undetected into our country.

The crisis at our southern border is the direct result of President Biden overturning successful policies put in place by Donald Trump.

First, Biden halted the construction of the border wall. Then, he rescinded the remain in Mexico policy. Now, he is taking aim at one of the final remaining Trump policies, title 42, which allows law enforcement to expel illegal aliens who pose a health risk.

The Department of Homeland Security predicts that as many as 12,000 to

18,000 illegal aliens will cross our southern border per day if title 42 is lifted—18,000 illegal aliens in 1 day. In 3 days, that would be greater than the population of Pennsylvania's capital city, Harrisburg—in less than 3 days. In a little more than a day, it would be greater than the population of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the largest city in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District.

If President Biden removes title 42, it goes beyond bad judgment. It is reckless, and it will turn the crisis into chaos at our southern border.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KELLER for that. These words are not hyperbole. This is what the experts are saying. Customs and Border Patrol agents, those officials who are there every day watching this chaos, this calamity that has developed, they are the ones that are giving us these numbers. They project 18,000 illegals a day. It is just hard to wrap your mind around that.

□ 2000

Mr. KELLER. That is the executive branch, homeland security.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Absolutely. And these are the results of policy choices, and they could easily be reversed if the White House would wake up and do something.

So I thank the gentleman for bringing that to our attention tonight.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard Members from across the country—north, south, east, and west—who have expressed their outrage and their concern with all of the terrible policy choices that are leading to absurd results for our country. These are very dangerous times. There is no leadership in the White House. There is no leadership from the Democratic majority in this House or in the split Senate down the Hall. We can turn these things around, and we can stop these crises if we make different decisions, but they will not do it.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for my colleagues who have shown up tonight to articulate this for the American people. We can't say it often enough or loudly enough.

There is going to be a sea change in November, and we pray that we can hold on and keep this Republic until then.

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

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND FOREIGN POLICY

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address some of the biggest problems facing the United States today and, quite frankly, the world.

As the war between Russia and Ukraine wages on, many Americans have been quickly reminded of just how global our economy really is.

Now, prior to the war, Russia provided the United States with 8 percent of our Nation's oil and refined products. A war involving Russia can suddenly spike fuel prices at your local gas station. Like many nationwide, drivers in my home district of western Pennsylvania have seen gasoline at over \$4 a gallon for well over a month.

The interruption of our Nation's oil supply and subsequent skyrocketing prices are just the latest reminder that we need to refocus our energy policies in Washington and produce more energy right here at home in America.

Let's go back to May 2021, when two things happened: the United States imported a record amount of Russian oil, and President Biden waived sanctions on Nord Stream 2. That is the Russian natural gas pipeline set to supply much of Europe with energy.

Now, 4 months earlier the President canceled the Keystone XL pipeline between the United States and Canada. That pipeline would have delivered an additional 830,000 barrels of crude oil a day. That is 830,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

That would have gone to U.S. refineries, and it would have created thousands and thousands of jobs. That is more oil than the United States imports from Russia each day. This is a no-brainer. Just bring back the pipeline. It is so easy to do and so easy to institute.

Why would we not do that?

Why would we not be energy independent?

We can't depend on bad foreign actors such as Russia, Venezuela, or Iran to help provide our Nation's energy. Above all I applaud the collective effort right here in Washington to stop bankrolling the Russian war machine by buying their products.

According to the Council on Foreign Relations, revenue from the energy sector is responsible for more than 40 percent of Russia's federal budget. Some quick, back-of-the-envelope math, the 8 percent of Russian oil we imported equates to 672,000 barrels of oil per day.

But this moment calls for a broader push to end our reliance on foreign energy sources.

To start, President Biden should reverse his executive order banning the Keystone pipeline.

Next, we must return to Trump-era energy policies that made the U.S. energy independent. To amend the former President's famous tag line, let's change it to make North America great again.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, 61 percent of U.S. crude oil imports come from Canada. Another 11 percent comes from Mexico. Seventy-two percent comes from our neighbors to the north and our neighbors to the south.

We should be expanding oil imports from our allies and neighbors rather than paying our adversaries who can hold our energy sector hostage. Doing so not only makes economic sense, but it improves relations with those closest to us and further strengthens our national security by becoming less dependent on bullies like Russia, Venezuela, and Iran.

Now, on the other hand, President Biden has single-handedly made Americans poorer and our Nation's security weaker during his first year in office. His anti-fossil fuel, Green New Deal wish list has placed unnecessary burdens on the oil and gas industry.

Even as gas prices are reaching record highs here nationwide, just last month President Biden had announced that he is pausing decisions about new Federal oil and gas drilling as part of his plan to tackle climate change. And that is just the beginning.

So far, President Biden has announced the release of 80 million barrels of oil from the Nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Just last week President Biden announced he will release up to another 180 million barrels of oil over the next 6 months in an effort to drive down gas prices. That doesn't drive down gas prices.

That theory really sounds good, but, Mr. Speaker, I want you to think about where that oil is coming from. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is to be used in times of a national emergency when we don't have a supply. It is not used to just try and rack up some cheap political points by saying: I am doing this so you won't have to pay that much at the pump.

It is not working. It never will work.

Now, on November 23, the administration released 50 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average price of gas dropped by a whopping 2 cents. In following days, by December 6, it dropped another 3 cents. So we saved a nickel, but we attacked our Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Now, as of March 25 the reserve supply was 568 million barrels, meaning that President Biden is ready to take one-third of our Nation's reserve and use them for his short-term political gain that has already proven to not lower gas prices for America but has weakened the reserve.

Now, keep in mind, the purpose of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is to counter severe supply chain disruptions and enhance national security. It is not to make your polls look better, Mr. President.

The 80 million barrels the President previously released are worth only about 4 days of U.S. oil consumption. Only the President can decide to withdraw oil from or refill the reserve. What is even more frightening so far is China has hardly tapped their oil reserves. President Biden's shortsighted decision-making is dangerously harming our national security.