

we have so much abundance, so much potential, and so much we were doing just before this administration came into place. We are sitting on the largest untapped oil reserve in the world—amazingly enough—here in the United States.

If we had been utilizing this properly, instead of launching an assault on domestic energy production, our Union would be in a much better state. As we know, on the first day in office, President Biden shut down the Keystone Pipeline, on and off, on and off over the years, suspended pending oil and gas leases, halted domestic energy production, which stopped exports on liquefied natural gas to our allies overseas.

We have seen how important that is when Europe has become so reliant on Russian natural gas. Poland recently just cut off supply buying from Russia so they would not be so dependent, as well as the Germans and other Eastern European countries.

Now, what we have seen since all this lack of exploration and shortness of supply is the prices have skyrocketed on everybody. It is really hurting rural America, especially with the need for farming crops, fertilizer, all the different aspects that go into food production, and that in return causes food shortages.

We are really putting ourselves in a bad, bad position by having a lack of energy policy or one that is really an anti-energy policy. We have seen the national average for a gallon of gas up to \$4.48. In California, it is getting closer to \$6 on average.

What bothers me is that over time do people get lulled into this as being normal? No, folks, this is not normal, and it is not necessary. It doesn't need to be this way because, as I mentioned, we have so much untapped energy in this country. The miracle of hydraulic fracturing has made natural gas so abundant that we have been able to be a strong exporter of it.

I remember not too many years ago we were figuring out, are we going to have to find a way to have our gas imported and upgrade our ports to bring it in? No. Hydraulic fracturing has made possible cheap natural gas to export to our allies, such as in Western Europe. We need to be doing much, much more of that so we don't have our friends, the Germans, and Poland, and others, that are reliant upon energy coming from Russia.

With the regulatory and tax policies that have discouraged gas production, California only produces, for example, a fraction of what it is capable of when it was once one of the leading oil and gas-producing States.

What would our Nation look like if we were producing to our full potential? It would probably look a lot like what we were 15–16 months ago when we had abundance in everything; energy, and food wasn't emptying off the shelves. We would be in a much better space.

Indeed, these short-sighted policies are harming regular, everyday Ameri-

cans. Food production, I can't emphasize enough, when we are running short on the shelves already—and this is before the 2022 crop has even been completely planted or come in—in my home State of California, probably half of agriculture is going to be shut down: half of agriculture. Why? Water policy. With that lack of water policy, all the water rushing out to the ocean in order to try to save an already missing fish or something called Delta salinity, we are not going to plant half of our agriculture in our home State. That has effects on American food: costs, availability, and quality.

Are we just going to import it all? No, it is not going to work that way. It all strings together. It is all interrelated. With that water policy, it also negatively affects energy because we are not going to make hydroelectric power like we can.

This administration is hell-bent on getting rid of some of our dams in California and others around the West that make hydroelectric power. Hydroelectric power is CO₂-free, no carbon dioxide. Our last nuclear power plant in California, they want to shut that down; CO₂-free.

The energy policy on all different aspects is collapsing. Indeed, 20 percent of the Nation's power is from nuclear source, and about 25 percent of that power is threatened, that it will be shut down within the next 10 or 15 years if things aren't done to make up for that. We need an energy policy that makes sense.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLEAVER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Omnipotent God, ruler of the universe and source of all life, help us to love all that You are and all that You have created. May we show respect to both people and planet. In all that we see, may we regard everything as a precious gift from You to be revered and appreciated.

At the same time, as we enjoy the amazing opportunities You have afforded us, the bounty of riches You have bestowed on us, the honor and privilege to have dominion over the Earth and all her resources, may our

regard for the world never eclipse our love for You.

We pray, instead, that You continue to reveal Yourself in the beauty of this Earth. May we have the faith to love You first, to look around at the remarkable creation that surrounds us and see Your handiwork in all that we see.

Likewise, we ask Your guidance that in the enjoyment of these countless gifts You have given us, that we worship the love that has provided them and not become so preoccupied with the gifts themselves that we cannot see the affection to be found in the hands that offer them.

In all that surrounds us, may we know the love of the giver, and may our lives ever be lived in worship of You.

By the power of Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MALINOWSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

PAIN AT THE PUMP

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

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, rising prices are straining families' budgets and robbing them of the full benefits of our strong economic recovery.

Last year, we experienced the fastest rate of economic growth in four decades and the single greatest year of job creation ever.

Thanks to this robust growth, workers are securing better jobs with higher pay. Wages have risen more than 4 percent since President Biden took office.

Yet, even as inflation has slowed, rising prices are eating into families' paychecks. To help cut costs for families, the House recently passed legislation to cap the price of insulin at \$35. This week, the House will consider new legislation to address pain at the pump.

The Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act would establish the first-ever Federal law against price gouging by oil and gas companies.

Cutting costs and preventing profiteering, this is how we get our prices under control and put money back in people's pockets.

LICENSE NEW NUCLEAR REACTORS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, President Biden's assault on domestic energy production isn't limited to just gas and oil. A new report revealed that a quarter of nuclear power plants in the U.S. are at risk of closure in just a few years, raising already high energy costs to struggling families across the country.

Despite being carbon-free, which my colleagues on the other side of the aisle love to talk about carbon even though it represents only 0.04 percent of the gases in our atmosphere—let's play along.

Nuclear reactors make zero CO₂, so why are we making it so difficult to put in place—indeed, only one nuclear reactor has started construction in the U.S. in the last three decades. Since 2013, 12 reactors have closed, so none new have opened.

Why are they making it so difficult to re-license existing plants or license new ones?

Yes, we want to build in a strong safety factor. Why does it have to cost hundreds of millions of dollars or more to do the job to keep a CO₂-free—0.04 percent of our atmosphere—keep that CO₂ down, keep these plants operating, and keep our homes lit up.

STAGFLATION IS COMING

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I come from the part of the country where people are used to working hard and making things. For some, it is producing oil and natural gas. For others, it is farming. For me, it was owning a small business.

What we do may be different, but why we do it is not. We want to provide a better life for our family and our children. That is the American Dream. That is what we strive for. That is what we sacrifice for. That is what Democrats' radical policies are destroying.

Today, the ex-Chairman of the Federal Reserve said the U.S. economy is heading toward stagflation for the first time since the 1970s. Remember, in the late 1970s, Democrats had control of the White House, the Senate, and the House, just like they do now.

The CEO of Goldman Sachs also said that the risk of falling into a recession is very high.

Did you ever think that would happen in just 1 year of one-party rule?

The last time we went through stagflation was in the 1970s after an oil supply shock. Today, Democrats' radical policies are leading to a similar shock in terms of energy.

Since April 2021, prices have risen at least 5 percent every month. This year,

under one-party control, prices have risen at least 7 percent for 5 consecutive months.

Now, what does that mean to the average American? Well, it means to every single American, in gas costs alone, families will pay an extra \$2,000 this year to fill up at the pump.

That is \$2,000, Mr. Speaker. That is money that could have been used for their children's education, summer vacation, or just paying the house payment or rent.

Democrats are presiding over one of the costliest years in recent history, and the next year could be even worse. Americans need stable, competent leadership that understands the problems our country is facing.

Want to lower the gas prices? The Republicans' answer is to unleash American energy. The Democrats' answer is to hire another six-figure, out-of-touch Washington bureaucrat who has never run a business to tell people who work for a living what to do, or what the President did just a week ago: shut down more leases and opportunity for America to produce oil, but try to buy it somewhere else, maybe Russia.

They are attacking energy producers to shift blame from their own failures. They have no better answers to the problems they created except to demand more control.

Mr. Speaker, that is what got us here in the first place. Last March, do we all remember when the Democrats dumped \$2 trillion into a recovering economy and paid people not to work?

I remember very well, Mr. Speaker. Over on this side of the aisle, we warned you if you go through with this, you will create inflation.

Every single Democrat said no. They voted for it. Every single Republican knew what would happen, and they said no. They believed in the American people: Don't punish them. Don't cost them more.

Then, we heard the likes of it was transitory inflation; it wouldn't last; it was only short term. Every month, 5 percent growth, and then it went to 7 percent, and now we have the ex-Fed Chair saying stagflation, something we haven't seen since the 1970s.

One-party rule, in only a year and a half, not only has created inflation like we haven't seen in 40 years; it is putting the punishment onto the American people.

This \$2 trillion that you claimed was going to go for COVID—when it is less than 9 percent—the scheme worked well for the well-connected when you are in one-party control. Blue States got bailouts. Washington Democrats got more power. Working families got crushed by the worst inflation in 40 years. This is why Americans don't trust Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, for all of those watching, for all of those struggling to put gas in the tank and food on the table, we know Democrats think they can afford to stay in power for 2 more years. The question is: Can you?

EASE RESTRICTIONS ON CRIPPLING SUPPLY CHAINS

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

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, every day, more and more families are struggling to find the basic goods they need to run their lives. This latest shortage, 40 percent of all baby formula out of stock, highlights exactly how out of control this crisis has become.

Orange County families are no stranger to the pressures of our broken supply chain. For months, we have been under the strain that millions of Americans are now experiencing.

I have been calling on this administration, as well as Governor Newsom, to ease the restrictions that are further burdening our already crippled supply chains.

From removing unworkable regulatory standards impacting the trucking industry, to embracing American energy independence, there are concrete steps that the Governor and President can take to address this crisis.

They should do so immediately to provide relief to southern Californians and all Americans.

HONORING CHIEF COREY SIANEZ

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, during this National Police Week, I am delighted to rise today to honor Buena Park Police Chief Corey Sianez and his more than four decades of selfless service to our community, including 11 years as police chief.

Throughout his many roles, Chief Sianez set an example of excellence in our police department and created the first 5-year strategic plan in the department's history.

While he is a well-known, active member of our Buena Park community, his impact can also be seen across neighboring cities. He helped create the North Orange County Public Task Force, which is a partnership between cities that works to address pressing public safety issues such as homelessness, incarceration, and gang and youth violence.

Chief Sianez, thank you for your unrelenting dedication to safety and the well-being of our community. I wish you a wonderful retirement.

□ 1415

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Lions Clubs International is on Capitol Hill this week for their annual meetings with Members of Congress. I am a member of my hometown