

country that we demand to live in a country where we enjoy full legal protections and we can live our lives free from discrimination of any kind.

The good news is, overwhelmingly, a vast majority of the American people support equality for LGBTQ people. They think discrimination is wrong.

Equality is a founding value of this country. In every State in America, a majority of voters believe that discrimination against LGBTQ people is wrong because a cornerstone of who we are as Americas is that we know discrimination is wrong.

It is only in the Republican Conference that we have to convince people that discrimination against the LGBTQ community is wrong. It is time for Congress and our Republican colleagues to catch up to the rest of the country that understands that when you deprive a member of the LGBTQ community of full equality, you not only hurt that individual but you hurt the whole community because the community is deprived of all that that person can accomplish and contribute.

That is the real harm of discrimination. It is not just to the individual. It is to the whole community and to our whole country.

Madam Speaker, as we mark Pride Month, we not only celebrate, but we also commit ourselves to make additional progress to continue in our fight for full equality. The LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus here in the House will continue to lead that fight in solidarity with all of our colleagues.

I am proud to be part of a political party that fully supports LGBTQ equality. When we introduced the Equality Act, it was cosponsored by every single Democrat in the Caucus. Everyone wanted to be a partner in this fight for full equality, and that is what the American people expect.

Madam Speaker, I say to the young people out there who may be struggling with their own sexual orientation, their own gender identity, feeling alone, feeling like they don't belong, feeling like they are not valued: I am standing on the floor of the House of Representatives as the chair of the Equality Caucus to tell you that you are valued. You are exactly how God created and expected you to be. You are loved by your community and your family. You will continue to be valued. You have people here in the Congress of the United States who are fighting every single day to make sure you can live in a country that will provide you with full protections and that you can live a life free from discrimination of any kind.

□ 2000

I hope that will be some comfort to know that you have a President who said right from that rostrum, Madam Speaker, to the trans kids: I have your back.

That was the President of the United States who is the most powerful person on the planet saying to young people from our community he has your back.

So that has to give us a lot of hope of what future Pride celebrations will mean and the kind of country we live in. I thank all my colleagues who participated in tonight's Special Order hour.

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

#### NEVER-ENDING FLOOD OF PROBLEMS COMING OUT OF PRESIDENT BIDEN'S WHITE HOUSE

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, there are so many issues that are facing our country right now thanks to the disastrous policies coming out of the Biden administration.

Inflation is up 8.6 percent. Economists are predicting a recession within 12 months or less. Our energy crisis—which is totally preventable—is only getting worse. We need to turn our spigots back on, Madam Speaker. We are relying on foreign adversaries—mostly enemies, I feel like most of the time—to produce oil instead of turning our spigots back on, as I stated.

The Biden administration is still shoving Americans toward electric cars which cost on average \$60,000. That is more than the average Tennessean makes in a year. I know for folks living in the Beltway that is nothing to them, but to the average working American, that is a whole heck of a lot of money. The environmental problems that these cars cause with their batteries and the slave labor to produce them in these foreign countries that we have no regulations over is despicable, and for anybody to wrap themselves up around that is part of the problem.

Gas hit \$5 per gallon last week—\$5. People can't even afford to go to work in most areas. President Biden is trying to act like he is doing something about it by proposing a 3-month gas tax suspension.

Madam Speaker, that is laughable. That is laughable. The way it is rising they will save no money. At best it is a short-term solution to a long-term problem, and at worst it is just an attempt to distract Americans from the Biden administration's refusal to turn our oil spigots back on. Also, it would leave a \$10 billion hole in the highway trust fund.

Also, the baby formula crisis is still looming. We have got this problem, and

the solution that Washington offered was to pay more FDA bureaucrats more money and not solve the problem.

The Democratic Party has accused the Republicans of some awful things, but one of them was that we were standing in the way of this when, in fact, we voted for the compromise bill, but the national media, which is so in the tank for this administration, refuses to mention it.

In closing, I thank all my colleagues who are here tonight to call out the never-ending flood of problems coming out of President Biden's White House.

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, every weekend we go home, and I am about to go back to Wisconsin for a couple more weeks. When we get back home, of course, we always talk to our constituents. I would like to address my speech tonight to the issue that is most on their mind.

Now, when we go back to Wisconsin in June we spend a lot of time on what they call breakfast on the farm because June is Dairy Promotion Month in Wisconsin, and with Dairy Promotion Month there are breakfasts on the farm where you have an opportunity to see so many of your constituents.

When back home, I go through the number one and number two issues. The number one issue is gasoline inflation. Everybody talks about it. They talk about how it is squeezing their budget and about how they are not able to go on trips as much as they used to. They have got to cut back on the type of food that they buy. So number one would be gas inflation.

I suppose number two would be food inflation because they talk about having to buy cuts of meat that aren't as good or other food products that aren't as good as they were before.

I think probably number three is housing inflation. When you look for a new house now, Madam Speaker, it costs so much more than it did a year ago.

I personally believe there are other issues that are as significant and perhaps in the long term more significant for America:

Are we going to wrap up Ukraine?

What are we going to do at our border?

What are we going to do about the over 110,000 people dying of drug overdoses every year?

But, obviously, in my district the number one issue is inflation, and I want to talk about how we got there.

How did we get there?

Any middle school C student should know that inflation is caused by excessive government spending which has to be covered by the Federal Reserve.

What are President Biden's signature accomplishments?

First of all, a \$1.9 trillion bill called the American Rescue Plan came right

out of the chute. His second biggest accomplishment was a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill. These bills were in addition to a regular appropriation bill with excessive spending.

What would happen was as predictable as night following day. Multiple Republicans, including myself, warned last January and February against out-of-control inflation. Larry Summers, Barack Obama's director of the National Economic Council, called this bill the worst economic policy in the last 20 years. But whatever Larry Summers said was ignored as, sadly, the majority party charged again, spending \$1.9 trillion that America did not have.

So now we are told we have the worst inflation in 40 years at 8.3 percent. Don't believe that 8.3 number. It is much worse than that. It always bothers me when people say that we have such a problem at 8.3 percent inflation. It is just so much more. Changes to inflation calculation over the years have grossly underestimated the real number.

I am going to lead off with housing. When I look at housing, I talk to builders, I talk to landlords, and I talk to real estate brokers. Housing is listed at a 5.5 percent increase in the last year. Ask any of these people if rents or new construction have gone up only 5.5 percent in the last year, and they will laugh at you.

Madam Speaker, 5.5 percent is what the government is telling people it is at. When I talk to builders, they tell me that a new house this year could cost 30 percent more than what that same house was going last year, and rents are clearly well over the 5.5 percent figure as well.

But government, for whatever reason, does not use the cost of new construction. They use what they refer to as the rental value of your new house, which is a much lower number.

I have a graph here showing the difference between the actual rent and the CPI rent, and you can see here, Madam Speaker, that there is about a 15 percent gap and that the actual rent has gone up about 15 percent more than the so-called CPI number which has gone up as well. So that is one of the reasons why I think Americans feel that they are in worse shape than only an 8.6 inflation. That is true.

I also want to point out that these numbers are only updated once every 6 months. That is one of the problems.

Although another problem we have is when they talk about the cost of housing, which usually would mean buying a house. They do not take into account the cost of interest on a mortgage, for whatever reason. In the last year, interest rates have gone up again probably because of the inflation, the interest cost on a 30-year fixed mortgage has gone up 39 percent—a 39 percent increase in interest payments on the house, assuming the cost of the house hasn't gone up at all.

But is that in the equation?

No. When we calculate inflation we do not take into account the massively

higher interest rates that you have to pay now compared to the past.

By the way, as we look at things like housing, I beg the press corps to do a little bit of research. Don't just report this 8.3 percent number. You have the ability to talk to the brokers, to talk to the grocers, and to talk to the car dealers and find out what an appropriate number is. Back in the good old days when reporters were a little bit harder working, they would have done their own research and found out what the real inflation rate is.

Now, the next thing I am going to look at is used cars. On the official numbers they claim that used cars or the cost of having a used car has gone up about 16 percent. I have talked to a variety of car dealers from various different places in my diverse district. Everybody laughs at the idea that used cars have only gone up 16.1 percent. They all insist 30 percent on minimum. So here is another number that is thrown out to calculate that 8.6 number the government claims, and they are just way off on the cost of a new car.

If you buy a new car, Madam Speaker, of course, interest rates are going up as well which further increases things.

In any event, the point I am trying to make is that the amount of inflation is well over that 8.6 percent. It is certainly double digits over that when you talk about housing and double digits over that when you talk about used cars.

Subjectively talking to people who do the grocery shopping for the family, they believe that when they go through the checkout their costs are up way more than a few percentage points and the 10 percentage points that the Federal Government claims food at home has gone up the last year.

I beg the American people to demand action on inflation. I am trying to educate the American people that that action will inevitably have to mean undoing the out-of-control spending that took place around here in January or February. As we do it, we are going to have to reduce the amount of government. But I don't think we can go on with these housing prices and these car prices for the rest of our lives.

Madam Speaker, we want to get back to the days in which a young couple had a chance of affording a house. We want to go back to the days when you can eat like Americans are used to eating, not where you have to deal with inferior foods just because you can't afford it anymore. We want to go back to the days in which you can buy the type of car that you would like to buy.

So I encourage my colleagues this year, if possible, but if not then next year—maybe we are going to have to wait 3 years for some of this—we have got to get the spending back down where it was when you could live life in America like Americans are used to.

I beg the other side, when it comes to passing the new budget and preparing

for the appropriation bills that are going to pass for the calendar year beginning October 1, let's stop spending so much money.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. GROTHMAN for his remarks. As I have stated many times since I learned it when I first came up here, there are three really great things that come out of Wisconsin. One is Harley-Davidson, two is cheese, and the other is GLENN GROTHMAN.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Now buy that cheese. Remember that June is Dairy Month.

Mr. BURCHETT. Next, we have possibly the only rice farmer that I know in Congress and that I probably ever will know, and that is my good friend, DOUG LAMALFA, from the great State of California's First District.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Tennessee with that very warm introduction and allusion to the fact that we do produce food in California when we are given the water that we already own to do so, but that is a little different supply chain discussion that we could be having tonight.

□ 2015

I want to focus this evening on the border situation that is unnecessarily wide open. It doesn't have to be this way. It is just inattention to enforcing the laws and doing the things you would normally do to maintain a border.

We have millions of dollars' worth of steel fence material laying in piles down there next to the border that could be used to fill some obvious gaps that would make it so much easier for Customs and Border Patrol to do their jobs that they would like to do.

Morale down there, of course, is really bad amongst our officers, just for inability to do their job effectively, and not being supported by this Federal Government and this administration.

And also, the wild accusations that those that are mounted on horseback using their reins in order to move their horses about and steer them where they want to go, somehow they have been accused of using those as whips upon illegal immigrants coming across the border; all part of just a bunch of hype and misinformation put out by the administration, by the media, to make a narrative on the border that is completely false and vastly unproductive for the American people, as we see so much fentanyl coming across, so much illegal activity.

And also, since the Biden administration took over, at least 50 individuals that we know about on the terrorism watch list have been caught red-handed, trying to sneak across our border to do God knows what in cells inside this country.

So you really do have to commend the Border Patrol, what they are able to get done on finding these 50, and

saving the countless lives they do, whether it is preventing terrorism, catching these drugs that are coming across and just, in general, at least trying to slow the tide coming in here illegally and affecting so much of our society.

But we have to wonder with the nearly 3 million illegal border crossings in Biden's term, how many dangerous individuals did get away or sneaking through—the getaways are what we are talking a lot about these days because we have no way to put a number on that. They affect our whole society, our whole system of social programs, crime, everything else. They don't seem to be interested in this administration of getting a handle on that.

They have taken away, of course, our demoralized border agents' resources to be able to keep the border as safe as it could be, cutting them back and giving them—reassigning their mission, repurposing is a common word around here. So instead of doing that job of enforcing the border, they are basically running a welcome wagon operation, transporting illegal immigrants to be processed and turned right into the country.

Hopefully, they will show up within a couple of years for the massive backlog of court hearings they would have on their status, whether they actually deserve asylum or not, which isn't really the case. Probably 80 or 90 percent of them are here for economic relief, economic opportunity in our great country.

So what do we have? The Biden administration, having halted construction, and then some of the other methods with which we can somewhat control this tide at the border. They are working really hard at trying to roll back title 42, which is one of the best resources that the Border Patrol agents have to quickly expel those who are coming here illegally from certain countries.

Their soft-on-crime policies have incentivized millions of illegals to continue to cross into our country, knowing that even if they are caught, they can just skip their court date to stay here because the backlog might be too long, or because the cell phone they got handed at the border they can't be reached at. That is supposed to be our way of keeping track of them, by handing them a cell phone.

So, with a caravan of 15,000 waiting on title 42 to come across, we have got a giant problem that makes our core personnel at the border powerless to stop it.

We have seen the pictures. I have been there myself on a trip to Yuma, and it is devastating. It is devastating for the morale of the people on the borders, the cities, the economies there, Border Patrol themselves.

So instead of giving the border agents the tools they need, the FBI and Department of Homeland Security are making up fake, dangerous scenarios all over the country.

Instead, the FBI is going after concerned parents at school board meetings speaking out over some of the filth that is being taught and put into our schools. They are trying to label them as domestic terrorists.

Then they push legislation that would go after our servicemembers and law enforcement personnel for various things that they get accused of while doing their jobs, if they are not being defunded to begin with.

So even though our data shows that servicemembers and law enforcement personnel are more likely to be a victim of terrorism, they are getting accused of being terrorists themselves.

FBI and Department of Homeland Security must start focusing their efforts at the southern border instead of politicizing law enforcement officers and concerned parents at school board meetings.

Everything is backwards with the way this administration is handling the issue at our border, energy, the food shortages that are pending because we are not prioritizing the basic building blocks that make a society strong, the economy strong, families strong, and America strong.

We have got a lot of work to do to educate the public. Maybe it will take the midterm election to turn it around. I wish the people that were operating the government would put America first instead of some crazy agenda on the Green New Deal or globalism.

So I appreciate the time here tonight. I thank my colleague from Tennessee for running this for us and allowing us to continue to speak out and put the truth out there in front of the American people.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from my home State, Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding tonight.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to address another devastating record set on President Biden's watch, this time along our southern border. Numbers released last week from U.S. Customs and Border Protection tell us there were more migrant encounters in May of this year than any month on record. May was also the fourth straight month of encounters reaching more than 200,000.

Here are the numbers: 239,416 total encounters. That is up 32 percent from May of last year, and nearly 10 times the number of encounters during the same month in 2020. Twenty-five percent of migrants were repeat offenders, meaning they have been deported or arrested before. Agents also reported 20 percent more unaccompanied minors crossing the border compared to just April of this year.

This continues to be a national security and humanitarian crisis, and it is only getting worse.

And if you can believe it, the numbers could actually be much worse. Had it not been for a Federal judge delaying the Biden administration's plan to end

title 42, who knows how many people would have crossed into our country illegally?

Title 42 is a critical tool for our already overwhelmed Border Patrol agents. Yet, the Biden Justice Department continues to fight for the administration's dangerous, reckless, open border policies by appealing that judge's decision.

Since President Biden took office, more than 700,000 people have avoided law enforcement and made their way into our country. We really don't know who these people are. Agents stopped at least 50 people on the terrorist screening database in just a 9-month period.

This begs the questions: Out of those who evaded law enforcement, those 700,000, how many could potentially be on the terrorist watch list?

Where are those people?

What are their intentions?

How will they impact the lives of American citizens?

Republicans may sound like a broken record when it comes to the border, but we wouldn't have to talk about it so much if it were not for the broken policies of President Biden and his DHS Secretary Mayorkas. They simply must do better.

Mr. BURCHETT. They definitely need to do better.

Madam Speaker, if it wasn't for the great State of Tennessee there wouldn't be a great State of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), one of the great ones.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving us this opportunity.

We have heard a lot of hypocrisy from President Biden and the Democrats about oil and gas, about our fossil fuel industry.

We have heard them say that they are going to "end fossil fuels, period;" that the oil and gas industry should no longer have the ability to even drill to explore; that the only way to save the coral reefs and the glaciers is to end fossil fuels, and that millions of people are dying every year because of fossil fuels.

And even though my colleagues on the other side of the aisle weren't joking, it is hard not to laugh at this absurdity.

Who is buying this baloney?

Who is so blinded by the left and their climate change delusion that they can't see the hypocrisy in all of this?

If the Democrats got their way, if they really did shutdown the fossil fuel industry, do they actually understand the real-life ramifications of that drastic action?

What do you think the Democrats think fuels our construction equipment, our trucks, our buses, tractors, boats, and trains?

How would they spend their recent trillion-dollar infrastructure package without diesel fuel?

If Joe Biden keeps his promise to end fossil fuels, life will certainly become

□ 2030

awfully challenging for many of us in the 21st century since laptops, tablets, and credit cards, will no longer be available.

Imagine how Joe Biden's constituents would have felt in 2012 after Hurricane Sandy raged up through Delaware if they couldn't have gotten their hands on gasoline-powered electric generators?

Yes, my friends, those generators provided power, thanks to none other than fossil fuels and their industry.

And as if the baby formula shortage isn't bad enough already, let's take away their pacifiers too, yet another product of fossil fuels.

The hypocrisy is astounding. Honestly, Joe Biden should be thanking the fossil fuel industry for protecting him. Thanks to his helmet, brought to us by fossil fuels, he was shielded from his fall off that bicycle last week; not to mention the petroleum-made asphalt that padded his fall and, frankly, even the bicycle itself.

And while this administration tells suffering Americans to just simply buy Teslas and other electric vehicles, they are conveniently failing to mention that fossil fuels make brake fluid, turn signals, tires. And, in fact, they supply the very power that charges our electric vehicles.

Everything from pens to dog toys, sunglasses to the soles of our shoes, we still very much need the oil and gas industry. We are dependent on it, folks.

But if my Democrat colleagues would like to ban leather briefcases and patio furniture, candles, headsets, and cell phones in the name of climate change, then good luck. You will only further cripple our economy and destroy many everyday necessities that you seem to take for granted.

Oh, don't forget that petrochemicals also are used to make painkillers, antihistamines, antibiotics, antibacterials, cough syrups, creams, and ointments. They are also used in heart valves and other critical lifesaving medical equipment like radiological dyes and films, intravenous tubing, syringes and oxygen masks.

I would recommend my Democrat colleagues do a little more homework before they foolishly make enemies of an industry that is involved in literally every single aspect of our lives.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I was always amazed in my hometown, as a young man, I would watch people protesting out in front of a fur shop, and they had leather-soled shoes on. I always wondered if those cows died of natural causes.

Madam Speaker, next we have the man from a little town down in Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, home of the greatest rock and roll band of all time, Lynyrd Skynyrd. There is no other. I appreciate Mr. JOHN RUTHERFORD being here with us today, former sheriff, all around good guy.

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Tennessee for this opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the historic inflation and soaring gas prices that are hurting American families all across America.

You know, as my good friend from Wisconsin was saying earlier, he talked about the 8.6 percent inflation rate and how that doesn't seem to jive with the American public. It just doesn't seem like it could possibly be 8.6 percent.

My good friend talked about the inflation rate in the building industry. We are just going to talk a little bit about gas, for example, 106.7 percent; butter, margarine, 20.2 percent up; milk, up 15.9 percent; pork up 13.3 percent.

How in the world can the official inflation rate actually be 8.6 percent? It doesn't make sense, Mr. BURCHETT. It doesn't make sense, and every American out there knows it.

I am here to tell you that the sky-high prices that we see at stores and at the pump are, in large part, thanks to Democrats' planned policies to force the U.S. off of fossil fuels.

On President Biden's first day in office, he ended the XL Pipeline, the Keystone XL Pipeline, suspended drilling permits, and froze oil and gas leases on public lands. The Biden administration successfully brought domestic energy production to a halt.

Just 19 months ago, if you can remember, America was energy independent: \$2.30-odd cents a gallon. Since then, we have seen gas more than double in price.

Now, with the volatility in international oil markets caused by Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, it is past time for the United States to bolster again our energy independence.

Yet, instead of turning to our domestic suppliers of oil and gas, the Biden administration has turned to corrupt regimes like Venezuela, or they have gone to Saudi Arabia, or they are going.

Americans across the country are struggling to fuel their cars and power their homes and businesses. Recent reports show that the average household is going to spend \$5,000 more on gas this year.

That is \$5,000 that won't go into rising grocery bills and other costs of living increases, and we will call it 8.6 percent inflation, but we know it is more.

The only way to alleviate the pressure Americans feel at the gas pump is to refocus our efforts on rebuilding America's energy independence.

That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 6858, the American Energy Independence from Russia Act. This bill would restart the Keystone XL pipeline, expand natural gas exports to our allies abroad, and restart oil and gas production right here in the United States.

Passing this bill is a crucial step in both reducing the price of gas and

strengthening our economy. It is time for the Biden administration to take responsibility for this crisis, rein in spending, and take action to increase Americans' energy independence.

This incredible transition, as the President called it, has destroyed the very economy that had the potential to create the capital that was necessary and will be necessary, the capital that we could use to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy in a smooth and seamless process.

That would have given us the capital for the conservation, the innovation, the adaptability, but all of that is gone.

I ask the President to return us to American energy independence and let loose America's industrial might.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. RUTHERFORD, I appreciate you. I appreciate Jacksonville, Florida, and the influence it has had on this country and your influence on us and your service as a sheriff and a man of law and order and a man of conviction. I appreciate that.

One thing you talked about was taking responsibility. This administration has refused to take responsibility. Although when President Biden was debating BERNIE SANDERS when he was running for office, he did not say anything worthwhile, I thought. He didn't say anything like give me liberty or give me death or anything like that, but he did say that he was going to raise gas prices, and he said he was going to do that and put the oil industry out of business and get people on electric cars.

Well, he is halfway there. He has just about put the oil industry out because of the rising prices and the way it is controllable. He refuses to take the responsibility for that.

Now we are overseas doing business, trying to do business with folks that we have not really been on friendly terms with, for good reason, their involvement in September 11 and other things.

Yet, we still are back over with our hands out to the members of OPEC. That is very unfortunate.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my good friend, MADISON CAWTHORN, the pride of the Carolinas.

Thank you, sir.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend.

I believe that you should one day be Governor of the great State of Tennessee, my friend, in your Carhartt jacket. That would be great.

Madam Speaker, our founders were clear. The Second Amendment was designed as the backbone upon which individual rights and liberties could be secured.

Efforts by the ruling class in our government are aimed at crippling this Nation and corroding our Republic.

It is true, red flag laws sound benign on paper. Flagging dangerous individuals and keeping them from weaponry

seems like a cut-and-dry issue; but a cursory glance at the actions of our overreaching Federal Government clearly show that these laws are ripe for Federal abuse of your rights and mine.

Make no mistake, red flag laws will be used to flag those who vote for freedom, strip them of their right to self-defense, and empower faceless bureaucrats to dole out or to not dole out the right of self-defense to a downtrodden and oppressed class of citizens.

They will be weaponized to demonize and destroy political dissidents in this country. If you vote against the regime, you may be stripped of your rights. If you refuse the medical decisions pushed by POTUS and the regime, you may be stripped of your rights.

If you raise your children to adhere to Proverbs and push-ups instead of POTUS, you may be stripped of your rights.

To the American people, I say this: It is not a right if you have to ask permission to exercise it. We are very near this government becoming the exact reason our founders designed the Constitution to hold back a tyrannical government.

The Second Amendment was not designed to hunt deer, but to defend against liberty and invasion.

Again, red flag laws sound benign. We all want to keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous people, but remember that this government, the CDC, has labeled you a national security problem for protecting your health.

The FBI, last September, has called your mothers and wives domestic terrorists for protecting your children. Now, just days ago, a committee here on Capitol Hill has labeled half the country as coup sympathetic.

The same faceless fact-checkers who censor your speech will seize your sovereignty. And trust me, they won't come to your front door with a clipboard and a smile.

These liberal lackeys will show up before dawn and invade your home, seize your property, and smash any concept of individual liberty you may possess. Remember the actions the ruling elite took against those at Waco and Ruby Ridge.

We must wake up. We cannot trust this government. We must not give them more legal avenues to turn their national security apparatus against those who they swore to defend.

Mr. BURCHETT. Thank you, Mr. CAWTHORN.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure being here with you all. I know my wife is watching this and probably wants to get to the Mexican restaurant right now, and so I will cut this really short, Madam Speaker.

Thank you for your indulgence tonight. It has been a real pleasure.

I say thank you to the leadership for whoever canceled out at the last minute and allowed me to be up here and do this. It has been very enjoyable.

It is the first in my life and maybe a last. I thank all the young folks back there who work very hard to make our lives a lot easier.

Madam Speaker, I would go on a tirade right now, but I believe I will just let it go. You probably want to go home after a long day as well, so you can just say you owe me one.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4346. An act making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-4395. A letter from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests for FY 2023 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Health and Human Services, the Interior, Justice, Labor, and Transportation, as well as the Commission of Fine Arts, an amendment for the Department of Energy's Defense Environmental Cleanup account, and eight FY 2023 Budget amendments for the Legislative Branch (H. Doc. No. 117-125); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

EC-4396. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a discontinuation of service in an acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4397. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting two (2) notifications of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4398. A letter from the Executive Services Operations Staff, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting nine (9) notifications of a designation of acting officer, nomination, or action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 6411. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-382). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. COMER, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. FERGUSON, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. MAST, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. BOST, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. ROY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. FOXX, Mr. MANN, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 8167. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal certain excise taxes relating to firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. CORREA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BERA, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. CONWAY, and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 8168. A bill to improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 8169. A bill to establish a Rural Telehealth Access Task Force to determine how