

the 30-minute Special Order here in a second, dealing with a lot of the issues that my friend was just talking about, in particular dealing with energy. What I will be talking about is: They break it; you buy it. That is the reality of what we are dealing with, with our Democratic colleagues here in the majority and in the administration.

Energy is the perfect example of that. We are seeing that obviously in Texas, where we are sitting on a sea of oil and gas that we could be exploring further and producing for the world and driving down CO<sub>2</sub>. Instead, we are not because of the leftist policies of this administration. I will be beginning that in a minute.

I appreciate the gentleman and thank him for holding this Special Order hour time on the floor for our colleagues.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for my friend's voice. He was a guest on my podcast last week, and we have gotten a lot of attention on that. People are grateful for his passion on these issues. I hope my friend will keep speaking loudly here on the floor and everywhere. I am grateful he has a national platform to talk, particularly about this immigration crisis, which is a whole different subject, and he has great insight on that.

Mr. Speaker, I will wrap this up. I thank my colleagues for joining me today in this Special Order hour to discuss the harm that the Democrat agenda has caused our country and our alternative visions on all these issues.

By way of recap, just quickly, I was taking notes as my colleague spoke from across the country, from Texas. Dr. BABIN reminded us that a staggering 77 percent of Americans believe our country is on the wrong track—obviously, because of all this.

Mr. LAMALFA from California just reminded us of the excesses and abuses of the Federal agencies, which are over-regulating our farmers and food producers and wasting our time and precious resources on these superfluous projects.

Mr. MEUSER of Pennsylvania reminded us that this inflation is going to cost the average hardworking American family this year an extra \$6,000 in the cost of living.

Mr. ROSE from Tennessee reminded us about that skyrocketing inflation rate. It is obviously the result of the Biden policies and the administration's backward approach to all this. But they even now want to remove and eliminate the Hyde amendment so that taxpayers have to fund abortions.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia reminded us about that border catastrophe and the numbers, which are staggering—Mr. ROY knows, as well—3 million encounters at the border, 800,000 got-aways that we can't even account for, and that is just the numbers the DHS admits to, so we know it is higher. He talked about the energy policy disaster causing pain to every hardworking American family, as well.

Finally, Mr. MANN of Kansas talked about how the inflation crisis has real-world consequences for our farmers in the wheat State and everywhere else.

Mr. Speaker, we could go on and on all night. I will conclude our Special Order hour. This is just a sampling of all the many crises that have been created by the Biden administration and the Washington Democrats in charge of this institution. We cannot wait to begin to turn this around after the November election.

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

□ 1615

#### THEY BREAK IT, YOU BUY IT

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time here on the floor.

I appreciate, as I said a minute ago, my friend from Louisiana, Representative JOHNSON, for his steadfast defense of the Constitution of the United States; his willingness to stand up for all the important values, from life to marriage; but importantly being a voice for this body, for the Republican Conference, and where we want to take this country; what we know the American people want us to do; and to stand athwart the absolutely absurd policies of a Democrat majority that doesn't give a whit about the people that they are rolling over in a quest to placate their radical leftist policies, whether it is energy or open borders, and I appreciate the gentleman from Louisiana and his efforts.

I am here to talk about my Democratic colleagues and the extent to which the American people need to understand: They break it, you buy it. And that is the reality of what is happening.

My Democratic colleagues are breaking—breaking this country, breaking up your families, breaking up our secure border, breaking up our military, breaking up our court system, the rule of law, breaking up our police, our law enforcement community.

They are breaking up our economy, breaking the strength of the American dollar. They are breaking our position in the world, and they are breaking this body, the people's House. And it is high time it stopped.

And we can only hope that in November we get a change so that we can stop it. And then my message to my Republican colleagues will be: We better stop it because what is happening in the so-called people's House cannot be tolerated any longer.

They break it. This body, the leadership of this country, they break it. You buy it.

In reverse, I would say, America is great. Washington is broken. They are breaking it every day and, as a result,

they are breaking this great country that our forefathers fought so hard to give to us and to our children and our grandchildren.

You cannot defend the policies of the Democratic majority. It is impossible to do. And in fact, if you set out to harm the United States of America, I would defy someone to demonstrate to me how you could do better than my Democratic colleagues are doing on a daily basis, ripping apart the Constitution, ripping apart the shreds of the flag, ripping apart the people of this country.

Dividing us. Dividing us by race, dividing us by income, dividing us by our adherence to the Constitution or devotion to the border and devotion to the rule of law.

That is what is happening on a daily basis, and it is purposeful. Let's be perfectly clear that it is purposeful.

The reason my Democratic colleagues focus so intently on January 6 is they want to divide us. The reason they want to have race-based policies throughout our government is they want to divide us.

The reason they want to make the border be supposedly about not liking Brown people is because they want to divide us. Never mind that south Texas is full of Brown people who are sick of wide-open borders empowering cartels.

That is the reality of what is going on in this Chamber, and in the Senate, and at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Just focus on the border for a minute: Broken, wide open, abused by cartels, exploited by terrorists, exploited by gang members, criminals coming into our country, killing American citizens. Fentanyl pouring into our communities, 107,000 dead Americans. 850,000 known got-aways pouring in between the ports of entry because our Border Patrol is overwhelmed, with not only no support from this administration, but the purposeful attack by the Secretary of Homeland Security lying about the good men and women of Border Patrol, saying that they whipped people that they didn't, and then hiding behind some report, while they give them administrative punishment.

That is your leadership, ladies and gentlemen. They are breaking it and you have to buy it.

They are leaving our border wide open, and American citizens are dying. Let me repeat that. They are leaving our border wide open, broken, and American people are dying, thousands upon thousands of Americans dying from fentanyl pouring into our communities, pushed by China, exploited by cartels, left to be able to come into our country because Democrats do not care about securing the border.

And more importantly, my Democratic colleagues are perfectly fine purposely leaving our border wide open. It is purposeful. It is purposeful.

They are breaking it and you are going to have to buy it.

How about our defense?

Our Defense Department is being broken on a daily basis by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and in the other Chamber, and particularly, this administration, shoving into the Department of Defense a radical, woke ideology, radical, woke programs, policies focused on diversity, and equity, and inclusion, all of the things that they cloak with critical race theory to destroy and break apart the institution of our defense. It is purposeful.

Vaccine mandates, forcing 60,000 guardsmen to be on the chopping block to lose their entire career. It is purposeful. They are breaking it.

They are breaking that military you love. They are breaking that Department of Defense that needs to be there on that wall defending us. They are breaking it.

They are breaking it by tucking tail and running out of Afghanistan with \$85 billion of equipment there and 12 or 13 dead servicemembers and no accountability. No accountability for the brass at the Pentagon and no accountability so far at the White House for tucking tail and running.

They are breaking our Defense Department.

You talk to the servicemembers who were in my office, coming in in tears because they are about to lose their entire career because they choose not to take a politicized vaccine.

Oh, by the way, by another broken governmental agency, or agencies, our whole public health system being radicalized by my colleagues on the other side of aisle to strike fear in the hearts of the American people, to watch them push aside and brush under the rug gain-of-function research and all that we see unfolding in China in the Wuhan Institute of Virology, all that we know about the funding, American funding that was tied to that.

All that we know about the absurdity of locking down schools, shutting down our schools so our kids are stuck in masks, stuck in the corner and not able to go to school, the damage it has done to our kids, the mental health issues, destroying the education of our young, all chasing the teachers' unions.

We have seen the mandatory—or efforts at mandatory vaccines—thankfully, partially struck aside, but many still in place, breaking the back of the people's trust in their public health, breaking the back of the people's ability to serve in the military and defend this country, breaking the back of people being able to be Federal public servants working for Border Patrol or other Federal agencies.

Why?

Because of fealty to Anthony Fauci, being the great wizard of public health while he poses for magazine covers and throws out pitches at baseball games.

Meanwhile, your defense is broken. Your public health is broken, and you are going to have to buy it.

How about crime on the streets of the United States of America?

How about the 12 Democrat-run cities that have called for defunding their police and have seen skyrocketing crime enveloping the cities?

The businessowner I spoke to today in Baltimore who says he is going to have to shut down his franchise because of rampant crime in Baltimore.

Austin, Texas, which cut its police by a third and has seen homicides skyrocket from 59 to 89, has seen 911 calls unanswered, drug trafficking increasing. Taking police off the streets in Austin, Texas.

We have seen 50 of the biggest urban areas see a 5 percent decrease in their police budgets, while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say they are doing no such thing.

But my friend, Mr. JOHNSON, rattled off quote after quote after quote in the House Judiciary Committee of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle calling for defunding of the police. Of course, it is an attack on our police. They are breaking our Police Department, breaking the backs of our men and women in blue and leaving our streets exposed to lawlessness and danger, and it is purposeful.

How about energy?

Could you take a more ridiculous position than to take the strength of national security, of having abundant oil and gas, the ability to lead on nuclear, and, instead, chase unicorn energy policies of nothing but solar and wind so that on a cloudless, windless day—or cloudy, windless day, you sit back and watch your energy plummet and your grid weaken.

What kind of a country's leadership does that to its people?

I would say the kind that want to break it. I would say the kind that want to chase the fairy tales and the unicorn energy policies that this administration wants to pursue.

We could have nuclear power. It doesn't create any carbon dioxide. Do my colleagues on the other side of aisle want to do that?

No. Because this is about fear. This is about breaking American energy. This is about breaking the back of it, so you can get on your private plane and fly to Davos and fit in with the Western Europeans and how great they are, while they are now burning wood to heat their homes.

We have the greatest national security asset you could possibly imagine, which was full and complete energy independence, and we are completely flushing it down the toilet, to break it and to break it purposely. And we don't have to do it.

We have abundant energy, abundant, clean-burning natural gas that we could export to other countries, as we were doing, driving down carbon dioxide.

We could be producing nuclear facilities all across this country with zero CO<sub>2</sub> production. But we are not.

Instead, we are chasing—literally, we are tilting at windmills, dotting the landscape with windmills.

A couple of weeks ago in Texas, we had 8 percent of the wind capacity available in our grid. Absolutely astounding what we are doing to the energy of the United States of America.

Inflation. I mean, I can't even get all this in, the absurd policies of Democrats.

I have already covered border, could go further.

Already talked about defense; could go further.

Didn't even get into Ukraine and the lack of briefings and the \$56 billion we just dumped into Ukraine, with zero indication of a strategy of what we are actually going to do, while we expand NATO, with zero indication about how that is going to impact Article 5, and an 800-mile border and whether NATO's going to upend its end of the bargain when we fund the vast majority of NATO. I didn't even talk about that part of defense.

I didn't talk about crime. I mean, I talked about crime, but I didn't get into every aspect of it.

I didn't get into every aspect of energy.

Now I am talking about inflation. The wisdom of this administration coming in and dumping \$1.9 trillion—I don't even remember what the name of that ridiculous bill was, but it was garbage. And it is now driving up the cost of goods and services for you, the American people.

They are breaking it. They are breaking your jobs. They are breaking your income. They are breaking your ability to buy goods and services and you are, literally, going to have to buy it, and you are going to have to pay a lot for it, because they are spending money we don't have.

They are printing money, throwing it out in the economy, driving up the prices of goods, while they are, simultaneously, restricting the ability for us to develop energy, to have abundant energy that you can afford.

You like \$4.50 gasoline? Well, guess what? Your Democratic leadership just defended that as being great. In a Rules Committee debate this week, when I sat in that room debating the rules, literally, the Democratic Rules Committee was talking about how great it is that the price of oil has come down.

They were talking about the price of copper going down. Well, I have spent a lot of money on copper to wire my home. It is expensive as heck. It is now locked up in cages. But do you know what the price of copper going down means? Heading into a recession. That is the reality of what we are facing. That is the truth.

Our economy is getting ripped to shreds, the price of goods and services are going up. And it is purposeful. Spending money we don't have.

How can you justify spending \$2 trillion, printing that money, and dumping it out there to drive up the price of goods and services, while cutting off the production of oil and gas, not developing nuclear, increasing the price

of gasoline, increasing the price of energy in your homes?

It could only be purposeful. They are breaking it. They want to break it so they can live in unicorn land.

But you are going to have to buy it, and it is going to be expensive.

How about the state of the rule of law?

How about the state of the family?

How about the state of marriage?

Just yesterday, on this floor—just yesterday, on this floor, we passed a law to force recognition by one State of another State's marriage, but by thereby doing that, for the first time, I think this body, certainly Members on this side, supporting the redefinition of marriage, which was manufactured by the 2015 Supreme Court decision, manufactured and forced upon the States, a redefinition of marriage.

Now you see the wailing and gnashing of teeth because this court dared to say that *Roe v. Wade* was bad law, and that we should defer to the States in the protection of life and the recognition that that is the appropriate law under the Constitution.

□ 1630

Lastly, I would point out when we are talking about breaking it, this body is the best example of my Democratic colleagues not giving a whit about you, the people, rolling over and destroying the people's House, destroying this institution.

I have not been able to offer an amendment on the floor of this body. Can't do it. Got to go to Rules. Beg for crumbs.

They drive through so-called suspension of the rules bills. We get them often hours before, at most, a day or two before they are on the floor being asked to be voice voted. If we don't have a group of us on the floor monitoring those bills, they will go through without a vote.

They don't care because voting doesn't matter, as evidenced by proxy voting, forcing a new rule that says you can turn your voting card that you, the voters, gave to representatives and give that to another member of Congress, upending the constitutional order which requires presence, a quorum, physical presence, debate.

That is what the Constitution contemplates, and it is my Democratic colleagues who, for the first time in history, upended our requirement that we be present in the body of the House of Representatives to do our job. Blowing apart—blowing apart—this people's House.

I will note, as I often do, that I am not saying that everybody on this side of the aisle has clean hands on all of these points. A lot of Republicans are taking advantage of the proxy voting that my Democratic colleagues created for the first time in history. They should not.

I will say that to every member. I don't care if they are Freedom Caucus leadership or anybody in between. I

will not back away from saying proxy voting is not only unconstitutional, it is wrong, and it is destroying this body.

Forced magnetometers in this false name of security. Masks being forced upon members of Congress on the floor of the House, which have now been brushed aside because I guess Anthony Fauci or somebody decreed that somehow, it is now safe to walk around without masks until they say it is not safe.

I yield to my friend from Virginia here in one second. I just want to say in conclusion to this part, and then I want to engage with my friend.

My Democratic colleagues, unfortunately with a little bit of help from a few of my Republican colleagues on occasion, are breaking this country. They are breaking this body. They are breaking our Constitution, and it is purposeful.

There are no other words to say what is happening at our border but that it is purposeful. There are no other words to say about what is happening on our streets with our law enforcement but that it is purposeful.

There is no other thing you can say about our energy policies but that it is purposeful. There is nothing you can say about the spending and the inflation but that it is purposeful.

The attack on the institution of marriage, the breakdown of the family, the targeting and the policies against life, that it is purposeful.

The fact that we are destroying this body with proxy voting, that it is purposeful. The fact that we are destroying the Defense Department and the very core values of our men and women in the military with their woke policies, with their vax mandates, irrespective of what that does to defense, driving our recruiting down to unforeseen levels, but that it is purposeful, and it is wrong.

I would just challenge my Republican colleagues that we better come in, if the American people give us power in November, and do the right thing to protect this country and to stop breaking it because the American people are having to buy it.

I yield to my friend from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I had a constituent say to me from Bedford County, just outside of Lynchburg where I live, nothing this President and this majority in Congress is doing makes sense unless they hate the country. Nothing they are doing makes sense unless they hate the country.

What would you do differently over the last year and a half if it was your purpose, your desire, your intention to ruin the country?

Maybe you would undermine police. Maybe you would reduce funding for police. Maybe you would stop arresting violent criminals. Maybe you would stop prosecuting violent crimes. Maybe

you would allow violent criminals to have no cash bail. Maybe we would release violent criminals from our prisons.

You know what? All of those things are happening, and the Democrats seem surprised that crime has gone up across the country. Violent crime is up some 30 percent in the last year across the country.

American cities, unrecognizable. People don't want to go there anymore because of these policies. Maybe the American people don't want 4 million illegal aliens coming into the interior of their country in the past year and a half.

Maybe we have a shortage of funding to take care of Americans, to do the things that we would like to do, to take care of our veterans, to take care of those most in need, to help our farmers, to help hard-working Americans, to maybe give them a little bit of their resources back, to reduce the regulations and the oppression upon them.

Maybe we don't need to bring in 4 million illegal aliens in a year and a half, 10,000 a day now, the average is, give them free social services, free healthcare, free education, free travel, with no requirement to even appear in court. Maybe the American people want their border secured.

Maybe the American people don't want massive inflation, 40-year record inflation, caused primarily by the massive spending, the reckless spending, and the energy policies.

Think about where we might be if this Democrat majority had gotten their \$6 trillion build back bankrupt bill through Congress. \$20,000 per American citizen. They like to say sometimes, oh, some of this stuff is popular. It polls well. People want this.

\$6 trillion is what they have tried to spend, and they are still trying to backdoor it in over these remaining months that they may have power.

How would it poll, do you think, if we said, American citizen, do you want this so-called benefit, this so-called perk, what have you, but your share of the cost is \$20,000. So a family of three, your share is \$60,000. How many would vote for these policies?

Not to mention what they are doing on energy by design, on purpose, the dishonest attack on the fossil fuel industry, the dishonest narrative that we are not the cleanest, large energy producers in the world; the damage that has been done to the economy; the damage that has been done to the way that American people live their lives.

What are they doing? They are bragging about the pain that they are causing. The more pain, the better, they are saying. That is what the President has said. Hey, we are halfway through a transition. If we could just get through to the other side, it is going to be so much better, you know.

As you said in candy land and unicorn land, we are going to have all these jobs and all this prosperity because we went through all this pain.

But the fact is, the fossil fuel industry has been used to bring more prosperity to third world countries than any other development in industrial history.

This assault on our freedoms, our economic freedoms, our healthcare freedoms, as you mentioned, whether it is the mask, whether it is the vaccines, our individual freedoms with the Second Amendment assault.

This body is going to try to pass two more bills to take away and restrict Second Amendment rights. That is going to happen in this House, we are told. The continued assault on the Second Amendment right.

You know, I have right here—I don't do this very often, but I have some quotes from the Founders as it relates to the Second Amendment right.

As I was looking for quotes, you know, I couldn't find anything that talked about that people could keep and bear arms so they could target practice; that people could keep and bear arms so they could hunt; that people could keep and bear arms for sporting purposes.

These quotes that I have here from the Founders explaining why they wrote into the Constitution the Second Amendment as they did was to ensure we remain free.

Freedom has a cost. Most of the world does not live free to the extent that we still live free, as you often enunciate.

Whether the majority of this Congress likes it or not, we have a Constitution. I happen to like it. I know you do as well. The framers, in their wisdom, made it possible to change the Constitution, but they made it difficult by design.

They said, hey, if you want to change the Constitution, you have got to have super majorities of both Houses. You have got to have super majorities of the State legislatures in order to bring transformational change to the country and amend the Constitution.

But, instead, they want to undermine the Constitution, undermine our freedoms, and attack the rights guaranteed to Americans in our Constitution.

Mr. ROY. I ask of the Chair how much time we have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. I would just add to my friend from Virginia a great quote from Thomas Jefferson—because he knows I went to the University of Virginia.

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.

That is the purpose of the Second Amendment, and that is what we know.

I would note that in this context, and I will yield another couple minutes to the gentleman if he wants it, when we are talking about the response from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they break our border purposefully, and then they want us to fix it with amnesty or with some policies to say that Texas has to just accept.

I hear that the mayor of New York is all aghast that people are being dropped off in New York. He said, we need Federal Government help to deal with it. I am, like, welcome to the party, pal. This is what life is like in south Texas every single day.

They break it. They break the border, and then they want you, the American people, to have to carry the water.

They break the Defense Department, drive recruiting down to 40 percent, and then they put in language to draft our daughters, all in the name of so-called equity and equality.

They break our criminal justice system. They break the backs of our law enforcement community. Then they say, we are going to take your guns, your ability to defend yourself.

They break the energy system in our country. Then they say, just go buy a Tesla. What is wrong with you?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. 70,000 bucks. Go ahead.

Mr. ROY. What is wrong with you? Go buy a Tesla. You can plug in. You can drive through west Texas, 300 miles. Don't worry about it. Stop off in Eden, Texas, where, no doubt, they have a charging station and spend \$70,000 for the pleasure.

They break the back of the economy, drive up in inflation, and they say, suck it up, buttercup. Go buy yourself some expensive chicken and rice.

They break the back of this body, this institution, and they ignore their colleagues when their colleagues are saying the chickens are going to come home to roost.

That is the reality of what we are dealing with: A purposeful breaking the back of this country and a tearing apart of the threads that hold us together.

I am going to just say it here on the floor. If we don't start respecting Federalism, the ability to agree to disagree, then this country is doomed. It will break apart under its own weight, and it will be my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that amassed the weight that will break the bow.

That is where we are headed if we don't start respecting the ability of individuals in this country to agree to disagree, allow Texans to be Texans, allow Californians to be Californians.

Unite under the flag of the United States under our core principles but stop shredding our ability to disagree. Stop breaking this country and forcing the American people to buy it.

I yield the balance of the time to my friend Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Well said by the gentleman from Texas.

Their solution, this President's solution, this majority's solution to the economic wreckage they have created is to spend more money.

You just ask yourself. You're baffled. Is it malicious intent, and they recognize the harm that they are doing; and how they are causing the harm; and they are doing it by design; and they are doing it on purpose; or are they

that economically illiterate, and they really are clueless and have no idea what they are doing?

Because we have record inflation, 40-year high inflation of 9 percent, which essentially means every American is working for 1 month free this year. One month out of the year they are essentially not getting paid with the loss of purchasing power they have experienced because of the inflation.

So what is their answer to that? Well, if we could just spend more money, if we could just get more of our agenda passed and spend trillions of dollars more, then that will help the problem rather than make it worse.

It is like the person who says, hey, I am trying to lose weight and then they would say, well, the solution is to eat more. That is the solution that they propose, to do more harm, and you just wonder, is it just that illiterate, that ignorant, or is it willful and devious and malicious?

Mr. ROY. I thank the gentleman from Virginia. I think our time has expired. I appreciate the speaker and the staff here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

□ 1645

#### SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Second Amendment in our Constitution is the amendment that guarantees or ensures all the other freedoms that we hold dear in this country.

The right to defend oneself is a God-given right, but we are unique among the nations of the world in that that right is protected for us and enshrined in our Constitution based on the wisdom of the Founders.

There is a mechanism for changing the Constitution, but it is difficult. Yet, what this body wants to do is to find ways to do what the Constitution clearly says, which is that the Congress has absolutely no constitutional authority to restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

I am going to read a few quotes from the Founders from about 250 years ago, and the reason why we go back to the Founders is to understand what they intended with the Constitution. We have the Federalist Papers, of course, and then other writings by the Founders.

Alexander Hamilton said: "The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed."

Samuel Adams said the Constitution shall "be never construed to authorize Congress to infringe . . . or to prevent