

suffered at the Union Grove facility is abhorrent and must be addressed immediately.

Two months ago, I asked for a Federal review of the State-run facility. Our veterans and their families should be receiving the highest-quality care at any facility in Wisconsin. The quality of care at that facility has long been a concern of mine.

It is abundantly clear that the veterans home at Union Grove has much larger issues than many imagined. We need to ensure our veterans are receiving the care they deserve. I continue to call on the Department of Veterans Affairs and CMS to provide a Federal review of the Union Grove Veterans Home.

HIGH PRICES AND RISING INFLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, this time last year, President Biden claimed that high prices and rising inflation were temporary; that if we continued down this administration's path and trusted their policies, then prices would go down again.

Well, last month's Consumer Price Index score came out and revealed that inflation has soared to 9.1 percent, the highest rate in 41 years. So obviously, his statement that inflation was transitory, temporary, what have you, is false. The numbers aren't bearing up.

Now, the Commerce Department is days away from releasing its first estimate of the economy's output in the April through June quarter. The economy already shrank 1.6 percent in the January through March quarter, and many economists are forecasting another negative output rate.

Two outputs in a row means that—the “R” word, the one that the Biden administration and his Cabinet don't want to say—it could mean the recession.

Now, that will validate the feelings of Americans across the country who are struggling to afford the basic necessities amid rising prices.

Despite record-high prices, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is trying to spin the definition of a recession, claiming that since our Nation's unemployment rate isn't that high, then our economy must be doing great. That is not being felt at home. That is obviously false.

The American people are feeling unprecedented financial pain in all aspects of their lives. Fuel, electricity, their healthcare, homes, everything is going up. It is becoming unaffordable for lower-income and middle-income Americans.

Wholesale prices have surged 11.3 percent. Small business confidence has dropped to a 48-year low with businesses struggling to hire new employees and fill open jobs.

These high-up bureaucrats in the Biden administration aren't suffering the financial consequences that their policies are causing average Americans. They don't feel them the same as regular people do.

This is the same administration who, when gas prices hit an all-time high, told people to go out and buy brand new electric vehicles. Sure, no problem; \$50,000 \$65,000.

Our Secretary of Transportation says it will require more pain to benefit electric car drivers and owners at \$65,000 vehicles with Chinese-made replacement battery packs.

Our Nation is facing a recession, meaning that the sales of new homes, consumer confidence, spending, and real wages are dropping, and inflation is still rising.

President Biden has allowed the American people and Main Street businesses to suffer while his reckless spending policies continue to make things worse. I have heard this firsthand from my own constituents, real people out there that deal with this every day.

The price of everything at the cash register, at the supermarket, is all going up, and their wages, effectively, are going down.

In a telephone town hall I hosted recently, I asked participants, have rising costs impacted your spending habits? Ninety percent said yes. They can spend less; they can do less.

There are similar figures across the board. A new FOX News poll revealed that 75 percent of Americans reported experiencing hardship because of inflation.

We need to work to repair our economy through cutting wasteful spending, burdensome regulations, our dependence on foreign oil. Why are we going to Saudi Arabia and asking for their oil when we have so much in our own backyard, our own energy, that we could make ourselves completely self-sufficient, as we were a couple of years ago, and help our allies around the world with that as well.

Focus on things that help the American people, lower-income and middle-income families especially, instead of helping more illegal immigrants come to the country; instead of helping China become richer with more and more of our assets and more of our business.

I keep having to ask the question: President Biden, and your Cabinet, whose side are you on?

DYSLEXIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, today, one in five Americans are affected by dyslexia, making it the most common learning disability. Yet, there are still children in U.S. school systems that go without being diagnosed.

Instead, they are written off as having a lack of effort, or a plain lack of intelligence.

Despite misconception, dyslexia is not connected to one's level of intelligence. In fact, where students have a difficult time reading, they often excel in creative thought and critical thinking. My bipartisan legislation, the 21st Century Dyslexia Act, will Federally define dyslexia and label proper treatments and diagnosis, enabling teachers, students, and parents to assist aspiring students to achieve successful academic careers, and to ensure that all children are granted equal opportunity in the classroom.

SAVE OUR SEQUOIAS

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, 3,000 years; that is how long some giant sequoias have been alive. To put this into perspective, these trees started growing before the concept of democracy, the English language, and the birth of Christ.

The Mariposa Grove, the largest grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park has been a source of inspiration for generations. When the Washburn Fire recently hit the Mariposa Grove, the fire's intensity dramatically decreased, thanks to 50 years of thinning and prescribed burns.

There is a stark contrast between areas that have a history of proper management and those that have been disregarded. While the fire subsided in the Mariposa Grove, surrounding areas that did not receive sufficient management were destroyed.

As a licensed forester, I take it upon myself to seek science-based solutions for the conservation of our forests. The Mariposa Grove serves as a prime example of how mechanical thinning and prescribed burns are necessary tools for proper forest management.

It is my hope that the grove continues its legacy of inspiration by encouraging a new generation of proactive forest management that will protect these iconic trees for the enjoyment of generations to come.

It is past time for the Natural Resources Committee to mark up the bipartisan Save Our Sequoias Act, and for the House to pass it to protect these iconic national treasures.

GREAT BASIN BRISTLECONE PINE TREES

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, recently, we have talked a lot about the dire situation of some of California's most iconic trees, the sequoias. But we have yet to discuss the condition of California's oldest trees, the Great Basin bristlecone pine trees.

Great Basin bristlecone pines signify resilience, longevity, and perseverance. To cope in difficult times, they almost completely die off, leaving but a few strips of bark that can continue to grow along the ground or skyward for thousands of years. To ward off pests, bristlecone pines trap pests in their thick resin.

Due to severe drought, in mixed forests, bark beetles have been able to build up broods on other tree species

and overwhelm many bristlecone pines, which succumb to bark beetles in a way they have never before.

□ 1300

The good news is, in the past month, a Forest Service pathologist confirmed that Methuselah, the nearly 5,000-year-old bristlecone pine thought to be the oldest tree in the world, has yet to face bark beetle infestation.

There is still time to act on the drought in a timely, commonsense manner to protect our Great Basin bristlecone pines. We must follow the bristlecone pine's example of resilience and perseverance, adapting our laws to the needs of the natural world to stave off catastrophic wildfire and severe drought.

DEVASTATING YEAR FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the hardworking farmers and ranchers of Arkansas, who are being crushed by unprecedented drought and heat on top of out-of-control inflation that has created suffocating input costs for basic farming inputs such as fuel and fertilizer.

Although this devastating farm year can't be salvaged, hopefully the Biden administration and Democrats in Congress will realize how detrimental their actions have been on raising energy and food prices on those who can least afford it: low-income and fixed-income Americans.

There is still time to change directions on this dangerous path Democrats are leading our country down. I plead with my colleagues across the aisle to embolden common 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 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Holy and gracious God, thank You for the countless times You demonstrate the intimacy of Your love for us—through the affection of a loved one, a desire met, serendipitous moments that grace our days with evidence of Your hand in our lives.

How easy it is to believe, having seen Your power at work, Your creative activity in the living of our days, in the healing of those we love and care for. We are truly blessed.

Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

We ask Your blessing when we can't see, when the hurts, the evil, and the confusion of the world obscure any evidence of Your concern for us and deny Your willingness or ability to bring order to our chaos.

In this confusion, may we find certainty that transcends doubt. In our fear, may we find faith that sees beyond our hopelessness. And as we wait upon You, may we trust in Your sovereign power by which all things are possible for those who, even without seeing, believe.

In the inimitable power of Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas 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.

TAKE BORDER CRISIS SERIOUSLY

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, what do Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming have in common?

They all have populations smaller than the number of illegal immigrants that have been apprehended at our southern border since the Joe Biden administration began. We are talking about 3.1 million migrants in 1½ years. This is, indeed, a national security threat.

Border Patrol officials encountered more than 207,000 migrants last month alone. Six, by the way, were on the terrorist watch list.

How many more are making their way here right now? How many will succeed at slipping through the cracks? How many caravans will it take? How many needless deaths will occur under this President?

Every month, thousands more will come if this administration doesn't begin to take this issue seriously. This President must do better.

RECOGNIZING PINE HALL BRICK'S CENTENNIAL

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an impeccable family-owned company in North Carolina that is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year: Pine Hall Brick.

In 1922, a man by the name of Flake Steele, Sr., founded Pine Hall Brick, and today, the Steele family's fourth generation owns and operates the business.

In the construction industry, Pine Hall Brick is a force to be reckoned with. From building schools to major production facilities, this company has a reputation that spans the entire country and one that is highly regarded within the Tar Heel State.

Congratulations to the Steele family and all the employees at Pine Hall Brick on 100 years of excellence. Here is to many more.

BIDEN'S LOOMING RECESSION

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, Biden has repeatedly tried to deflect blame for all the economic problems Americans are currently facing.

Instead of blaming inflation on out-of-control government spending, he claims it is the fault of greedy corporations and that profits are bad.

Instead of realizing that his hostility toward the oil and gas industry is decreasing investments and increasing energy costs, he blames Russia.

Well, I can tell you that the American people are not buying it. The American people are not stupid. People are facing the real-life consequences of Biden's failed economic policies at the grocery store, at the bank, and in their paychecks.

Instead of working to address these economic challenges, the White House is trying to change the definition of a recession before abysmal GDP numbers are released later this week.

The American people deserve a leader that offers solutions, not semantics. In God we trust.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR of Florida). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.