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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, deepen the appreciation of Your truth in our hearts. Unchanging, unwavering, God eternal, root Your strength in our souls.

For Your word endures forever, and your counsel stands for perpetuity. May our meager efforts find their foundation in Your eternal plan. May our decisions be rooted in Your everlasting word.

Use us in this time and this place that even the least of our accomplishments would find worth in Your design. Guide us in these days that the most inconsequential elements of our work would have value in Your eyes.

In each fleeting moment, confront us with the opportunity to acknowledge that You are present, here, now, and in every minute of our lives. And may we serve to glorify You this day.

In Your presence we stand, and in 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 Virginia (Mr. CLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLINE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today some 400 years after slavery was introduced to the United States in 1619. I rise today proud of this House of Representatives because on yesterday, the House approved a historic Slavery Remembrance Day resolution.

Madam Speaker, in the out years, this resolution is going to prove to be very beneficial to our country. You will find slavery remembrance commemorations going on across the length and breadth of the country. This is because we never want to repeat the horrors of slavery.

So, I thank every Member of this House who voted for this resolution. Each of you will receive from me a personal thank you as well as a commemorative booklet so that you can place this prominently some place in your home or your office because it was a historic occasion, and it will make a difference in the lives of people across the length and breadth of this country.

I am so proud of you, and I thank you. God bless you.

AMERICA IS IN A RECESSION

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, this morning the government announced what every American has been feeling for nearly a year: We are in a recession.

This news is a grim milestone that points toward more hardship, more suffering, and more pain for the American people. But even as we were expecting today's news, let me address what happened in the past 24 hours.

The Senate passed a bill that took a small, discretionary program and turned it into a \$280 billion blank check, including \$79 billion in mandatory spending on corporate welfare to be handed out to whoever President Biden wants.

For the record, I am a "no" on the Senate CHIPS bill that will come to the floor today. I was a "no" last week. I was a "no" last night. And I will be the first "no" on the board later today.

I urge all my Republican colleagues to join me. Reject this deeply flawed bill. Let's start from scratch.

And if that wasn't enough, Senate Democrats then announced they want to spend another half a trillion dollars during a recession. Democrats say they want to lower inflation, but do you know what their new bill does? It gives you a \$7,500 tax credit to buy an \$80,000 electric vehicle for people making up to \$300,000.

They say they want to restore growth, but their new bill adds \$700 billion in new taxes, including a \$300 billion made in America tax that punishes anyone who wants to build, manufacture, or invest in America.

They say they want to help struggling families, but do you know what their new bill does? Who do they hire? They hire 87,000 new IRS agents to audit them and spy on their bank accounts. That is what the Democrat majority wants.

They say they want to lower prices, but their new bill will allow bureaucrats to decide what drugs seniors can

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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access and destroy the hope of any new cures or treatments for diseases like cancer.

And do you know what? They are not done yet.

Mr. Speaker, do Democrats really believe that spending hundreds of billions of tax dollars right now while pursuing and punishing productive investments in the long run will lower inflation? Policies like that don't lower inflation; they cause inflation.

They are going to spend more dollars chasing the same goods with fewer jobs and lower income in the long run all during a recession.

But I know what you are going to say: It is okay because you changed the definition of a "recession" now. You know, Einstein once said, and we all know it: "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result." So what you really should do is just go with changing the definition. Maybe people won't hear you or understand it.

We all know across this country what caused inflation: Democrats winning the House, the Senate, and the Presidency. And now you are doubling down on the same failed policies. Was the worst inflation in 40 years not enough? Are they trying to see how high they can get it all while forcing the American people to pay the bills for your failures?

Democrats just can't help themselves. They simply don't care about the consequences.

Which brings me to this morning's news, the Bureau of Economic Analysis announced the GDP fell by 0.9 percent in the second quarter. I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, if everybody is lined up to talk about that today. This comes after a 1.6 percent decline in the economy in the first quarter. So half of this year our economy shrank.

It is no wonder an overwhelming 8 in 10 Americans feel the economy is heading in the wrong direction. And the National Federation of Independent Businesses—this is a survey of small businesses—found that the confidence is at its lowest level in 48 years. But I guess that is Putin's fault.

Consumers and businesses are losing hope, and there is no secret why. Every week the American people know we are able to buy less with the money we have. Every week at the gas pump we are paying nearly twice as much to fill up our tanks. Every month the American people know when they get their pay stubs they are making less in real wages. And every day the American people understand the simple truth: We cannot afford Democrats' failed policies. But we are certainly paying for them.

Of course, President Biden and Speaker PELOSI won't admit it. Their response to rising prices has been to issue dismissals, denials, distortions, and a little deceptive spin.

Remember when President Biden told us last July that inflation was temporary and expected? Remember that

right there? Then he told us in December that inflation had peaked, no more fear, it has peaked. That was at 7.0 percent. Democrats tried to convince us that inflation was a good thing.

Remember Secretary Yellen said this week that a recession isn't a recession, but rather, our country is in a period of transition in which growth is slowing. That is weird, huh? We all learned that a recession is really easy. You take two quarters in a row and you have negative growth. But it is weird, beginning this week the White House told us, I don't know, I looked in every book, but we are changing the definition now. We changed each and every place of where we went.

When it started, it was temporary. First, it was COVID's fault. Then, don't worry, it is transitory, it is not going to stay. Then we found out corporate greed is doing this; then it is just a high-class problem, their problem, nobody else's. Then it is okay, it has peaked. But then when it went a little higher, it is the supply chain's fault now. No, no, no, no. Now, it is Putin's fault. Eventually America may believe something. Then it is just out of date. Now, no, no it is not a recession, the economy is just slowing.

You would rather redefine a recession than restore a healthy economy?

You know, the American people know that inflation was not temporary. Inflation hadn't peaked, and now we are in a recession. But the Democrats continue to talk down to American families no matter the increased cost of nearly everything.

But you know the worst part about all of this? And I see people here ready to speak. Madam Speaker, I wonder if anyone is going to speak and show us your plan. Show us your plan to get us out of recession. Show us your plan to make our streets safe again. Show us your plan that you are going to produce more and lower the gas price. I guess your plan is just redefine and blame something else.

Their failed policies have not only made inflation worse, you created it. Democrats have increased total government spending by over \$9 trillion in less than 18 months. For every American, if you wonder, do elections have consequences? Yes, they do. Oh, yes, they do. \$9 trillion in 18 months.

The Democrats control the House, they control the Senate, they control the White House. This is what they brought us. We have not felt this in more than four decades. Sixty percent of every American has never lived through inflation above 4 percent.

They halted energy projects, slowed down pipeline construction, and took every step to discourage American oil and gas production. You know, when they had the majority like they do right now, they brought in all the energy companies. Not one Democrat asked: How could we lower the gas price? Do you know what they made every CEO do? They asked them: Would you promise to produce less next year

because we want the gas price higher? We want to punish Americans. That was their question, to produce less. They want to intimidate them.

And they crippled the labor market by paying people to stay home instead of going back to work, including themselves.

□ 1015

This is the only place in America you can go and enjoy a wedding in France for some movie star and still vote on this floor and get paid for it. This is the only place in America you can be on a boat celebrating and still vote in this House or in your committee and get paid for it. This is the only place in America, and this is the only Congress that has ever allowed it—ever. It doesn't matter what we have ever gone through, a pandemic, a war.

Do you know what, Madam Speaker? I don't see one Member wearing a mask, and we were only going to keep that during the pandemic. I see one. I stand corrected. But I guess the rest of you feel it is okay.

If this sounds like a healthy economy to you, I hear there is an opening at the White House press office. But for the rest of us that live in reality, it is painful.

I want to ask everybody in America: Can you afford to give up 1 month of income? Think about that. Could you afford to give 1 month of your pay up? I don't know very many people in my district who can.

Madam Speaker, maybe Paul Pelosi can, but nobody else that I know can.

But that is exactly what you took from every single American. You see, inflation is so high, every single American has lost a full month's pay.

Can Americans afford to keep the Democrats in power? Could you afford to lose another month's pay? Or do you feel good that it is not a recession or it is Putin's fault?

If you had a constant salary like everybody in this body, 1 month is 8.3 percent of those 12 months. Inflation is higher, so you just lost a full salary. You have less money, but you pay more at the gas pump.

But it is okay. Tell everybody to go buy an electric car at \$80,000. I wonder what your answer is to the homeless. Buy a house?

If you think about this, this is actually the Pelosi pay cut because not one American voted for your \$2 trillion inflation-creating bill. Not one. The Pelosi pay cut affects every American, but do you know what? It is especially hard on families who have extra expenses.

I don't know if you watched the clip, but I watched this clip of a 15-year-old girl named Jinger Vincent from Indiana. This poor girl was diagnosed with bone cancer, and she has to travel every week for treatment. It is located more than an hour away. Last year, her parents, Keith and Analiza, paid around \$100 each week for that trip, but because of the surging gas price—but it

is okay if I listen to the Democrats; the President said it is a good thing—they are now spending more than \$200 each week. They also have two other children.

The Vincents said they simply can't afford a price hike, and they have turned to loans to cover the costs. Can you imagine having to take a loan to pay for the gas to take your 15-year-old daughter to get cancer treatment and at the same time losing a full month's pay?

Do you know what is worse? In this story, that 15-year-old girl, Jinger—having to watch her parents say: We have to pay this bill, and we have to pay that. This is what she said: And I am downstairs, and I hear all that. It just seems so stressful. They shouldn't have to go through this.

Madam Speaker, my question is, do Democrats agree with Secretary Buttigieg that the more pain families like the Vincents feel at the pump is a good thing? Madam Speaker, that is the Secretary of Transportation.

I guess they seem to agree with them because rather than having a plan to lower gas prices, their answer is to tell the Vincents and others to buy a Tesla. They are borrowing money to pay for gas, and you are telling them to buy a Tesla.

But do you know who is probably happy because with their new deal, you can make \$300,000, and that same taxpayer that just lost a month's salary that has to get a loan to pay for gas, they have to pay more in taxes so somebody else wealthy can get that tax break—that is not compassion. It is cruelty, and the American people are suffering the consequences every day.

Americans aren't imagining that their grocery bills are higher than ever; they are. Americans aren't imagining that they have to pay more to fill up their gas tanks; they do. They are not imagining that their savings are shrinking and their 401(k)'s have become 201(k)'s; they are.

But let me tell you what they are actually living through, what they are afraid of, and what keeps them up at night: higher taxes and higher energy costs; the first house they will never be able to afford because prices are rising and their incomes are falling; retirement savings that will no longer last long enough. They are worried about how much worse it can get if Democrats' failed policies continue.

You think for all this suffering that they have caused, there is no way that Democrats would do this on purpose. Guess again.

Everything about the Biden recession was predictable and avoidable. Only Democrats in Washington chose not to see it coming. I remember coming to this exact floor, warning that if you pass nearly \$2 trillion of the American Rescue Plan, you would cause inflation. I listened to the other side. They said it was going to save us. But that inflation is exactly what happened.

It is interesting when you look at these lines, producer price inflation.

You don't even have to put it here, but I bet you could predict when Biden was inaugurated. That is when it all goes up.

But when did your wages start to drop? The day he was sworn in. The day the Democrats took the majority in the House, the Senate, and the White House.

When did it really start dropping hard? The day they passed the American Rescue Plan.

But I know they want to reject what Republicans say. They don't want to listen to Republicans. But do you know what? Why don't you listen to Larry Summers? He worked in the Obama-Biden administration as the Director of the National Economic Council. He was the Secretary of the Treasury in Bill Clinton's administration. Before the vote, he told everybody the American Rescue Plan could set off inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation. I guess he was right. Jason Furman, an economic adviser to the Obama-Biden administration, said the same thing.

The American Rescue Plan was definitely too big for the moment. I don't know any economist that was recommending something the size of what was done, but every Democrat was.

Why don't we go to Steve Rattner, another Obama-Biden economist? What did he say? The American Rescue Plan was the Democrats' original sin when it comes to inflation. Think about that. Steve Rattner, who worked in the Obama-Biden administration to try to help them during an economic crisis, especially when it came to the automobile industry, says this is the original sin, the American Rescue Plan, that caused inflation. He didn't say it was Putin's fault. He didn't say it was temporary. He didn't apologize afterward because he didn't have to. He warned you about it.

Treasury Secretary Yellen—I don't know how many calls she made to try to twist arms to get people to vote for it or how many times she went on TV telling the American public that this was a good thing, that this was going to put us on the right path—she admitted in May that she missed the biggest explosion of inflation in over 40 years. She said, "I was wrong then about the path that inflation would take."

She was wrong when she told us it was transitory. She was wrong when she told people to vote for it.

Either Democrats didn't see the worst inflation in 40 years coming, or they did and still believed your suffering was worth the incredible transition. That explains why President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, and Senator SCHUMER are still peddling anti-energy policies, plus almost a trillion in new spending and new taxes on Main Street, even as these policies destroy our country.

It explains why we have John Kerry, Biden's Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, saying: We absolutely don't need to produce more oil and gas in America.

This is the leadership of America. We don't need to produce more oil and gas in America, so we will stop the pipeline on the first day. We will tell those American workers they are not going to work in America, but we are going to go over to Saudi Arabia.

I guess you keep some promises in a campaign when you say you are going to shut down oil and gas in America but don't keep the promise about Saudi Arabia. You go there and you fist-bump and hope you are going to get more: Could you produce more for America?

Do you know what is so sad about all of this? You have no plan to fix it, but you had the plan to destroy it. It wasn't just Republicans who warned you about it. It was your very own Democrats who were in Obama's administration, who were economic advisers, who warned you before the vote that you would create inflation. Then you took that vote.

Only Democrats passed that bill. Only Democrats created inflation. Only Democrats have shut down our oil and gas, and we haven't even gotten to defunding the police. I don't know how many times people can warn you.

You can go to my home State, to the city of San Francisco, Republicans there register only about 6.7 percent. They are not even the second party, but even San Francisco has had enough. They recalled their school board against the same policies you passed on this floor. They recalled their DA.

It is not just Republicans telling you it is hurting; it is America. But you still have no plan, not one plan. We are 1 more day here before we are out into August. There isn't one plan proposed. Or I guess your plan is to follow the President to Saudi Arabia.

But your plan that you announced yesterday, the plan you are going to vote on this floor today, is only going to create more inflation. You are going to take another paycheck away.

It explains why this week and the week before and the week before that, and every week in this House you have been in session, the Democrats have offered no plan to fight inflation. You only fuel it. It is basic economics.

Madam Speaker, in 40 years, we have never experienced this. The last time we experienced this, we had a Democrat-controlled House, Senate, and White House.

You have no plan to increase energy production to lower the price of gasoline. In fact, just this week and last week, 218 House Democrats voted to continue to sell our strategic oil to Communist China. You voted on that on the floor. You have done it twice.

So, not only do you not have a plan, but you are defending China taking the oil we saved to protect America. You have no plan to reconnect workers to jobs by ending incentives that pay more to stay home than pursue productive work.

Madam Speaker, Americans know the Democrats have no plan to rebuild

an economy that works for us—none whatsoever.

□ 1030

Republicans have a plan. We are prepared to build an economy that is strong and one that fights inflation by officially ending this disastrous Build Back Better, eliminating wasteful spending, and getting Americans back to work in the workforce.

Do you know where we will start?

Right here on this floor.

You will have to show up for work to be paid, just like every other American. No, you can't take your European trips and phone it in.

To the American public: Let's just be honest. Why won't the Democrats lift the proxy voting?

Because every person who votes proxy, signs—by penalty of perjury—they can't come in because of COVID. I imagine if that person had COVID they probably wouldn't have been let into that wedding in France or on that houseboat with their family or at the fundraiser in Ohio trying to run for the Senate.

Madam Speaker, it starts by example. If you are not willing to produce a plan, if you are not willing to have your own Members show up to work, and if you are not willing to be honest with the American people, then get out of the way and let somebody else lead.

We have an economy in our plan that will be driven by pro-growth economic policies that deliver higher paychecks and that don't take them away from you. They will lower costs, boost Main Street, and encourage innovation.

It will be an economy with lower gasoline prices—yes—by increasing production in America with American-made energy, not begging the Saudis for more. We will approve more oil and gas pipelines here at home, and we will prioritize reliable, resilient energy grids.

Do you know what it will do to not just the economy, not just more Americans working, and not just lowering the fuel price that will lower inflation? It will improve the environment.

You see, Madam Speaker, American natural gas is 41 percent cleaner than Russian natural gas. We will secure our supply chain and no longer be dependent on China.

Madam Speaker, I know the Democrats will continue to vote to defend China to make sure they get our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We will keep bringing it up so that every time I watch a Democrat on TV say that they are opposed to it, but they walk into this room—or they are in their weddings or on their fundraisers and they phone in their votes—and they defend China, we will defend America.

It is time for a new direction in Washington to get our Nation back on track. Americans deserve a future filled with hope, opportunities, and freedom, and Republicans stand ready to deliver.

I wait patiently for one Democrat to tell me their plan to reverse inflation,

to lower the gasoline prices, and not celebrate the pain they are causing every American.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCHRIER). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, a point of clarification, are we doing Special Orders or 1 minutes?

I think there is a time set aside every day for Special Orders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is currently entertaining requests for 1-minute speeches. The minority leader was recognized for the customary time.

REMEMBERING DAVID TRIMBLE

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to David Trimble, an important contributor to the formation and the success of the Good Friday Agreement and the original First Minister for Northern Ireland. I got to know David very well, and it is unfortunate that he has left us too early.

All of the political parties in the North put aside longstanding animosities and came together to make the Good Friday Agreement possible. David Trimble showed uncommon courage to ignore dissenting voices in the Unionist community to achieve that historic accord.

For all of us, sometimes it is difficult to say no to our own side. It was not an easy process. There were many months of negotiations, and not everybody got what they wanted, but the Nobel Prize that he and John Hume received in 1998 was a reflection of those tough decisions. As we approach the 25th anniversary of the agreement, it endures because of his patient approach, coupled with a keen focus on dialogue.

My deepest condolences to his wife, Daphne, and family. Today, we know that on the island of Ireland, peace is within our sight because of the work that David Trimble contributed.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF KWAM RADIO

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of The Mighty 990 radio station in Memphis. Its call letters, KWAM, stand for We Are Memphis.

Over the years, legendary musicians, including Elvis Presley, have been associated with The Mighty 990.

Today, the radio station is owned by Memphis native, Todd Starnes who transformed KWAM into a news talk radio station with an emphasis on developing local talent.

KWAM is a strong voice for people across west Tennessee and the entire

country broadcasting from the banks of the mighty Mississippi.

KWAM's roster of talent includes Todd Starnes' nationally syndicated show, Tim Van Horn, and Earle Farrell, along with Chett and Dr. Sherrie Hopper.

Congratulations to KWAM The Mighty 990 on this historic milestone.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, today I seek recognition and rise to address the growing barriers to homeownership and skyrocketing rents.

Families that have lived in the city of New York for generations are being pushed out. These families have significant ties to the community and contribute to the cultural exchange that New York City is known for.

Homeownership is one of the best ways to gain equity and build generational wealth. Yet, there are millions of Americans who aren't able to buy into the housing market.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, I am proud to have worked with my colleagues to draft a bill that would address this issue.

But we must do more. The bill provides a total of \$62.7 billion for HUD which includes funding to protect housing assistance for more than 4.8 million individuals. It also expands housing choice vouchers to more than 140,000 low-income individuals and families at risk of homelessness.

We must continue to enact policies that ensure all residents can live without being burdened by housing costs.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO DONALD KELLER

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute and pay tribute to a member of the Greatest Generation in celebration of his 100th birthday. Donald Keller is a World War II veteran who has lived in Strasburg, Virginia, for almost his whole life.

At 21, Keller joined the Army as a radio operator, and he served in the military for almost 2 years from 1943 to 1945. During his deployment, he was awarded two Purple Hearts, one after being wounded in Normandy and the other when he was injured in Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. Keller later received the French Legion of Honor for carrying two injured soldiers to safety while he himself was injured.

After Keller fought in the war, he returned to Strasburg where he served the city by opening his own radio repair company.