

people who fought and survived and came back could not get the same loans, the same grants, the same opportunities as others. So the opportunity to build wealth has been denied, and that opportunity denied has manifested in a wealth gap that is unimaginable with Black people having pennies on the dollar for the many dollars that White people have in terms of wealth.

This wealth gap is something that cannot be ignored, and atonement has to be a methodology by which we achieve a bringing together, a closing of the wealth gap, if you will. And until we close the wealth gap we have to continue to require atonement.

Now, there are many people who conclude that atonement and just talking about slavery is something that ought to be against the law.

In the State of Texas they have in our legislature imposed a law that as many read it would not allow teaching the truth about slavery in schools. There are people who don't want their children to be harmed by hearing about the suffering that people in this country had perpetuated upon them for centuries. They don't want their children to know. They want their children to believe that liberty and justice for all has always applied to all of the people in the country, and it hasn't. They want their children to believe that there has always been equal access to opportunity in this country, which is not true. They don't want their children taught the truth, but the truth is going to be told and taught. The truth will be known. Carlyle was right: "No lie can live forever." William Cullen Bryant was right: "Truth, crushed to Earth, shall rise again." Dr. King was right: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

The truth will be told. You can't hide it from your children. They need to know the truth. It is only after the truth is known that we can then reconcile and have an even greater country than we have today.

The process of reconciliation requires atonement, and for this process of reconciliation I have legislation pending to have a department of reconciliation, a department with a secretary of reconciliation with undersecretaries of reconciliation who will have the responsibility to wake up each and every day and deal with the racial wealth gap, deal with the invidious discrimination that took place against persons who came here and built the railroads, persons of Asian ancestry, the invidious discrimination that took place with the Trail of Tears when people were forced to leave their homes, move across the country, and dwell in a foreign place as it related to them, and the invidious discrimination to deal with the Latino population that many years ago had land taken from them.

Yes, we need a department of reconciliation. I have the legislation for such a department.

But notwithstanding that, we still need this legislation to deal with the

atonement of these big financial institutions that have profited from the labor of human beings who were treated as chattel.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I say every word that I have said today because I am the proud descendant of these humble hands that helped build this Capitol, the proud descendant of these humble hands that helped build the roads and bridges, laid the foundation for this country. They were the foundational mothers and fathers of this country. I am proud to be a descendant of the enslaved people who helped make America great. I am proud to say that I think these enslaved people who helped make America great deserve more than being reviled while the people who tried to maintain slavery are revered—the Confederacy—revered by this House of Representatives.

□ 1445

Slavery reviled. The slaves reviled.

Why do I say that the Confederacy was revered or is revered or has been revered by this House?

Because this House of Representatives granted a Congressional Gold Medal to Confederate soldiers. Some things bear repeating. The House of Representatives in this Chamber passed legislation to accord a Congressional Gold Medal to Confederate soldiers. We revere the enslavers and revere the enslaved.

That hasn't changed. This Congress or the next should accord a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslaved people who built this country. If we could do it for the enslavers, then we can do it for the enslaved.

I will have legislation before this House to allow each and every person to go on RECORD as to whether you have the courage and the intestinal fortitude necessary to set the record straight, to do the right thing—no, more importantly—to do the righteous thing: give the people who built this country the same recognition that you gave to the people who would keep them in chains.

My dear brothers and sisters will have an opportunity. We will find out whether you put principle above politics or whether you are going to put the Confederacy above the enslaved. We will find out.

I assure you; the RECORD will be made known. We will know who voted for and who voted against.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, we will file this legislation. We will give Members an opportunity to demonstrate where they stand.

Dr. King was right: The truest measure of the person is not where you stand in times of comfort and convenience when all is well in your world. The truest measure of the person is where do you stand in times of great challenge and controversy?

I plan to bring the time of challenge to the floor of the House.

The question is: Where will the Members of this great House stand?

Will Members have the courage to accord a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslaved persons?

Will Members have the courage to pass a resolution asking for a department of reconciliation?

Will Members have the courage to vote for legislation to require these megabanks and mega-insurance companies to atone for their connectivity to the greatest crime committed against humanity?

We will find out because the legislation will be presented.

Mr. Speaker, let me close with this: Notwithstanding all that I have said, I still love my country. I still pledge allegiance to the flag, and I still sing the national anthem. I still support those who choose not to say the pledge of allegiance and refuse to sing the national anthem. But I do it because I believe in the Constitution. I believe in the words liberty and justice for all as extolled in the pledge of allegiance. I believe that we can be a country of the people, by the people, and for all of the people.

I believe these things in spite of the fact that my country hasn't always loved me as much as I love it. I just celebrated my 25th birthday for the third time, and my country hasn't always loved me as much as I love my country.

My country required me to drink from colored water fountains, Mr. Speaker. My country required me to sit in the back of the bus and to sit in the balcony of movies. My country required me to go to back doors and get my food. My country required me to step off the sidewalk when other persons of a different hue passed.

I still love my country. I am standing here today because I love my country, and I want my country to live up to the promise made in the Declaration of Independence and the promise made in the Constitution.

I want America to be America for all Americans, and until that day, I will still love my country, but I will remain a liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid to speak truth to power and truth about power.

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

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, reflecting on my time in Congress and in the

Pennsylvania General Assembly makes me think about how blessed I am, and we are as Americans. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve the outstanding people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District and Pennsylvania's 85th legislative district.

I am also thankful for all the lessons and people who God placed in my life. At a time when I needed guidance, God placed people before me to give me that guidance and that example, and then He gave me the wisdom to accept that guidance and put it to work.

My dad, at a very young age when I was very young, taught me a work ethic second to none. My grandmother taught me the importance of an education and how to be proper.

Max Bingham, owner of Bingham & Son Lumber in Kreamer, Pennsylvania, taught me business, leadership, and how to be an adult. I can't say enough about my wife and her family. My wife and brother-in-law are here today. I am so blessed to have them in my life. My wife and her family taught me kindness. My mother-in-law is the kindest person I have known. It is not always heard people talking about their mother-in-law so affectionately, but she was very kind. It is often said that behind every successful man there is a surprised mother-in-law. That is a little joke of mine that I say. But my wife's family is truly exceptional, and I am very blessed that I married into that family almost 38 years ago.

The list could go on, but the point is no one accomplishes anything alone. America is the greatest country on Earth. Nowhere else in the world can a poor kid like me go from picking up aluminum cans along the side of the road to owning his own home, running a business, starting a small business of his own, and get elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives or the United States Congress.

Growing up, we never were envious. If we wanted something for ourselves, we were taught that we had to work for it. Hard work and education is the way to succeed in America. We knew the American Dream was attainable no matter who you are or what you have.

We never used being poor as an excuse. In fact, my grandmother taught me many things at a very young age. I was about 12, she was about 75, and she sat us down at the table one day. I don't know what my brother and I had done. My brother was 1 year older than I. She said: Boys, people who make excuses are weak.

We never used an excuse. We never let anyone, or our government define us. In today's world, if we had grown up now, people probably would have tried to define us as at-risk or disadvantaged. No, we were just poor. Because if you believe in God, and you live in the United States of America, you are not disadvantaged or at-risk.

I have used the experience growing up and the examples that the many people taught me over my lifetime to shape me into the person and public

servant I am today. It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent the good people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District over the past few years, and I thank them for having the confidence in me to do that job.

Our team worked to hold government accountable, create opportunities for workers and job creators, provide veterans with improved care, expand quality healthcare for rural communities, support our farmers, and bolster the Commonwealth's natural gas industry.

One of the best parts of representing Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District has been traveling the district and meeting the outstanding, intelligent, and hardworking people who live in our communities. That is where the real work happens and from where the solutions to our problems come. These are the people who make a difference.

As politicians, we all go out, we campaign for office, and we all talk about jobs and jobs and what we are going to do. My friend, Bob Garrett, the president of the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, reminded me of this one time. He said: You know, FRED, you can't be pro-jobs and anti-business.

I think that is a lesson that people in the Beltway could learn because the job creators and the workers who work in those jobs are the people who are put on the line every day to work and create the wealth in America.

I can say with confidence that every day our team brought their voice and the values of the people of PA-12 to Washington, D.C.

I am incredibly grateful and honored for the work that we have accomplished. It was made possible by the integrity, passion, and commitment of our entire team.

Mr. Speaker, what an outstanding group of individuals they are. In fact, our district director and chief of staff is here today, and I just want to give a shout-out to Ann Kaufman who is one of the hardest working and intelligent people I know. I thank her for her work. Jon Anzur and Nick Barley are here with me today. They are just great people. I appreciate the passion and the commitment of the entire team. Without their efforts, their contribution, and their service, we would not have been able to serve Pennsylvania's congressional district so well. It would not have been possible.

Though I will not be in Congress next year, I am reminded of a quote from Ronald Reagan. President Reagan said: "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."

I see some of my friends. I thank Mr. KELLY so much, and I appreciate him being here, as well as Representative MILLER-MEEKS. I think I saw somebody else over here. Dr. FOXX is here. These are great individuals and public servants, but I would say these are people who have servants' hearts. They are people who have helped me throughout my time in Congress.

To the rest of the people here in the Beltway: America's greatness does not come from buildings and politicians. It comes from her citizens who are guided by our Lord God Almighty.

A personal example I can give to that, I mentioned a gentleman who has meant so much to me in my adult life and has been there to support my family whenever we needed it. His name is Max Bingham. Max took this young kid, employed him, taught him business, and taught him how to behave and the taught him the right things to do. My life is better because of Max.

□ 1500

Max, our community, our Commonwealth, and our Nation are better because of you. You have touched so many lives and have been a great example to so many people.

Take that example of Max Bingham, and there are many other people that do that. As I mentioned, it doesn't come from inside these walls. It comes from across our great Nation, and we need to make sure that we honor and respect those people for whom we work.

While our Nation still faces many challenges, I am more confident than ever that we will be successful if we continue to believe in the greatness of the American people.

Get government out of the way, protect our God-given freedoms, and allow Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money. In fact, they have earned it.

I am often asked what I plan to do next. The answer is, I do not know. Whatever the good Lord has in store for me next, I will build upon the work our team has accomplished to ensure America remains that shining city on a hill that forebearers saw from afar.

It looks like we have some other people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), my colleague.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Fred and I met several years ago. A mutual friend of ours by the name of Tom Marino had been elected and then decided to leave the Congress. We were really fortunate because the person who came in after Tom was Fred.

We formed kind of an instant friendship. I think a lot of it is because of who raised us, because we oftentimes talk about family.

I was looking at different things that people have said over the ages. This is Thomas Aquinas, over seven centuries ago, who summed up what Western civilization understood to be the natural debt of gratitude all human beings owe to God, family, and country.

Isn't that the truth for all of us? Who is it that we owe this incredible life we have? Those who came before us.

We talked today, as we talk often. Mr. Speaker, 1½ million men and women gave their lives. It wasn't so much that they gave time; they gave

their lives in order for us to practice this incredible form of government, this representative Republic.

People often get confused and talk about our democracy, our democracy, our democracy. We are truly a Republic, and every voice gets heard, every voice gets counted, and every person gets counted.

I think, for my friend and I, we spend a lot of time together. When I look up in the gallery, his family is here.

Where is Camrie? Camrie, stand up, honey. You are so little, I can't see you from down here. There she is.

She is my favorite source of energy. I have never seen a child with the energy she has. But you realize, she is just an offshoot of her grandma and grandpa.

Listen, we have had great fun together, but I think more than anything else, when you come to Washington, if you have never been here before, and you have not served the public before, one of the things when you come to Washington that you are told right away is, if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.

Well, for me, it wasn't getting a dog. It was getting a chance to serve with FRED KELLER. We do a lot of things together, mostly talk about family and faith and the opportunity we have to serve the people who sent us.

It is never about me; it is always about we. It is never about us; it is always about our families. It is about our wives. It is about our children. It is about our parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles.

You talk about your former employer so well that I feel I know Max. Although we have never met or shook hands, just from the way you have talked about him, I feel I know who he is, and I know how important he was in the whole being of FRED KELLER.

This is truly one of the most unselfish men I have ever known. He doesn't come here for himself. He comes here for his family. He comes here for the people he represents.

He comes here for those 1½ million men and women who have given their lives to give us the opportunity to practice this incredible form of government.

I know sometimes we get mixed up about what this is all about when we sit here and say this is the people's House, with the emphasis on the people. It is not FRED KELLER's House. It is not MIKE KELLY's House. It is not VIRGINIA FOXX's. It is not Dr. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS'. It is about the people we represent, and each of us represents about three-quarters of a million people.

I know that every week when we have the chance to come here and share time together and share the opportunity to actually bring about legislation, as do you, Mr. Speaker, we need to take a breather sometimes and forget about all the hyperbole and think about all the blessings we have because there is truly no place else in the world

like this. There never has been, but it is up to us to make sure it is available for that next generation.

When I look up in the gallery, and I see Camrie up there, Fred doesn't come here for Fred. Fred comes here for Camrie and for Karsen and for all the other people he represents back in Pennsylvania.

I think that is the beauty of us, who are so fortunate and so honored to serve, because it is not about us. It is about our constituents. It is about all those who came before us.

I have to tell you, buddy. I hate to see you leave because we have had a lot of fun together. We shared a lot of meals. We shared a lot of stories.

You are great at entertaining my staff. They get bored with me from time to time. They always say, boy, I hope Mr. KELLER stops by today.

We have formed an incredible friendship. I have gotten to know Fred. I have gotten to know his wife and his family. He is truly one of the finest Americans you could ever be around.

It has been a wonderful time. It has been a wonderful life, not to coin any famous movies that are a favorite, but I have to tell you that it has been a great time, buddy.

The service you have given to God, to your family, and to your country is immeasurable. We are going to miss you being here, but I know this is not the end of the FRED KELLER story.

I am a phone call away, brother. Any time you need me, I am a phone call away. It has been a pleasure serving with you.

You have some fan favorites here with you that I think we should hear from.

One of my all-time favorite people is VIRGINIA FOXX, who is sitting beside me. Dr. Foxx is one of a kind, and you know from serving on her committee just how special she is.

Mr. KELLER. Thank you, MIKE, for your comments. Love you, pal.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Love you, too, buddy.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have to say, about Dr. Foxx, I remember when I first got here, and they were working out committees because I came in in a special election. I had to promise not to create any trouble for Dr. Foxx, I think is what it was. But I think what it really meant was you better work hard. I think that is what it meant. You better contribute. You better work hard.

There isn't anybody who runs a better ship when it comes to making sure that we accomplish the goals on behalf of the people we represent than a great mentor, a great person who has become a friend over the past few years, Dr. VIRGINIA FOXX.

Ms. FOXX. As we say here sometimes to save time, I certainly associate myself with the very eloquent words of Congressman KELLY. He is so good. You see that he needed no notes. He can just come up here and speak without anything.

This is a tough day for me to come in and talk about your leaving, Congressman KELLER, but we want to let you know how much we appreciate you. That is why we are here.

One thing I have learned about Representative FRED KELLER while serving with him in Congress is that he is someone who always shows up prepared to work on behalf of job creators and workers, and he is committed to upholding the Constitution.

I am so glad your staff and family are there in the gallery with us today because I know they have heard positive things about you before, but I think it is helpful for them to hear us come here today in this special place to say these things to you.

I have greatly appreciated and admired FRED's strong commitment to conservative principles. As a businessman and job creator himself, he knows the free market works and is dedicated to protecting it.

It is clear why FRED recently received the Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Business.

His stalwart defense of limited government and fiscal responsibility will serve as an example to current and future lawmakers alike.

FRED has been an important leader on the Education and Labor Committee. As the Republican leader on the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, FRED worked hard to protect the rights of workers and job creators.

He was well suited for this function because he has real-world experience in business. Managing a plant of 250 people for 25 years gave FRED the experience needed to serve our country's workforce. The committee and this Congress have benefited from his insight and wisdom.

I have also admired FRED's commitment to the sanctity of life, which has been second to none in this body. I will never forget the story FRED told during a hearing that none of us had ever heard before and were not expecting to hear.

The story was about his son, Freddie, who suffered a traumatic brain injury at a young age. Doctors told FRED and his wife that there was zero chance his son would recover. Despite pressure from doctors, FRED and his wife refused to take their son off life support. Freddie recovered and is now in his thirties, working for the healthcare industry. What a victory for parents' love for their son and the principle of life.

FRED's commitment to life didn't end back in his son's hospital room. It is something he has been dedicated to throughout his life.

No matter where he goes, FRED wears a pin on his collar that represents the exact size and shape of baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception. It is a daily reminder that life is sacred, and it is our duty to protect the most vulnerable.

It is no surprise that FRED received an A-plus rating on the Susan B. Anthony List National Pro-Life Scorecard.

As he said on the House floor: If my time in Congress is to be remembered for one thing, let it be that I fought to defend the sanctity of life.

You have certainly done that, FRED. Congressman KELLER, we will remember. We will remember that you stood against the Democrats' radical pro-abortion agenda. We will remember that you stood up for the conscience, rights, and religious freedoms of healthcare workers. We will remember that you gave a voice to the 63 million unborn babies killed in the womb before they had voices.

Today, when our first freedoms are called into question, we need leaders who will take a stand without wavering and defend our constitutional rights. That is exactly what FRED did when he introduced the Restoring Academic Freedom on Campus Act. Defending the freedom of expression on college campuses is imperative, and I appreciate FRED's work on this issue.

The freedom to speak and think freely comes from God. Students should not have to sign away their First Amendment rights after enrolling in college, especially if those institutions accept taxpayer funds. It is time for colleges and universities to be held accountable when they refuse to protect the free speech of students and faculty.

I also greatly appreciate how FRED led the Congressional Review Act resolution against OSHA's tyrannical vaccine mandate. FRED used every legislative avenue to help nullify President Biden's emergency temporary standard that would have forced millions of workers to get the COVID-19 vaccine or face losing their jobs.

His commitment to protecting the individual liberties of every American stands out. When OSHA finally withdrew this authoritarian measure after losing at the Supreme Court, FRED and I celebrated.

This is a lesson to us all. Even when the hill is steep, we must fight on. In this case, standing up for the Constitution saved so many Americans from being coerced into making a medical decision they were uncomfortable with. We need leaders who have the courage of their convictions. FRED is such a leader.

Being a leader means having the prudence also to know which hills to fight on, which hills to abandon, and which hills are worth dying for. I believe FRED and I agree that the preservation of our God-given rights is worth any and every sacrifice, and that is why it has been an honor to serve alongside him.

Common cause always creates uncommon bonds, and I will miss you as a partner.

Lastly, FRED has something that far too many of our national leaders lack: humility. FRED has always cared more about service than the spotlight.

Saying FRED will be missed is an understatement. He is what every statesman should be: prudent, decisive, and gracious.

Congressman KELLER, we wish you the best in your future endeavors, knowing that whatever you do next will be in further service to the American people.

From a grateful country and from someone who is honored to call herself your friend, thank you for all you have done to protect freedom and constitutional government. You will be missed.

□ 1515

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. FOXX. I certainly wasn't anticipating my friends being here today, but I do want to say to Dr. FOXX that she is a great example, and, of course, we have Representative MILLER-MEEKS here.

But I would like to say to Dr. FOXX, if I can, as I told my friend, Max Bingham, when I decided not to run again, I said, Max, I don't have to be elected to serve. Think of all the people we represent that make a difference every day.

When they take a kid like me and invest time and resources in them, that is what the people across America do. That is what you do, that is what MIKE KELLY does, that is what Representative MILLER-MEEKS does. I will stay in touch with all my friends that are here to make a difference. I thank them all for that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if I am going to make it through this without a tear either, Dr. FOXX.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of spending the last 2 years across the hallway in the Longworth Building from our colleague, FRED KELLER. Throughout that time, I have been lucky enough to get to know FRED and his staff, and each was eager to lend a hand as my own staff and I adjusted to our new office, which was a little bit of a challenge because we had a contest and so we were a little late adding staff.

I think one of the easiest ways to judge a Member of Congress is by their staff and the team they assemble. Team Keller has always been helpful, insightful, talented, intelligent, kind, and thoughtful.

I also got to know FRED and his wife when we met for a longer period of time last summer at Nemaacolin in Pennsylvania, his home State. He and his wife and my chief of staff enjoyed getting to know one another. I got to know FRED as a family man, who was elected in a special election, as a surprise to his wife when he let her know that he was going to run for Congress.

I got to know he and his family, and especially his family members that he would bring up to the Capitol, his granddaughters who can be found running up on the seventh floor or here in the Chamber.

When I asked his staff about FRED, one of the things they said struck me

because it is also the reason that I ran for Congress. FRED wanted to make the American Dream accessible to everyone regardless of their background, their social status, their upbringing, their class, their race, or where they come from.

To do so, he spent his days bringing Pennsylvania to Washington and taking Washington back home. He believed, rightfully so, that D.C. could benefit from more hard work and fewer frills.

Now, I don't want you to think that FRED is only a serious person because that would underestimate another part of his personality. I also enjoyed spending time with FRED at the Education and Labor Committee, and being in the minority is no fun.

Once I caught FRED—more than once—thinking out loud and speaking under his breath. And because I sat next to him, when we were permitted to do so after the COVID requirements were lifted, I thought he raised some very salient, erudite points.

As the next Republican to speak, I added them to my own 5-minute speech. After I finished speaking, FRED turned to me, and said: You raised some really good points. I laughed, and said: I certainly hope so, they were the points that you made, and I stole them. He had no idea that he speaks out loud and under his breath, and that I would listen to him and hear him, but that was FRED.

He was and is full of great ideas. We were so very fortunate to have him as a colleague, and I was tremendously saddened the day he announced he would not run for reelection, and that I would miss him as a colleague and as a friend.

I really look forward to what is next for FRED because he will always be in service, he will always succeed, and he will always be a leader because what makes a leader isn't their title, it is not their position, it is not the pin they wear on their lapel.

What makes a leader is an individual, who, by their example, inspires and motivates others, who challenges others to go beyond what they think is their capacity, and reach heights that they did not know they could even reach. FRED does that for his children, for his grandchildren, and for all of us.

I have a feeling this isn't the last that we will see of FRED, and I look forward to future encounters with he and his family. I thank FRED so much for gracing me with all of his intellect, his ideas, his quiet comments under his breath, his salient points, and getting to know his family.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. MILLER-MEEKS for that, she is truly an outstanding individual, a veteran, one of the people that stood on the line to defend our freedom and our way of life. That is why we are here, so many fought, and so many cared about the idea that is America. There are so many people that will continue to do that, and for that I tell them thank you for your service.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), my friend and my granddaughter's friend's dad. When you have grandkids, you sort of lose your title.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, you got to admit, a lot of people love Representative KELLER. It has been fun, actually, watching them come up to the microphone and say actually sweet things about him. But the best thing is his granddaughter, my little girl just loves playing with her.

That is something I do hope this body does more of in the future—our kids. In the last couple of years they haven't been here. Before the pandemic, we would look out and people would have their families here. I will tell you, that helped in the relationships.

My little girl would go and jump on MAXINE WATERS' lap because she loved her necklace. I still have a great picture of that. Until this day, every time I see Ms. WATERS she asks about my little girl. In some ways, it is those family units and how you build human relations in this body.

Just a thought for what is left of the majority and those things. We need to sort of think about the things that bind us together once again as people.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. KELLER giving me a little bit of time here.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons we are doing this is we have been trying to do a series of presentations, and I keep being fussed at that I should do them shorter because we are trying to throw out lots of ideas.

For the last year, I have been coming behind the microphone and walking through just how terrified I am, and how terrified I believe all of us should be, on what is going on in the numbers. We are going to do the routine again. The beauty here is there is hope, and I am going to keep bringing ideas that do a couple things.

Number one: Make us freer, healthier, wealthier, but also show a path that we can grow, and we don't have to be crushed by the coming debt. Let's sort of walk through some of this.

We always start with this slide because this one really bothers everyone. This one makes everyone angry and it is the math. Today, we have \$31 trillion of debt. In the next 30 years we add \$114 trillion of borrowing. Every dime of that \$114 trillion that is coming, 75 percent of it is Medicare, 25 percent is Social Security. The rest of the budget actually has a positive balance.

We got old.

Is the graying of America Republican or Democrat?

It is neither. It is just demographics; it is what we are. The unwillingness to deal with the reality that if you want to save the country—if you do not want my 5-month-old little boy that we are adopting, my 7-year-old little girl that plays together with others, if you want to save their future—do understand, today, 25 years from now we have to

double their tax rates; we have to double your tax rates; we have to double corporations' tax rates just to maintain the baseline spending, and that is still with us going to like 140 percent of debt to GDP.

Do we understand how bad the numbers are?

It is demographics. So what do you do?

I am trying to pitch sort of a unified theory for us to think about. I am sorry this upsets people, but the math will always win. Instead of the craziness that goes on around here with where "I got my feelings hurt," maybe the most powerful thing we can do is demonstrate we give a damn.

Growth is moral. Growth helps Democrats and Republicans, it helps poor people, it gives opportunity to the middle class. It is good for all of us. We are trying to say, okay, I have been spending lots of time behind the microphone talking about technology that can crash the price of healthcare. We are going to do a little more of that today.

But I am going to also talk about other ways we can do regulation that keeps us still healthy and safe but is much less bureaucratic and much faster. I am going to come back in the next couple weeks, if we get time, and talk about revolutionizing the tax system that incentivizes us to make things in America instead of functionally a tax system that incentivizes us to buy things made in other parts of the world because that is what we have today.

We are going to also talk about immigration—it is really uncomfortable to talk about, you are going to have to decide as a society: Do we keep the open borders that I have in Arizona where we functionally have a mass poverty movement into the United States? Or do we move to a system that maximizes economic growth?

You have got to decide, if you want us to have the money to be able to pay for Medicare, I have to have the economic growth.

Then the other thing is, what do we do to incentivize our brothers and sisters to stay in the labor market?

You just became 65. Are there things that we could do in a spiff on your Social Security, so you stay in the labor market?

How about if we let you keep your half of the FICA? What can we do?

There is a crazy piece of math out there for under 35, particularly males—they are not participating—there are numbers of them who have disappeared from the labor markets. This makes some of the math really difficult if you are trying to grow because it is not enough to have the disruption in the cost of the healthcare, if on the same side over here we don't have the economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to run through these fairly quickly because I want to keep the theme going. I am going to be dogged about this because we are going to save this country. We

need to think a little bit differently because right now we are still having the same debates that we were having in the 1990s on this floor.

Last night, I mentioned this. Tonight, I thought I would bring the board with me. What would happen if I came to you tomorrow, and said: Hey, there is this thing that looks like a kazoo, and you blow in it and it almost instantly tells you you have a virus. It instantly bounces off your medical records. It instantly could order your antiviral. Oh, and by the way, the newest versions look like they can detect about 25 different dead cancer proteins.

Wouldn't that be really good for our constituents? Wouldn't that be—the ability for that hardworking family, that working mom, to not try to find a way to take the day off from work, to be able to organize the kids, to find out if she can go into an urgent care center, but functionally have a breath biopsy in her medicine cabinet?

I will argue that it is both moral, it is faster, it is healthier, and it crashes the price of healthcare. This body keeps that type of technology illegal. It is something that would save so much time for the working people in this country, and we keep it illegal because this place is so much like a protection racket. It is not utopian, there are a dozen different versions, and it exists. Much of it has already made it through the FDA. Our problem is we don't reimburse it and we don't make it legal so it can write the script.

If you don't reduce the cost, you can't do marginal—I have some people come in here and say, well, we have an idea. We can remove 2 or 3 percent out of healthcare costs if we do this. We had 16 percent healthcare inflation in many of our markets so far this year. Great, we can find a 1 or 2 percent rounding error.

Do you understand how much trouble we are in?

Your government functionally is an insurance company with an army. It is going to be an insurance company where the insurance side is going to start consuming every dollar and the army is going to have to get smaller. It is demographics. It is the reality where we are.

□ 1530

Why wouldn't this body take an experiment and say let's make it legal. If you can find insurance, if the manufacturer can find insurance for it, FDA approves it, why wouldn't we let this write a script? There are dozens and dozens and dozens of these things.

For those of that walk around with these smartwatches or your fancy supercomputer in your pocket, the fact of the matter is, we should be using every piece of technology to crash the price of healthcare.

Last night, I came and showed some slides about a path, and who knows, maybe it doesn't work. But there might be a path for a cure for diabetes. Diabetes is 33 percent of all healthcare

spending. It is 31 percent of all Medicare spending. It may be the leading contributor to income inequality.

You go, huh? Look at the data. Look at my data sets of who is suffering, who is going blind, who is having their feet cut off.

I represent a tribal community with the second highest per capita diabetes in the world. Is it moral not for us to go and throw every smart idea and sometimes the resources we need to cure it?

Wouldn't that be more moral than this crazy ass argument of, hey, let's go build more clinics so we can help people manage their misery, because that is what we do here. We are better than this. Well, no, we are not better than this, but we could be.

So let's go a little further down the crazy line of, what do you do to grow the economy? So think about what we did last week. We are going to stop this strike because we are going to fight for the way we move goods out of the port and put them on trucks and then put them on a rail car and move it over here.

Yes, we have all the environmental issues of, yes, it is really dirty, it is really filthy. Oh, but the Democrats in their inflation reduction—crazy name for what the bill actually did—bill, made it so if they are going to take the green money, they can't actually do certain innovation; they can't automate because they have to protect all their longshoremen union folks because that is who writes them checks.

So in one hand, we give great lip service; we have got to fix the supply chain; we have got to get greener in the economy. And then they make it illegal. It is in your legislation. You did it.

Yet, at the same time, we have brilliant innovators—and these things aren't Republican, they are just the next generation of innovation—of autonomous rail platforms. You take the container off; you put it on the platform. You hit the button and you say, go to the spur over here and dump this at the warehouse. Go take this and put at the manufacturing facility.

It is electric. The environmental load is dramatically cleaner. It would be a revolution of efficiency.

We keep saying, well, we have got to fix the supply chain. Well, damn it, you made parts of fixing the supply chain illegal.

Why does this place act like a barrier, a protection barrier of allowing innovation in the economy?

We do this over and over and over. Most of the Members don't know it is happening. But we have functionally made that disruption that grows the economy, that if we don't have that growth, we are absolutely—we are in real trouble. Go ahead.

Mr. KELLER. Can I just say you inspired me to think of something. This is the only place that does less with more; the only place that does it. I am sorry. You are talking about this effi-

ciency and stuff, and I just look at this place.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. We make it illegal.

Mr. KELLER. And during COVID they talked about essential jobs.

Well, I tell you what: This is probably the only place on Earth where there are some jobs that are not essential.

But anyhow, sorry for taking your time, sir, but it just reminded me that this is the only place on the face of the Earth that does less with more.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. How many times—and you have some of this in your district—will we get the lobbyists and the folks come in—and this has been going on for 30 years, so this is sort of one of the running joke scams around here.

We need money for rural broadband. We do. I have—well, communities in Arizona—I don't represent them—they have been waiting 20 years for that line to get out to the chapter house on the Navajo reservation.

The fact of the matter is every inch of this country actually has broadband right now. They just happen to be satellites. We have what, five companies? A couple of them already have most of the satellites up.

Mr. KELLER. Actually, I have an F-150 that I can run seven devices from anywhere in PA-12.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. What is yours? I drive a long-bed pickup truck.

Mr. KELLER. 2022.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. When I had my midlife crisis, I didn't want a new wife or a Porsche, I just wanted a long-bed pickup truck; and mine is 10 years old.

Mr. KELLER. I got the F-150 so I didn't have to buy a generator because it has one in it. So that was my justification for that.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. But you think about this; if I really cared about that community—and you see where this ties in, this is back to that unified theory. I believe much of my healthcare I can use technology, but I need access to the broadband. But I am going to wait for the wire to show up because that is incredibly inefficient.

But I do have an option right now where something like the Starlink satellites, I could actually put up a little oval-shaped dish so they have the broadband, so they can use the healthcare technology, let alone the education technology and the other things. I need you to see this as a unified theory.

But, instead, we are going to take that tax that is on your cell phone bill, hand it out to companies, and then we are going to wait another decade for that wire to get out; and it never gets there, when they already have access to broadband.

This could be urban, too. The technologies exist. So let me go to crazy town.

Mr. KELLER. You are already here.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. No, no, no. This is one, it is a little more ethereal, but

it is in the field. It is being tested right now. I am not going to do the whole thing about a C4 plant and a C3 plant. Remember your high school biology class.

But what would happen in a world—I am sorry, this slide is a little old, so it is a little beaten on. How do you get the Agriculture Committee to have an honest conversation saying, you do realize there is about to be a revolution in food?

This whole thing called synthetic biology: They basically figured out how to take a plant—our high school biology plant—the plant really, really wants a carbon molecule so it turns it into a sugar so it can grow. It accidentally grabs an oxygen. It doesn't need the oxygen, so it has to spend all this energy getting rid of the oxygen so it gets a carbon so it can grow.

What happens if the plant every time got a carbon molecule?

In some plants you could have a 40 percent improvement in growth; dramatically less water; dramatically less land needed; dramatically less fertilizer. This is being tested right now, I think it is University of Illinois. It is out there.

How much discussion have we had that there is a revolution coming in agriculture? And it would be incredibly productive. It would be incredibly disruptive because, what happens in agriculture land if, all of a sudden, I have crops that grow dramatically more efficiently?

But it would also be amazing for the environment. At 40 percent production improvement—which you are not going to get, but if you did, theoretically—in world agriculture, you do realize that would be like removing every car off the face of the Earth.

How many hearings have we had on is this coming, is this feasible?

No, because that would require thinking, something we just don't do here.

The other thing I am going to give you is just a conceptual idea, and if anyone is crazy enough, go on YouTube, Schweikert Environmental Crowdsourcing.

Five, 6 years ago, I did a little YouTube cartoon. It is like 90 seconds, with this concept, you could actually attach a little environmental sensor to the bottom of this.

How about if in your community you had a couple of thousand people driving around with a little environmental sensor saying, hey, we are keeping an eye on the air quality. Hey, it is spouting off. I have some clowns over here painting cars in the back of their house, but the motorcycle paint shop over here that has its filters, it is not setting the alarm off. Leave them alone.

What would happen if your environmental data was living data?

You wouldn't need people to go fill out paperwork. You don't need an inspector. Do file cabinets full of paper make the environment cleaner? They don't, they just build bureaucracy.

What makes the environment cleaner is knowing when someone has done something stupid and stopping them.

Crowdsourcing. The data is living. Use a living data model. And guess what? You can do that for water, for sound; you can actually do it for health. You can do it for all sorts of things.

How many hearings has this place had to discuss dragging our regulatory environment; and it is not deregulating, it is smart regulating. Make us more efficient.

It turns out, the data says that we would be healthier, cleaner, faster, and you would get the bad guys, and you could build a model where you just leave the good actors alone.

If you are the motorcycle paint shop, and your filters are working, and your booth is working, why should you be bothered? Just leave them alone; and if they screw up, a crowdsourced environmental sensor model will catch them instantly.

You would be amazed the pushback you get because, well, we are a consulting firm. You just put us out of business. Hey, I work for the group. I shove paperwork in the file cabinets. Why do you want to unemploy me?

We are going to have to have the discussion if we intend to survive, where we are going population-wise, debt-wise.

Remember, functionally, in 10 years, we have two \$1 trillion running deficits, and it is demographics. It is trying to pay for healthcare. We have got to have the growth, and we have got to have the technology disruption and healthcare, or we are in for some very dark times.

The fact of the matter is, we could have incredibly prosperous times for the future. But that prosperity is only going to come if I, and you, and the people who are willing to listen to this are willing to pound on Members of Congress and our staff and the lobbying communities and our creative thinkers out there and say, okay, guys. There is hope out there. There is hope. We just need to be willing to think differently and embrace the disruption and embrace an economy that actually starts to do good things for our people, instead of basically being a protection racket for incumbent models.

It is uncomfortable, but there is hope. But there is no hope if we keep doing the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for letting me do this. We are finding the only way it is going to sink in is if I keep coming and giving more and more examples that there is hope if we just do things differently. So I thank the gentleman for giving me some of his time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for his insight. I have nobody else to speak in this hour, so I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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 my friend from Arizona being down here, as always, enlightening the American people and using the floor time in the honor of our soon-to-be-leaving-the-House friend, LOUIE GOMMERT, and making sure that we use the time here to inform our constituents back home.

As usual, the American people understand I am speaking to a mostly empty Chamber, with the exception of the Speaker and my friends who are now leaving who were just here. This is pretty much what we get in terms of debate here in the House Chamber.

Earlier today we had a little bit of back and forth on a couple of bills, but they are pre-programmed, like 30 minutes a side, pre-designed, all designed to get right off the floor; and I want to talk about that. That is why I am coming down here today.

Today, we took up two bills on the floor of the people's House. We took up a bill that is ostensibly focused on marriage and allowing recognition of same-sex marriages from one State to another.

But in that bill is something that is pretty significant for the American people to understand, regardless of your views about how the bill is being sold, about it being about recognition of same-sex marriage. Actually, they say it is about codifying Obergefell and same-sex marriage. It does no such thing. It only deals with recognition across State lines.

But even if you think that is good policy, even if you voted for it—and I didn't think it was good policy. I would have voted against it on the merits—in the bill is a sword, a private right of action, a private right of action able to be used and creating the ability of the Attorney General of the United States to go after individuals for actions they carry out, their closely held religious beliefs.

People in this Chamber voted for it, knowing full well that the language in that bill will allow lawyers and organizations to come sue Americans and force them into court; and their response is that, oh, don't worry, you have the Constitution of the United States and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Well, no kidding. I know the Constitution exists. And the Religious Freedom Restoration Act dates back to, I don't know, '93 or '94, sometime in the 1990s.

□ 1545

But now, if you dare, as an organization, a religious school, for example, say: "Wait a minute. It is against our tenets of faith to hire a same-sex couple, or an individual who is part of a same-sex couple, as a teacher in our

school," or maybe another organization makes a choice along those lines, now you are in court.

Now you are having to go defend yourself. Now you are having to go take this up to the Fifth Circuit and up to the United States Supreme Court, trying to figure out how they are going to interpret all of this, whether this law is even constitutional in the first place, all because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle wanted not to just provide for recognition across States—again, a proposition with which I do not agree. But not just that. They wanted to make sure that there was a sword to go after you if you disagree.

Earlier this summer, a member of Parliament in Finland was prosecuted for a pamphlet she distributed 20 years ago in defense of traditional marriage and in opposition to same-sex marriage.

Again, whatever your views are on the issue, let me be perfectly clear: What is happening today, what was decided today on the floor of the House, and all those Members on that side of the aisle and the 39 on this side of the aisle who voted for that legislation, voted for a sword to go after individual Americans, private citizens, and private organizations for daring to carry out their closely held, private religious beliefs.

We will be back here talking about that. We will be back here trying to pass legislation to make sure we can protect them.

I offered an amendment in the Committee on Rules to try to get a vote on the floor of the House, and I was denied even the ability to offer the amendment. We couldn't even offer the amendment. Lord knows, I don't have the power to offer an amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Again, I want everybody out there in America to understand that not since May 2016 has an individual of the so-called people's House been able to walk into the well of the House and offer an amendment on a piece of legislation, this time as consequential as marriage and religious liberty.

Again, let me reiterate, whatever your views are on the issue—and I have mine—shouldn't we be able to debate marriage? Shouldn't we be able to debate religious liberty and the ability to protect your views and your closely held religious beliefs?

No, no, no. I was punted out of the Committee on Rules for supposedly, irony of ironies, on a day in which we just authorized \$860 billion in a 4,400-page bill I got 40 hours before I voted on it, because it would score over half a million dollars—yeah, \$500,000—over 10 years.

That wasn't even actually what the CBO said. They said it could because it might create some revenues and some expenditures and, those expenditures, those outlays, would be what? Damages if you went to court and you succeeded.